

# Blue Team Social Impact:

How to volunteer your cyberdefense skills  
without getting burned out

Tom Costello

@kd9cpb

he/him/his

kd9cpb.com

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Slides at [github.com/kd9cpb/slides](https://github.com/kd9cpb/slides)

# Who's this dude and why should I care?

## Military

- Data Systems Technician
- Cyber Network Operator
- Cyber Network Systems Chief
- Data Systems Chief
- Maritime Communications Watch Officer

## Civilian

- Computer Technician
- Voice & Data Specialist
- Telecom Administrator
- Network & Systems Technician
- Security & Datacenter Manager
- Senior Network Engineer

## Volunteer

- Rummage Sale Technician
- Toys for Tots Event Representative
- Digital Technology Merit Badge Counselor
- Member of Congressman Danny Davis' Technology Advisory Committee
- Substitute Bingo Caller, American Legion Post 854

# Alright, so what's social impact?

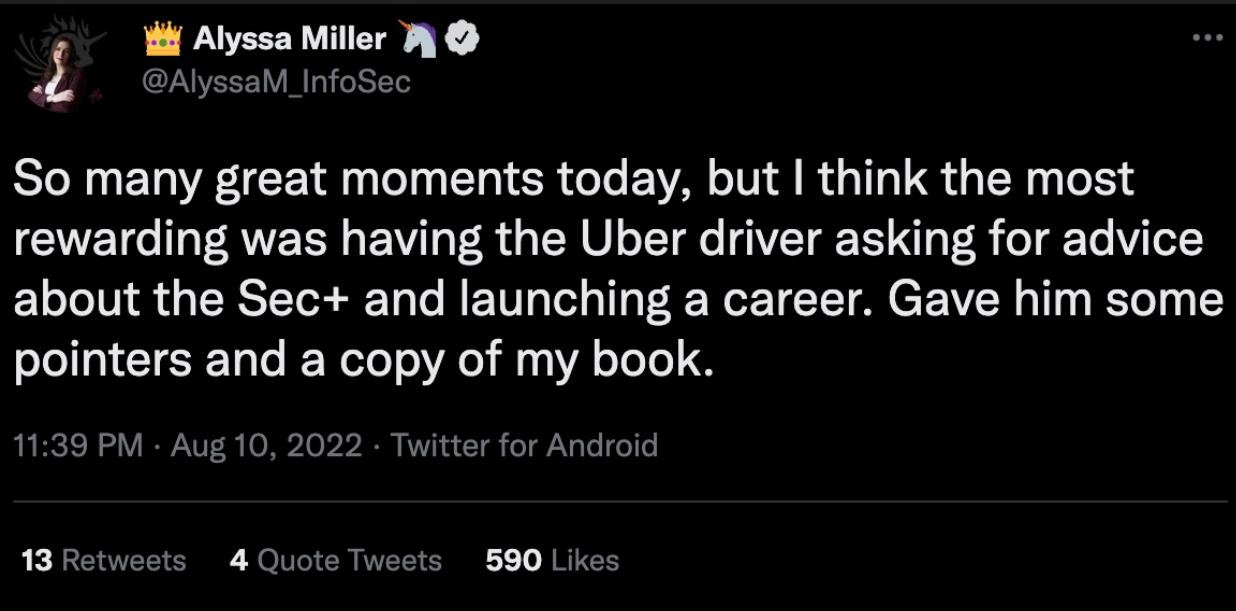
- No one-size-fits-all definition
- Top google result (<https://careerhub.students.duke.edu/blog/2021/09/03/social-impact-definition-and-why-is-social-impact-important/> ) says this:

**Any significant or positive changes that solve or at least address social injustice and challenges.**

- Social Impact is far more than just volunteering, regardless of what definition you're going with
- We will focus on good Social Impact ideas that involve use of Blue Team skillset in this talk

# Easy Blue Team Social Impact Wins

- In a role where you have sway over interns?  
Advocate for YearUp and/or Genesys Works
- Get youth interested in cybersecurity stuff – start talking about video games then transition into log4j or whatever
- Hustle on LinkedIn (Rollcallchicagoland.org is amazing at this)
- Random acts of infosec kindness – see Alyssa's twitter
- Dropping cybersecurity knowledge as bingo ticket seller
- Cash donations



Alyssa Miller (@AlyssaM\_InfoSec)

So many great moments today, but I think the most rewarding was having the Uber driver asking for advice about the Sec+ and launching a career. Gave him some pointers and a copy of my book.

