COMMISSIONER'S CACHE

And another record for team registrations is set! No one could have known that from a modest beginning just few years ago when we started with (count 'em) eight teams, CyberPatriot has grown this year to a record 6,200+ teams. To say "that's amazing" would be a gross understatement.

And what's most important in noting that growth is the "why" behind it. And while some credit to AFA is deserved for conceiving and implementing this wonderful STEM program, its growth is directly attributable to the generous support of our grantors and sponsors (led by Northrop Grumman Foundation) for providing the resources that fuel this program; to the amazing volunteer mentors from Northrop Grumman, Cisco, AT&T, Boeing, DHS, and Microsoft and others who give us endless hours of support; to our volunteer coaches who make it all work; to administrators and educators; to tireless AFA volunteers; and to the students (and their supportive parents and guardians) who participate.

It is only as we work together that we have achieved what we have. Thank you all!

Bernard K. Skoch | National Commissioner

DATES TO KNOW

OCT. 3	Team Registration Deadline
OCT. 4	Training Round Ends
OCT. 10	CP-XI Practice Round Begins
OCT. 22	CP-XI Practice Round Ends
NOV. 2	**CP-XI ROUND 1 KICKOFF**

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

NOV 1

FINAL DAY TO REGISTER COMPETITORS

NOV 8

FINAL DAY TO PAY/REQUEST WAIVER

PRACTICE ROUND OCT 10-22; ROUND 1 NOV. 2-4

The final training opportunity this season is the Practice Round. The Practice Round begins Oct. 10 and ends Oct 22. It is critical that teams participate in this round because it is part of the building-block approach to the season's images.

The Practice Round will use the Training Round images with answer keys in the Readme.txt file plus an additional image (Debian 8) will be used during the round. There will also be a practice networking quiz and Packet Tracer discovery exercise. Unlike a competition round, your team may participate unlimited times during the round, and they may have multiple instances of the images open at the same time. Coaches and team Mentors may train on the Practice Round images since the round is not a competition round. However, offensive activity is prohibited, and unless specifically exempted in the email —all rules must be followed.

The Practice Round images will expire immediately after the round and cannot be reused or reactivated.

Round 1 will be held November 2-4, 2018. It will be the next step in the building-block approach where teams will experience images that are slightly more difficult than the Practice Round images without the answer keys.

New Coaches Online Training

This 45-minute WebEx training event is <u>not</u> for experienced Coaches and Mentors. It will cover the basics of an image and competition rounds, as well as administrative questions. Subjects such as opening an image and the steps required to compete will be covered. There will be two sessions:

Oct. 9 - 3:15 - 4:30 PM Eastern Time
Oct. 9 - 9:00 - 9:45 PM Eastern Time

Sessions will not be recorded. See the Coach's Dashboard for the URL for the meeting prior to attending. Mentors and Competitors may attend the meeting also.

SPONSOR PROFILE: AIR FORCE RESERVE

Long time CyberPatriot sponsor — Air Force Reserve, the federally controlled Air Reserve component of the U.S. Air Force — has renewed its partnership with CyberPatriot as a Cyber Gold sponsor.

The Air Force Reserve operates in various locations around the world and currently performs traditional flying missions and other more specialized missions, such as weather reconnaissance, aerial firefighting, and personnel recovery. Cyberspace presents an ever increasing challenge to our nation's security and the Reserve Cyberspace Operations and Cyberspace Systems are critical components.

"We are extremely excited to gain the support of the Air Force Reserve," said Bernie Skoch, CyberPatriot National Commissioner. "Our mission is dedicated to educating today's youth to be tomorrow's leaders in STEM. We look forward to expanding the program and making a larger impact on STEM education throughout the world with the support of the Air Force Reserve and our other sponsors."

Coaches' Corner

- **Competitor Registration.** Competitors must be added to rosters no later than 11:59 pm ET on Nov. 1, 2018. You will be unable to add competitors to a roster or transfer competitors between registered teams beyond this date. A competitor status of "pending" is acceptable for this deadline. Competitors CAN be under 13 years of age. The checkbox certifying that they are 13 years old is strictly for Cisco NetAcad access. It is NOT an age requirement for participation in CyberPatriot.

- **Payment.** Payment or fee waiver requests must be submitted by Nov. 8, 2018. We accept purchase orders, checks, and credit card payments.

