

Students from The Mirman School Named Sixth Grade National First Place Team and Win \$24,000 in the U.S. Army's eCYBERMISSION Program

Monday, July 26, 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 three students from Seminole Ridge High School as the ninth grade, national first-place winning team of the eCYBERMISSION competition. The team, comprised of students Jonathan Berman, Benjamin Kotzubei and Austin Veseliza, and led by Team Advisor Deborah Beckmann-Kotzubei, was awarded a total of \$24,000 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 (DoDEA) 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 Mirman School team, Hardheads, conducted experiments on multiple materials for possible use in sports helmets, with the hope of finding a material that decreases the prevalence of concussions and other head injuries. The team tested foam, neoprene rubber and gel rubber to identify a material that could yield a safer, form-fitting helmet that is more effective than the foam-insulated helmets currently in use. The students determined that gel rubber was far more shock absorbent than foam and contacted multiple helmet manufacturers requesting that they explore the viable alternative.

“We are extremely proud of the students from The Mirman 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 students stood out to the National Judges for their polished presentation, their strong team support and knowledge of all team members' portions of the presentation. In addition, the students were able to answer the judges' tough questions

surrounding their project. The students showed the judges they had a firm grasp of the scientific method and were creative in their approach to create a test apparatus. The students excelled in their use of advanced technology and their analysis of their experiments was solid.”

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).

About 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.

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.

For more of the latest news and updates, follow eCYBERMISSION on our social media sites:

