



Media Contact:  
Michelle Esposito Young  
[myoung@edfoundationsrq.org](mailto:myoung@edfoundationsrq.org)  
941.376.8933 (mobile)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Local Students Take on Cybersecurity in Summer Camp**

SARASOTA, FL (July 24, 2017) - The Education Foundation of Sarasota County was one of the distinguished organizations across the United States selected to participate in the 2017 season of the Air Force Association's (AFA) CyberCamp Program. During the week of July 17-21, 2017, 45 Sarasota County middle and high school students participated in the inaugural CyberCamp, hosted in partnership with Riverview High School and the Sylint Group. The international cybersecurity firm donated over 20 hours to teach the sold-out camp and connect the AFA curriculum to the real-world field applications. Riverview High JROTC cadets and the Sarasota-Manatee AFA chapter also provided volunteer assistance.

"Partnering with the Sylint Group allowed students to work side by side with industry professionals in this rapidly expanding field," said Jennifer Vigne, Education Foundation President. "It is incredibly important to expose students to a wide variety of career options and the AFA CyberCamp is the perfect opportunity."

The camp included hands-on opportunities for the students to learn cyber safety, cyber ethics, and critical network security skills. Each AFA CyberCamp culminates in an exciting team-based competition that puts the campers in the role of IT administrators tasked with finding and addressing cybersecurity vulnerabilities in simulated network environments. The local AFA CyberCamp competition closely mimicked AFA's annual [CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition](#), which will enter its tenth season in October.

"Sylint was proud to be able to provide these aspiring young cybersecurity students the opportunity to learn from some of the most knowledgeable and highly skilled instructors in the country" said Brigadier General Charly Shugg, USAF, Retired, a senior partner at Sylint and the local AFA Chapter Secretary. "Our nation's public and private sectors are in great need of people with cybersecurity skills and we hope this AFA CyberCamp is the beginning of a very rewarding career path for some of these students,"

###

### **About the Education Foundation of Sarasota County**

***The Education Foundation of Sarasota County*** is an independent partner working to advance philanthropic support for Sarasota County Schools. Its mission is to enhance the potential of students, promote excellence in teaching and inspire innovation in education. Guided by the belief that education changes lives, the Education Foundation strives to match each donor's passion with high-impact projects created to ensure students graduate with purpose and are prepared for a post-secondary pathway. The

Education Foundation of Sarasota County and its philanthropic investors are champions for students, teachers, and schools. For more information, visit [EdFoundationSRQ.org](http://EdFoundationSRQ.org).

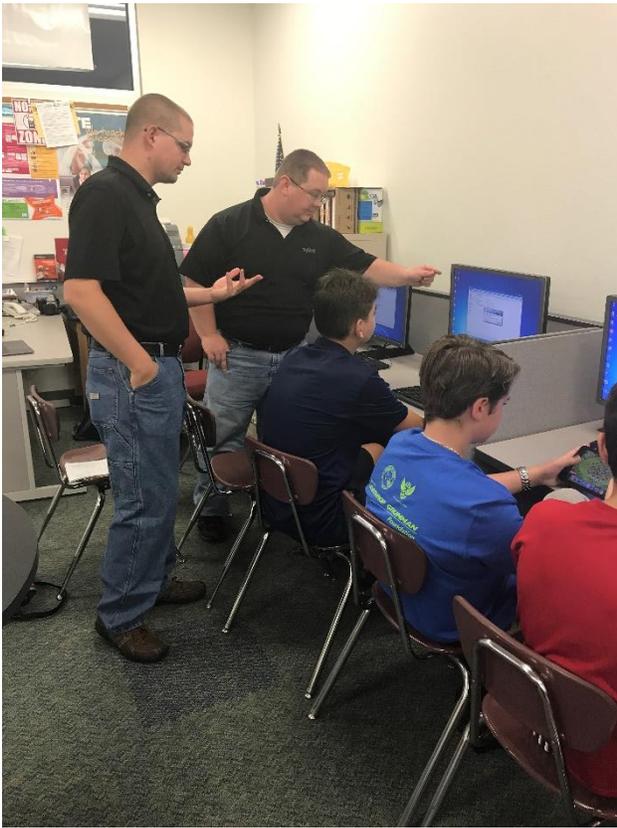
### **About Sylint Group**

Sylint Group, Inc. provides leading edge expert services in Cyber Security, Digital Data Forensics and eDiscovery. Clients include numerous global and domestic companies in the financial, manufacturing, retail, power, and healthcare industries as well as various government entities. Sylint is one of only 15 organizations accredited by the National Security Agency (NSA) and National Security Cyber Assistance Program (NSCAP) for Cyber Incident Response Assistance (CIRA). Sylint is also certified as a Payment Card Industry (PCI) Security Standards Council as a Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) and PCI Forensic Investigator (PFI), one of only 14 companies qualified to perform such forensic investigations on behalf of VISA, MasterCard, AMEX and other Card Brands in the United States. Headquartered in Sarasota, Florida Sylint has been in operation since 1999.

### **About the Air Force Association CyberPatriot Program**

The CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program was created by the Air Force Association in 2009 to attract students to cybersecurity and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future. In addition to the annual National Youth Cyber Defense Competition and the new AFA CyberCamp program, CyberPatriot has launched an Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative designed to introduce young students to online safety. To learn more about CyberPatriot, visit [www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org).

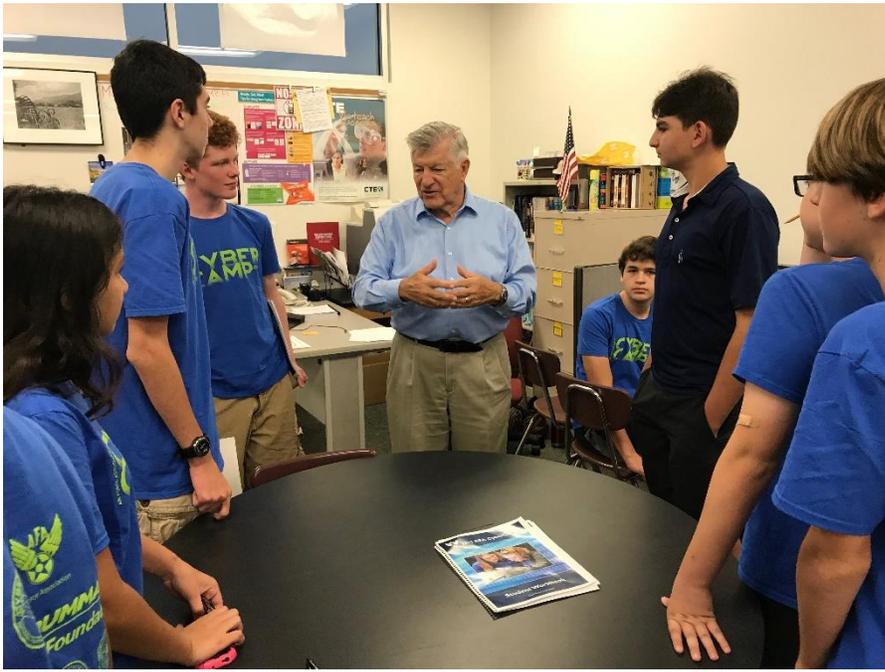
PHOTOS:



Cyber security professionals from Sylint Group work hands-on with students.



Students work together to defend their computers against simulated cyber-attacks.



Dr. Michael Yarymovych shares advice and inspiration with CyberCamp attendees.