PRACTICE ROUND OCT 10-22; ROUND 1 NOV. 2-4 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Cisco Networking Challenge

The Cisco Networking Academy website -- netacad.com -- is CyberPatriot's platform for teams to train and compete in the competition's Cisco Networking Challenge. The challenge consists of an open book quiz and configuring a virtual network with Cisco's Packet Tracer program based on the training materials at netacad.com.

Coaches and approved team Mentors will receive an email invitation to register at netacad.com if they are not registered with the academy. Once registered in the academy, Coaches and Mentors may enroll their team members. For more information, please see the CP-XI Cisco Networking Challenge Overview on the Coach/Mentor Dashboard.

Preparation Notes

Cisco Linux Training. Basic and Advanced Online Linux Training. Cisco is again offering its professional Linux training to all CyberPatriot participants at. Click here for more information

Updated Training Materials. Updated training materials are posted on the Coach/Mentor Dashboard. The training materials are entry-level for the competition and cover Windows 10 and Ubuntu 16. Teams may use the materials for the competition.

Additional study and mentoring will be required for more advanced topics. New Coaches may find the thoughts of previous Coaches and Mentors of the Year helpful in the appendices to the training materials.

Cisco training materials are available in the Content Course on the Networking Academy website. Only enrolled participants may access the materials through their netacad.com accounts.

Competition Training Video. The 12-minute competition training video provides a good overview for new Coaches, Mentors, and team members. It covers the mechanics of the competition. While a little dated, the concepts are the same as this season. The video is located on our YouTube page.

Image and Challenge Schedule. Please check the Competition tab on the CyberPatriot website for the Image and Cisco Networking Competition Challenges. This list identifies images and Cisco challenges to expect in each round for the competition season. This list is available on our Competition Challenges by Round page.

New Image Player Standard and Tech Specs. Technical Specifications have changed for the competition. The standard virtual machine player is now VMware Workstation Player 14.1.2, and all images will be tested using this version. Computers manufactured before 2011 will likely have issues running version 14.1.2. For more information on tech specs and the policy on alternative players, please go to the Technical Specs page.

New Connection Test. The connection test offers a way to test computers and networks to ensure they can connect tot he scoring server for the competition. competition. Beginning with the Practice Round, there is a new connection test version 7.0 for CyberPatriot XI. Ensure the version your team is using displays CCSv7 on the program screen when it is opened. Also, the Connection Test file must be unzipped, or it will give false reports with a URI error. The download instructions for each round have graphics of how the test results should look and which servers are online. Note that Server 1 is usually the online server. Please click here for Connection Test 7.0

Updated Audio Alerts in images. This season there are new sounds to alert teams to the following events:

◊ Invalid or No Team Unique Identifier
◊ Multiple Instances of the same instance
◊ Nearing Overtime

The alerts were added because numerous teams did not realize they were in situations where the possibly could have been penalized.

ALL TECHNICAL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO CPOC@USCYBERPATRIOT.ORG

SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH (NSCAM) 2018

This October, National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM) commemorates 15 years as an annual initiative to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. NCSAM 2018 is a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure every American has the resources they need to stay safer and more secure online, while increasing the resilience of the nation during cyber-threats.

Cybersecurity is our shared responsibility and we all must work together to improve our Nation's cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity is not just the responsibility of governments, companies, groups, or individuals. Everyone shares the responsibility for cybersecurity – from the average smartphone user to a corporate CEO.
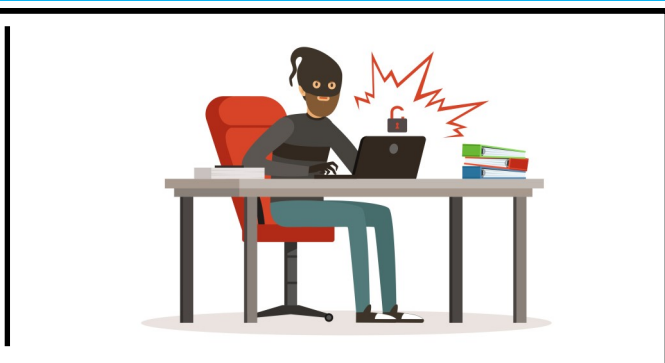
STRENGTHEN THE NATION'S CYBERSECURITY ECOSYSTEM

Contribute and commit to strengthening the Nation's Cyber Ecosystem. The cybersecurity ecosystem is made up of distinct but related elements that contribute to the strength of the whole system. Our entire society, from government and law enforcement to the private sector and members of the public, must work cooperatively to improve our network defense. Strengthening the Cybersecurity Ecosystem will help shift the advantage from cyber-attackers to cyber-defenders.

