

DC3 Partners with NSA, Hosts ROTC Cadets for Summer Internships

By Stephen Murphy, DC3 Public Affairs



John McCann, DC3 Plans and Policy Manager; gives a morning briefing to U.S. Army Officer Training Corps cadets during their internship at DC3 July 24 – Aug. 9.

The DoD Cyber Crime Center (DC3) recently partnered with the National Security Agency (NSA) by hosting 12 U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets for internships at DC3, July 24 – Aug. 9.

DC3's opportunity to host the cadets, representing 11 universities, was occasioned by an extraordinarily large number of NSA internship participants this year.

"NSA normally has 100 interns over the summer, but that number was far exceeded this year," said John McCann, DC3 Plans and Policy Manager. "NSA offered the opportunity for DC3 to host 12 cadets for the remainder of their summer program that ended Aug. 9."

During their time at DC3, each cadet intern was individually assigned to work within one of the directorates supporting DC3 mission areas including: cyber forensics laboratory services, cyber threat analysis, forensics and analytics software development, Defense Industrial Base cybersecurity engagement, and cyber vulnerability management.

From DC3's Vulnerability Disclosure Program to its Cyber Forensics Laboratory and all points in between, the cadets gained hands-on experience regarding the latest capabilities and developments in cybersecurity.

"The internship at DC3 was extremely beneficial to the cadets as it was able to give real-world experience not gained in the classroom," said Kevin Perry, Cyber Training Academy Cyber Branch Chief. "During the [debrief with] DC3 Executive Director Jeff Specht, two of the cadets

confided that the internship at DC3 allowed them to make career decisions based on their experiences at DC3.”

Perry said hosting the ROTC cadets was just as beneficial for DC3.

“The cadets were able to discuss what academia is teaching its students in order to identify knowledge gaps for newly graduating cyber professionals,” said Perry. “DC3 also benefits by educating soon-to-be military officers on the mission and services at DC3.

U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Nick Van Domelen, a rising junior at Oregon State University, was assigned to DC3’s Analytical Group for his internship.

“I learned how DC3 works with Defense Industrial Base partners and members of the Intelligence Community to strengthen cyber defenses,” said Domelen. “My experience here has definitely made me seriously consider threat analytics as a potential career option, and I will be looking into that this coming school year. At the end of the day, I really enjoyed the time spent here and the wonderful personalities that make DC3 such a great place.”

DC3 is currently working to develop a formal partnership by which DC3 will continue to participate within the NSA program to host cadet summer interns on a recurring basis.

For more information about DC3, go to <https://www.dc3.mil/>