

MEDINA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
AFJROTC CYBERPATRIOT TEAM



# BITS & BYTES

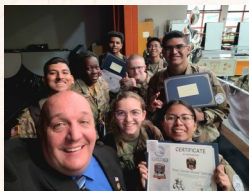
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MEDINA VALLEY AFJROTC CYBERPATRIOT TEAM

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## Return from the Digital Realm: The Cyber Viking Crew Complete Their Voyage Through CyberPatriot XVIII



AFJROTC AWARD NIGHT 2026

The Medina Valley AFJROTC CyberPatriot program proudly completed its 14th season of competition, training, leadership development, and cybersecurity excellence.

What began in August as a new season of learning quickly evolved into another year of achievement as cadets dedicated themselves to developing the technical skills, discipline, and teamwork required to succeed in the ever-changing world of cybersecurity.

Throughout the fall semester, our Cyber Viking Crew trained extensively in Windows operating systems, Linux administration, networking, cybersecurity fundamentals, and competition strategies. Weekly practices challenged cadets to think critically, solve complex problems, and work together as cyber defenders while building skills that extend far beyond the competition arena.

Those months of preparation paid off during the CyberPatriot XVIII competition season. Competing against teams from across the nation in the All-Service Division, Medina Valley AFJROTC once again demonstrated its commitment to excellence. Team 1 and Team 2 both advanced to the prestigious Platinum Tier, earning recognition among the top-performing teams in the country and showcasing their ability to perform under pressure in one of the nation's premier youth cybersecurity competitions.

The learning did not stop there. In December, six Medina Valley cadets traveled to compete in the Alamo ACE Cybersecurity Conference Capture the Flag competition. There, students applied their knowledge to real-world cybersecurity challenges while gaining valuable experience in digital forensics, networking, cryptography, and problem solving alongside other aspiring cybersecurity professionals.



TEAM PICTURE AFTER PRACTICE

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"Our mission isn't simply to win competitions—it's to develop tomorrow's cyber defenders by building technical skills, leadership, character, and confidence."



## Return from the Digital Realm: The Cyber Viking Crew Complete Their Voyage Through CyberPatriot XVIII

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The spring semester brought additional opportunities for growth and recognition. In February, cadets represented Medina Valley AFJROTC at the 16th Annual Mayor's Cyber Cup.

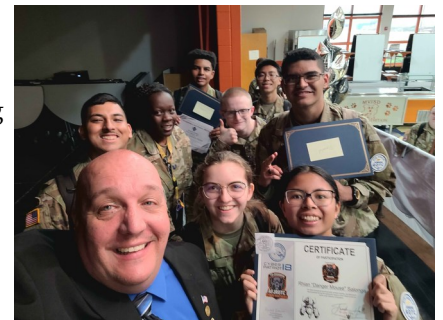


MEDINA VALLEY AFJROTC AND MONDO CYBER OWLS POSE WITH BRIGADIER GENERAL BLACKWELL, 15TH AIR FORCE, DURING THE 16TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S CYBER CUP.

The event provided students the opportunity to network with cybersecurity professionals, explore college and career pathways, and engage with industry leaders from across the region. Cadets also had the honor of meeting Brigadier General Blackwell and represented Medina Valley with the professionalism, confidence, and leadership that have become hallmarks of the program.

One of the season's most memorable achievements came in March when Medina Valley AFJROTC received national recognition. CyberPatriot National Director Rachel Zimmerman selected our team as one of only four teams in the nation—and one of only two teams in Medina County—to be featured in CyberPatriot's first documentary. This distinction highlighted not only the accomplishments of our cadets but also the dedication, mentorship, and culture that have defined the program throughout its fourteen-year history.

While trophies, rankings, and recognition are important milestones, they tell only part of the story. This season was ultimately about growth. It was about cadets developing leadership skills, building confidence, mastering new technologies, and discovering future career opportunities in cybersecurity and information technology. It was about teamwork, perseverance, and the willingness to tackle difficult challenges together. As another successful season comes to a close, we celebrate the accomplishments of every cadet, mentor, parent, and supporter who contributed to the program's success.



AFJROTC AWARDS NIGHT 2026

The competition season may be over, but the mission remains unchanged. To develop leaders, build cyber defenders, and prepare the next generation for the challenges ahead.

And if this season proved anything, it is that the Medina Valley Cyber Viking Crew are only getting started.

Coach Hall "The Cyber Viking

## DOUBLE PLATINUM: A SEASON TO REMEMBER FOR THE CYBER VIKING CREW

Every CyberPatriot season begins with a challenge—a call to push further, learn more, work harder, and become stronger cyber defenders than the day before.



