COMMISSIONER’S CACHE

AFA’s CyberPatriot program continues to surge, and for that we thank you. While AFA is honored to provide a structured program, it is you—Coaches, Mentors, our generous sponsors, AFA volunteers, and our competitors—who are spreading the word and doing the heavy lifting. We are all in this together, as we all strive to draw more students to STEM education and careers.

BIG NEWS: Be sure to take a look at page 3 of this issue. On it you will see our very own (we claim him!) Charles Bazilewich receiving the Canadian 2015 Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence. Charles has been amazingly supportive of CyberPatriot and we are thrilled to see him receiving this big recognition. (And we will confess some not-small pleasure in seeing CyberPatriot mentioned in the article announcing his selection.) CONGRATULATIONS Charles!

AFA CyberCamps are off to an epic season this summer, with 84 camps being hosted around the nation. Be sure to check out the schedule and locations, and nudge some newcomers in the direction of those golden opportunities to engage in the nation’s fastest growing cyber competition. And don’t forget ESCEI version 2.0 is on the way this summer. (And just think…A few seasons ago summer was a “catch-up” season for us. No more. We’re busy and we like it!)

Bernard K. Skoch  |  National Commissioner

DATES TO KNOW

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CP-IX REGISTRATION REACHES 1,000 TEAMS IN RECORD TIME

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Air Force Association is pleased to announce that CyberPatriot, AFA’s premier STEM education initiative, has reached 1,000 registered teams for the CyberPatriot IX National Youth Cyber Defense Competition in record-breaking time. Registration is open until Oct. 5, 2016.

Registration launched in April for prospective coaches and mentors to sign up teams for the upcoming competition to begin in October. To date, teams from 46 states and 6 countries are already represented in the competition field. Last year, CyberPatriot VIII broke all previous registration records after nearly 3,400 teams signed up to compete from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, and DoD Dependent Schools in Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

“These educators, coaches, and students continue to surprise us with their enthusiasm and commitment to STEM education, specifically in the field of cyber—and that excitement is evident, based on our registered teams,” said Bernie Skoch, AFA’s CyberPatriot National Commissioner. “The need for cyber defenders is real, both in the present and especially for our future. We are pleased to be making a positive impact through these competitors.”

As of 2:30 pm ET on May 31, a total of 1,065 teams had already registered. That’s almost 275 teams more than had registered by this time last season!
Critical Home Cybersecurity Flaw Being Targeted by Hackers

Routers. They silently sit in the corner, but they also connect billions of devices to the one thing everybody wants… the Internet. With the number of Internet of Things (IoT) devices expected to grow to over 20 billion by the year 2020, it might be time to pay more attention to that piece of hardware off to the side collecting dust.

The sheer volume of connectivity increases the attack surface for network intrusion. New trends in home automation and remote management, such as smart door locks that can be remotely unlocked, also raise the stakes for data security.

Given the central role routers play as gatekeepers between the private home and the public Internet, it may come as a surprise that home routers are actually easier to hack into than computers; it is far easier to simply “set-and-forget” about them without thinking twice about its vulnerabilities. Lack of consumer awareness means that most people have never updated their router firmware or changed the default password on their home Wi-Fi. This is unfortunately great news for hackers. If a hacker is particularly lucky, they might find a shiny new router like the Luma, which tracks not only what devices are connected to your network, but also exactly what websites and servers each device is connecting to.

So the next time you connect a new device to the wi-fi, think about taking a closer look. Not closing the loopholes hidden within that one critical device could prove very costly to your privacy, your finances, and even your personal security.

Source: TechPolicyDaily.com

DON’T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR THE
CYBERPATRIOT VIII
COACH AND MENTOR OF THE YEAR

The CyberPatriot Coach and Mentor of the Year awards recognize excellence among registered Coaches and Mentors. The winning coach and winning mentor will be recognized at the Air Force Association’s National Convention in National Harbor, Md., in September.

Click here for a full explanation of eligibility requirements and nomination criteria, or get right to it by completing the nomination forms (linked) below!

Source: TechPolicyDaily.com

Coaches’ Corner

- CyberPatriot IX Registration. Don’t delay! Team registration for the upcoming season of competition (CyberPatriot IX) is now open! Returning coaches should log in with their current username and select “Create Team” to complete a team application. New coaches must first create a volunteer account. A single coach may register up to five teams. Registration fees for CP-IX are listed below:
  - Open Division: $195 per team*  - All Service Division: Waived
  - Middle School: $155 per team*  - All-Girls Teams: Waived
  *Register by July 1 to get a 20% discount!

