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THE CYBERSENTINEL

The official newsletter of CyberPatriot—AFA's National Youth Cyber Education Program

COMMISSIONER'S CACHE



We often are asked "How does CyberPatriot work?" The initial temptation is to give the technical answer revolving around our excellent CyberPatriot Competition System (thank you CIAS), virtual network images, embedded vulnerabilities, firewalls, routers, vulnerability remediation, and other "geeky squeaky" aspects of CyberPatriot. To be sure, those things are all very important; without them and the subsystems underpinning them, our competition, AFA CyberCamps, and even ESCEI would come to an abrupt halt.

But there is a far more profound answer to that question: people and partnerships. CyberPatriot is among the greatest examples of public-private partnerships in recent history of STEM education. Our parent organization, the non-profit Air Force Association is "fully in." Our senior leadership "gets it" and makes sure that our program—YOUR program—gets the administrative support and advocacy it needs to thrive and grow. AFA volunteer members worldwide are energetic "boots

on the ground," visiting schools, businesses, and local civic leaders promoting our program. And they do an amazing job of it. The government, led notably by our friends in the Department of Homeland Security, is equally committed by seeing and supporting CP for what it is, an outstanding avenue for promoting and sustaining cybersecurity education in the U.S.

And undeniably critical to our explosive growth has been the generous support of each of our sponsors and benefactors, led by our devoted Presenting Sponsor, the Northrop Grumman Foundation. They captured the vision immediately and have been the fuel feeding our engine. Our lead focal point there, Ms. Diane Miller, is an amazing leader in seeing that the Northrop Grumman connection is much more than the generous financial support they bring. She has been a force for engaging leaders in industry, an army of mentors and an entire enterprise in promoting CP globally.

And let's not forget the biggest "who" in this entire discussion: CP Centers of Excellence, Coaches, Mentors, Team Assistants, educators, parents, and CP Competitors. It is their support that "delivers the goods" to the students whom we are vectoring toward the STEM education and careers our nation needs them in. So how does CyberPatriot REALLY work? It works through the amazing energy and devotion of PEOPLE and PARTNERS who every day help us grow. Thank you all.

Bernard K. Skoch | National Commissioner



STATE HONORS AWARDED – REGIONAL/NATIONAL HONORS UP NEXT

The State Round took place Jan. 13-15 with more than 2700 teams participating. Rough weather from the West Coast to East Coast resulted in more than 50 teams competing in a backup round on Jan. 21.

During the round, high school teams were tested with three operating system images and the Cisco Networking Challenge. Teams in the Platinum, Gold, and Silver Tiers found and fixed vulnerabilities in images based on their demonstrated levels of performance in the qualification rounds. The Cisco Networking Challenge consisted of a combination of a networking quiz and a Packet Tracer virtual net-

working exercise. Middle School teams were challenged with three images and an unscored Cisco Networking Quiz and Packet Tracer exercise.

When the results were in, the scores showed that the State Round was the toughest competition round in CyberPatriot history. Very few teams scored near perfect scores on the images and Cisco Networking Challenge. According to the Senior Director of CyberPatriot Operations Frank Zaborowski, the State Round met its competition design goal of providing a clear identification of teams that would advance to the Regional Round.

State Awards were announced on Tuesday, Jan. 31. The next awards to be given are the high school Regional and Category Awards, based on the results of the final online round that took place Feb. 3-5. The top high school teams in their divisions will receive awards in their regions and categories.

The top Platinum Tier and Middle School Division teams will win seats at the National Finals Competition in Baltimore, Md., set for Apr., 3-5. For more information on advancement and awards please [see page 3 of the January edition of The CyberSentinel](#).

DATES TO KNOW

MAR. 1	AFA CyberCamp Host Registration Opens
MAR. 7-17	National Finals Practice Round (For finalist only)
APR. 1	CyberPatriot X Registration Opens
APR. 2-6	CyberPatriot IX National Finals Competition

SIGN UP FOR CYBERPATRIOT X — ENTER EXHIBITION ROUNDS!

April 1 is the beginning of registration for CyberPatriot X and May is the beginning of the Exhibition Rounds. During the late spring and summer, registered Coaches may participate in the Exhibition Rounds. The purposes of these rounds is to recruit CyberPatriot team members; orient supporters, school, or organization officials to CyberPatriot; and to provide Coaches an opportunity to allow their teams to practice to hone their cybersecurity and teamwork skills.

The Exhibition Rounds will have some changes from previous seasons. This season's Exhibition Rounds will consist of a mixture of Windows and Linux images to include Windows 10 and Debian. Though not scored on a public scoreboard, the scores will be seen on local scoring reports so teams can gauge their progress.

The Exhibition Round should be conducted as an event or meeting to keep control of the materials and images.

As a bonus, Coaches and Mentors may also participate in the Exhibition Rounds so that they can experience the challenges their teams will face in the competition. However, Coaches must have positive control of the images and materials each round. The images and other materials are only for distribution to Coaches since they are the intellectual property of the Air Force Association and its partners.

Make your plans now and sign up for CyberPatriot X! Remember, only team Coaches are required to register for CyberPatriot X to access the Exhibition Round. Student registration is not due until the fall.

For instructions on how to register as a coach to CP-X, please see the link below:

[How to Register a Team](#)

SPONSOR PROFILE: LEIDOS

The Air Force Association (AFA) is pleased to announce that Leidos, Inc. will be continuing their support of AFA's CyberPatriot program as a Cyber Silver sponsor for the eighth consecutive year.