BUILD UP THE CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE

Increase and strengthen the cybersecurity workforce across all sectors. The number of cybersecurity jobs across the nation outpaces the number of people qualified to fill them. The demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals is growing each year. DHS is working with our nation's private industry, academia, non-profit organizations, and governments at all levels to develop and maintain an unrivaled, globally competitive cybersecurity workforce. From young students learning to code, to teachers promoting educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and working professionals preparing for certifications, there is a role in cybersecurity for everyone. This October, we challenge you to get involved in learning about your role in building the pipeline of future cybersecurity professionals.

TACKLE IT TOGETHER

Cybersecurity is a cross-cutting, cross-sector problem, so we have got to tackle it together. The Nation's increasing dependence on networks and digital systems has brought with it a rise in both the variety, quantity, and sophistication of cyber-threats. The Internet is critical for businesses, the government and individual users, so its security has become a bigger priority. We are all connected in cyberspace and each has a role to play in cybersecurity. Cyber-criminals are inventive, but by ensuring every citizen has the resources and information he or she needs to be a responsible cyber citizen, we will make the Internet more secure for all.

SECURE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FROM CYBER THREATS

Heighten resilience and understand how to best protect critical infrastructure from cyber threats. Our Nation's well-being relies upon secure and resilient critical infrastructure—the assets, systems, and networks that underpin American society. In the past we've trusted in processes, procedures, and specific architectures to keep our critical infrastructure safe. But there is no longer an 'air-gap' between our systems and the Internet to keep cyber-attacks from threatening critical infrastructure. The security of critical systems and infrastructure depends on you and your actions as a cyber-citizen to help keep them safe and resilient.

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

For additional information on how you can spread the word about cybersecurity and NSCAM, visit:

www.DHS.gov

STOP | THINK | CONNECT™

Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)

Unlike conventional criminals, cyber attackers tend to be less specific when they target victims. They're simply looking for vulnerabilities, and everyone is fair game. What happens if you do become a victim of cyber-crime? That's where the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) comes in.

The IC3 is an FBI program. Its mission is to provide the public with a reliable and convenient reporting mechanism to submit information to the FBI concerning suspected internet facilitated criminal activity and to develop effective alliances with law enforcement and industry partners. Once complaints have been filed, the information is analyzed and disseminated for investigation, and intelligence purposes to law enforcement and for public awareness.

Since its inception in 2000 IC3 has steadily built up its database and emphasized its efforts to monitor trending scams, such as Business Email Compromise, Ransomware, Tech Support Fraud, and Extortion. IC3 also recently introduced the Elder Justice Initiative to promote justice for the Nation's Seniors. In an effort to increase its effectiveness, IC3 has another initiative - Operation Wellspring Initiative, which facilitates cooperation between Cyber Task Force officers and state and local law enforcement officers.

'It takes a village' is a commonly used phrase. In this case, it certainly does. It's on all of us to educate those around us, and report crimes when they are committed. You can and should take measures to try to protect yourself and your information by fortifying your networks and accounts. One of the most basic steps that users can take is two factor authentication. Despite how easy this is to set up, Google reports that less than 10% of Gmail users utilize two factor authentication. Once you've protected your accounts – check with your friends and family to make sure that they have done so as well.

Report
Internet Crime
to the **FBI**
www.ic3.gov

Major Bill Blatchey (left photo) and James R. Johnson (right photo) accept their respective CP-X Coach and Mentor of the Year awards during the Field Awards Dinner at AFA's National Convention in September. Congratulations again to these outstanding volunteers!

"My email password has been hacked. That's the third time I've had to rename the cat."

This Month In Cyber History

October 20, 2004— In October of 2005, the first Ubuntu Linux distribution was released. As our CyberPatriot competitors are aware, Ubuntu is a free computer operating system based on Debian GNU/Linux. Its name loosely translated from the Zulu means "humanity," or "a person is a person only through other people." Ubuntu is intended to provide an up-to-date, stable operating system for the average user, with a strong focus on usability and ease of installation. Ubuntu has been rated the most popular Linux distribution for the desktop, claiming approximately 30 percent of desktop Linux installations, according to the 2007 Desktop Linux Market survey. Ubuntu is open source and free. It is sponsored by Canonical Ltd., which is owned by South African entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth.

For more information, visit:
http://www.computerhistory.org/tdih/october/20/