

THE CYBERSENTINEL

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

COMMISSIONER'S CACHE

Is it possible the year 2018 is here already? We are zooming forward to the culmination of CP-X with what we are sure will be an outstanding National Finals Competition in Baltimore in April, and I hope you will be there with us.

One of our greatest pleasures in AFA's CyberPatriot Program Office is watching those who make our program so successful being recognized for their outstanding

blefield and Reynold Hioki and national level recognition they recently received. A tip of the CyberPatriot beanie to both of them!

And we know well that they are just two of so many of you worldwide who give your energies so willingly every day to CyberPatriot. Also in this issue is terrific information on the process of team advancement and how it works. We are so proud of all of our CyberPatriot teams and wish you all the best as you move on to the State Round.

As 2018 begins I personally want to thank you for your support of CyberPatriot. The program continues on an amazing journey, and it's because of YOU. Whether you are a student, an educator, a coach, a mentor, an energetic AFA volunteer, or someone who just cares, thank you.

And a huge thanks to our generous sponsors, led by our Presenting Sponsor the Northrop Grumman Foundation. Without your support CyberPatriot would not exist. Thank you, and our warmest wishes for a successful and prosperous 2018.

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Bernard K. Skoch | National Commissioner



DATES TO KNOW

JAN. 2 JAN. 19-21 JAN. 28 FEB. 9-11 AFA Reopens CP-X State Round State Round Backup Date CP-X Semifinals



BE SMART about what you post online. It could effect your future success!

ROUND 2 ENDS IN "TIERS" - ALL TEAMS MOVE ON TO STATE ROUND

Round 2 began on Dec. 8 with wildfires in California and unseasonal snow and ice in the eastern and southern US. More than 150 teams in those areas missed the round and competed on the Round 2 Emergency Backup Date. *(See Coach's Corner on page 2)*.

Many teams entered the round riding high on their performance in Round 1, to include almost 200 teams with perfect image scores. From the beginning, Round 2 was hard-fought. Though many teams did well, few high school teams (Open and All Service Divisions) met the heights they achieved in Round 1. Middle school teams were also challenged but were provided a basic Ubuntu image to prepare them for future rounds.

There was a reason for the difference in scoring — tier assignment. Round 2 was intentionally much more difficult than Round 1. High School teams are assigned to one of three tiers based on the sum of their Round 1 and Round 2 scores. Open Division assignment is by division, and All Service Division assignment is by category as shown below.

Platinum: Highest 30% in Division or Category Gold: Middle 40% in Division or Category Silver: Remaining 30% in Division or Category

For more details on advancement see Paragraph 3009 of the <u>CyberPatriot Rules Book</u>. CyberPatriot Senior Director Frank Zaborowski said, "I believe many high school teams will find that challenges in their State Round tiers will not increase by the same magnitude as they did from Round 1 to Round 2. They will be more tailored to their skill sets. Middle school teams will have about the same increase in difficulty."

All teams will advance to the State Round with a clean slate. Past scores or participation do not count toward State Round rankings.

The Semifinals will take place on Jan. 19. Advancement has changed this season for high school teams. See page 3 for more info.

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CP COACH & VOLUNTEER WIN SANS "DIFFERENCE MAKER" AWARD



Since 2011, SANS has been celebrating those "Difference Makers" whose innovation, skill, and hard work have resulted in real increases in information security. There is no shortage of publicity around failures in security - constant headlines detailing breaches and vulnerabilities at companies and government agencies. However, what you never hear about are the many organizations who aren't in the news because their security staff have found ways to meet business and mission needs while protecting customer and business data from attackers. There are thousands of security practitioners out there who are quietly succeeding and making breakthroughs in advancing security.

This year, long-time CyberPatriot Coach Allen Stubblefield (Troy High School, Fullerton, CA) made the cut as one of ten individual winners nationwide. He was selected for his work, and showing real progress, in developing cybersecurity skills in high school and middle school students. Stubblefield is in charge of cybersecurity and the CyberPatriot program at Troy High School. He is no stranger to program at Troy High School.

the National Finals competition, having had two teams compete in CP-IX, with several appearance in prior seasons as well.

Additionally, seven states were selected for their efforts to help inspire the next generation of cybersecurity talent. Among the winners were Governor David Ige and the Cybersecurity Manager for Hawaii's Department of Defense, Reynold Hioki. Governor Ige and Hioki have worked tirelessly to find, motivate, and develop tomorrow's cybersecurity talent in the state of Hawaii, and have played a very big role in growing the CyberPatriot program within the state.

The winners were recognized on Dec. 15 at the SANS Cyber Defense Initiative training event in Washington D.C. For additional information on the award, see the <u>full press release here</u>.

Congratulations to the Allen and Reynold! They have made CyberPatriot proud.



