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Byng Junior High School Students Win \$20,000 in U.S. Army's eCYBERMISSION Program

STEM competition awards over 300 students for their innovative and creative approaches to using the scientific method to solve problems in their local communities

ADA, OK, June 17, 2010 – In an effort to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, the U.S. Army announced today that it has awarded four students from Byng Junior High School the Benefit to the Community regional award in this year's national eCYBERMISSION competition. With this award, each student on the team Phone Zone will receive a \$2,000 U.S. EE Savings Bond and an official certificate of recognition from the U.S. Army.

In addition, four students were awarded the second-place regional award in this year's national eCYBERMISSION competition. With this award, each student on the team Swinger Patrol will receive a \$3,000 U.S. EE Savings Bond and an official certificate of recognition from the U.S. Army.

Managed by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., the eCYBERMISSION program awarded more than \$800,000 to students from across the nation and in Department of Defense Education Activity schools overseas.

eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based, STEM competition for students in grades six through nine. The eCYBERMISSION competition encourages and rewards students from a diverse range of proficiency levels, interests and backgrounds. Since the program's inception in 2002, eCYBERMISSION has awarded more than \$7.6 million in U.S. EE Savings Bonds in support of the STEM leaders of tomorrow. The program allows students to compete for regional and national awards while working through the scientific method to solve problems in their communities.

The program selects teams with the two highest scores in each grade and region as the first-place and second-place regional winning teams. eCYBERMISSION also awards a team in each grade and region in four criteria award categories. These categories include: Application of Science, Math & Technology; Innovation, Originality & Creativity; Benefit to the Community; and Team Collaboration & Communication. Each student on the 96 regional winning teams will be

awarded a certificate of recognition from the U.S. Army and between \$2,000 and \$3,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds.

The team, Phone Zone, comprised of students Lindsey Fox, Devyn Harrison, Raygn Geiger and Sarah Sanford, and led by Team Advisor Deborah Cornelison, was recognized by the judges for informing the community of the potential health risks associated with using cell phones. Their experiments revealed that a majority of the students in their school were unaware of the potential health risks and that signal strength, location and placement of the phone all contributed to carrying electromagnetic field (EMF) levels. After compiling their results, the team created a video, PowerPoint presentation, brochure, PhotoStory, poster and web site to present to the students at their school.

The team, Swinger Patrol, comprised of students Anita Melendez, Crystal Tovar, Jessica Scott and Shadley Grove, and led by Team Advisor Linda Lancaster, was recognized by judges for its investigation into hazardous playground behaviors and equipment. Based on its research, experiments and observations, the team learned that elementary students have a high risk of being injured while playing on the playground and educating students will assist with decreasing risk of injury and help keep children safe.

“We are extremely proud of each of the regional winning teams for their creative and innovative use of outstanding research, experimentation and analysis during this year's eCYBERMISSION competition,” said Maj. Gen. Nick G. Justice, commanding general, RDECOM. “These students were selected from thousands of their peers, not only for their potential as future leaders in STEM, but for their work to improve and make a positive impact on the communities in which they live.”

Since inception, students from the Byng Junior High School have won \$146,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds through the eCYBERMISSION competition.

More than 71,000 students from across the country and in U.S. territories and DoDEA schools worldwide have participated in the competition since 2002. This year, 13,218 students registered for eCYBERMISSION and formed more than 3,300 teams.

eCYBERMISSION will host the 2010 National Judging and Educational Event (NJ&EE) in Baltimore, Md., from June 20 – 26, 2010. The top 16 first-place regional winning teams will compete for an additional \$5,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds and the national title in each grade.

For more information on the eCYBERMISSION program, the 2010 NJ&EE or for a complete listing of the 2010 eCYBERMISSION winning teams, contact Rachael Lighty at 1-866-GO-CYBER (462-9237) or visit www.ecybermission.com.

About the U.S. Army RDECOM

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) is the Army's primary source for integrated research, development and engineering capabilities that empower, unburden and protect the Warfighter to enable the dominance of the Army. RDECOM provides the full spectrum of basic research, development, engineering and analysis of Warfighter systems, from concept to capability. RDECOM is headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., with laboratories and research and development centers throughout the country, and representatives throughout the world. For more information on RDECOM visit www.army.mil/rdecom.

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