11:39 PM · Aug 10, 2022 · Twitter for Android

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13 Retweets 4 Quote Tweets 590 Likes

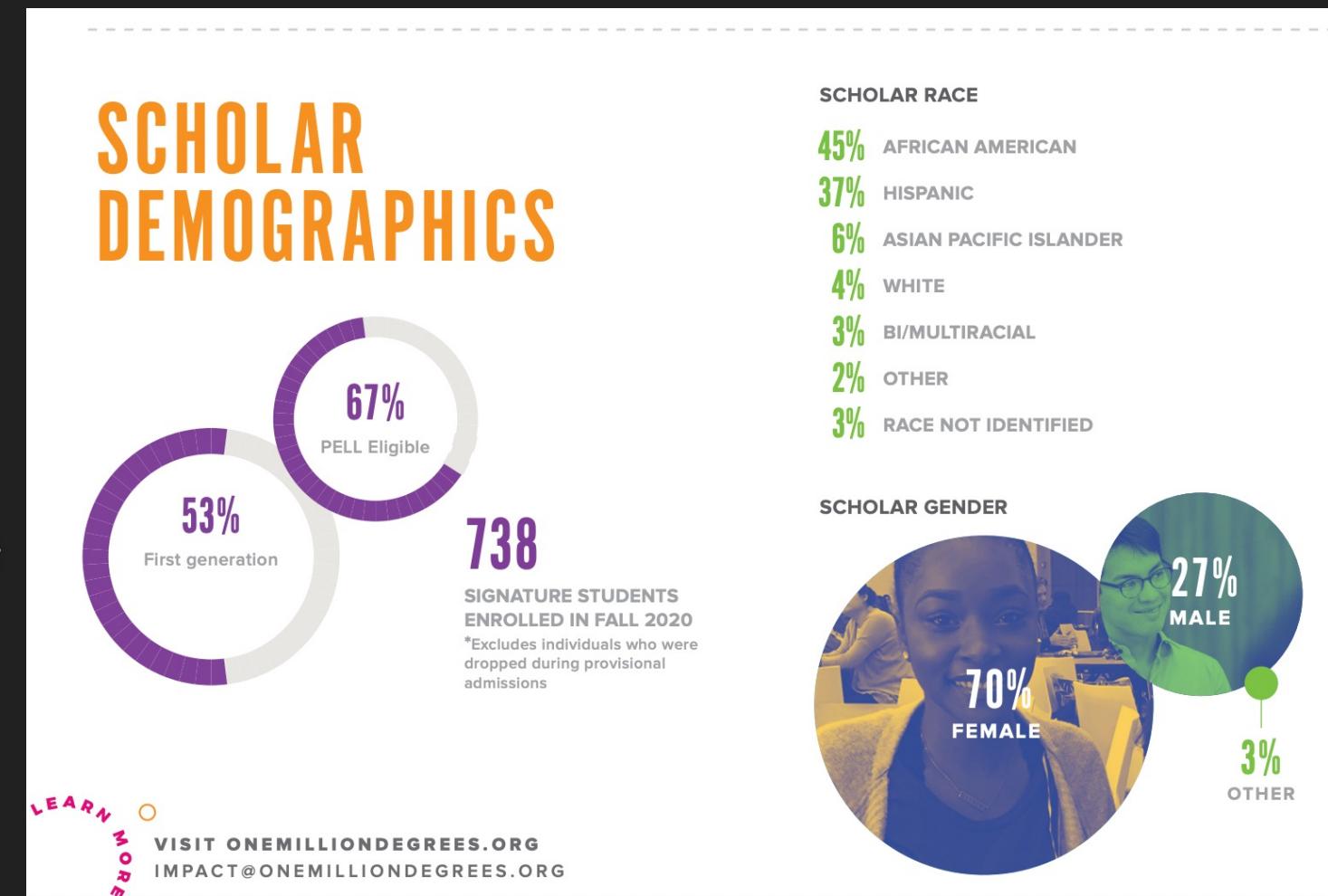
# Easy Blue Team Social Impact Issues



- Take care of yourself, don't blow off career development <https://kd9cpb.com/it-cert-sprinting>
  - Be mindful of time affluence  
<https://www.coursera.org/learn/the-science-of-well-being>
  - Get to know organizations -  
[https://www.netacad.com/portal/netacad\\_academy\\_search](https://www.netacad.com/portal/netacad_academy_search)
  - You advocated for that intern and things aren't smooth? Set reasonable expectations all around (Radical Candor book)
  - Try not to recommend obsolete things – see  
<https://github.com/VetSec/awesome-infosec>

# Medium Blue Team Social Impact Wins

- Mentor via established program
- Any flavor of STEM talk or meritbadge-type thing
- Actually getting involved with YearUp/GenesysWorks/CARA/etc
- Dropping cyberdefense knowledge as bingo caller
- Advise on Blue Team duties at nonprofit of your choosing



# Medium Mistakes

- Don't solely depend on your employer for "medium" social impact opportunities
- Know when & how to say no. This is hard, consider professional resources (Your Perfect Right book, call your work's EAP if you have one)
- Seriously, use your work's EAP if you have it, zero shame in asking for help. Free sessions with experts that can help with so many things!
- Whatever you do, don't say yes to becoming the unpaid heldesk!

# Winning Big

- You can't fly solo on this; partner with government or nonprofit!
- Write your elected officials, be persistent, be committed
- Help existing Cisco NetAcad programs in disadvantaged areas (trial donations FTW)
- Volunteer during Cyber Defense Competitions (CCDC, NCL, CyberPatriot, DOE Cyberforce)
- Dropping cybersecurity knowledge to a congressional staffer
- Hak4kidz.com & other hackathons are awesome resources

