



# The CyberSentinel



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## Commissioner's Cache



The holidays will soon be here, and I hope you can take a well-deserved break with family and friends. To brighten your holidays, you will soon receive, by shipment, your participant kits. Led by our Rebecca Dalton, your Program Office and many AFA staff (and others) were delighted to assemble the kits and ship them to you. We hope you enjoy them!

A special thanks to Coaches and Mentors for their outstanding job recruiting and training teams this season. It has been a record-setter! More than two THOUSAND teams registered for CyberPatriot VII, 40 percent more than last year's registrations. Since the first Exhibition Round in April more teams than ever have participated in CyberPatriot VII with more than 1,500 teams participating by Round 2.

BUT, there is still one more round of competition this year: The State Round, Dec. 5-7. This season's State Round was developed based on your feedback for competition rounds to allow teams to compete with others at their skill level. I hope you find the tier system challenging at your team's skill level whether you are in the Platinum, Gold, or Silver Tier. Though only a limited number of Platinum Tier teams can earn a place in the National Finals Competition, the tier system will allow more teams to earn honors based on skill levels.

Oh! Don't forget that the first Presidents Day Weekend Open goes Feb. 13-15 as our final online event. Cisco and Leidos will provide stand-alone networking and forensics challenges that will give teams a chance to prove how well they perform in specific areas (or to get extra preparation for next season!). Stay tuned for more details.

This season would not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors. Our Presenting Sponsor, the Northrop Grumman Foundation, and the rest of our sponsors have contributed time and resources to ensure that we have a quality program. Please take the opportunity to thank them when you meet their employees.

Good luck to all of you in the State Round!

Bernard K. Skoch  
National Commissioner  
CyberPatriot  
Air Force Association



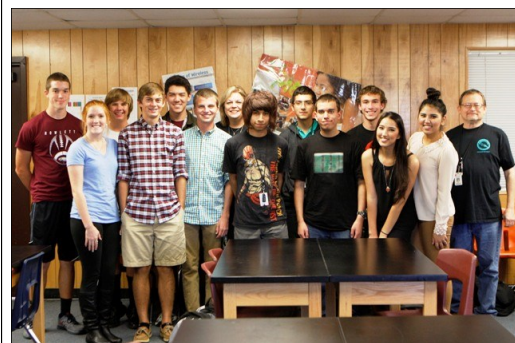
## High School Teams Challenged in Round 2; State Round Next

The Open and All Service Divisions' Round 2 began with rapid scoring on Friday, Nov. 14. Tier placement for the State Round was on the line for the teams. Also, some teams wanted to prove themselves after Round 1. Only three images and a networking quiz stood in the way of more than 1,200 teams meeting their goals.

Most teams pushed through the medium difficulty Ubuntu and Vista images, but the most difficult test came with the Windows 8 image. It was the hardest image so far in the competition and was designed to break out the many high scoring teams into their tiers.

The Cisco Networking Quiz challenged the team's time management skills as well as networking skills. In the post-competition review, teams were given additional points for a networking quiz question that had two correct answers.

In the end 30 percent of high school teams competed their way into the Platinum Tier. The remaining teams earned their way into the Gold and Silver Tiers. (continued on page 4)



**First-time competitors from Rowlett High School in Garland, Texas, pose for a picture before tackling an online round of competition.**

(Photo source: <http://blueribbonnews.com/2014/12/rhs-home-to-districts-first-cyberpatriot-club/>)

## Program Office Bits

**Upcoming Round: Dec. 5-7, 2014**

### **State Round**

#### **(Open and All Service Divisions):**

Windows 7, Windows Vista, Ubuntu, and a Cisco Networking Quiz. *Platinum Tier teams will also have a Packet Tracer exercise as part of the Cisco Networking Challenge.*

### **Round 2**

#### **(Middle School Division):**

Vista, Windows 8, Ubuntu, and Cisco Quiz

## Features

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## Sponsor Profile: facebook

The CyberPatriot Program Office is pleased to announce that Facebook, the world's leading social media website, has partnered with CyberPatriot, joining as the newest Cyber Gold Level Sponsor.

"We are particularly pleased to gain the support of Facebook. Their global presence and outstanding reputation as world leaders in online technologies are enormously impressive. We look forward to working with them to extend CyberPatriot's reach, to inspire many more students across the world to explore STEM opportunities, and to educate youth on cybersecurity and online safety" said Bernie Skoch. "Our generous sponsors provide the means for us to do our important work. Without them CyberPatriot could not exist."

