



WELCOME

Hello CyberPatriots! I have decided to publish a newsletter for the team this year. I named the newsletter "Bits and Bytes". I am planning on publishing Bits and Bytes every quarter or every three to four months. This is a place to post upcoming events, things that the team is doing, and also to help keep your parents informed about the CyberPatriot team. This is the second issue of "Bits and Bytes", the first issue I wrote and published was in August. If anyone wants to see the first issue, just let me know and I will send you a copy. I will post a link to the newsletter on the TX-20009th-AFJROTC CyberPatriot page and on the closed CyberPatriot group.

CYBERPATRIOT X at MEDINA VALLEY

The beginning of the competitive CyberPatriot X season starts in November. The timeline of events for the upcoming season is in the picture on page 2. We will have access to practice round images prior to the start of qualification round.

Prior to our first qualification round I want everyone to download, print, and sign the "2017-18 Medina Valley High School CyberPatriot Competition Rules". The competition rules are an honor code contract for the team. No CyberPatriot student will be allowed to compete until I have a signed copy of these rules. I will go over the rules and explain the new rules during practice.

Everyone is looking forward to an exciting and wonderful year for our team. The coaches and mentors will attempt to bring in guest speakers and plan a field trip. I know our teams will be successful, and most importantly, have fun learning about the cybersphere.

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Inside CyberPatriot

CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program. At the center of CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems and are tasked with finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services in a six hour period. Teams compete for the top placement within their state and region, and the top teams in the nation earn an all-expenses paid trip to Baltimore, MD for the National Finals Competition where they can earn national recognition and scholarship money.



THE PRACTICE ROUND

The CyberPatriots have issued the next set of practice images for Windows and Ubuntu, and this time there is also a Cisco challenge. This week we will be using the practice images and the Cisco challenge to teach the newcomers to CyberPatriots. I know the more experienced students will not need as much help; just be sure to bring all the notes to assist you in getting the highest score possible.

The practice images that are being used are for student training purposes and are used to help everyone prepare for the first competition round which starts on the weekend of November 3, 2017. I would like the entire team to treat the practice round as if it were the actual competition, meaning I want you take this practice as serious as you would a qualification round and try to obtain as many points as possible. Take as many notes as possible while you are using the practice images, especially in areas of Windows, Linux, and Cisco, that you are having difficulty understanding. Remember all mentors are here to help you and to explain everything.

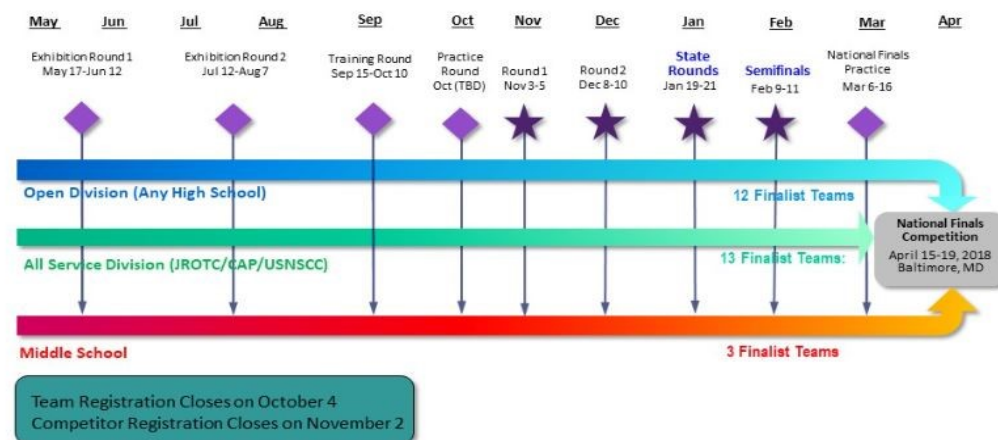


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“Remember to bring all the notes you have, and take as many notes as you can, during the practice round.”

CYBERPATRIOT X COMPETITION DATES

ROUND	COMPETITION DATES	BACKUP ROUND DATE* (Saturday after Original Round)
Practice Round	October 6 - 17, 2017	N/A
Qualification Round 1	November 3-5, 2017	November 11, 2017
Qualification Round 2	December 8-10, 2017	December 16, 2017
State Round	January 19-21, 2018	January 27, 2018
Semifinals	February 9-11, 2018	February 17, 2018
National Finals Practice	March 6-16, 2018	N/A
National Finals Competition	April 15-19, 2018	N/A



YOUR ARTICLE GOES HERE...

Over the past couple of weeks I have been encouraging everyone on the team to write an article about something involving information technology or cyber security. When you are in the career field it is expected that write technical manuals and articles about your area of expertise. I decided that if you write an article, I will put it in our newsletter for everyone to read.

I would like your article to be a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 1000 words. I know it may sound overwhelming, but once you start writing you will find your article will grow the more you explain your stance on your article.

I will give you time during practice so we can discuss your topic of choice with the team after you write and submit your article.

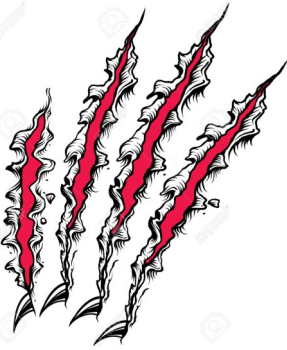
THE CyberPatriot Team in the News!



Inside the Article

“It is the start of the MVHS CyberPatriot team’s new competition season. On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, if you stand in the hallway between rooms 310 and 312, you can hear conversations about topics such as installing operating systems, system hardening, and securing networks.”

“A common misconception is that the students are learning how to hack computers and critical network infrastructure. However, this is not the case. Each student is learning appropriate cyber defense skills which are important for stopping attacks and correcting misconfigured workstations and servers while in a safe virtual environment.



Medina Valley High School's

CyberPatriot Team

We are the Medina Valley CyberPatriots!! We are the cyber warriors that relentlessly defend networks from attack. Our cyber hunting skills cannot be matched. We find threats, eliminate them, and strategically launch counter attacks against our cyber enemies. We are CyberPatriots!!

Medina Valley High School's

CyberPatriot Team

Facebook Page Address:
<https://www.facebook.com/tx20009MVCPTeam/>

High School Website Link:
http://mvhs.mvisd.com/clubs__organizations/cyber_patriots

E-mail: fredrick.f.hall@hotmail.com



About the AFJROTC CyberPatriot Team

The Vision

The vision of the Medina Valley CyberPatriots program is to promote cyber awareness, computer security practices, and cyber ethics. All of these are essential attributes for creating a secure network infrastructure, teaching the students how to detect threats, and how to defend against cyber-attacks in a safe virtual environment.

The skills and knowledge the students will gain from participating in this program will give them an advantage to obtain information technology certifications, scholarships in computer related fields of study, and ultimately provide an opportunity to start a great career in information technology and cyber security.

The Mission

The mission of the Medina Valley CyberPatriot program is the proper instruction and implementation of information technology principals and cyber security practices. All students will be taught how to use various operating systems, interconnecting network devices, and how to secure the entire infrastructure. The students will also be taught how to properly use tools and methodologies to assess and troubleshoot problems that range from inoperable workstations to misconfigured networking equipment. These are the skills that will be necessary to compete in the CyberPatriot competitions and will enable us to advance to each round and ultimately to the national finals.

MVHS CyberPatriot Coaches/Technical Mentors

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