

## **A New Partner AND an Invitation to Become “Cyber Defenders!”**

In April 2009 the press release hit the wire announcing that the AFA – Air Force Association - was named a national affiliate of the Battelle-managed Ohio Stem Learning Network initiative (OSLN). In July 2009, a kick off meeting was held at Battelle. In August, AFA invited Battelle/OSLN -supported Metro Early College High School to participate in their Cyber Patriot High School Competition. Clearly this new relationship is wasting no time in getting off the ground!

Battelle’s own Pete Hennessey, VP of Business Development for our National Security Global Business unit, was instrumental in making this new partnership a reality. (“Pete” is also known as Brigadier General Peter J. Hennessey in the Air Force community!) Pete now sits on the AFA Executive Committee. I had the opportunity to speak to Pete recently and he said that prior to this year, AFA and Battelle Education had not collaborated. Both entities state STEM education as a core mission, and now, with the strides OSLN has made opening new STEM schools in Ohio, this is a very opportune time for the two to work together. The AFA has an Aerospace Education Council that works with schools and teachers nationally in support of mathematics and science education.

The AFA also sponsors an event called CyberPatriot. CyberPatriot is a cyber defense competition that tests the ability of the students to defend a simulated corporate network from external hostile attacks. Under the original program, only schools with AFJROTC (Air Force Jr. Officer Training Candidate) programs or CAP (Civil Air Patrol) could participate. This year our own Metro was invited to participate in AFA’s beta test of CyberPatriot II. The goal of CyberPatriot II is to open the competition to students in high schools across the



**The Black Team hard at work!**

country - to build a national competition that will excite high school students, instill cyber security awareness, and create career interest. After the announcement was made at Metro, 16 students showed up at the informational meeting. The students agreed to meet after school once a week in preparation for an all-day practice competition that took place on September 26.

I asked Pete if a student had to be a real computer genius to participate. He said, “That’s the great thing – the target is not the kids that are already interested in computers, although they are welcome participants, the target is the kids who aren’t.” The program provides

materials for competitors to review in the weeks leading up to the competition. Again, Pete Hennessey, “It is a discovery process and is designed to take away ‘cyber fears’ and other phobias associated with cyberspace.” One of the desired outcomes is to turn kids on to careers in Computer Science.

On September 26, Metro fielded three teams to participate in the CyberPatriot II beta test...and one of them won the competition.....with a perfect score!! They identified and corrected all the vulnerabilities posed and they did it in record time. Way to go Metro!

It was a real thrill and honor that Metro was asked to participate in the beta phase of this project which is so important to our new partner, AFA. We at Battelle and within OSLN are proud of the Metro students for their fearless confrontation of the unknown and are certain this is just the first of many Battelle/AFA collaborations!



**The Yellow Team Wins!**