CYBER VIKING CREW 1

For the Medina Valley High School TX-20009th AFJROTC CyberPatriot teams, that challenge evolved into a journey defined by dedication, teamwork, resilience, and outstanding success.

Long before the first competition image was ever opened, the Cyber Viking Crew were already preparing with purpose. Throughout the fall semester, cadets immersed themselves in Windows 11, Windows Server 2022, Linux Mint, Ubuntu, networking, and cybersecurity fundamentals. Yet what they built went far beyond technical knowledge; they developed leadership, sharpened communication, strengthened problem-solving abilities, and learned how to perform as a cohesive team under pressure. When competition season arrived, they stepped forward ready to prove themselves.

Round 1 became the first true test of months of preparation, as cadets secured operating systems, identified vulnerabilities, enforced security policies, and worked against the clock with precision and focus. Their performance confirmed what had already been evident during practice—the Cyber Viking Crew were prepared to compete at a high level.

Round 2 intensified the challenge, introducing more complex scenarios, tighter competition, and the demanding Cisco dCloud networking environment. Faced with these obstacles, the Cyber Viking Crew rose to the occasion, adapting quickly, thinking critically, and relying on strong communication and teamwork to overcome every hurdle placed before them.



CYBER VIKING CREW 2

Their efforts culminated in a remarkable achievement, as both Team 1 and Team 2 earned Platinum Tier recognition, placing them among the nation's top CyberPatriot competitors. This double accomplishment stands as a powerful testament to the commitment, preparation, and determination demonstrated by every cadet in the program.

With Platinum Tier secured, both teams advanced to the State Round, where they competed against some of the strongest teams in Texas. By this stage, however, the Cyber Viking Crew had already proven something far more meaningful than rankings—they had demonstrated their ability to rise to every challenge with confidence, discipline, and unity.

While awards and scores highlight success, they represent only part of the story. The true achievement of the season lies in the growth of the cadets themselves, who strengthened their technical expertise, developed confidence as leaders, learned to perform under pressure, and gained valuable experience solving real-world cybersecurity challenges. These lessons extend far beyond competition and will continue to shape their futures in education, careers, and military service.

The 2025–2026 season will stand as a proud chapter in the history of Medina Valley AFJROTC CyberPatriot, defined by perseverance, teamwork, growth, and an extraordinary Double Platinum finish.

"CyberPatriot isn't just about securing computers—it's about developing leaders, problem-solvers, and future cyber defenders."



“Nearly 200 elementary students discovered the exciting world of cybersecurity through interactive demonstrations, real-world technology, and the leadership of Medina Valley AFJROTC CyberPatriot cadets.”



## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION: CYBER VIKINGS LEAD LUCKEY RANCH ELEMENTARY CAREER DAY

One of the greatest accomplishments of the Medina Valley AFJROTC CyberPatriot program extends beyond competitions and technical training—it's the opportunity to inspire the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.



On May 8, 2026, Coach Fredrick "The Cyber Viking" Hall and the Medina Valley AFJROTC CyberPatriot Team Captains were invited to participate in Career Day at Luckey Ranch Elementary School. What began as an opportunity to introduce students to cybersecurity quickly became an exciting and interactive learning experience for nearly 200 elementary students.

Over the course of three and a half hours, the team presented to seven rotating groups of second through fifth graders, sharing what cybersecurity is, why online safety matters, and what it's like to compete as members of the Medina Valley AFJROTC CyberPatriot program.

Coach Hall introduced students to the growing field of cybersecurity, discussing the many career opportunities available and explaining how cybersecurity professionals work every day to protect computers, networks, and critical infrastructure.

The CyberPatriot Team Captains shared their own experiences, describing how CyberPatriot has helped them develop technical skills, leadership, teamwork, and confidence while preparing them for future education and careers in technology.

The presentations featured several live demonstrations that quickly captured the students' attention. They explored live traffic camera feeds, tracked commercial aircraft in real time, examined the vast network of underwater communication cables that connect the world, and learned how information travels across the Internet.

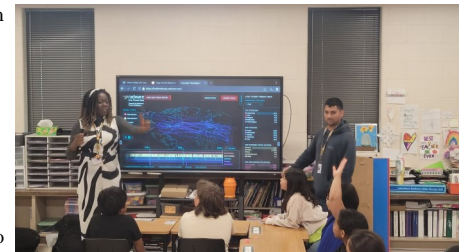
One of the most memorable demonstrations was the "Joke USB" exercise. Students watched as a simple batch file appeared to copy files into an unknown folder, providing a fun—but powerful—lesson about why no one should ever plug an unknown USB device into a computer. The demonstration sparked lively discussions about cyber threats, social engineering, and safe computing practices.