"Facebook strongly supports CyberPatriot in its efforts to expand the pipeline of infosec students needed to make the Internet a safer place for everyone," said Jennifer Henley, director of Facebook's Security Operations. "We're very excited to assist in these efforts."

Thank you for the support, Facebook! We look forward to working together to continue to promote STEM education among our nation's youth.



CyberPatriot and 100 others like this.

### Coaches' Corner

- **Online Coaches' and Mentors' Meetings.** The upcoming Coaches' Meetings are a great time to ask any questions about the competition before the upcoming round of CP-VII! The first meeting will provide round details in a slideshow, with a question and answer session afterward. The second meeting will have a shorter slide presentation and focus on questions from participants of all experience levels. Information on joining these meetings will be emailed to all Coaches and Mentors a week before the first meeting.

- Dec. 2 — 4:30 pm ET/3:30 pm CT/1:30 pm PT  
- Dec. 4 — 9:00 pm ET/8:00 pm CT/6:00 pm PT

- **Presidents' Day Weekend Open.** From Feb. 13-15, there will be a special one-off competition focusing on networking and digital forensics, courtesy of CyberPatriot sponsors Cisco and Leidos. All registered teams may compete and performance does not have an effect on, and is not affected by, the main competition. More to come soon!

## Participant Kits Are On The Way!

A HUGE thank you to the AFA staff members and the Fredericksburg Civil Air Patrol Composite Squadron from Virginia for their help in packing this year's participant kits.

Boxes have been packed per coach, not per team. Each coach will receive one box with enough gear for all of their team members. This includes Coaches, registered Competitors, and Mentors/Team Assistants linked to the team. If you think you are missing gear for a Mentor, it is possible that it has been included in the order for another team the Mentor assists. LAUSD teams are not included on the list below, as their kits will be sent to and distributed by Beyond the Bell.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE STATUS OF YOUR TEAM'S KIT](#)

Please note: Coaches with multiple teams are identified by only one of their team numbers. If one team number is on the list, all teams have been accounted for. Any team with a "No" status: Boxes have been packed without one item. We will ship as soon as the additional inventory of that item arrives, which may be after the new year. We appreciate your patience!

Questions about your order?

Contact Rebecca Dalton at [info@uscyberpatriot.org](mailto:info@uscyberpatriot.org)



