

## **AEC/ VCAE March Newline Input**

AFA's Aerospace Education Programs are a critical and exciting part of our Associations Mission. Two of these programs are hitting their peaks this month and next.

--CyberPatriot Finalist teams have been announced: 28 National Finalist teams will compete for the title of National Champions in the **CyberPatriot VIII** National Cyber Defense Competition in Baltimore, Md., April 10-14, 2016. Teams will travel all-expenses-paid to compete for the title of National Champion, scholarships, and other recognition. The twelve Open Division, thirteen All Service Division and three Middle School Division National Finalist teams advanced through extremely competitive online qualifying rounds to earn the distinction of being National Finalists. They represent schools and other organizations from California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, Texas, and Manitoba (Canada). <http://www.uscyberpatriot.org/home>

--The Newest of AFA's STEM Programs, StellarXplorers, also announced their Finalists; 10 National Finalist teams will compete for the title of National Champions, in Colorado Springs, 12-15 April 2016 in the **StellarXplorers II** National High School Space Competition and bragging rights in this, the Pilot National Deployment of AFA's newest STEM program. They represent schools and other organizations from California, Colorado, Utah, Alabama, and Kaiserslautern (Germany). <http://www.stellarxplorers.org/> This is the second year for StellarXplorers after a very successful Proof of Concept in April 2015. The AFA Board of Directors during the Orlando Symposium meeting approved StellarXplorers as an on-going program with phased and deliberate decision points throughout this year.

This is also the time of year when Chapters and States will be selecting their Teachers of the Year and submitting their best for AFA's National Teacher of the Year. National Teacher of the Year submissions are due NLT 1 May. Details are at:

<http://www.afa.org/afafielddleaders/aeprograms/teacheroftheyear>

Finally, our Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings partners will be having their National Conclave (NATCON), called COYBOYCON 2016, over Easter Weekend in Dallas. Senior AF and Business Leaders are attending to include General Rand, AFGSC and Mrs Gywnne Shotwell, President and Chief Operating Officer of SpaceX, along with the AFA CoB, AFA President, and the Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education.