Students at Granada High School took first place in the Cybersecurity Pathway and Student Challenge at the Cisco campus in San Jose, an event in which teams demonstrate their problem-solving abilities when faced with a possible cyber attack.



SARAH THE CYBER HERO

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Coaches' Corner

- Use of Competition Backup Dates. Backup dates are used only for extreme weather or other widespread emergencies. Only Coaches may request backup dates through the appeals process. Circumstances that are not grounds for competing on the backup dates include, but are not limited to, these listed in paragraph 4015 of the CP-X Rules Book.
- Double Check Registration. PLEASE double check on your dashboard that your team is correctly registered to the proper division. JROTC teams should be registered as such (organization type should say JROTC). Being listed as the wrong organization results in incorrect division placement, which in turn effects the scoring. So please check the organization type that is listed on your dashboard to ensure that you are competing in the appropriate division.

SPOTLIGHT: STATE ROUND ADVANCEMENT AND AWARDS

We're reached the point in CP-X where teams are teams are being separated into different tiers and eliminations will begin. PLEASE NOTE that how a teams advance through the competition differs from how teams receive State Round awards. Take a look at the charts below to understand how your team can advance, and how you can earn recognition.

HOW TO ADVANCE TO THE SEMIFINALS FROM THE STATE ROUND Place in the top 25% of Within your tier, advance as a "State" Defined teams within your wildcard team if you are the 50 US states **OPEN** highest scoring team in your respective tier Canada OR (platinum, gold, silver) state, and no other team from **At-Large Teams** DIVISION your state advanced in the top (based on division-wide State (consists of any team based out-Round scores) 25% of teams side of 50 US States and Canada) -----"Categories" Defined Place in the top 25% of Advance as a wildcard team if Air Force JROTC teams within your fewer than six teams from your ALL SERVICE Army JROTC respective tier category advance in the top 25% OR Navy JROTC (platinum, gold, silver) of your tier, and you are the next DIVISION Marine Corps JROTC (based on division-wide State highest scoring team in that **Civil Air Patrol** category Naval Sea Cadets ----MIDDLE NOTE: Place in the top 50% of all middle school teams There are no tiers in the Middle **SCHOOL** (Based on division-wide cumulative scores from Rounds 1, School Division. All teams DIVISION Round 2, and the State Round) compete at the same level HOW TO EARN AN AWARD IN THE STATE ROUND Be one of the top three NOTE: If your team earns an overall AFA Be one of the top three teams within your tier State Award as a gold or silver tier team, you **OPEN** teams overall in your state, (gold/silver) in your state, will not get an additional digital tier-level OR Canada, or the At-Large Canada, or the At-Large certificate. A hard-copy AFA State Award DIVISION group and receive a hardgroup and receive a digital always ranks higher than digital tier, and is copy AFA State Award certificate therefore the only recognition awarded. -----Be one of the top three Be one of the top three NOTE: If your team earns an overall AFA teams overall in you state, teams within your tier in State Award as a gold or silver tier team, you **ALL SERVICE** Canada, or the At-Large your state, Canada, or the will not get an additional digital tier-level OR group (regardless of catego-At-Large group (regardless certificate. A hard-copy AFA State Award DIVISION of category and receive a ry) and receive a hard-copy always ranks higher than digital tier, and is AFA State Award digital certificate therefore the only recognition awarded. MIDDLE Be one of the top three teams **overall** in your state, Canada, or the **SCHOOL** At-Large group and receive a hard-copy AFA State Award DIVISION NOTE: Digital awards will be sent following the round in which they are earned. Hard-copy awards will not be mailed out until after the final online round (Semifinals).

For a full explanation of advancement and awards, see sections 3009 and 3010 of the Rules Book.

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KEEP THE PICTURES COMING!

We love to see our teams sporting their CyberPatriot shirts during

competition rounds. Be sure to send your photos from Round 3 to

info@uscyberpatriot.org.



- 1. Elmhurst Cyber Club (Illinois) Coached by Mimi Black
- 2. Pinecrest Academy of Nevada—Cadence Coached by Joseph Palmaffy
- 3. Park Tudor School (Indiana) Coached by Bryon Realey
- 4. Paul Knox Middle School (South Carolina) Coached by Kandace Tate
- 5. Sparkman Middle School (Alabama) Coached by Michaela Kenon

THIS MONTH IN CYBER HISTORY

Jan. 4, 1972



On January 4, 1972, Hewlett-Packard introduced the HP-35, the first scientific handheld calculator and the final step in ending reliance on slide rules among scientists and students alike. The HP-35 was named for its 35 keys, weighed nine ounces, and sold for \$395. One of the tests HP co-founder Dave Packard applied to the device was to throw it across

his office and see if it still worked. It did!

For more information, visit: http://www.computerhistory.org/tdih/january/4

