Summer is here and I hope you are having as much fun as we are at the CyberPatriot Program Office! This month our staff will kick off our first ever AFA CyberCamps, beginning at Texas Woman’s University in Denton. The participants will have the opportunity to learn cyber safety, cyber ethics, and skills to prepare them for career opportunities in the cybersecurity field.

Exhibition Round 4 is coming up July 21-30 to help you practice for and to recruit new competitors for the CyberPatriot VII season. Just a reminder: if you have not yet registered for CyberPatriot VII please make sure you do so on our website. This season Coaches may coach up to five teams (team sizes are now limited to six competitors).

Finally, a big congratulations to Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia, on their designation as the fifth CyberPatriot Center of Excellence! They have a great record of community support for CyberPatriot. That’s it for now. Stay safe and stay tuned for CyberPatriot updates.

Bernie Skoch
National Commissioner
CyberPatriot Program
Air Force Association

Winning Submission: Competition Tier Names Contest

In last month’s CyberSentinel, we asked our CyberPatriot participants to get creative in an effort to come up with tier names for the new and improved CyberPatriot competition structure. We’d like to thank everyone for their submissions, especially winning contestant, Wyatt Stone. Wyatt, a CyberPatriot Mentor from Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, Wash., came up with Platinum, Gold, and Silver as the three tier names.

Congratulations, Wyatt! As the contest winner, you will be awarded with an iPod Shuffle!
First AFA CyberCamp to be Held at TWU in Mid-July

Preparations for the Air Force Association’s inaugural CyberPatriot CyberCamp pilot are underway in Texas. Bernie Skoch, CyberPatriot National Commissioner, and staff will visit Texas Woman’s University (TWU) July 14, 2014, to teach 20 high school student campers about online safety and cybersecurity.

The CyberCamp program was developed by the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program to allow educational institutions and school districts to engage students in cyber education year round. Pending successful pilots at TWU and CyberPatriot Centers of Excellence later this summer, the CyberCamp program will be released to organizations nationwide in fall 2014. The CyberCamp kit consists of instruction modules, demonstration software, and competition software. During the hands-on camps, students will learn important skills in cybersecurity, protecting a network, identifying potential threats, making systems more secure, and protecting themselves on the Internet.

"CyberPatriot’s National Youth Cyber Defense Competition has been enormously successful. Our competition has grown from a modest pilot program of eight teams of high school students—all in Florida—in 2009 to over 1,500 teams last season in all 50 states, Canada, and at US Department of Defense Schools in Europe and the Pacific,” said Skoch. "After hearing from schools asking for more participation year round, in addition to our competition that begins each October and continues to March, we decided to develop the CyberCamp program."

"We could not have asked for a better host for our first CyberCamp pilot.” Skoch went on to say. “Texas Woman’s University’s has not only continued to expand programs preparing its students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, but through the CyberCamp will also expose local high school students to higher education opportunities in STEM fields.”

This will be the first of several pilot CyberCamps held throughout the summer. Given the success of the pilots, CyberPatriot hopes to launch CyberCamps at the national level in the near future. Check back in the fall for more details!

Issac Kim, North Hollywood HS Recognized at ASEE Event

CONGRATULATIONS!

Issac Kim, on behalf of the entire Team Azure out of North Hollywood High School, Calif., was recognized by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) for his accomplishments in CyberPatriot.

Issac attended ASEE’s annual conference in Indianapolis, Ind., as a representative of the CyberPatriot VI National Championship team.

Click here to watch the award presentation video.

Top: Issac, one of seven award recipients, poses for a group shot with the other winners. Bottom Left: The face of a proud award recipient! Bottom Right: Jose Gonzalez, CyberPatriot program manager for LAUSD’s Beyond the Bell, congratulates Issac on his award. Photos courtesy of Beyond the Bell (@BTBLA)
Fairfax County Public Schools Becomes Fifth Center of Excellence

The CyberPatriot Program Office is pleased to announce Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) of Northern Virginia as its fifth CyberPatriot Center of Excellence.

The Center of Excellence designation is awarded to communities and institutions that provide leadership and support to further the educational experiences of their students through the CyberPatriot program. CyberPatriot established the Centers of Excellence program in 2011, and thus far, four other entities – Los Angeles Unified School District, the City of San Antonio, Spokane Public Schools, and Rose State College – have been recognized.

Fairfax County Public Schools is the largest public school system in Virginia and 11th largest in the United States. FCPS has approximately 185,000 students who attend the 200 elementary, middle, and high schools. FCPS became involved with CyberPatriot in 2011, and has since been very active, promoting the competition through FCPS e-clips, websites, videos, social media pages, and local community newspapers.

Fairfax County Public Schools also has successfully developed a large network of mentors and business partners who play a critical role in expanding the program throughout the school district. This summer, FCPS will host a cybersecurity summer camp to help grow the program in the region and prepare students to compete in CyberPatriot VII.

“Fairfax County Public Schools has engaged many individuals in its community, and their unyielding support has not gone unnoticed as they have spurred great interest in their communities on tackling the challenges ahead in cyber,” said Bernie Skoch, CyberPatriot National Commissioner. “Both Fairfax County Public Schools and the Air Force Association understand the answer to the challenges our nation faces in cyberspace lies in people— training today’s youth to be the next generation of cyber experts. FCPS has developed innovative ways to sustain an environment for continued learning in cyber and technology. We congratulate FCPS on its designation as our fifth CyberPatriot Center of Excellence.”

To learn more about CyberPatriot’s Centers of Excellence, visit http://www.uscyberpatriot.org/about/centers-of-excellence.

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Coaches’ Corner

• **CyberPatriot VII Registration.** CyberPatriot VII Coach Registration is now open. Coaches must be registered and cleared before their competitors may register. Register online at www.uscyberpatriot.org.

• **Coach and Mentor of Year.** Award winners will be announced on Thursday, July 31, 2014.

• **Air Cards.** Coaches with air cards from the CP-VI season should return them immediately. Return shipping labels can be requested from the CyberPatriot Program Office.

• **Coaches’ Meeting.** The next meetings are scheduled for the following dates:
  - 4:30 PM EST on Monday, July 21
  - 9:00 PM EST on Thursday, July 24
Human Error Is the Major Cause of Cyber Attacks  By Mike Byon

Although numerous cybersecurity breaches have occurred as a result of thoroughly planned attacks, such as through the implementation of viruses or denial of service attacks, the majority of cybersecurity incidents are a result of human error.

IBM stated that as much as 95 percent of incidents reported are because of human carelessness. In the United States, a significant amount of security breaches are aimed toward financial gain. Consequently, millions of credit card numbers have been seized by hackers, causing major retailers hundreds of millions of dollars in direct costs. Duo Security Inc. reported that common human errors that lead to security breaches included system misconfiguration, poor patch management, lost computer or mobile device, disclosure of sensitive information, and the opening of infected attachments or unsafe URLs.

The good news, however, is that since the majority of breaches have been due to failure to take appropriate cybersecurity preventative actions, the number of incidents can be controlled if proper security measures are taken. One way to harden the security of one’s computer system is to enable a second layer of authentication when accessing the system. For example, Duo Security suggests that one should use a different channel than the first source of authentication, such as using a mobile app or smartphone to protect accounts from unauthorized remote access. Simply stated, reducing human error should be the first step that users take in order to ensure cybersecurity of their systems.

Source: https://www.duosecurity.com/

Coach and Mentor of the Year

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for CP-VI Coach and/or Mentor of the Year!

CP-VI Coach and Mentor of the Year Award winners will be announced on Thursday, July 31, 2014.

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