Air Combat Electronics program office, DAU launch cyber security course

By Amie Blade
PEO(CS) Public Affairs

The Air Combat Electronics program office is partnering with Defense Acquisition University (DAU) to create a hands-on cybersecurity training range in its new course to be held on a monthly basis.

"This collaboration effort between the program office and DAU enables the deployment of software on an avionics single board computer that meets open architecture standards while supporting cybersecurity related activities," said Dr. Hebin Luan, Air Combat Electronics program office Avionic Architecture Team Software Open Systems Technologies lead engineer.

The program office assisted DAU in creating a cybersecurity training range that provides hands on introductory level cyber hacking experiences against a ‘real world’ target. Providing this type of hands on cybersecurity training is new at DAU, and in line with the U.S. Navy’s goal of transforming the way we do business.

"This is an in-class war gaming concept," said Roy Wilson, DAU professor of acquisition cybersecurity with more than 30 years of system security engineering experience. "We teach the students how to think like a hacker, understanding cyber offense to enable better defensive outcomes."

The three-day resident course is an immersive experience consisting of interactive group projects, the results of which the class can see play out in real time on large screens including an aircraft cockpit with instruments and flight path display. Students participate in instructor-led cyber-attacks on enterprise networks and aviation systems, using tactics such as phishing, privilege escalation, exfiltration, denial of service malware, exploiting system weaknesses, and pivoting from non-critical to critical subsystems.

Wilson teaches the course with Vincent Lamolinara, a DAU instructor with a unique background as a former naval aviator, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School graduate and in-depth experience in network and cyber warfare.

"Cyber is a fairly new warfare domain; we are really teaching a risk management framework for cybersecurity," said Lamolinara.

The cybersecurity training range at DAU is an isolated, secure training environment for adversarial assessment techniques. The course covers basic hacking techniques that can be found on the open web, and simulates the ramifications of those attacks on networks and on an air vehicle and control system that are not cyber secure.

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Newcomer spouses invited to learn about Pax, community

March 5, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lincoln Military Housing Community Center #2452

By Donna Cipolloni
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

Spouses of personnel new to NAS Patuxent River are invited to attend Spouse Newcomer Orientation, a program designed to inform them about the service and support programs available at the installation and in the surrounding community.

"This isn’t an indoctrination program, it’s more informal and a way to introduce them to the community, both on base and off," explained NAS Patuxent River Command Master Chief Abel Griego. "There will be a variety of people sharing information and resources that could prove useful to the spouses.”

The planned schedule allows for a fast-moving agenda, with about 15 minutes allotted each presenter. Kicking off the event will be the NAS Command triad to discuss Pax River’s mission and vision, followed by guest speakers that include representatives from the Ombudsman Program, Child and Youth programs, naval health clinic, military housing, Chaplain’s office, MWR, and the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society, Speakers from the American Red Cross, St. Mary’s Parks and Recreation, and the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland Workforce and Business Development will share valuable information from the community.

During a 45-minute open expo time period, spouses will have the opportunity to engage with Fleet and Family Support personnel representing programs of specific interest to them: Family Employment and Career Development; Life Skills and Financial Course offerings; Programs for Parents and Caregivers; and the School Liaison Officer. Also available for conversations during the lunch hour will be representatives from the NEX, Commissary, Child/Youth Programs, and MWR.

"There’s no PowerPoint presentation, no military instruction; just come sit down, meet some folks, hear what they do and ask some questions," Griego said. "There will be a number of handouts so participants can take the information home and digest it when they have more time.”

The event’s primary focus is on the spouses of newly assigned military personnel, but civilian spouses new to the area are welcome if space is available, Griego noted.

"We want families to feel confident and independent enough to find the services they need,” he added. “It’s good information to get; and it’s also an opportunity for peer networking socialization. Come meet new people and make some personal contacts.”

Free daycare, registration info

To make it easy for spouses with young children to attend the event, free daycare is available from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. through the installation’s Child Youth Program. Contact Mattisa Mockabee at cdc.cy2.naspaxx.fet@navy.mil or 301-342-7636 to make arrangements. Please note that free child care is only available to children of active-duty service members. Children of other eligible sponsors will have to pay the hourly care rate of $5 per hour.

Registration is necessary to attend the orientation. Email your RSVP to sponsor.npaxr@navy.mil and a registration form/questionnaire will be sent in response.

For more information, call CMDCM Griego at 301-342-1019.