Another year of the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition is reaching an exciting culmination as I write this. What an AMAZING year, and its success is owed to equally Coaches, Mentors, Team Assistants and COMPETITORS! We saw more teams register than ever before, and the online rounds of competition were remarkably complex (and not without a few hiccups). The technical sophistication of CyberPatriot grows each season because YOU grow each season in your knowledge, abilities, and skills. We are putting the finishing touches on preparations for what promises to be our biggest and best National Finals Competition in history, this year at a brand new venue. The CyberPatriot Program Office staff is working overtime to make sure those who attend have a perfect experience. I wish every team could qualify, but sadly that’s not possible. But be sure to tune in on Facebook and our website to follow the latest news of the competition as it unfolds. And as soon as the National Finals Competition wraps up, a new season begins, not just with CP-IX, but with what promises to be a record number of AFA CyberCamps nationwide and Version 2.0 of the CyberPatriot Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative. In all this, we are grateful for our Presenting Sponsor, the Northrop Grumman Foundation, for our other wonderful sponsors, for all of the AFA members around the nation who promote CyberPatriot, and for everyone who works with us to make CyberPatriot the amazing STEM program it is. THANK YOU!

Bernard K. Skoch  |  CyberPatriot National Commissioner
Spotlight: National Finals Preview

The time has come! What started out as CyberPatriot’s largest season (3,379 teams) is now down to the final 28 teams. On April 10, 2016, teams will travel by planes, trains, and automobiles to the Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Md., where they will compete in a series of high stakes cyber challenges that will put their skills to the ultimate test. By the end of the four-day event, National Champions in each of the three divisions will be crowned.

For those interested in attending the main event on Tuesday, April 12, spectator passes can be acquired at the on-site registration desk. For those unable to attend the event, coverage will be available through CyberPatriot social media outlets (Facebook and Twitter).

Now for the most important part of finals... let’s meet the CP-VIII National Finalist teams!

Alamo Academies

Blue Team

Coach: Alyssa Trevino
Team: Brendan Downs
Reed Eggleston
Hector Iruegas
Carlson Lindley
Eli Ross
Kyle Volz

San Antonio, TX

Benjamin Franklin High School

Excalibur

Coach: Yenny Yi
Team: Alice Dong
Raymond Hernandez
Jorge Juarez
Edgar Maravilla
Hazael Villatoro

Los Angeles, CA

Cherry Creek High School

Bruin.777

Coach: Jocelyn Nguyen
Team: Fisher Darling
Tyler Giallanza
Chang Lee
Eric Lindau
Kevin Park
Pranav Subramanian

Greenwood Village, CO

Highlands Ranch High School

FalconCMD

Coach: Nicky DeBolt
Team: Sonja Coy
Brenner Dugan
Austin Grandpre
Addie Newman
Mason Newman
Melanie Pierce

Highlands Ranch, CO
HIGHLANDS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Nicky DeBolt
Team: Bennet Atencio
Jaymes Bunce
Trevor Butcher
Adam Klein
Christian Stevens
Jacques Steyn
Highlands Ranch, CO

LOYOLA BLAKEFIELD
Coach: Steve Morrill
Team: Matt Bavett
Drew Haiber
Brenden Huegel
Mark McCoy
Greg Peterson
Chris Ptak
Towson, MD

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA H.S.
Coach: Hassan Twiet
Team: Peter Cunha
Donald Morton
William Shiao
Allen Qiu Wang
Grant Watts
Brian Zhu
Rolling Hills Estates, CA

POOLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Mark Estep
Team: Karan Chawla
Matthew Feng
Suriya Kandaswamy
Kent Ma
Sahil Mayenkar
Ishan Mundra
Poolesville, MD

RED BANK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Mandy Galante
Team: Young Chen
Andrew Costa
Jack Ferrone
Kyle Neary
Andrew Noglows
Bobby Villaluz
Little Silver, NJ

SISLER HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Robert Esposito
Team: Ryan Domino
Nick Kingsenamongkhol
Raiden Ellis Leung
Deven San Miguel
Zach Vitas
Jerome Vitug
Winnipeg, MB
SUMMIT TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY
Coach: Lisa Oyler
Team: Jack Bliss
    Zane Brown
    Christian Durst
    Isaac McGee
    Justin Nitz
    Tyler Waits

VISTA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Cindy Olmstead
Team: Tyler Bredl
    Josh Foronda
    Ethan Henderson
    Rodrigo Ordonez
    Kale Shumard-Crippin

WINTER SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Joseph Pavone
Team: Jace Block
    Keleigh Block
    Chris Johnson
    Jon Padel
    Conor Paul
    Sean Wertz

WINTER SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Joseph Pavone
Team: Christian Campana-Emard
    Marc Cange
    Jessica Moore
    Martin Roberts
    Michael Roberts

PATRICK HENRY HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Ron Flaherty
Team: Daniel Khuu
    Ken Nguyen
    Quinn Razak
    Ian Rodney
    Mocha Simms
    Liam Weinfurtner

TROY HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Allen Stubblefield
Team: Jacobzen Chang
    Newman Cheng
    Kyra Deters
    Joseph Dillon
    Andrew Edwards

Open Division

ALL SERVICE DIVISION
TROY HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Allen Stubblefield
Team: Elvin Koay
Pius Lee
Khoa Nguyen
Silas Shen
Brandon Shin

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY
Coach: Bill Beckman
Team: Giancarlo Betti Hernandez
Giovanni Betti Hernandez
Karl Fischer
Patrick Gallagher
Ryan Nadolski
George Zenner

MONTY TECH
Coach: Paul Jornet
Team: Riaen Ayers
Alex Commodore
Leon Gaulin
Nick Sullivan
Cameron Truehart
Brandon Trundry

