

## **USAEC and Edgewood Elementary School: Partners in Education**

**Anchor:** A special mix of science education, support to military families and a love of learning: All parts of a community relations program designed by the U.S. Army Environmental Center. With the story is environmental correspondent Jesse McGill.

**Jesse McGill:** The partnership between the U.S. Army Environmental Center and Edgewood Elementary School is one example of how the Army supports the needs of its neighbors, especially the children.

(children singing)

Edgewood Elementary, located off the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Maryland, educates more than 480 students, half of which come from military families in the area. The U.S. Army Environmental Center has partnered with Edgewood Elementary over the past seven years to promote environmental awareness and encourage academic excellence in students.

**MG Larry Lust, ACSIM, addressing students:** You see, Principal Watson and I are not the future of our nation: You are. It's what you're going to bring to the future we hope we're going to be. And I just want to tell you that it's my privilege to be able to come here and talk to you today.

**McGill:** The partnership, which began in 1997, illustrates how the Army and local communities can work together to benefit children. Every year the program either adds new activities for the students or improves on existing ones. Kids learn that soldiers not only train for combat, but also train to become stewards of the environment, scientists and engineers.

**MAJ Jeffrey Winston, USAEC:** What's really exciting about being part of the school, not only as a parent, but also as a volunteer, is that we do great things with the partnership in education. We're able to help with the Earth Day celebration, Arbor Day, Military Appreciation Day, and a Reading Day program that we do.

**McGill:** Through the partnership, children learn that the Army is working to sustain the environment, which will in turn secure their future. Jesse McGill, U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen, Maryland.

**Anchor:** This year the Army Environmental Center received the Army's top award for community relations, recognizing the Center's outstanding work with the children, faculty and staff of Edgewood Elementary School.