High School Students Compete in National Cyber Defense Competition

ARLINGTON, Va. – CyberPatriot V will culminate next week with the National Finals Competition on March 14-16 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. After three impressive preliminary rounds for which over 1,200 teams registered, just 28 teams remain, and will compete for top honors in the All Service and Open Division categories. Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley will be the Keynote Speaker at the National Finals Competition Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. Awards will be presented by Maj. Gen. Suzanne M. Vautrinot, Commander, 24th Air Force, and Kathy Warden, Corporate Vice President and President, Northrop Grumman Information Systems.

This year’s finalists represent Alabama, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and Virginia. Two teams from Manitoba, Canada will also compete at the National Finals Competition as International Exhibition Teams. Join the National Finals Competition conversation on social media by following us @CyberPatriot and using the #CP5Finals hashtag on Twitter.

In this two-track competition, teams have registered from public, private, parochial and home schools in the Open Division, and Junior ROTC units of all Services, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps squadrons and Civil Air Patrol squadrons filled the All Service Division. This year’s registrants represented all 50 states, U.S. Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe and the Pacific, and Canada.

CyberPatriot—the National High School Cyber Defense Competition, an education initiative established by the Air Force Association, is a one-of-a-kind cyber defense competition designed to inspire students to consider science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in their studies. The unique structure helps to prepare college- and career-ready students with not just technical skills, but also invaluable experience in teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking. Competitors also gain great insights and technical expertise from industry leaders, including CyberPatriot’s presenting sponsor the Northrop Grumman Foundation.

Brigadier General Bernie Skoch (USAF, Ret.), CyberPatriot Commissioner will be available for interviews. As CyberPatriot Commissioner, he oversees the planning and implementation of CyberPatriot as well as provides leadership and support for the program’s development. Diane Miller, Northrop Grumman Program Director for CyberPatriot, will also be available for interviews to discuss the critical cybersecurity workforce needs. Contact Caity Rogowski at crogowski@afa.org or Merri Shaffer at mshaffer@afa.org to set up interviews with team coaches, students, and mentors.

Media Registration: We invite credited members of the media to attend our National Finals Competition Awards Banquet, March 16, at 6:30pm. Register by Friday, March 15, Noon, to receive your complimentary ticket to the awards dinner: http://bit.ly/13DzTCK

More information on CyberPatriot can be found at www.usCyberPatriot.org.

The Air Force Association is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association. Our mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. To accomplish this, we:
• EDUCATE the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security.
• ADVOCATE for aerospace power and STEM education.
• SUPPORT the Total Air Force family and promote aerospace education.

AFA has 200 chapters nationally and internationally representing more than 105,000 members. Visit AFA at www.afa.org

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Blogger