



MCGUIRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
MCGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, NEW JERSEY 08562

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Capt. Bill Petzinger, PAO
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McGuire Composite Squadron's CyberPatriot Team Wins State 1st Place Award

MCGUIRE AFB (March 15, 2016) – A team of cadets from the Civil Air Patrol's McGuire Composite Squadron recently earned a first place award for New Jersey in the 8th annual CyberPatriot – the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

Established by the [Air Force Association](#), the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program was created to excite, educate, and motivate students toward careers in cyber security and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future.

Led by 2nd Lt. Peter Toth, Barnegat, the team of McGuire Composite Squadron cadets excelled in the state round of competition, demonstrating teamwork, critical thinking skills, and technical knowledge key to a successful career in cybersecurity. In all, 3,379 domestic and international teams registered to compete in CyberPatriot VIII.

“Our cadets are serious about preparing themselves for their futures,” said Maj. AlyciaRae Weaver, squadron commander. “They accepted the challenge to enter this national competition and have spent countless hours learning about network security.”

The squadron's CyberPatriot cadet team comprised C/CMSgt Luke Dinkler, Eastampton; C/SSgt Thomas Laskiewicz, Jackson; C/2dLt Joseph Quigley, Browns Mills; C/TSgt Peter Toth Jr., Barnegat; and C/AB Andrew Vernieri, Barnegat.

“Our team worked very hard and it was great to see them compete on a high level,” said 2d Lt Toth. “This competition is a great experience for the cadets and I'm really proud of all their hard work.”

CAP senior members Capt. Jimmy Griffith, USAF, Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, and team assistant 2d Lt Doreen Laskiewicz, Jackson, served as mentors.



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CyberPatriot's core program – the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition – challenges teams of two to six students across the United States, Canada, and from DoDD schools abroad, to find and resolve cybersecurity vulnerabilities in simulated environments. Top teams from the preliminary online rounds win an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC for the live National Finals Competition, where students compete for national recognition and scholarships.

The CyberPatriot field is divided into three divisions – the Open Division for public, private, and home school teams, the All Service Division for JROTC, Civil Air Patrol, and Naval Sea Cadet Corps teams, and the Middle School Division. Based on the results of two preliminary rounds, CyberPatriot VIII high school teams were categorized within their divisions as Platinum, Gold, or Silver Tier teams, with Platinum Tier teams representing the highest scoring teams.

For more information about the Civil Air Patrol, visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

CAPTION:

(LEFT TO RIGHT): Capt. Jimmy Griffith, C/SSgt Thomas Laskiewicz, C/AB Andrew Vernieri, C/TSgt Peter Toth Jr., Cadet David Griffith; C/CMSgt Luke Dinkler, C/2dLt Joseph Quigley, 2d Lt Doreen Laskiewicz, and 2nd Lt. Peter Toth. (KNEELING) Maj. AlyciaRae Weaver, squadron commander.