Computer Crime Investigative Unit
U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

Cyber Crime Alert Notice

2CAN 0007-07-CID221-9H 7 February 2007

Cyberbullying: Virtual Taunts, Real Harm

Overview:

Parents in the Army community should be aware of a new bully in town: the cyberbully. You or your child might never actually see them, and while cyberbullying does not involve physical acts of violence, the harm to children is real. Cyberbullying normally takes the form of sending or posting harmful material using the Internet or other digital technologies such as mobile phones, and it can occur any time of the day or night.

Several organizations including the Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use (CSRIU) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have launched efforts to combat cyberbullying by mobilizing educators, parents, students, and law enforcement. The pervasive nature of the Internet and mobile digital devices has created an environment where bullies can target others with relative anonymity.

In 2004, i-SAFE America surveyed 1,500 students in grades 4 through 8 about cyber bullying:

- 42% of kids have been bullied while online. 1 in 4 have had it happen more than once.
- 35% of kids have been threatened online. Nearly 1 in 5 have had it happen more than once.
- 21% of kids have received mean or threatening e-mail or other messages.
- 58% of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online. More than 4 out of 10 say it has happened more than once.
- 53% of kids admit having said something mean or hurtful to another person online. More than 1 in 3 have done it more than once.
- 58% have not told their parents or an adult about something mean or hurtful that happened to them online.

CID elements are encouraged to brief supported installations and units on the contents of this 2CAN.

Highlights from CSRIU's Cyberbullying Pamphlets*:

Types of Cyberbullying:

- Flaming – angry, rude arguments.
- Harassment – repeatedly sending offensive messages.
- Denigration – "dissing" someone online by spreading rumors or posting false information
- Outing and trickery – disseminating intimate private information or tricking someone into disclosing private information, which is then disseminated.
- Impersonation – pretending to be someone else and posting material to damage that person's reputation.
- Exclusion – intentional exclusion from an online group.
- Cyberstalking – creating fear by sending offensive messages and other harmful online activities.

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CID Cyber Lookout
On Point for the Army

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"Do What Has To Be Done"

How, Who, and Why:

- Cyberbullying may occur via personal Web sites, blogs, e-mail, discussion groups, message boards, chat, instant messaging, or text/image cell phones.
- A cyberbully may be a person whom the target knows or an online stranger. A cyberbully may be anonymous and may enlist the aid of others, including online "friends."
- Cyberbullying may be a continuation of, or in retaliation for, in-school bullying. It may be related to fights about relationships or be based on hate or bias. Some teens think cyberbullying is entertaining – a fun game.
- Teens may not be concerned about the consequences of harmful online behavior because: They think they are invisible or can take steps to become invisible, so they think they can't be punished. There is no tangible feedback about the harm they cause, so it seems like a game to them.

Warning Signs that Your Child Might be the Target:

- Expression of sadness or anger during or after Internet use.
- Withdrawal from friends and activities, school avoidance, and decline of grades, signs of depression and sadness.
- Pay close attention if your child is being bullied at school or having any other difficulties with peers. These are the teens that are most often targeted by cyberbullies.

Action Steps and Options to Respond to Cyberbullying:

- Save the evidence.
- Identify the cyberbully. Ask your Internet Service Provider for help.
- Clearly tell the cyberbully to stop.
- Ignore the cyberbully by leaving the online environment and/or blocking communications.
- File a complaint with the Internet or cell phone company.
- Seek assistance from the school, if the cyberbully also attends the same school.
- Call the police immediately, if the cyberbullying involves threats of violence, coercion, intimidation based on hate or bias, and any form of sexual exploitation.

ADDITIONAL CYBERBULLYING RESOURCES:

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use:
http://cyberbully.org/

i-SAFE:
http://www.isafe.org/channels/sub.php?ch=op&sub_id=media_cyber_bullying

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:
http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/adult/indexAdult.asp?Area=cyberbullying

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CYBER CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
CUSTOMER SURVEY

Dear Customer:

Please take a moment and complete this survey to help evaluate the quality and value of CCIU Cyber Criminal Intelligence products. Your response will help us to serve you more effectively and efficiently in the future. Thank you for your assistance.

Product Title: 2CAN 0007-07 - Cyberbullying

Customer's Organization (optional): _____

Marking instructions: Indicate the appropriate response accordingly.

1	Strongly Disagree
2	Disagree
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree
4	Agree
5	Strongly Agree
NA	Not Applicable

QUALITY

1	2	3	4	5	NA	
○	○	○	○	○	○	The product was timely and relevant to your mission, programs, priorities, or initiatives.
○	○	○	○	○	○	The product was clear and logical in the presentation of information with supported judgments and conclusions.
○	○	○	○	○	○	The product is reliable (i.e., sources are well-documented and reputable).

VALUE

1	2	3	4	5	NA	
○	○	○	○	○	○	The product contributed to satisfying intelligence gaps or predicating cases, especially in previously unknown areas.
○	○	○	○	○	○	The product resulted in a shift to address previously overlooked investigative areas.
○	○	○	○	○	○	The product resulted in more informed decisions concerning investigative initiatives and/or resource allocation.
○	○	○	○	○	○	The product identified new information associated with pending matters or offered insights into information that could change the working premise in a program or initiative.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

If you have the free Acrobat Reader, please click below to print your completed survey and mail or fax it to CCIU (address/fax information on front page).

If you have Acrobat Professional, please click below to extract this page, save a copy of the completed survey, and e-mail it to: cybercrimintel.cciu@us.army.mil