



NEWS

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3 Civil Air Patrol teams, including 2012 champs, return to CyberPatriot national finals

Cadets from Colo., Ohio, S.D. wings to seek CAP's 3rd straight title in March

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Civil Air Patrol cadet teams, all finalists from the previous year, will fill three of the 14 slots in the All-Services Division finals of CyberPatriot V, the national high school cyber defense competition, when the organization seeks its third straight overall championship.

When the two days of national finals begin March 14 at the Gaylord National Harbor Convention Center in Gaylord, Md., CAP will again be represented by teams from the:

- Colorado Wing – Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron, which captured the CyberPatriot IV All-Services Division crown last year.
- Ohio Wing – Youngstown ARS Composite Squadron.
- South Dakota Wing – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

The teams emerged from Round 3 of the national competition, held at various local sites Jan. 11-12. Three U.S. Marine Corps Junior ROTC teams and two teams each from the Army, Navy and Air Force junior ROTCs and the Naval Sea Cadets make up the rest of the finalists.

The qualifying teams will receive all-expenses-paid trips to the finals. Winning team members in the championship round receive scholarships and prizes from CyberPatriot sponsors.

CAP has three teams in the finals because the Colorado Springs squadron captured one of two wild card slots, as did a Marine Corps Junior ROTC team.

In all, CAP teams from eight wings and six regions accounted for 10 of the 45 teams that competed in the semifinals, including four of the seven wild-card slots. The competition began Nov. 2 with 261 CAP teams participating, about 20 percent more than the previous year's total of 218.

Established by the Air Force Association in 2009, CyberPatriot is designed to inspire students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to the nation's future. The Northrop Grumman Foundation is the presenting sponsor for CyberPatriot V. It's also presented by founding partners the Science Applications International Corp., or SAIC; and the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security, or CIAS, at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

As the nation's premier cyber defense competition, CyberPatriot is open to all accredited public, private and parochial high schools and registered home school programs in the Open Division, as well as CAP, junior ROTC units from all four military services and, beginning this year, Naval Sea Cadets in the All-Services Division.

Between both divisions, a record 1,225 teams from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe, the Pacific and Canada registered to compete in CyberPatriot V.

Last year, not only did the Colorado Springs squadron team take the Cyberpatriot IV title, the Big Sioux squadron cadets won the competition's inaugural cyber forensics phase.

Team Wilson, made up of members from the Orlando Cadet Squadron and other central Florida units, was the 2011 champion. In 2010, CAP teams placed second and third in the national finals.

Teams consist of two to five members and up to five alternates from the same squadron. Competitors must be high school students and at least 13 years old.

During each of the first three rounds, teams are faced with realistic computer network threats at their home locations. Each team has six hours to seek out weaknesses in simulated online networks and to work to defend those networks from threat scenarios.

Teams are scored according to how quickly and effectively they establish and maintain secure networks. To accommodate the different time zones involved, competition occurs within a 36-hour block, starting at noon Friday and closing at 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Eastern Daylight Time.

More information is available on the U.S. CyberPatriot website and its Facebook page.

Pre-registration for CyberPatriot VI began earlier this week.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 61,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 80 lives annually. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to nearly 27,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. CAP received the World Peace Prize in 2011 and has been performing missions for America for 71 years. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.

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