Nov. 17, 2014



Nov. 19, 2014

### The CyberSentinel

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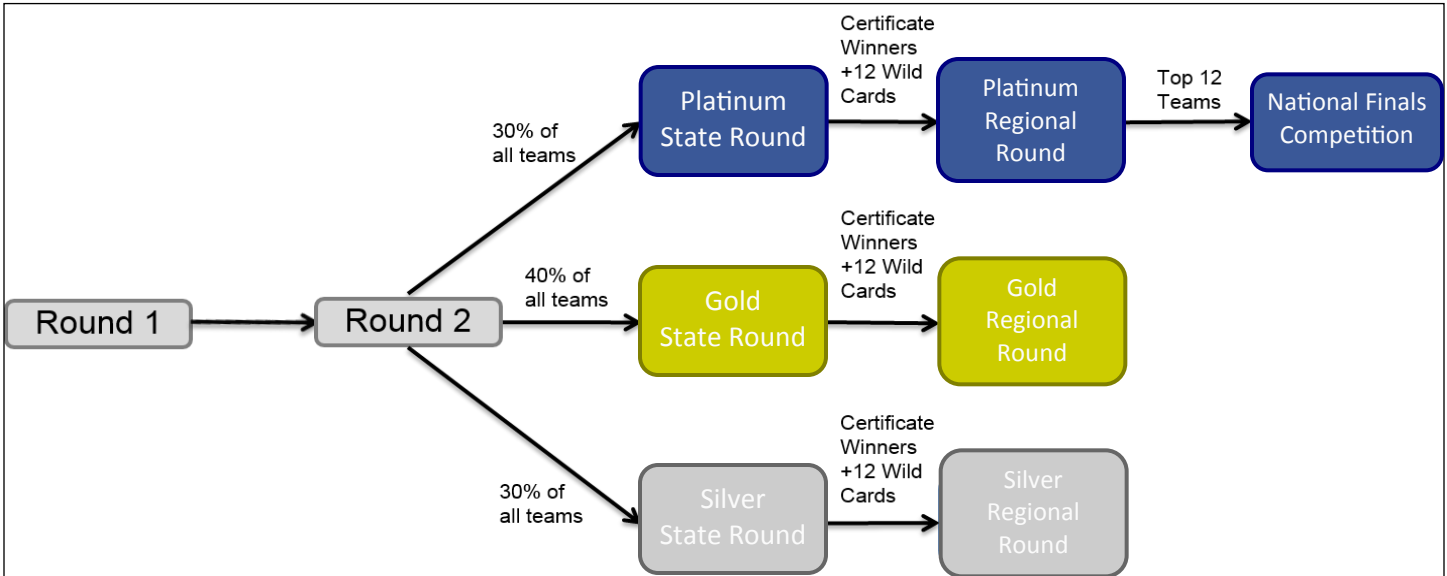
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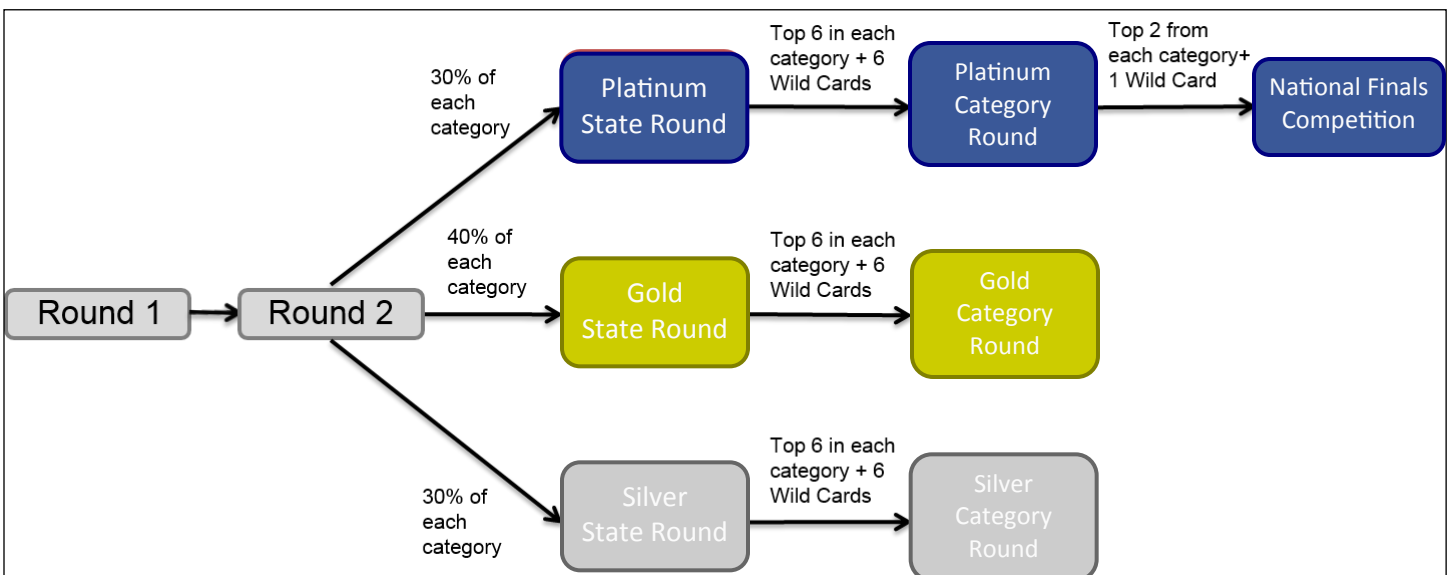


