

# Cyber network defense course begins

By Wilson A. Rivera

Candidates started training 19 August 2013 for the Army's newest military occupational specialty to defend Department of Defense information networks against cyberspace threats.

Soldiers experienced with information technology and information awareness assurance are part of a rigorous 14-week, MOS 25D cyber network defender, pilot course to learn communication security management and computer network defense skills.

"A study done in 2010



**CSM Ronald Pflieger, regimental command sergeant major greets students at the beginning of the 25D cyber network defender pilot course.**



**SGM Robert Trawick Jr., 25B information technology specialist proponent sergeant major in the Office Chief of Signal gives opening remarks for the 25D, cyber network defender pilot course icebreaker 19 August 2013 at Fort Gordon, Ga.**

identified a gap in the career field of dedicated Soldiers to defend our networks," said SGM Robert Trawick Jr., 25B information technology specialist MOS proponent sergeant major. "These Soldiers will be able to go out inspect networks and find vulnerabilities to tell you what you can do to correct these deficiencies."

Major duties a cyber network defender will perform include protecting, monitoring, detecting, analyzing, and responding to unauthorized cyberspace domain actions; deployment and administration of computer network defense infrastructures such as firewalls, intrusion detection systems and more. Soldiers are also tasked to take action to modify information systems, computer network configurations in regard to computer network threats and collect data to analyze events and

warn of attacks. Cyber network defenders will be trained to perform assessments of threats and vulnerabilities within the network environment, conduct network damage assessments, and develop response actions.

"Continuous heightened awareness of cyber threats led Army leadership at Fort Gordon to move ahead with this very important mission," said Dale Manion, chief of the enlisted division at the personnel proponent office for the Office Chief of Signal with the U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence.

"We're in the process of making history," said SGM Trawick. "This MOS pilot course is our best effort to get ahead of a critical need. Our ability to operate in cyberspace is constantly under threat that is challenged many times each day with increasingly sophisticated tools. Everything we do in the military and in

society depends on networks and unencumbered communication through cyberspace. We are working not to keep up but to get ahead of the curve."

The first 16 Soldiers selected to attend the cyber network defense course were picked from submitted application packets and in-service screening tests. Screening identifies Soldiers with the emotional and intellectual capability to learn the skills required to meet the course's rigorous standards.

Through in-service accessions,

the MOS rank structure of staff sergeant to sergeant major will allow access for Soldiers from all Army MOSs who can meet the tough training standards to produce quality cyber network defenders.

Soldiers with an interest to reclassify and train as a cyber network defender must meet various requirements such as a minimum of four years information technology experience and information assurance with required certifications, have a score of at least 105 on their GT

and ST portion of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, possess a clearance of top secret and sensitive compartments information, commander's endorsement, and in-service screening test. The test screens and identifies Soldiers who possess strong ethical standards and intellectual abilities.

For more information about requirements, visit <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/838>.

*Wilson Rivera is editor of the Signal Newspaper at Fort Gordon, Ga.*

UNCLASSIFIED

## 25D - Cyber Network Defender Overview

