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Jan. 28, 2020

## **NEWS RELEASE – Coordinated between ECSD PR and AFA**

### **Ferry Pass Middle School CyberPatriot Team Wins 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Award in Florida**

A team of students from Escambia County School District middle schools recently concluded an exceptional round of competition in the twelfth season of CyberPatriot – the Air Force Association’s National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

Established by AFA in 2009, CyberPatriot is designed to educate and motivate students toward careers in cybersecurity and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation’s future.

CyberPatriot’s core program – the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition – challenges teams of students across the United States, Canada, and other schools abroad, to find and resolve cybersecurity vulnerabilities in simulated environments. Top teams from the online rounds earn an all-expenses-paid trip to Rockville, Md., for the in-person National Finals Competition, where students compete for national recognition and scholarships.

From 6,760 teams registered for the competition season, 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 for middle school-aged students.

#### **ECSD Middle School Results**

Led by Coach Allison Cameron, the team of students from Ferry Pass Middle School excelled in the CyberPatriot XII State Round held in December, demonstrating teamwork, critical thinking, and technical skills needed for a successful career in cybersecurity. The team’s performance earned it Florida’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Award in the Middle School Division and a spot in the Semifinal Round held this month.

“I am so proud of this team. They have made many firsts for Ferry Pass Middle. They have set a high bar for other teams. They are a terrific group of students who will continue to excel in school and CyberPatriot,” said Cameron.

The members of the Ferry Pass Middle School team are: Nguyen Tang, Anakin Orleans, and Paikea McQuirter. As one of the top three Middle School Division teams,

they are now eligible to advance to the CyberPatriot XII National Finals Competition in Rockville, Md., in March.

Additionally, Bellview Middle School's Warriors at Work team, placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the state, just missing a chance to move up in the next round of competition. The members were: Ty'navion Mitchell, Dylan Patterson, and Lillien Williams. Their coach was Angela Collins.

Another ECSD middle school team that qualified to compete in the semi-finals was the Cyber Noodles Warriors, a team from Bellview Middle School that includes Jerson Agabin, Queen Agacoili, Antony Trujillo and Nadia Mongold. Their coach is Theresa Simmons.

More information 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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The Air Force Association is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association. Our mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage.

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***Photos attached: salty eagles.jpg: Members of the Ferry Pass Middle School CyberPatriot team, the Salty Eagles, are (left to right) Paikea McQuirter, Nguyen Tang and Anakin Orleans.***

***BBD259EC.... Bellview Warriors at Work. Members, pictured from left to right, are Lillien Williams, Ty'navion Mitchell, and Dillan Patterson.***

***ITEN2.jpg: Bellview Middle School's team, the Cyber Noodles were Antony Trujillo, Queen Agcaoli, Nadia Mongold and Jerson Agabin.***

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Go to the Escambia Schools Public Relations page on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/ecsdfi.public](http://www.facebook.com/ecsdfi.public) to see pictures of recent events.

ECSD PRC Jan. 28 2020