"We at Leidos are very proud of our founding sponsorship of the critically important STEM event and pleased [to] continue that support," commented Lt Gen (USAF, Ret) Chuck Heflebower, of Leidos, Inc.

Leidos, Inc. (through its affiliation with SAIC) has provided invaluable support to the program as a Cyber Silver sponsor since CyberPatriot began in 2009. Leidos provides the Digital Forensics Event at the CyberPatriot National Finals Competition each April, which covers encryption, steganography, and file carving challenges, as well as other challenges that focus on digital forensics topics. The event exposes the students to new areas of cybersecurity that are not traditionally covered in other the other events of the National Finals Competition.

"It's been a real pleasure having the support of Leidos for such an extended period of time," said CyberPatriot National Commissioner Bernie Skoch. "They've been part of the program since its early stages, and we are looking forward to continuing the partnership for years to come."



Coaches' Corner

- **Scores.** As soon as they are available, competition round scores can be found on the CyberPatriot website at: <http://uscypatriot.org/competition/current-competition/scores>
- **Awards.** After the scores for the competition round are published, the Regional and Category awards will be published.
- **Air Card Return.** If you received any AT&T 3G Air Cards from the CyberPatriot Program Office for use during the CyberPatriot IX season, please be on the lookout for an email with return instructions. We will be collecting all air cards for redistribution next season.
- **Coaches Meeting.** There will be no general Coaches Meetings during Feb. through Apr. due to the National Finals Competition and other events. Feel free to contact the CyberPatriot Program Office if you have any questions about the competition.
- **End of Season Survey.** The End of Season Survey will be out this month. It is your chance to recommend changes or additions to the competition. Watch for an email announcement.



**THUMBS UP to all the teams who participated in
CyberPatriot IX and made this year
a smashing success!**

SPOTLIGHT: AFA CYBERCAMPS... HOST A CAMP THIS SUMMER!

HOST REGISTRATION DATES: MARCH 1 - MAY 1

AFA CyberCamps were created to continue to inspire students to pursue STEM related activities outside of the school year. Educational organizations may apply to host a CyberCamp in their area.*

ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN REQUEST AN AFA CYBERCAMP KIT:

- AFA Chapters
- Public/Private middle schools & high schools
- Home schools
- Civil Air Patrol squadrons
- Navel Sea Cadet Corps
- Scouting Units
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Universities, Colleges and Community Colleges
- Other non-profit educational organizations pending approval by the CyberPatriot National Commissioner

Organizations are required to supply all computer and technical equipment, as well as staff the camp session with a qualified adult instructor.

There are no age restrictions on the student participants in the CyberCamp program, but given the curriculum's targeted level of difficulty, the CyberPatriot Program Office recommends camps recruit local 7th -12th grade students with *little to no cybersecurity experience*.



COST OF HOSTING A CAMP

2017: To recover the costs of software and curriculum development, the CyberPatriot Program Office provides access to two demonstration images and two competition images, as well as digital copies of the curriculum materials for **\$1,050**.

OTHER COSTS (Optional)

Student Workbooks: \$6/copy
Instructor's Guides: \$55/printed set
CyberCamp T-Shirts: \$8/shirt
CyberPatriot Sunglasses: \$3/pair

Summer 2017 Session Dates

- ♦ Session A: June 5-9
- ♦ Session B: June 12-16
- ♦ Session C: June 19-23
- ♦ Session D: June 26-30
- ♦ Session E: July 17-21
- ♦ Session F: July 24-28
- ♦ Session G: July 31 - Aug 4

Please note: CyberPatriot will not have camp sessions the first TWO weeks of July due to limited resources at the CyberPatriot Operations Center. Requests for the first two weeks in July are unavailable.

NEW FOR 2017: CAMP COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITY CHECKLIST

The person that applies to host an AFA CyberCamp will be the sole point of contact for the entire camp process. This person known as the Camp Coordinator will facilitate all logistics of the camp and will be CyberPatriot's single point of contact for the camp. It is the responsibility of the Camp Coordinator to further distribute any information to other appropriate parties associated with their camp.

During the registration process, applicants will be asked to review the [Camp Coordinator Pre-Checklist](#) and verify they understand the responsibilities associated with hosting an AFA CyberCamp.

***PARENTS & STUDENTS:**
The CyberPatriot Program Office DOES NOT register students for individual camps.

List of approved camps will be on the 'Approved 2017 Camps' page after registration closes. Parents and students that are interested in attending an AFA CyberCamp will need to contact the camp locations directly. Not all camp locations will offer public registration to their camps. Due to privacy policies we are only able to advertise camp information with the hosts permission.

Please visit [THIS](#) page for more information about attending an AFA CyberCamp.

[CLICK HERE FOR A FULL PROGRAM OVERVIEW](#)

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MORE PHOTOS OF TEAMS COMPETING, BECAUSE WHY NOT!



THIS MONTH IN CYBER HISTORY

Feb. 13, 1980 — On this day in cyber history, Apollo Computer was incorporated in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. Apollo helped create the original workstations, small but powerful computers mostly used for engineering. In 1989, Hewlett-Packard Company acquired Apollo in a \$476 million deal.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.computerhistory.org/t dih/February/13/>

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