## Recap: New Competition Structure

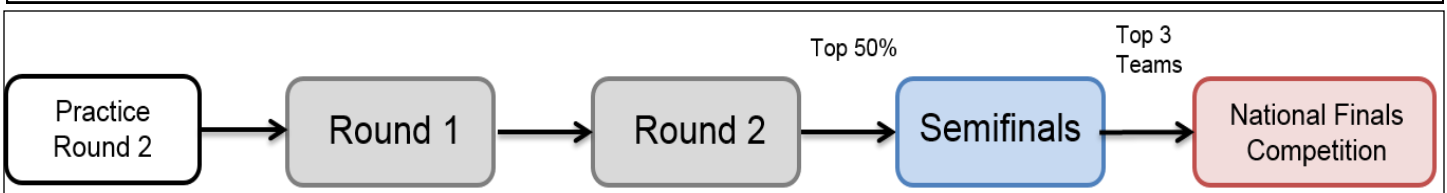
### CP-VII Open Division Bracket



### CP-VII All Service Division Bracket



### CP-VII Middle School Division Bracket





## Northrop Grumman Employees Give Back to Inspire Tomorrow's Cyber Pros

By Marynoele Benson, Northrop Grumman



Inspiring tomorrow's cyber pros is top-of-mind for many Northrop Grumman employees, who head out annually to area schools and clubs to serve as technical advisors and role models to CyberPatriot teams nationwide.

In addition to the Northrop Grumman Foundation's role as Presenting Sponsor, the company offers paid summer internships to competitors and awards scholarship funds to winning teams. However, it's the opportunity to be a CyberPatriot Mentor that really gets employees excited.

"Getting involved with students as Mentors and Technical Advisors is where the rubber meets the road," said Diane Miller, Northrop Grumman program director for CyberPatriot. "This is an incredibly rewarding experience, knowing that you are playing a pivotal role in developing tomorrow's cyber defenders and setting them on a path for success."

Approximately 65 Northrop Grumman employees volunteer annually to help CyberPatriot Coaches and teams prepare for the competi-

tion. Among the areas where employees are currently mentoring are Cincinnati, Ohio; Aurora, Colo.; New York City; Patuxent River, Md.; and Fairfax, Va., to mention a few.

While some Mentors are cyber experts, others may assist the Coach in other aspects of team preparation. In Cincinnati, Northrop Grumman employees are mentoring a first-time team that's already made it to Platinum Level. In New York City, Northrop Grumman engineers are mentoring four teams comprising of some new, and some returning, students. In Aurora, Colo., Northrop Grumman employees are building on the tremendous success of several local CyberPatriot teams and expanding their reach into other Denver metro area school districts. In Fairfax, Va., Northrop Grumman's Terry Levoy kicked off this year's competition by conveying to other Mentors that "once again, let's have loads of fun while serving our community and nation. Its numerous rewards are indescribable."

If you are a Coach and are interested in obtaining a Mentor, go to [www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org), sign into your account, and select "Find Mentor" on your dashboard.

## High School Teams Challenged (con't.)

### Middle School Round 1

Round 1 was the season's first test for the Middle School Division teams. Conducted at the same time as the high school teams' Round 2, more than 150 middle school teams competed in the round. Middle school teams were given an additional Practice Round to allow them to prepare for the competition and familiarize themselves with the CyberPatriot Competition System. The result was fewer trouble calls to the CyberPatriot Operations Center than expected.

### State Round

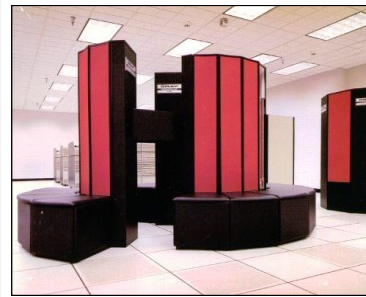
On Dec. 5, the State Round will commence for all high school teams. For the first time teams will compete in tiers based on their scores in the Qualification Rounds. Previous scores do not count in determining what teams compete in following rounds unless there is a tie. All registered high school teams may compete even if they missed previous rounds.

### Tiers

For the State and Regional Rounds, each tier will have images and networking tasks corresponding to their skill levels. Teams in one tier cannot advance to another tier because the competition images and tasks are not the same. However, in each tier teams will have the opportunity to take top honors in their tier. Only Platinum Tier teams will compete for slots in the National Finals Competition.

### This Month in Cyber History

**Dec. 4, 1985** — The Cray X-MP/48 started operation at



the San Diego Supercomputer Center. The X-MP was popular for generating computer graphics, especially for movies. It nearly doubled the operating speed of com-

peting machines with its parallel processing system, which ran at 420 million floating-point operations per second, or megaflops. An even faster speed could be achieved by arranging two Crays to work together on different parts of the same problem. Other applications included the defense industry and scientific research.

For more information, visit:  
[www.computerhistory.org/t dih/December/4/](http://www.computerhistory.org/t dih/December/4/)

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