The screenshot shows the Congress.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'CONGRESS.GOV' in the center, 'Sign In' on the right, and 'Advanced Searches' and 'Browse' links. Below the navigation is a search bar with 'Legislative' dropdown set to 'H.R. 6744'. To the right of the search bar are 'MORE OPTIONS', 'Citation', 'Subscribe', 'Share/Save', and 'Site Feedback' buttons. The main content area displays the title 'H.R. 6744 - Computer and Internet Equity Act' for the 116th Congress (2019-2020). A red 'BILL' button is highlighted. Below the title, it says 'Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7] (Introduced 05/08/2020)'. It also lists 'Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means' and 'Latest Action: House - 05/08/2020 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. (All Actions)'. At the bottom, it shows 'Tracker: i' and 'Introduced'.

# Wait, writing to congress actually works?

- Example letters to elected officials on the GitHub folder
- See Rep. Ted Liu's DEFCON talk at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfRFV7NSEI>
- Yes, you should try this at home!
- No, don't expect your elected officials to do the same. YMMV.
- Even if you don't get a reply, your writings to elected officials may have a positive social impact

# Big Trouble with going big

- Don't go it alone or re-invent the wheel like I tried with thepibay.org
- Seriously, don't do it.
- The norm is "fizzle out", exact opposite of most Blue Team projects.
- Cognitive Distortion is real, be very mindful of this (Feeling Good by Dr. Burns book)
- Backwards plan the time commitments; going big takes a big deal of your time

# Closing Thoughts

- Any volunteering can be Blue Team Social Impact if you get creative enough ☺
- Get the word out about cyber defense competitions and coax your employer into supporting them – untapped talent resource and big social impact win
- All it takes is one positive interaction with technology to change someone's life, be mindful of this

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