



ISSUE  
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# THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

## COMMISSIONER'S CACHE



Happy New Year! 2017 is beginning with a LOT of busy activity in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program. We are of course bustling with the ninth season of CyberPatriot's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. Following two amazingly competitive qualifying rounds, we are about to tee up the State Round this month. It won't be very long before we know our National Finalist teams, and we are excited to see who's in.

And there are BIG things on the horizon for CyberPatriot in 2017. We expect to pilot sessions of an advanced AFA CyberCamp focused on participants with CyberPatriot experience. We also hope to be rolling out an badly needed program to help senior citizens stay safe online. And our "book project" is on the horizon as well, helping teach even pre-schoolers about cyber safety.

2017 will be busy for us, and we hope busy, fun, and productive for you, our valued participants, cheerleaders, advocates, supporters, mentors, coaches, and our sponsors led by the Northrop Grumman Foundation. YOU are what make this "thing" work. And it is all of YOU for whom we are grateful. THANKS!

Bernard K. Skoch | National Commissioner



## DATES TO KNOW

JAN. 3	CP Program Office Open
JAN. 10	Coaches Meeting
JAN. 13-15	CP-IX State Round
JAN. 16	CP Office Closed—MLK Day
JAN. 20	CP Office Closed—Inauguration
FEB. 3-5	CP-IX Regional/Category Round
FEB. 3-5	CP-IX Semifinals (Middle School)



Photo courtesy of Sisler High School (Winnipeg, MB)

## ROUND 2 CLOSED — ALL TEAMS INVITED TO STATE ROUND!

As the cold crept into the December air it did not seem to have an effect on the CyberPatriot teams in Round 2. More than 3,000 teams competed in the round, which ran Dec. 9—11. A backup round was held on Dec. 17 for teams affected by severe weather.

Round 2 was designed to be more difficult than Round 1. The Program Office's Frank Zaborowski stated, "Round 2 was much more challenging than Round 1 in order to provide a test of each team's skillset. The round results allowed us to determine appropriate tiers for teams to compete with similarly skilled teams in the State Round."

Teams may find their Round 2 scores on the CyberPatriot website at: <http://uscyberpatriot.org/competition/current-competition/scores>

### State Round

**All registered teams may compete in the State Round even if they did not compete in Rounds 1 or 2. Registration fees must be paid.**

The State Round will be held Jan. 13-15. There are differences between the High School and the Middle School State Round. The following are the major differences.

- Open and All Service Division teams start with a clean record in their tiers. Previous scores do not count except in a tiebreaker. A team's State Round score will determine their eligibility for awards and advancement. Only Platinum Tier Teams will be eligible to advance to the National Finals Competition.
- Middle School teams will have their State Round scores added to Rounds 1 and 2 scores to determine their eligibility for awards and advancement to the Semifinals.

There are no tiers for the Middle School Division.

- Middle School teams will have an unscored Cisco exercise in the State Round to prepare teams for the Cisco Networking Challenge in the Semifinals.

Graphic descriptions of the State Round advancement and awards are located on page 3 of this newsletter. For more details, please see Chapter 3 of the CyberPatriot Rules Book at: <http://uscyberpatriot.org/competition/rules-book>.

### Windows 10 and Debian Debuts

New images have been added to the competition for the State and Regional/Category Rounds. The State Round will see the introduction of Windows 10 as an image. Debian 7 have its debut in the Regional/Category Round in the Platinum Tier.

## CYBERTHREATS WILL CONTINUE TO WORSEN IN 2017

**New year, new cyber attacks. Lower your odds of falling victim to a breach by familiarizing yourself with 2017's greatest cyberthreats:**

1. Domestic and international corporate espionage through hacking will increase as companies raid the intellectual property and trade secrets of other companies for profit.
2. Expect growth of the business model in which criminal cybergeniuses use the Dark Web to sell and lease malware — ransomware, botnets and the tech support necessary to effectively perpetrate massive cybercrimes. — to less savvy cybercriminals.
3. Law firms will become increasingly targeted and victimized by data breaches.



4. Ransomware attacks will increase and evolve to include taking control of companies' computer-operated systems.
5. ATMs and gas pumps will have increased credit card fraud through skimmers that steal magnetic strip information from credit and debit cards. While the greater use of EMV chip cards has resulted in de-

creased credit card fraud, few ATMs have been adapted for the EMV system.

6. Medical information data breaches, which according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in 2015 involved more than 113 million records, will become an even bigger problem.
7. Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks such as we saw in October that temporarily took down Amazon, Twitter, Netflix and others will increase, fueled by botnets of infected computers.
8. Cybersecurity of cars and medical devices in particular will become major issues in 2017.
9. Banks will be increasingly victimized by devastating cyberattacks.
10. Mobile devices will be increasingly targeted by cybercriminals as increasingly companies and individuals utilize smartphones and other mobile devices for sensitive activities with many companies and individuals not utilizing proper security precautions. Critical Infrastructure will be increasingly targeted by criminals extorting money and nation states attacking for political reasons.
11. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson has said that the most devastating attacks by the most sophisticated attackers almost always begin with spear phishing emails. These are emails with malware-infected links that lure victims into clicking on them.

