



News Release

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The Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center brings innovative 'math summer camps' to Cecil County Public Schools

ELKTON, Md. – Looking to enrich science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in its local community, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) infused three week-long math summer camps, 23-27 July, with action and real-world relevance for students and teachers at Cecil County Public Schools.

The focus of these three initiatives was to engage 35 teachers and 13 students in hands-on STEM experiences to help reinforce math concepts in a meaningful way.

“With the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in Maryland in the school year of 2013-2014, it is becoming even more important to help students yield better results in math,” said Community and Educational Outreach Program Manager Mary Doak. “Sponsored by the National Defense Education Program, ECBC’s ongoing STEM educational outreach efforts aim to relay the importance and application of math skills in the context of emerging STEM career fields.”

Subject matter experts (SMEs) at ECBC— a critical national asset in the chemical biological defense community— are dedicated to sharing how they apply math and science in their every day jobs. In support of the Center’s ‘Adopt-a-SME’ initiative, four of its engineers partnered with Cecil County Public Schools teachers in two professional development workshops ‘DimensionM’ and ‘Math Sports.’

“We truly rely on our nation’s educators to succeed in shaping our future workforce,” said ECBC Chemical Engineer Steven Yurechko. “It is a very rewarding experience to train with such committed teachers that are willing to go the extra mile to make their math lessons more relevant for their students.”

The ‘DimensionM’ module is a digital math intervention tool that enables teachers to excite their students about solving math problems through video gaming—an innovative, appealing approach in today’s classroom. Educators who participated in the ‘Math Sports’ module applied math and physics to real-world projects such as the development of balls used in different sport disciplines.

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In addition to learning new techniques that help make math more fun and real for students, they established relationships with participating U.S. Army engineers who will support their classroom lessons next school year with STEM-related activities, demonstrations and lectures.

The DimensionM math summer boot camp offered local middle school students an innovative way to practice their algebraic math problem-solving skills in preparation for the following school year. Every morning of the week, they used the 3D video game DimensionM and expressed their enthusiasm about this method of reinforcing basic math concepts.

“Before this math boot camp, I didn’t like math at all,” said Sunshyne Acosta, who was a fifth-grade student at Thomson Estates Elementary School and will be going into sixth-grade. “But when we started playing, I started doing the math without even realizing that I was doing the math.”

“I am really starting to like math,” she said, “and I am determined to improve my grades.”

For more information about ECBC, visit <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/>.

ECBC is the Army’s principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and field operations. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for the warfighter and for our national defense, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is a U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command laboratory located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. For more information about the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, please visit our website at <http://www.ecbc.army.mil> or call (410) 436-7118.

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