O.W. HOLMES/BUSINESS CAREERS HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Colleen Curl
Team: Colton Hurtt
Roberto Delgado Ramos
Danny Forestier
Matt Morales
Noah Woinicki

PARKWAY HIGH SCHOOL
Coach: Bob O’Brien
Team: Kaleb Bennett
Austin Carr
Karan Kaushal
Garrett Kitchings
John Metz
Taylor Robinson

CEDAR RAPIDS COMPOSITE SQUADRON
Coach: Marshall Barker
Team: Charity Barker
Daniel Holt
Josiah Stearns
Andrew Szewc

ALL SERVICE DIVISION
COLORADO SPRINGS CADET SQUADRON
Coach: Bill Blatchley
Team: Noah Bowe
     Taylor Coffey
     Zach Cramer
     Victor Griswold
     Isaac Stone

CENTURION BATTALION
Coach: Ken Steffey
Team: Jacob Dawson
      Nolen Johnson
      Leilani Morales
      Sam Precourt
      Peter Steffey
      Monica Vogel

FORT FISHER DIVISION
Coach: Joe Gombos
Team: Laura Lopez
      Maya Morales
      Savier Morales
      Garrett Swift
      Jonathan Truong
      Nick Winham

OAK VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Coach: Paul Johnson
Team: Eric Chen
       Arushi Dogra
       Lucy Gao
       Pranav Patil
       Andrew Wang

PLEASANT LEA MIDDLE SCHOOL
Coach: Kevin Schulmeister
Team: Sam Alvarado
       Jesse George
       Gannon Ross
       Ethan Winger

ROBERT F. KENNEDY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Coach: Luis Hernandez
Team: Isag Kim
       Min Kim
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 before July 1 for 20% discount  
** JROTC, CAP & Naval Sea Cadet teams

- Exhibition Rounds: 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. Coaches must control the images as they would in Competition Rounds. The first exhibition round will be held May 18-27.

Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative

We Want to Hear From You!

The Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative has been requested by more than 2,900 CyberPatriot supporters! With so many fans of the program, we would love to hear from you about how you are using ESCEI with your students and children and most importantly how we can improve ESCEI for version 2.

As a special incentive for your valuable feedback, CyberPatriot would like to send you a complimentary reusable lunch tote to show our appreciation for your time. To leave us feedback about your ESCEI experience please visit ESCEI Feedback Survey.

Continue the Learning!

Have you checked out the ESCEI Supplemental Activities? The activities add an interactive component to learning about cyber safety and cybersecurity while also creating a collaborative learning experience.

ESCEI 2.0 will be debuting before the 2016-2017 school year – stay tuned for exciting details!

In Memory of Ray Thomas Crane II, Beloved CyberPatriot Mentor

Central, SC – March 15, 2016 – Only one person has ever served as CyberPatriot Mentor at D.W. Daniel High School’s AFJROTC unit in Central, South Carolina. Starting in the 2012-2013 school year, Mr. Ray Thomas Crane II joined the fledgling CyberPatriot effort at the highly renowned high school, and jump-started an impressive upward trajectory that has seen significant improvement in the CyberPatriot team’s performance each year since his arrival. Sadly, on Thursday, March 10, 2016, his close-knit CyberPatriot team, AFJROTC Unit, all of Daniel High School, and the surrounding area communities said farewell to Ray T. Crane as he peacefully passed away in his home.

When Ray’s son first entered high school and joined CyberPatriot, he asked his dad to volunteer as the team’s Mentor. Ray agreed and nothing has been the same with the team or the AFJROTC unit since then.

Beyond the primary goals of encouraging young men and women to pursue STEM disciplines and hone their cybersecurity skills, Ray’s approach as a CyberPatriot Mentor went much further. He sought to teach young men and women to recognize their strengths, identify their areas for improvement, and then decide how best to move forward in light of what they’d learned about themselves. In this way, he was equipping the next generation to be problem-solvers, self-starters, and realists. Indeed, he also taught the kids volumes regarding STEM, cybersecurity, and general computer skills, but his idea of Mentor went much further, and this became evident in the way that team members, year after year, would confide in Ray regarding matters from across the full spectrum of teenage life. Always, Ray was a patient, calming, consistent voice of reason to the kids. To some, he was a father figure. Only time will tell the full impact he has had on these young men and women, but it will be amazing to see, and it will yield fruit for years to come.

Nearing the end of his fourth year as the Flying Lions CyberPatriot Mentor, Ray guided the team to its best finish yet, almost advancing to the Regional Round in the Platinum category. Despite Ray’s health declining, he provided one last lesson to his students, friends and family – the importance of always making the most of our time and opportunity.

To the end, Ray was a Mentor of the highest order. In one friend’s words, he was like “a fire that burned brightly, and we were able, for a time, to enjoy his light.” He will be keenly missed, and fondly remembered by all. And no matter what the future editions of Daniel High School’s CyberPatriot team may accomplish, the lion’s share of the credit will always belong to Ray Thomas Crane II, first CyberPatriot Mentor, Flying Lion forever.
On April 8, 1991, Sun’s Java team moved from Sun Microsystems to work in secret on its “Oak” development project, which was later re-named to “Java” as it is commonly known today.

Java, having been developed in 1991, is a relatively new programming language. At that time, James Gosling from Sun Microsystems and his team began designing the first version of Java aimed at programming home appliances which are controlled by a wide variety of computer processors. Gosling’s new language needed to be accessible by a variety of computer processors. In 1994, he realized that such a language would be ideal for use with web browsers and Java’s connection to the internet began. In 1995, Netscape Incorporated released its latest version of the Netscape browser which was capable of running Java programs.

For more information, visit:  
http://www.computerhistory.org/tdih/April/8/

"I needed a password eight characters long... so I picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."