Source: *"Think cyberthreats are bad now? They'll get worse in 2017 with 'spear phishing,' etc."* by Steve Weisman, Special for USA Today

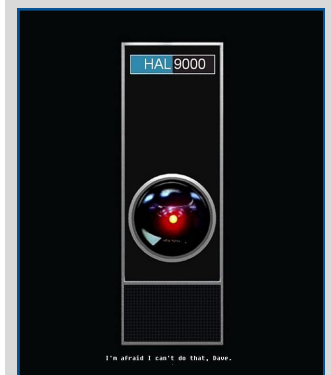
## THIS MONTH IN CYBER HISTORY

**Jan. 12, 1997** — On this day in cyber history, the fictional HAL 9000 computer became operational, according to Arthur C. Clarke's *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

In the 1968 movie adaptation, the computer's statement, "I am a HAL 9000 computer, Production Number 3. I became operational at the HAL Plant in Urbana, Illinois, on January 12, 1997," put his birthdate in 1992. Both dates have now passed with no super-intelligent, human-like HAL computer in sight.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.computerhistory.org/t dih/January/12/>



## CP-IX PARTICIPANT/MENTOR KITS

We hope you enjoy the gear that was sent as part of this season's CyberPatriot Participant Kits! As of December 20, 2016, all packages were delivered to teams that were registered and paid on time.

During the month of January, the CyberPatriot staff will be working to complete remaining packages for teams that were late to finalize their rosters or submit payment. We will also be sending out packets for active/linked mentors and team assistants. These will be sent directly to the address provided by the volunteer during the registration process.

In the box: T-Shirt, challenge coin, lapel pin, stylus pen, charging cables, participation certificate, and cyber bullying booklet (courtesy of Symantec) for the coach and each student listed on the roster. T-Shirt sizes cannot be changed at this point in time.



Students from Friendly High School in Ft. Washington, MD sport their CP-IX t-shirts during Round 2

## Coaches' Corner

- **CP-IX Registration Fee Payment.** The CyberPatriot Program Office is still accepting payment for CP-IX teams. Payment can be made via credit card (online or over the phone), PO, or check. POs can be emailed directly to [info@uscyberpatriot.org](mailto:info@uscyberpatriot.org)
- **Coaches Meeting/Open Q&A.** The next online Coaches Meeting is Tuesday, January 10. The format is a WebEx chat session for any CyberPatriot topic. This is not a mandatory meeting, rather a good time to ask any questions about the upcoming round or program in general.
- **Scores.** As soon as they are available, competition round scores can be found on the CyberPatriot website at: <http://uscyberpatriot.org/competition/current-competition/scores>
- **Coach's Dashboard.** Please check the Dashboard for important information and email for the competition.





## SPOTLIGHT: ROUND ADVANCEMENT VS. ROUND AWARDS

With Rounds 1+2 in the books, we've reached the advancement and award portion of the season. The charts below provide an overview of what it takes to advance, and what it takes to earn an award. A full explanation can be found in the [CyberPatriot IX Rules book \[sections 3007-3011\]](#)

### ADVANCEMENT THROUGH CYBERPATRIOT IX: WHO COMPETES IN EACH ROUND?

	OPEN	ALL SERVICE	MIDDLE SCHOOL
STATE	All teams eligible to compete in State Round regardless of performance/participation in Rounds 1 +2		
REGIONAL CATEGORY SEMIFINALS	<b>Platinum:</b> Top 3 scoring teams in each state + 36 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores	<b>Platinum:</b> Top 6 scoring teams in each category + 45 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores	Top 50% of teams based on cumulative Round 1, Round 2, and State Round scores
	<b>Gold:</b> Top 3 scoring teams in each state + 36 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores	<b>Gold:</b> Top 6 scoring teams in each category + 45 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores	
	<b>Silver:</b> Top 3 scoring teams in each state + 36 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores	<b>Silver:</b> Top 6 scoring teams in each category + 45 wildcard teams, based on State Round scores	
NATIONAL FINALS	Platinum ONLY: Top 12 teams overall, based on Regional Round scores	Platinum ONLY: Top 2 teams overall from each category +1 wildcard, based on Category Round scores	Top 3 teams overall, based on Semifinals scores

### CYBERPATRIOT IX AWARDS: WHO GETS AFA AWARDS?

	PLATINUM TIER	GOLD TIER	SILVER TIER
OPEN	Top 3 teams in each State/Region receive hardcopy awards (AFA Representatives may opt to present awards)	Top 3 teams in each State/Region receive digital awards (AFA Representatives notified of winners)	Top 3 teams in each State/Region receive digital awards (AFA Representatives notified of winners)
ALL SERVICE	State: Top 3 teams in each State regardless of Category Category: Top 3 teams in each category receive hardcopy awards (AFA Representatives may opt to present awards)	State: Top 3 teams in each State regardless of Category Category: Top 3 teams in each category receive digital awards (AFA Representatives notified of winners)	State: Top 3 teams in each State regardless of Category Category: Top 3 teams in each category receive digital awards (AFA Representatives notified of winners)
MIDDLE SCHOOL	Top 3 teams in each State (based on combined Rd. 1, Rd. 2, and State Rd. scores) receive hardcopy awards Teams that compete in the Semifinals but do not advance to the National Finals receive a digital award (AFA Representatives may opt to present hardcopy State awards)		



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# WE ASKED FOR ROUND 2 PHOTOS AND YOU DELIVERED! (CAN YOU SPOT THE CANINE COMPETITOR?)



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Cyber Gold

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Symantec

Cyber Silver

