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## NEWS RELEASE

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WEST POINT TO DEFEND CYBER DEFENSE TITLE – April 6, 2017

WEST POINT, NEW YORK – U.S. Military Academy cadets will compete against the four other service academies in the 17th annual [Cyber Defense Exercise](#) April 10-14. The exercise is designed to teach students how to protect and defend the nation’s information systems.

Established in 2001 by the National Security Agency, the exercise challenges each team to design, build and configure a real-world computer network similar to what you would find in a deployed joint service command. A network attack team, composed of NSA and Department of Defense personnel, then identifies the vulnerabilities and launches attacks on each network over a three-day period.

“The experience of designing, implementing, and defending a network against the NSA Red Team---along with similar experiences students receive at civilian institutions---provide one small piece of an education which we hope will well serve the next generation as they produce the more robust computer systems required by our society,” said Maj. W. Michael Petullo, assistant professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Cadets will actively defend their networks against the NSA in an effort to keep systems on-line and available. Each team is evaluated on their ability to maintain services, as well as efforts to prevent and recover from security breaches and provide forensic analysis of compromised systems.

NSA presents the winning team with the National Security Agency-Director’s Trophy at the end of May. The USMA team is looking to defend its title and has earned the trophy eight times.