

October 2018



Office of the Director of National Intelligence

I A R P A

BE THE FUTURE

Mercury Challenge Q&A Session 2



TODAY'S AGENDA

- + *Updated Challenge Timeline*
- + Judging and Scoring
- + Prizes
- + Prize Requirements

MERCURY PROGRAM CHANGE

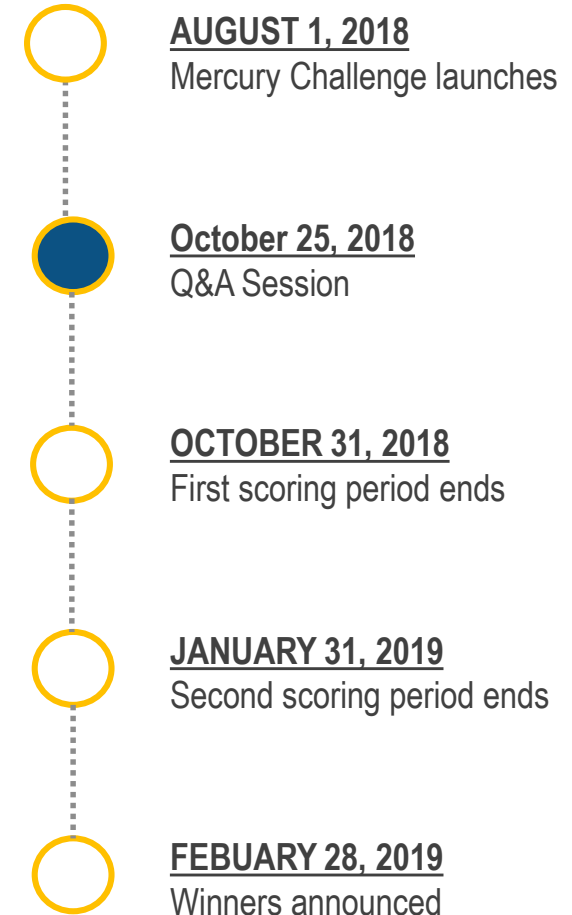
We are changing the Mercury program timeline, **by combining scoring period 2 and 3**. We will now have a three-month scoring period (scoring period 2) and conclude the challenge on January 31st.

- + The competition will be divided into **two** Periods
- + Each Period will now be scored independently
- + Final scores for the Period will be calculated 20 days after the Period closes, and the winners will then be announced



CHALLENGE UPDATES

- + Based on the feedback from Solvers and the results we have seen thus far, we have strategically altered the length of the challenge
- + We have reorganized the scoring categories to allow Solvers to focus their effort on several key areas
- + We have updated the incentive structure to bring the remaining Prize Pool into the second period to make this a more rewarding challenge experience for our Solvers
- + **Period 1:** August 7, 2018 – October 31, 2018
- + **Period 2:** November 1, 2018 – January 31, 2019
- + The leaderboard scores on 12/21/2018 will be used for the Milestone Incentives



SCORING UPDATES

- + Scoring will be based on the following categories

Syria	Military Activity (MA)
Iraq	Military Activity (MA)
Egypt (daily counts only)	Civil Unrest (CU)
Jordan (weekly counts only)	Civil Unrest (CU)
Infectious Disease In Saudi Arabia	Disease (CU)

- + The following items will no longer need to be submitted, and will no longer count towards the final calculations

Saudi Arabia	Military Activity (MA)
Egypt	Military Activity (MA)
Lebanon	Military Activity (MA)
Qatar	Military Activity (MA)
Bahrain	Military Activity (MA)





- + Challenge Leaderboards will be updated to reflect the new categories that are being scored
- + Provisional Scoring will also happen on a bi-weekly basis

PRIZES

Participants with the best winning solutions will be eligible to win from a prize pool of \$100,000, which will be distributed across a series of very difficult country/event combinations. For example: “Predict Non-violent Civil Unrest events in Egypt, but far away from Cairo, during the month of August 2018.

Challenge participants can win prizes for having top scores across thirteen separate categories. The top scorers after each scoring period will earn the Top Prize for that given period. Regular and early participation will provide more chances of winning!

Begins Nov. 1
→

PERIOD 1 PRIZE PURSE	\$21,000	
PERIOD 2 PRIZE PURSE	\$79,000	
BEST UNDERGRAD	\$5,000	
TOTAL WINNERS	30	

SCORING PERIOD 1 DISTRIBUTION

Please note that each competitor is limited to winning one (1) prize per scoring period. In the event that a competitor wins more than one category, they will receive the award with the highest prize amount.

COUNTRY	CLASS TYPE	# OF WINNERS	PRIZE AMOUNT
1 st Place (All Countries)	Best Overall	1	\$7,000
2 nd Place (All Countries)	Best Overall	1	\$5,000
3 rd Place (All Countries)	Best Overall	1	\$3,000
Egypt	Military Activity (MA)	1	\$2,000
Saudi Arabia	Military Activity (MA)	1	\$2,000
Lebanon	Military Activity (MA)	1	\$2,000

Total Prize: \$21,000

SCORING PERIOD 2 DISTRIBUTION

Please note that each competitor is limited to winning one (1) prize per scoring period. In the event that a competitor wins more than one category, they will receive the award with the highest prize amount.

COUNTRY	CLASS TYPE	# OF WINNERS	PRIZE AMOUNT
1 st Place (All Countries)	Best Overall	1	\$21,000
2 nd Place (All Countries)	Best Overall	1	\$15,000
3 rd Place (All Countries)	Best Overall	1	\$8,000
Best Undergrad Prize (All Countries)	Best Overall	1	\$5,000
Syria	Military Activity (MA)	1	\$5,000
Iraq	Military Activity (MA)	1	\$5,000
Egypt	Civil Unrest (CU)	1	\$5,000
Jordan	Civil Unrest (CU)	1	\$5,000
Infectious Disease In Saudi Arabia	Disease (CU)	1	\$5,000
Midway Split – Top 10 Overall	Milestone Prize	10 @ \$500 each	\$5,000

Total Prize: \$79,000

RESOURCES

- + **Mercury Challenge Microsite** - Place for all challenge-related information and updates
<http://iarpa.gov/challenges/mercury.html>
- + **Topcoder Registration Page** - Register for the challenge
<https://www.topcoder.com/mercury-challenge>
- + **Topcoder Mercury Challenge Forum** - Connect with other challengers and ask questions
<http://apps.topcoder.com/forums/?module=ThreadList&forumID=630604&mc=0>
- + **Mercury Challenge GitHub Repository** - Get technical updates and code here
<https://github.com/planetmercury/mercury-challenge>