



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

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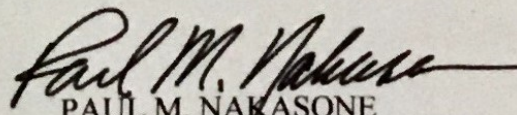
William Gaudette

Dear Mr. Gaudette,

On behalf of the National Security Agency, I would like to congratulate you for getting to the final stage of the 2019 NSA Codebreaker Challenge. This is a significant accomplishment because completing the previous stages required a mix of reverse engineering, problem solving, programming, and vulnerability analysis skills. Your success demonstrated strong technical abilities in all of these areas. I commend your drive and perseverance to complete the challenge alongside your course workload. Well done!

The 2019 NSA Codebreaker Challenge provided students the opportunity to develop their reverse engineering skills using a realistic scenario. Not all universities offer courses for students to learn the concepts, techniques, and tools involved in this craft. Through the challenge and the associated reverse engineering lecture materials, NSA aimed to provide a supplemental educational opportunity. I hope that you were able to learn new concepts and develop new skills as a result of your participation. A secondary goal of the challenge was to provide students with a closer look into some of the work done at NSA. Every day, dedicated employees across the agency apply deep technical knowledge to solve pressing challenges in areas such as counterterrorism, information assurance, and military operational support. Although the specifics of this work are often classified, the backstory of the NSA Codebreaker Challenge was tailored to provide a realistic look and feel into the NSA mission. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to experience this type of work firsthand.

The 2020 NSA Codebreaker Challenge will be released this September, and I hope you will attempt this year's challenge as well. I wish you the best of luck in your future academic endeavors and much success throughout your professional career.

  
PAUL M. NAKASONE  
General, U.S. Army  
Director