DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR UNIVERSITY (AETC)

22 February 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL AIR FORCE JROTC INSTRUCTORS AND UNITS

FROM: AFJROTC/DIRECTOR
       60 West Maxwell Blvd
       Maxwell AFB AL 36112

SUBJECT: 2021 HQ AFJROTC CYBER ACADEMY

CRITICAL DATES: **1) 15-24 March: Application Window Opens**
                      2) 24-31 March: Cyber Assessment
                      3) 19 April: Selects/Alternates Announced
                      4) May-June: University Programs Begin TBD

TASKER: Instructors "should" nominate and submit applications for all eligible, highly motivated cadets for the 2021 **ONLINE** AFJROTC **Cyber Academy**. Instructors and students may complete an application or assessment any time during the application or assessment window but not later than the deadline.

1. **BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW:** Through its partnership with the National Science Foundation and CSforALL, HQ AFJROTC is pleased to announce summer scholarship funding for AFJROTC cadets to attend an "**online**" Cyber college course at select public/private universities during the summer of 2021. Selected cadets will be identified through a competitive, multiphased, boarding process. The scholarship funds one college course which will award approximately three college credit hours upon successful completion. Additionally, the scholarship "may" (depending on the university, which is yet to be determined) provide cadets an opportunity to test for Cyber or IT industry certifications. The course duration, depending on the university, may vary but could be 8 weeks long.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, AFJROTC established a cohort of AFJROTC host high schools through a partnership with CSforALL. This cohort consisted of 30 AFJROTC schools participating in a 2-year study on computer science education. The schools participating in this study are going above and beyond their normal roles to participate in surveys, analysis, and group discussions to ensure the partnership provides the best opportunities for students, instructors, and our AFJROTC program as a whole. During the summer of 2020, AFJROTC held it's first-ever Cyber Academy. The program was limited to the 30 schools participating in the study, and last year, 25 students were selected for an 8-week online program with Mississippi State University.

For this summer of 2021, HQ AFJROTC is excited to announce approximately 100 cadets will be selected to attend one of up to five universities.

This year, the scholarship is open to all AFJROTC units and cadets. Approximately 70 scholarships will be awarded to selected students competing nationwide. Additionally, up to 30 scholarship "may" be held for students competing from the 30 schools participating in the initial cohort. **Those units in the cohort, who have regularly participated in surveys, training and metrics (helping us shape the program) will be allowed to compete in this smaller pool.** Their efforts have helped make this effort possible.

Each university hosting "virtual" students is an independent organization that will provide its own management and oversight for students and programs. Cadets should be reminded that this is a college-level course, so they will be engaged in daily coursework, homework, discussions, and have opportunities to hear from prominent Cyber/IT professionals. Cadets will be evaluated on their performance,

participation, and ability to successfully complete required college coursework.

2. **WHO MAY APPLY:** Applicants must be current sophomore, junior, or senior AFJROTC cadets (active or reserve status) who understand they are volunteering for a scholarship to a public/private university. There is no military service commitment or obligation, nor does program completion signify acceptance to military service, ROTC scholarship, or military academy appointment. Applicants must obtain a minimum fitness assessment score of 50 and have a minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale) to be nominated. Finally, applicants should have a strong interest in Cyber or IT, a strong academic record, and, of course, a "never-quit" attitude.

The Cyber Academy is designed to generate interest in **a vital (and valuable) skillset that is lacking in our country, and we want to both identify untapped aptitude and reward cadets who have taken the first steps to develop these skills**. Students who have participated in Cyber Patriot and/or AP Computer Science will be the most competitive **for selection, however, please do not hesitate to submit passionate and capable cadets who have had limited or no access to these programs.**

It should be noted, in the future Cyberpatriot and AP Computer science will become prerequisites for this scholarship.

3. **APPLICATION PROCESS: The application window will be open from 1-31 March.**

>**Phase one (Monday 15 March - Wednesday 24 March):** SASIs/ASIs will be given a link to submit their endorsements and a separate link for students to provide a synopsis of their high school experiences to include GPA, extracurricular activities and Cyber/IT specific involvement. For protection of sensitive student information, applications will be tracked by WINGS-ID and cadet name.

>**Phase two (Wednesday 24 March – Friday 31 March):** Students completing the experiential portion of the application will have the opportunity to take a baseline assessment exam. There will be 30 minutes allotted for the test which is designed to provide insight on the applicant's current knowledge of, and aptitude to learn, Cyber/IT concepts. Students may take this exam at home or school. However, **SASIs and ASIs must set up protocols with students to virtually proctor the exam prior to start to completion.** Results will be tallied automatically and returned to the JRX team. Points will be deducted by the minute for individuals not finishing within the 30-minute time frame.

>**Phase three (19 April):** Selected students and alternates will be identified and their SASIs/ASIs will be given updated links to collect administrative information and additional experiential information (if needed), to assist us in matching each student to a college or university.

4. **SELECTION BOARD:** The selection process will be a quantitative board based on cadet application answers and official endorsements. A cadet's score will consist of five (5) Parts:
>Cyber/IT Baseline Exam (20%)
>Cyber/IT Experience (30%)
>Instructor Endorsement (20%)
>Physical Fitness Score (10%)
>Extracurricular Activities (20%)

SASIs/ASIs must verify all information to ensure cadets are preparing accurate packages. Failure to do so could negatively impact your cadet(s). **Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will be selected based on program needs and university requirements.**

5. **MY CADET WAS SELECTED, NOW WHAT:** The instructors of selected (primary and alternate) cadets will be notified with additional instructions as they become available from the host institution. Final university partnerships may occur as late as mid-April. Cadets and instructors should not expect information on partners or university-specific requirements until then.

6. EXPECTATIONS FOR SELECTED CADETS: Cadets will be required to meet additional university admission requirements in order to be awarded a scholarship. All matching is final! If a cadet fails to meet admissions standards, their scholarship will be revoked and the cadet may be replaced by an alternate. While on scholarship, cadets will be expected to represent AFJROTC in a positive manner. Cadets will be required to adhere to course attendance, appearance and grooming standards (regardless of grade status). Failure to positively represent AFJROTC or adhere to university policies may result in the student being dropped from the course.

7. INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE: SASIs/ASIs are acting as the "validating" official. We rely on you to verify all information and ensure cadets are preparing accurate packages.

8. If you have questions concerning this program, please contact your headquarters Cyber team at: Jrotc.cyber.academy@au.af.edu.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN T. SANDERS, Colonel, USAF
Director, Air Force Junior ROTC