

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS UPDATE

UPDATE NO. 3

1 – 7 NOVEMBER 2021

HIGHLIGHT OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM EVENT

1. The last week(Week 4) of Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2021, the National Cyber Security Authority (NCA) organized a workshop on the theme, “Implementation of the Child Online Protection Provisions in the Cybersecurity Act, 2020” for Telecommunications Service Providers. Under Act 1038, “Protection of Children Online”, indecent image or photograph of a child, a person shall not:

- (a) take or permit to be taken an indecent image or photograph of a child;
- (b) produce or procure an indecent image or photograph of a child for the purpose of the publication of the indecent image or photograph through a computer system;
- (c) publish, stream, including live stream, an indecent image or photograph through a computer or an electronic device or
- (d) posses an Indecent image or photograph of a child in a computer system or on a computer or electronic record storage medium.

Personnel of Ghana Armed Forces are advised to take note of this ACT; breach of it comes with consequences.

2. Within the week, Facebook changed its company name to **Meta** on Thursday, 28 October 2021. The name change was announced at the Facebook connect augmented and virtual reality conference. The new name reflects the company’s growing ambitions beyond social media, helping to take connection beyond 2D screens and into the metaverse. Personnel are to take note that the Facebook app name remain unchanged. Beware of hackers who will take advantage to insert the Meta app as a new Facebook app on third-party stores.

CYBER THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

3. The main goal of the cybersecurity awareness program is to increase the awareness of personnel and impact behaviour as the activities of cybercriminals and hackers becomes complicated. Also, as our world becomes increasingly connected, it’s more important than ever to be cyber aware. There’s no question, cyber attacks are evolving in sophistication, and attackers are broadening the entities they’re willing to target. Therefore individual personnel ignorant of the basic tenents of cybersecurity contributes to cyber threats to GAF information systems.

4. The following ten(10) basic tips to keep in mind during cybersecurity awareness months will help us to be more conscious; to think before we click, post, download, upload, or share information;

- a. **Keep Your Software Up To Date.** Update your operating systems and applications systems to the latest upgrade. To obtain the updated upgrade of your systems, purchase licensed software only.
- b. **Use Firewall and Anti-Virus Protection.** Contact IT professionals at the appropriate Unit on how to set up your Firewall on your systems. Always use licensed anti-virus to achieve the needed benefits that it comes with.
- c. **Try Strong Passwords and an Online Password Manager.** Refer to **update No.2** on how to construct a strong password.
- d. **Two-Factor Or Multi-Factor Authentication.** Always enable MFA when it is available on your device or systems
- e. **Beware of Phishing, Suspicious Emails or Texts.** Refer to **Update No.1** on how hackers employ phishing attacks on your device.
- f. **Know what Personal Identifiable Information is and how to protect it.**
- g. **Keep your mobile devices secure.**
- h. **Back up your data often.**
- i. **Don't Use Public Wi-fi.** When using public wi-fi, don't access accounts where your financial accounts or personal information are stored.
- j. **What You Post Last Forever.** Be aware that when you post a picture or message online, you may also be inadvertently sharing personal details with strangers about yourself and family members.