Throughout the morning, students asked thoughtful questions about hacking, cyberattacks, online safety, CyberPatriot competitions, and careers in cybersecurity. Their curiosity and enthusiasm made every presentation engaging and reminded everyone just how eager young students are to learn about technology.

For the CyberPatriot Team Captains, Career Day was more than just a presentation—it was an opportunity to give back to the community and serve as role models for future cyber defenders. Watching them confidently share their knowledge and experiences demonstrated how much they have grown as leaders throughout their time in the program.

The Medina Valley AFJROTC CyberPatriot program is proud to support outreach opportunities like Career Day because developing future cyber professionals begins with inspiring curiosity. Whether competing in CyberPatriot, mentoring younger students, or educating the community about online safety, the Cyber Vikings remain committed to making a positive impact both inside and outside the classroom.

The Cyber Vikings didn't just teach cybersecurity that day—they inspired the next generation to imagine themselves as the cyber defenders of tomorrow.



**THE CYBER VIKING SYSLOGS:  
TELLING THE CYBERPATRIOT STORY: MEDINA  
VALLEY AFJROTC FEATURED IN NATIONAL DOCUMENTARY**

For fifteen seasons, the Medina Valley High School TX-20009th AFJROTC CyberPatriot program has embraced a mission that extends far beyond competition. Every practice, every challenge, and every competition has been an opportunity to prepare students for something greater.

That mission received national recognition on March 18, 2026, when the Medina Valley Cyber Vikings welcomed the professional production team from Lemoyne Street Pictures. Commissioned by CyberPatriot, the crew visited Medina Valley to film portions of CyberPatriot's documentary—a project designed to showcase how the program inspires students and prepares them for futures in cybersecurity.



Throughout the day, cameras followed the Cyber Vikings as they competed in a live Capture the Flag (CTF) competition. Rather than asking students to perform for the cameras, the filmmakers captured the team doing what they do every week: collaborating, solving problems, communicating under pressure, and supporting one another through every challenge.

The result was an authentic look at what makes CyberPatriot so much more than a competition. The cameras captured technical skills, but they also captured leadership in action. They recorded teamwork, perseverance, critical thinking, and the confidence that comes from tackling difficult problems together. These are the qualities that define not only the Medina Valley Cyber Vikings, but CyberPatriot programs across the nation.

One of the highlights of the day was an interview with Medina Valley Co-Team Captain Cadet Omilakin, known to her teammates by the call sign "Drama Queen." She shared how CyberPatriot has shaped her journey, strengthening her technical knowledge while building the confidence, leadership, and communication skills that will continue to serve her long after graduation.



The cadets also enjoyed spending time with the talented professionals from Lemoyne Street Pictures, gaining a behind-the-scenes look at documentary filmmaking while sharing their own CyberPatriot experiences. It was an exciting opportunity to learn from another group of professionals who are passionate about telling meaningful stories.

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“Roblox may be a game, but the awareness, decision-making, and online behavior students learn there are skills they’ll use for life.”



“Nearly 200 elementary students discovered the exciting world of cybersecurity through interactive demonstrations, real-world technology, and the leadership of Medina Valley AFJROTC CyberPatriot cadets.”



THE CYBER VIKING SYSLOGS:  
TELLING THE CYBERPATRIOT STORY: MEDINA  
VALLEY AFJROTC FEATURED IN NATIONAL DOCUMENTARY

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Being selected to participate in CyberPatriot's documentary is a tremendous honor for the Medina Valley AFJROTC CyberPatriot program. More importantly, it is a reflection of the dedication shown by every cadet, mentor, instructor, parent, and supporter who has contributed to building a program centered on excellence, service, and continuous growth.

While the documentary will showcase cybersecurity competitions, the true story reaches much deeper.

It is about preparing tomorrow's cyber defenders—developing the technical skills, leadership, and character that will empower students to protect our nation's digital future.



As the cameras stopped rolling, one thing became clear: the documentary is not simply telling the story of one team. It is telling the story of thousands of students across the country whose lives have been transformed through CyberPatriot.

The Medina Valley Cyber Vikings are honored to represent our school, our community, and the CyberPatriot family. We are grateful for the opportunity to help share the impact of this incredible program and hope the documentary inspires future generations to discover the same passion for cybersecurity, leadership, and service.



For our team, this was more than a day of filming. It was an opportunity to tell the CyberPatriot story.

✂ Cyber Like A Viking! ✂

## ABOUT THE MVHS 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.

Medina Valley High School

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

CyberPatriot Team

Facebook Page

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