Competition Corner

Improving Lives Through Technology

(NAPSA)—Recognizing the importance of science, math and technology in the nation's future, the U.S. Army is asking students to "Accept the Challenge" of eCYBERMISSION. In the first two years of the competition, students across the country have identified problems and proposed solutions in their communities and are being rewarded by the U.S. Army for their ingenuity and creativity.

Some young people were concerned about the proliferation of animal abuse in their community so they created a video and informational materials to educate the community; others demonstrated how an older adult's blood pressure could be reduced by pet ownership; and a team of students in Texas came up with a way to save lives by creating a flash flood warning system. From preventing potholes, to creating safer bike ramps, to building houses to attract mosquito-eating bats in order to reduce the threat of West Nile virus, young people across the country are rising to the occasion to help their communities through their work on eCYBERMISSION.

eCYBERMISSION is a free,

Web-based science, math and technology competition open to all students attending a U.S. or Department of Defense Education Activity School in the sixth through ninth grades. In the competition, student teams identify a problem that is related to health and safety, arts and entertainment, sports and recreation or the environment. Selecting a real-life Mission Challenge encourages self-discovery and illustrates how science, math and technology apply to everyday life.

Once teams have identified a problem, they formulate a hypothesis and conduct research and experiments to develop a solution. Teams must virtually submit their Mission Folder, the official presentation of their project with attached files, online through the eCYBERMISSION Web site. Each Mission Folder is independently reviewed by several judges. Random judging assignments ensure that each Mission Folder is judged objectively. Judges base their deci-

sion on the application of science, math and technology; innovation, originality and creativity; benefit to the community; and team collaboration and communication.

eCYBERMISSION provides numerous incentives and awards for participation. The competition presents awards and recognition to regional and national winners at various levels. All participants who submit a Mission Folder receive a T-shirt and a certificate of participation. Regional criteria winners receive a $2,000 savings bond. Regional first and second place winners receive a $3,000 savings bond. Regional first place winners also receive a trip to Washington, D.C. for national judging and educational activities. All national finalists receive a $3,500 savings bond and national first place winners receive a $5,000 savings bond.

Deadline approaching

Although the deadline for submissions is February 21, 2005, the deadline to register is December 13. For more information about eCYBERMISSION, contact mission control@ecybermission.com or log on to www.ecybermission.com.