



# NEWS

Putnam County Composite Squadron  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Putnam Civil Air Patrol Cadets Win First Place in CyberPatriot State Round Competition**

CARMEL, New York – January 14, 2022 – Cadets from the Putnam County Composite Squadron recently won State's 1st Place Award in the Platinum Tier in the XIV season of CyberPatriot – the Air Force Association's (AFA) National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

Led by Coach Second Lieutenant Craig Treco and Mentors Second Lieutenant Bruce Geller and Senior Member Xiaoyan Shao, the team of cadets, Airman First Class Eric Song, Airman Michael Strang and Airman Jacob Leggiero excelled in the CyberPatriot XII State Round held in December, demonstrating teamwork, critical thinking, and technical skills needed for a successful career in cybersecurity. In addition to the State's 1st Place Award in the Platinum Tier in the State Round, the team's performance earned it a spot in the Semifinal Round which will take place in January.

The AFA CyberPatriot competition challenges teams of high school and middle school students to find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities in virtual operating systems and to understand how to create and secure computer networks. Using a proprietary competition system, teams are scored on how secure they make the system.

For cadets Eric Song and Michael Strang, this is their first competition while Jacob Leggiero is a returning competitor. All the cadets receive weekly training in cybersecurity including Windows, Linux, and networking to prepare for the competition rounds.

Each competition round lasts six hours and the cadets work together to find the vulnerabilities in the virtual images provided, take a networking quiz, and create a secure virtual network. Top teams advance through two scoring rounds and the State Round to qualify for the Semifinal Round. The top scoring teams in the Semifinal round will advance to the in-person National Finals Competition in Bethesda, MD this March.

The Putnam County Composite Squadron has been competing in the AFA CyberPatriot Competition since the 2014-2015 Competition and is open to any cadet in the Putnam County Composite Squadron and nearby squadrons interested in learning how to combat cyber threats by identifying vulnerabilities and securing networks.

For information on how to join the Putnam Country Composite Squadron team, please contact Major Elena MacDermant (Commander) at [elenamac@aol.com](mailto:elenamac@aol.com).

Information on the AFA CyberPatriot Competition is available at [www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org) or from the CyberPatriot staff at [info@uscyberpatriot.org](mailto:info@uscyberpatriot.org)



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## **About Civil Air Patrol**

*Now celebrating its 80th year, Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 single-engine Cessna aircraft and more than 2,100 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) and performs about 90% of all search and rescue operations within the contiguous United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Often using innovative cellphone forensics and radar analysis software, CAP was credited by the AFRCC with saving 130 lives during the past fiscal year. CAP's 56,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. As a nonprofit organization, CAP plays a leading role in aerospace education using national academic standards-based STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education resources. Members also serve as mentors to more than 22,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs. Visit [www.CAP.NEWS](http://www.CAP.NEWS) or [www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com) for more information.*

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### **Civil Air Patrol Contact Information**

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