**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE** 833D CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON (ACC) JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND TEXAS 78236

MEMORANDUM CNODP SELECTION BOARD  
FROM: TSGT DANA J. PLANT

SUBJECT: CNODP Applicant Statement

1. I have a love for making things that has been a driving factor in how I have navigated my career, as well as how I utilize my off-duty time. I have an insatiable hunger for learning and an unquenchable thirst for efficiency. I have taught myself software development by creating tools that have not only positively improved my work center but have been adopted by Air Combat Command. My goal for CNODP is to gain knowledge and experience in software development and codify that knowledge to provide resources for my peers while creating tools that will have an impact on the cyber community.
2. All of the languages I have experience with have been from being limited by a programs user interface capabilities and learning about an API or developer mode that allows me to navigate around the limitation. I am always looking for a better way to accomplish things and provide an increase to efficiency

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| **Language** | **Proficiency** | **Years of**  **Experience** | **Last**  **Project** |
| PowerShell | Expert | 8 | 2023 |
| Python | Intermediate | 4 | 2023 |
| C++ | Beginner-Intermediate | 2 | 2023 |
| Assembly(x64) | Beginner | 1 | 2023 |
| GOLang | Beginner | 1 | 2022 |
| Visual Basic | Intermediate | 3 | 2020 |
| Lua | Beginner | 1 | 2018 |

1. As a Cyber Systems Operator I lead our Vulnerability Management section and frequently leveraged software and networking knowledge from my team to complete system and software updates. I was responsible for both of our base networks, including the system refresh to Windows 10. My team and I also traveled to other bases in ACC to support CCRI preparations, teach best practices, and merge knowledge bases. We focused on ensuring that we could connect to all endpoints of each network with PowerShell remoting protocols, then ran scripts with parallel connections to install first and third-party applications on thousands of endpoints in a matter of hours. As a young adult I enjoyed reverse engineering video games, which provided me with an understanding of memory reading and manipulation as well as net-code. I wrote an aim-bot for Counter Strike: Global Offensive using memory offsets and geometry as well as a packet manipulator for World of Warcraft to teleport short distances by leveraging the lack of location checks. As an adult with my free time I enjoy tinkering with Arduino and Raspberry Pi projects to get a better understanding of how programs can interface with the physical world. I built an auto-watering garden by using soil humidity sensors, water pumps, and relays. As a Cyber Warfare Operator I have received in depth training on cyber forensics and garnered the GIAC Certified Forensics Analyst accreditation.
2. I lead a team of 4 to install forensic software across geographically separated systems adding up to 2,100 systems total. We worked as a team to generate solutions for OS agnostic installation. We came up with a batch script, a bash script, a GPO, a PowerShell script that uses multithreading. We created a cap to the number of threads to prevent over-taxing the mission partner server we ran the PowerShell script on. We communicated well and, as the team lead, I ensured production continued through any hurdles we came across.
3. Starting with a desire to improve, I created a design document for a video game overlay hoping to provide information that is supportive to better decision making in player versus player gameplay. I planned on writing a program in C++ to display real time information from the League of Legends API that was not in the current user interface. I began by reviewing the library requirements and started to create the project in visual studio. I began by looking for the target window name and pulling the display size by width and height. Then I initialized a window by using the height and width of the target window and adding a font output to the top left. On this created window I print a few lines of text to be gathered with other the League of Legends API. While testing the functionality of the API displaying in the overlay I noticed that the information wasn’t accurate. I started troubleshooting why the information was not accurate and determined that it was the API in some way, either the delay of network traffic or the API running on a different server than the gameplay. I decided to keep some of the information that was displaying correctly with the API and pull the rest of the information from the local memory. I reviewed the League of Legends terms of use and memory reading was allowed so I looked for ways to actively read memory. I started by utilizing a disassembler called IDA to find values related to what was not accurate from the API. Having never worked with assembly before I researched how to read assembly in 64-bit architecture and found the information I was looking for with relative ease. Then I had to learn how to take memory snapshots and pull that information in a loop based on the base address
4. I wrote a PowerShell script to audit accounts for two factor authentication across active directory utilizing non-administrator privileges. I had researched the capability for an automated solution based on the standard of checking 10% of a domains user accounts each quarter as checking thousands of accounts manually was not feasible with current manpower constraints. I created a solution for Shaw AFB and was directed to generate a solution for other bases and/or all other bases. One of the hurdles I overcame was the lack of a software requirements specification. Without requirements I ended up jumping back and forth between development and design. I generated a product that was later adopted by ACC to increase security audit vulnerability by being ran by any user, checking what organizational unit they were in, and running on the appropriate organizational units and providing documentation on non-compliant accounts.
5. I have a wide breath of experiences having worked in three Air Force Specialty Codes and knowledge management has become incredibly important to me. The turbulence and turn-over rate of any profession is unmatched to that of the military. With this hurdle I have learned that knowledge management is the foundation to maintaining the capabilities in any work center. To this vein I strive to build documentation for any project so that if I disappear anyone can pick up and continue where I left off with limited confusion. I have built a Gitlab server to upload my programming knowledge base and hope to fill it with all of the knowledge I gain from CNODP.

