



Air Force Association's



CyberPatriot

The National High School Cyber Defense Competition

Presented by

Northrop Grumman Corporation 

Fact Sheet

From a concept paper less than two years ago, *CyberPatriot* began with a February 2009 demonstration and immediately went nationwide for the 2009-10 school year competition, staging the largest High School Cyber Defense Competition ever conducted. The next step, Full Nationwide Deployment, has been made possible by a generous grant from Northrop Grumman Corporation, who committed significant multiyear funding and extensive in-kind support for the initiative. This program will reach many thousands of students this year – just in time for the urgent need *CyberPatriot* answers – building the human component of cyber security.

The Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) at the University of Texas at San Antonio, creator of the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, is a Founding Partner of *CyberPatriot*, as is Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), who provides the platform for the competition with their patent-pending commercial cyber defense trainer, Cyber NEXS. Strategic Partners General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems (GD AIS), Microsoft Corporation, and the Raytheon Company have also pledged significant multiyear support for the program, and this unique combination of commercial, government, and nonprofit expertise has produced a model for rapid expansion.

This national competition excites high school students and motivates them toward careers in cyber defense and other STEM disciplines, while instilling greater national cyber security awareness in the tens of thousands reached. Math/computer science is the STEM discipline with the greatest projected job growth, but it is also a discipline where we lose a large percentage of underrepresented persons and women in the leap from high school to college – *CyberPatriot* will change that. Moreover, educating this huge number of users annually to the basic elements of computer/network security is certain to increase the security of our national infrastructure.

CyberPatriot III began this month to allow coach preparation over the summer. A two-division structure will attract both the college prep computer science students in the “Open Division” and the more diverse audience numbering over 500,000 in the nation’s JROTC detachments in the “All-Service Division. Both Divisions will proceed through a similar, but distinct, series of online training and qualification rounds to select finalists for the same D.C. area in-person championship. The internet-delivered education and preliminary competition rounds enable this program to reach many thousands of students at modest expense, delivering unprecedented “bang for the buck” in an urgently needed skill set.

The April 2011 CyberFutures Conference features the live Championships of both Divisions (Scripps Spelling Bee on steroids), plus the year’s best cyber policy symposium and technology exhibition. The pace of growth has been remarkable – more gradual expansion would be easier, but the threat is in no way “gradual” – our sense of urgency is driven by the need.

See it: [CyberPatriot III Video](#) & [CyberPatriot II Video](#). Info at: <http://www.afa.org/CyberPatriot/>