For Immediate Release
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Navy JROTC Teams Excel in National Cyber Defense Competition

ARLINGTON, VA – Two Navy JRTOC teams will be competing next month in the semifinals for the nation's largest high school cyber defense competition.

As an educational competition, the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot is a one-of-a-kind opportunity, providing high school students hands-on learning about cyber security in a fun environment.

After three challenging rounds in CyberPatriot's All Service Division, the top two teams from each service – Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Civil Air Patrol – and two "wild card" teams have advanced to compete in the semifinals on February 17 – 18 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with AFA's Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition.

Navy JROTC teams from Ramona High School in Ramona, California, and South Aiken High School in Aiken, South Carolina will be competing against 10 other Service teams in the first in-person challenge of the competition. Only five teams will move on to the finals.

When the competition's registration closed in October 2010, CyberPatriot's All Service Division had more than 450 teams sign up. Throughout the competition, teams were scored on how quickly and effectively they found and corrected weaknesses in virtual computer systems until only 12 teams were left standing.

"The hands-on experience offered by CyberPatriot comes at a time where cyber defense is crucial to national security; we are critically dependent on the Internet for our defense, economy, transportation and other daily activities," said Bernie Skoch, CyberPatriot Commissioner. "It all leaves a level of vulnerability to disruption or exploitation of those vital connections. And through this competition, we are preparing today's youth to be the cyber leaders and defenders for tomorrow."

While they compete, students continue to gain knowledge on how to improve computer networks, strengthen security features and configure ports and routers.

One team representing each Service will be advancing to the finals with an all-expenses-paid trip and the chance to win the Commander-and-Chief's Trophy and scholarship money.

CyberPatriot's Championship Round will take place March 31 to April 2 at the Gaylord National Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, just minutes from downtown Washington, DC. This final competition will be held in conjunction with AFA's inaugural CyberFutures Conference and Technology Exposition.

CyberPatriot is presented by Northrop Grumman, with founding partners SAIC and the CIAS at the University of Texas-San Antonio.

More information can be found on CyberPatriot at www.uscyberpatiot.org. For media inquiries regarding CyberPatriot or AFA's Air Warfare Symposium, contact Merri Shaffer at mshaffer@afa.org or at 703.247.5847.

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