

North Carolina Student Team Wins National First-Place Award and \$24,000 in eCYBERMISSION Competition (WASHINGTON, D.C.)

Thursday, June 25, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Army's eCYBERMISSION competition awarded three students from Charlotte Latin School in Charlotte, N.C. the national first-place award for sixth grade on Thursday, July 2. Winners were announced at the eCYBERMISSION awards banquet at the National Judging and Educational Event in Washington, D.C.

eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based, science, math and technology competition that allows students in grades six through nine to compete for regional and national awards, by using the scientific method to solve problems in their communities.

Each member of a national first-place winning team receives \$5,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds, in addition to the \$3,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds that each team member won for selection as a regional winner.

The "Dragonface" team was selected as a national winner after competing against three other sixth grade national finalist teams at the eCYBERMISSION National Judging and Educational Event. The team is led by Team Advisor Sharon Oats and is comprised of Harrison Bell, Clyde Nelson and Andrew Zoutewelle.

The team was recognized by judges for its efforts to make children's Halloween costumes less flammable. The team read several articles about children being badly injured by fires caused by candles in jack-o-lanterns, and after researching possible solutions, the team attempted to create a Borax solution that would protect costumes. The students soaked costumes in their solution, and with the help of a local fire department, recorded the time it took for each of the materials to burn. Although they found that the Borax solution did not protect polyester costumes, they did find that it caused cotton to burn less quickly. The students were interviewed by a local television station, and hope to continue to spread awareness about the dangers of flammable Halloween costumes.

"We are excited to congratulate the 'Dragonface' team," said Dr. Michael Doyle, U.S. Army eCYBERMISSION Program Manager. "It is vital to our nation's future that we place emphasis on the importance of Science, Technology, Math and Engineering (STEM) education for our youth."

This year, more than 12,000 students registered for eCYBERMISSION and 2,005 teams submitted their research for scoring. Now in its seventh year, eCYBERMISSION has awarded more than \$6.7 million in U.S. EE Savings Bonds in support of the science, math and technology leaders of tomorrow. Since its inception, more than 58,000 students from across the country, in U.S. territories and Department of Defense Education Activity schools worldwide have participated in the competition.

Registration for the 2009-2010 eCYBERMISSION competition opens on Aug. 1, 2009. For a complete listing of the 2008-2009 regional and national winners or for more information, please visit www.ecybermission.com.

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

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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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