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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
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9 August 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CAP COMMANDERS TO SHARE WITH EVERY SQUADRON MEMBER

SUBJECT: CALL TO ACTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN AFA'S CYBERPATRIOT PROGRAM FOR CAP'S CADETS

1. Since its inception, CAP has been the "Eyes of the Homeland Skies." We continue that effort today, yet our homeland borders have disappeared in the face of the ever-expanding international cyber network that threatens daily security in our homes, our schools, our communities, and our nation as a whole. CAP is trying to answer America's "Call to Action" to help train the future cyber security workforce that is desperately needed to protect our national security far beyond our boundaries of land, sea, and air.
2. CAP partnered with the Air Force Association to be a leading participant from the genesis of their well-developed, cutting edge CyberPatriot program. With the AFA's program, and the associated cyber security education materials developed by CAP members, CAP has the opportunity, and the infrastructure of a nation-wide presence of committed unpaid professionals, to take the helm in being the top all volunteer, cyber training organization in this nation. This opportunity rests in the hands of each CAP squadron Commander as it is our goal to have not only every Wing represented in the CyberPatriot program, but every squadron across our country.
- 3.. Our organization continues to reflect on the pride felt throughout CAP with a two-year consecutive national championship title for the All Service Division of the CyberPatriot Program, and, most recently, by being recognized by a 2013 MeriTalk Cyber Security Confidence Award, the *Cyber Security Innovator Honorable Mention Award*. Click [HERE](#) for article explaining this award just presented to CAP in July.
4. To perpetuate this ever-growing need to develop the next generation cyber security workforce, the Cadet and Aerospace Education program leaders are working to finalize the plan to integrate cyber security into the cadet program with appropriate recognition and reward. But, until that recognition program is put into place, it is imperative that we look carefully at how we can involve even more of our cadet population in this dynamic cyber security training program for our youth.
5. Each and every cadet and composite squadron has the opportunity to field a team of 2-5 cadets **at no cost** to the squadron or the cadets. Our organization feels this national cadet activity is important enough to continue covering the cost involved in the program and competition so *no financial burden is placed on the units or cadets*. Our organization feels the national cyber security crisis is our call to action to help train our youth for future cyber careers to the benefit of our national security for the future.
6. This cyber defense program involves cutting-edge technology provided to our cadets, as well as excellent aerospace career exploration opportunities--- again, at no cost to the cadets or the squadrons. All directions for competition are provided, with assistance by tech-savvy CAP mentors or mentors from the IT industry located by the teams or by the CyberPatriot office. ***Help is available to each squadron- if a team is created and assistance is requested.***

7. CAP has thousands of tech-savvy cadets who yearn for a chance to learn more and be more in the cyber world. They may not be a part of the squadron's drill team or tops in other areas of the squadron, but want and need a place to fit and be successful. Many of these cadets have had the good fortune to find ONE adult who identified their passion and stepped out of their realm of comfort to become a CyberPatriot coach. The cadets have then helped the adult navigate the guidance provided by the AFA to participate in this competition. --- Then, there are cadets who *do not* have this opportunity and are losing out on the free opportunities we can provide them to use their interest and expertise to help other cadets in this program. This loss of opportunity is because there is no adult in the squadron who has felt able to take a chance and step to the plate to help facilitate a CyberPatriot team. We hope this "Call to Action" will help this situation.

8. Every squadron in CAP has cadets who will never be able to attend a summer National Cadet Special Activity due to finances, time, travel, selection, etc. Yet every CAP squadron in our organization has at least one cadet and/or adult who can navigate the cyber security program provided by the Air Force Association and can create a "hometown" National Cadet Special Activity for the fall and winter months. And, every squadron in CAP should work now to identify one-two cadets and/or adults who will take the torch to light the way for the squadron cadets to have a chance to compete and learn more about this program. We need at least one cadet to ask the adult members to help start a CyberPatriot team. We need just one adult in every squadron to answer this call to action and commit to becoming a CyberPatriot coach.

9. Any cadet at the grass roots level, ages 13 and above, in grades 9-12, should be able to have the opportunity to become interested and involved in this program, **and still participate in all other cadet activities.**

10. Both the 2011 and 2012 national All Services Division CyberPatriot champions were CAP teams. The new Cyber Forensic component of the competition was led by a CAP team in 2012 and the newest Cisco Networking Award was garnered by a CAP team 2013. Amazingly, first time, small town CAP squadron teams have made it to the national competitions. Teams with high tech IT coaches and mentors, as well as teams with a committed non-teach savvy parent or other adult coach have been "top teams in their state." This demonstrates the potential for any of CAP's cadets to become nationally recognized and richly awarded with scholarships and mentorship experience to prepare them for the future cyber security workforce.

