



# CyberPatriot I

<http://www.highschoolcdc.com>



The **Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS)**, at the University of Texas-San Antonio, was first on-board and remains the keystone of the project. The CIAS Director is a colonel in the Air Force Reserve assigned to Air Force Cyber Command (Provisional). CIAS conducts the acclaimed National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC). The Director in his academic "hat" is vitally interested in educating future cyber security professionals; in his military "hat," he must confront the expanding cyber threat to our national security.



**Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)** was also a founding partner, bringing the system and expertise that made an ambitious dream feasible. They volunteered their patent-pending *TeamDefend* Cyber Defense Trainer as the platform for a competition demo. This combination of hardware and software has been successfully used in training programs throughout the country. SAIC has donated the *CyberPatriot* trademark/logo and will provide onsite equipment and personnel for the demonstration.



**Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC)** and **Civil Air Patrol (CAP)** provided a critical piece of the puzzle with access to high school students with "built-in" motivation toward citizenship and serving their nation. Both organizations are eager to educate and excite their students.



The Air Force Association (AFA) is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to: **Educate** the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation; **Advocate** aerospace power and a strong national defense; and **Support** the United States Air Force, the Air Force family, and aerospace education. Contributions to AFA are tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes.

## Building the Human Component of Cyber Security



## WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

In early 2008, the **Air Force Association (AFA)** proposed an initiative to expand the impact of its educational mission—sponsorship of a National High School Cyber Defense Competition (NHS-CDC).

As originally conceived, the project was a phased approach starting with a “proof-of-concept” demonstration. All expected developing the demo to take a couple of years.

But this demonstration **will occur** at AFA's Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, FL, on February 26-27, 2009—and plans are in place to “go national” the next school year—amazing pace!

The incredible importance of cyber security in today's environment created the momentum. No longer the stuff of network administrators, it is possibly **the** national security issue of the day. For example, the U.S. Air Force must master the cyber domain to achieve air and space dominance.

A great commercial interest exists, both as customer and supplier. Industry has a huge need for cyber security, and providers of security products can reasonably expect a lucrative expanding market.

For both government and industry, there is a critical shortage of qualified professionals (especially U.S. citizens) to fill the demand, thus there is intense interest in promoting cyber security education. We must excite our American youth and attract them to a career of incredible importance to our nation.

And in an age of cyber attack through unsuspecting computer users, taking any “Zombie off the Botnet” through greater public security awareness is a national security gain.

This remarkable convergence of interests generated a committed team of highly qualified partners.

## CyberPatriot



A high school TeamDefend event

### **PHASE I, CONCEPT DEMONSTRATION:**

On February 26 and 27, eight five-person AFJROTC/CAP teams will defend their networks at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, FL. Almost all of the Air Force's four-star general officers will be there, speaking at AFA's 25th annual Air Warfare Symposium to inform the public and media about the most critical issues facing the Service. Representatives from nearly 50 of the country's top aerospace firms will be on hand to display the cutting edge in technology for the warfighter. Meanwhile, the next generation of cyber defenders will compete on Thursday and Friday in morning and afternoon periods just around the corner from the symposium and exhibit hall. On Friday at a 4:30 p.m. awards ceremony, the inaugural *CyberPatriot* victor will be crowned. The winning team will travel to San Antonio, TX, in April to attend the NCCDC.

### **PHASE II, NATIONAL DEPLOYMENT:**

The ambitious goal of the *CyberPatriot* team is to go nationwide by the start of the 2009-10 academic year. For Phase II, the competition will be expanded to all AFJROTC/CAP units and complemented by a more robust curriculum in basic cyber security. Next fall, high school students across the country will be vying for one of the coveted slots to travel to Orlando for *CyberPatriot II*, scheduled for February 18-19, 2010.

## CyberPatriot (continued)



USAF cyber warriors in action

### **PHASE III, GROW TO THE NEED:**

By the 2010-11 school year, the goal is expansion of the competition beyond AFJROTC and CAP students. The precise structure of the program will be refined as the *CyberPatriot* team learns and new partners join the team. The guiding principle is that growth must create a self-sustaining institution that:

1. Is open to *any* high school student;
2. Grows cyber professionals from high school, through university, and out to government, industry, and academia; and
3. Provides continuing positive benefit to all *CyberPatriot* partners and our nation.

## What You Can Do

No one believed Phase I would come together so rapidly, but the designed pace of the next two years is even more ambitious—and even more dependent on committed partners. There are ample opportunities for government, commercial, academic, and nonprofit entities.

Please contact **Sandy Schlitt, AFA Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education**, at (941) 374-7777 or schlitt@comcast.net or **AFA Director of Programs and Industry Relations Mary Ellen Dobrowski** at (703) 247-5823 or mdobrowski@afa.org if your organization would like to hop on this speeding train!

