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National Intelligence University (NIU) faculty and students inaugurated this year's annual Joint Land Air Sea Strategic Exercise (JCLASS-EX) as the first university to assume the role of the United States Cyber Command (CYBERCOM) in this major, educational joint exercise. As a leader at the forefront of intelligence education, NIU provides experts who help strengthen senior-level, strategic development in participants by providing intelligence experts that helped address key issues of war.

Feedback from this year's JCLASS-EX staff and other participating institutions on NIU participation was overwhelmingly positive and CYBERCOM is now a permanent fixture to the JCLASS-EX scenario. NIU faculty and student experts developed responses that could one day provide important starting points for actual contingency operations.

NIU worked directly with all of the various senior military students fulfilling the roles of Geographical Combatant Commands, National Security Council, and Functional Combatant Commands participants. Participants traveled to Maxwell AFB, Alabama from all of the senior JPME programs including the Marine Corps War College, Army War College, Air War College, Naval War College, the National War College in addition to NIU.

Led by NIU faculty Dr. Eric Anderson, the NIU students who comprised Cyber Command faced various simulated cyber incidents including spoofing, data theft, spurious command inputs to a variety of infrastructure nodes, and outages. The students developed coordinated responses to these events including assessments of damage, operational limitations, and suggested work-arounds. In preparation for this exercise, Dr. Anderson took his students to CYBERCOMMAND in Washington D.C. and led them through a preparatory course. To prepare, they familiarized themselves with everything from Panama Canal operating processes to NORTHCOM data storage.

NIU students working towards their degrees and Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) accreditation, completed this in-depth, challenging problem set as part of their capstone exercise.