11. CAP fielded 150 teams for the 2011 competition; 218 teams in 2012; 261 teams in 2013; and, as of this date, there are only 160 teams registered for the 2014 competition. With over 1,100 cadet and composite squadrons, we are aiming for triple the number of 2013 teams. But, we need YOUR help to continue our strong presence in this competition. Moreover, we need YOUR help to inculcate in our youth the mindset of helping defend America against any threat- land, air, space, or cyberspace.

12. In remembrance of CAP's great legacy of service to the nation, and especially acknowledging our support to the Air Force, we pondered several years ago about possible ways that we could assist in defending our nation against the cyber threat. We found the way with the Air Force Association (AFA), a strategic partner of the USAF and CAP. The AFA provided the answer in 2009 when it launched this CyberPatriot program which would become the nation's premiere high school cyber defense competition. Through participation in this computer-based program to reduce cyber vulnerabilities of a computer network, CAP cadets, JROTC cadets from the military services, and students from our nation's high schools form small teams to neutralize the threat.

13. AFA's former Chairman of the Board, Brig Gen Sandy Schlitt, USAF Ret, who is also a respected member of CAP's Board of Governors, along with Brig Gen Bernie Skoch, USAF Ret, CyberPatriot Commissioner and former CAP cadet, have both addressed CAP Command Council and Conference attendees, stating that AFA strategically planned to include CAP cadets in the CyberPatriot program from the onset. The AFA viewed this opportunity for CAP cadets to enhance their Aerospace Education mission by addressing a matter of critical importance to our nation: stimulating our bright young people to become part of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce the USA desperately needs. As your National Commander, I wholeheartedly endorse the confidence in CAP from Gens Schlitt and Skoch and encourage each squadron to form a CyberPatriot team by September.

14. To fully understand the history and purpose of CyberPatriot, please visit www.uscyberpatriot.org where all recruiting materials, registration information, and FAQs are there to assist YOUR squadron in fielding a “no cost” team. (More informational links follow.)

15. I am honored by the achievements of this organization in returning to its very roots of national security. We must never lose sight of our great contributions to this cause. We must also never lose sight of our responsibility to develop the next generation to carry the torch that CAP has proudly held high for 71 years. Therefore, I ask you to support this important endeavor initiated by the AFA in support of the United States Air Force, Civil Air Patrol, and the future of our country.

16. I would appreciate if each unit would consider registering a team between now and **15 September**. Practice sessions are ongoing for assistance NOW; Mentors and Coaches Training is also ongoing; and the first training round begins around 10 October, thus it is imperative that teams register NOW to begin early to prepare for this competition. AFA’s registration information, training guidance, list of registered teams by state, all FAQs, recruitment information, and everything needed to participate is found [here](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org). (www.uscyberpatriot.org)

17. As phrased in many advertisements for jobs, there is “no experience required” for adult leaders of CAP cadet teams. For this initiative, there need be just a desire to move our country forward to conquer the greatest threat we have ever faced. I hope that I can count on you to help our young people explore another challenging “STEM-related” educational program for our cadets. **Please volunteer as a coach or a mentor to assist in this worthwhile project to enhance aerospace education for the youth of our organization. THANK YOU!**

[CAP's 2013 Press Release](#)

[Excellent Recruiting Video Featuring CAP Teams!](#)

Check out the newest video found at www.uscyberpatriot.org!



Respectfully,

Charles L. Carr, Jr., MG, CAP
Commander, Civil Air Patrol

cc:
CAP Board of Governors
CAP National Staff

Further information to assist you:

- Two other excellent AFA recruiting videos describing this exciting competition are found at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1fXijqXIEU>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROsy43Vjddc&feature=related>
- CAP’s CyberPatriot info page:
http://www.capmembers.com/aerospace_education/general/afa_cyberpatriot.cfm
- Complete state-by-state list of current registrations, by division:
<http://www.uscyberpatriot.org/Documents/CyberPatriot%20VI%20Current.pdf>
- Informational flyer to download and share with CAP cadet and composite squadrons :
http://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/CyberPatriot_Ad_2013_9F10D0D6D9E22.pdf
- AFA contact: info@uscyberpatriot.org CAP contact: Susan Mallett at smallett@capnhq.gov