- Exhibition Rounds. Exhibition Rounds will be held for 10 days each month from May to August. The purpose of the Exhibition Rounds is for Coaches to recruit team members and orient potential CyberPatriot supporters. Only registered Coaches may participate in the Exhibition Rounds. Competitors do not have to be registered.
  - June Exhibition Round: June 1-10
  - July Exhibition Round: July 6-15
  - August Exhibition Round: Aug. 10-19

ESCEI 2.0
COMING JULY 2016
For more information on the CyberPatriot Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative, visit www.uscyberpatriot.org

Source: TechPolicyDaily.com
A Sisler High School teacher’s commitment to cyber security and technology education has earned him national recognition.

Charles Bazilewich received a 2015 Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence on May 12 in Ottawa, Ont. The Sisler teacher was one of 10 Canadian educators to receive a certificate of excellence from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Bazilewich, 36, a former Sisler football star, started the school’s cyber security program when he began teaching at Sisler five years ago.

He said the program began when a group of Sisler students participated in an American cyber defense competition called CyberPatriot.

"CyberPatriot is run by the Air Force Association, sponsored by Northrop Grumman, as well as the Department of Homeland Security, and what they’re trying to do is engage students in STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) with an emphasis on cyber security," Bazilewich said.

"We participated and we did relatively well in year one. We’ve really anchored that as an extracurricular activity to our program. We’re trying to create an authentic learning environment in the classroom where students can apply the skills they are learning in regular school in an extra-curricular competitive environment. It works for us. It’s created a culture of fun and success."

Sisler has participated in five consecutive CyberPatriot competitions, placing fifth out of 12 schools at the most recent competition in Baltimore, Md. in April.

In November, 2014, the provincial government poured $300,000 into Sisler’s cyber security program, allowing the school to set up the Sisler Network & Cyber Security Academy.

In addition to cyber security education, the academy allows students access to employers in the information technology sector, as well as dual credit opportunities through partnerships with the University of Winnipeg and Red River College.

Bazilewich said he’s projecting the academy will include 350 students next year, up from the 90 students he had five years ago. He said that growth is due to a strong vision, as well as support from Sisler principal George Heshka, teachers Robert Esposito and Paul Buskell, former student Nick Dixon and the Winnipeg School Division.

“They want to try and provide students with innovative learning opportunities, because what our economy looks like right now is probably going to be different in 10 to 15 years," Bazilewich said.

“What that looks like, we don’t exactly know, but I think everyone agrees it’s going to have something to do with technology, something to do with automation, making things easier, putting more devices online, being more streamlined.

“Having students who understand that landscape a little more might just open an extra door for them in the future.”
**The CyberPatriots of Troop 2117**

Watch out boys! The Daisies and Brownies from Girl Scout Troop 2117 are taking the cybersecurity world by storm.

Earlier this year, members of the troop attended a cybersecurity workshop hosted at San Bernardino Valley College, where they went through the three modules of the CyberPatriot Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative (ESCEI).

Upon completion of the ESCEI modules, the members of Troop 2117 were awarded for their hard work and knowledge about cybersecurity. In fact, they were so smart that they even had time for some coding games at the end of the day! Way to go, girls!

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**#CyberPatriotAroundTheWorld**

We want to see where our CyberPatriot participants are traveling this summer! Hanging out with a group of locals? Summing a mountain? Parasailing over the beach? Show us where you’ve been and you could win an official CyberPatriot laptop computer!

**THE OFFICIAL RULES:**

1. **SAFETY FIRST!** We’re all about creativity, but please do not put yourself in danger trying to capture the perfect picture. Be smart and be safe!

2. **CYBERPATRIOT COIN or T-SHIRT MUST BE PICTURED!** It doesn’t have to be the main subject of the photo, but your CyberPatriot coin or t-shirt (any season) must be clearly visible in the photo.

3. **SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO no later than SEPT. 2, 2016.** Only one submission per person, so choose wisely!

* We make no guarantees on the performance of this well used, historical CyberPatriot artifact, but we do guarantee that it has a cool gold sticker!

Submit your photo to info@uscypberpatriot.org and include the following information:

- Full Name
- Photo Date
- Photo Location

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**NORTHROP GRUMMAN IS NOW ACCEPTING SUMMER INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS!**

Click [HERE](https://girlscoutsnow.com/) for more information about the program

To find opportunities for CyberPatriot competitors, click the link below and enter “CyberPatriot” in the keyword field:

**APPLY TODAY**

**Locations:**
- Redondo Beach, CA
- Falls Church, VA
- Herndon, VA
- McLean, VA

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**This Month In Cyber History**

*June 10, 1977* — On this day in history, Apple Computer Inc. shipped its Apple II computer. The first in a long line of related computers, the original model cost $1,298 and came with 4KB of RAM (upgradeable to 48KB), and had sound and color graphics. It also had the BASIC programming language built-in, which made programming easy.

Apple II’s sold particularly well in schools and, with the arrival of the VisiCalc spreadsheet program, in the small business market as well.

For more information, visit: [http://www.computerhistory.org/tdih/june/10/](http://www.computerhistory.org/tdih/june/10/)