DANA J. PLANT, Technical Sergeant, USAF

Dear [Recipient's Name],

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of TSgt Dana Plant, who is applying for the Computer Network Operations Development Program (CNODP). As Dana's commander at 833 Cyber Operations Squadron (COS) I have had the privilege of closely observing his exceptional skills and dedication, and I wholeheartedly endorse his candidacy for CNODP.

Dana is an incredibly professional individual who consistently exhibits a high level of competence and maturity. Throughout his tenure at 833 COS, Dana has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and a genuine passion for programming. Their dedication to their craft and their commitment to producing high-quality work is truly commendable.

One of Dana's greatest strengths lies in their exceptional programming abilities. Dana is a talented with a deep understanding of various programming languages and frameworks. In particular, their expertise with PowerShell is outstanding. Dana's proficiency with PowerShell enables them to automate complex tasks efficiently and effectively, significantly improving productivity on Hunt Forward Missions.

Furthermore, Dana possesses an exceptional ability to quickly grasp new concepts and technologies. He has consistently exhibited a strong aptitude for learning, enabling him to adapt swiftly to changing environments and acquire new skills with ease. Dana's natural curiosity and intellectual agility make him an ideal candidate for CNODP, where they will undoubtedly thrive in an environment that encourages continuous growth and innovation.

Dana's invaluable contribution as the Cyber Crew Lead (CCL) in their role as a Host Analyst for a mission was exceptional. As CCL, Dana exhibited remarkable leadership skills, guiding the team with confidence and providing expert guidance throughout the mission. They effectively coordinated efforts, ensuring that objectives were met on time and with the highest level of quality. Dana's ability to inspire and motivate team members in challenging situations was instrumental in the mission's success.

Moreover, Dana possesses extensive knowledge and expertise in threat hunting on a network. Their proficiency in identifying and mitigating potential threats and vulnerabilities within our mission partners network infrastructure has proven instrumental in accomplishing the mission. Dana's meticulous approach and attention to detail have earned them a reputation for excellence in this critical area.

Lastly, I would like to highlight Dana's proficiency with the Windows operating system. Their comprehensive understanding of Windows OS, coupled with their programming skills, allows Dana to optimize system performance, streamline processes, and troubleshoot complex issues efficiently. Their technical prowess in this area will undoubtedly be an asset in CNODP, where a deep understanding of various operating systems is vital.

In conclusion, Dana Plant is an outstanding candidate for the CNODP. Their professionalism, talent as a programmer, expertise in PowerShell, ability to learn quickly, exceptional leadership skills as a CCL, knowledge of threat hunting, and proficiency with Windows OS make them a highly desirable candidate. I am confident that Dana's dedication, skills, and relentless pursuit of excellence will enable them to excel in the program and make significant contributions to your organization.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or have any questions regarding Dana's qualifications. I highly recommend Dana Plant for acceptance into the CNODP, and I am confident that they will prove to be a valuable asset to your organization.

Thank you for considering Dana's application. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

THE COMMANDER

Dear [Recipient's Name],

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of TSgt Dana Plant, who is applying for the Computer Network Operations Development Program (CNODP). As Dana's friend/colleague at [67 CW?], I have reveled in observing his growth and accomplishments, and I endorse his candidacy for CNODP.

Dana is a god with a keyboard. He singlehandedly generated a program to write the final technical report for a Hunt Forward Operation (HFO).The program is primarily written in python with some C# front end and leverages the python-docx library, and the API for an incident response system. A task that takes three to six months after return may now be accomplished in one to three months.

Furthermore Dana’s final report writing program was developed while he was on HFO 14. His ability to generate this program while accomplishing the mission is indicative of his drive and love of programming. He self-taught python and C# basics to complete this project and consistently worked with his leadership to garner feedback throughout the development process.

Lastly, I would like to highlight Dana's methodical cataloging and knowledge management abilities. His accomplishments in programming have been impressive, but when considering the meticulous documentation during development those accomplishments are incredible. He has been lauded for his knowledge management systems and consistently comments his code.

In conclusion, Dana Plant is an outstanding candidate for the CNODP. His professionalism, talent as a programmer, drive, ability to learn quickly, knowledge of agile development, and proficiency with Python make him a highly desirable candidate. I am confident that Dana's dedication, skills, and relentless pursuit of knowledge will enable him to excel in the program and make significant contributions to the United States.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or have any questions regarding Dana's qualifications. I highly recommend Dana Plant for acceptance into the CNODP, and I am confident that they will prove to be a valuable asset to your organization.

Thank you for considering Dana's application. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

LT COL JONES