

Students from Seminole Ridge High School Named Ninth Grade National First-Place Team and Win \$32,000 in the U.S. Army's eCYBERMISSION Program

Friday, July 23, 2010

Baltimore, MD., Monday, July 26, 2010 – The U.S. Army, in an effort to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, announced today that it has named four students from Seminole Ridge High School as the ninth grade, national first-place winning team of the eCYBERMISSION competition. The team, comprised of students Melanie Bean, Megan Crumb, Berenice Cortez and Rosemary Murray, and led by Team Advisor Karensa Wright, was awarded a total of \$32,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds this year.

Managed by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., the eCYBERMISSION program awarded more than \$1 million this year 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 \$8.6 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 team from Seminole Ridge High School, chocolate addiction, investigated how makeup can cause damage to the skin when it has been exposed to certain independent variables, such as heat or water. The students determined that more expensive makeup grew fewer bacteria; however, all makeup grew bacteria if it was not stored under sanitary conditions. The students expressed an interest in conducting further studies to determine what types of bacteria were growing on the makeup in hopes of identifying a makeup in the future that will not grow any bacteria.

“We are extremely proud of the students from Seminole Ridge High School 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. “Specifically, the National Judges were pleased to see the team's investigation into a unique and original topic. The students had a clear grasp of the scientific method and the experiments they conducted were strongly rooted in science.”

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

For more information on the eCYBERMISSION competition or for a complete listing of the 2009-2010 eCYBERMISSION winning teams, contact Rachael Lighty at 1-866-GO-CYBER (462-9237) or visit www.ecybermission.com.

About the U.S. Army RDECOM

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.

About eCYBERMISSION

eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) competition for students in grades six through nine. Sponsored by the U.S. Army and managed by RDECOM, eCYBERMISSION is designed to share the importance of STEM education with the leaders of tomorrow and encourage them to understand the real-life applications of these subjects. Students compete for state and national awards by working in teams to identify a problem in their community and using scientific inquiry to propose a solution. eCYBERMISSION is an Army Educational Outreach Program (www.usaeop.com).

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For more information, please visit www.ecybermission.com or contact eCYBERMISSION Mission Control at 1-866-GO-CYBER (462-9237) or via e-mail at missioncontrol@ecybermission.com.

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