eCYBERMISSION opens online conversation about STEM in the classroom

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April 11, 2012 – Aberdeen, Md. – The U.S. Army eCYBERMISSION Program is opening a nationwide online conversation today, April 11, 2012, about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) concepts in the classroom. The eCYBERMISSION IDEA eNGINE, a web-based forum also known as crowdsourcing, encourages educators around the country to share ideas and tools on bringing STEM and the eCYBERMISSION Program into the classroom. IDEA eNGINE allows viewers of the website to vote on their favorite concepts and tools from their peers. Starting today, educators can log into https://ecybermission.ideascale.com/ to share ideas and vote on best STEM practices.

IDEA eNGINE has eight different established campaigns, or topics. Educators can share ideas on the following subject areas: Curriculum Integration Challenges; Needs and Requirements for Teacher Resources; Current Curriculum Integration Practices; Developing a Curriculum Integration Strategy; Innovative STEM Project Activities and Lesson Plans; Aligning Curriculum and eCYBERMISSION Mission Challenges; Time Management and Student Progress; Facilitating Curriculum Integration through Partnerships.

For 10 years, eCYBERMISSION has provided a nationwide online STEM competition for students in grades six through nine and has awarded almost $10 million in savings bonds. Students compete for State, Regional and National Awards by working in teams to identify a problem in their community and using the scientific method/inquiry or the engineering design process to propose a solution. They can conduct the project in the classroom, on their own time or as part of extra-curricular activities, and they can win up to $8,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds. Their achievements have been recognized nationally by President Obama at the White House Science Fair for the past two years.

eCYBERMISSION can be tailored to middle and high school science classroom curriculums. It fosters group work as well as self-discovery learning, and it gives students the confidence and passion to challenge themselves further in the STEM fields.

eCYBERMISSION prepares students for their future because it forces them to apply STEM to real world problems. One of the challenges teachers face is incorporating STEM competitions into their classroom curriculum. eCYBERMISSION has assembled a Teacher Roundtable to

develop support materials and best practices based on feedback from IDEA eNGINE. The panel consists of current and past Team Advisors from eCYBERMISSION. They will develop a classroom resource guide that will be available this summer in time for teachers to incorporate it into their classrooms by the fall.

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.

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