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# Comets Strike Ohio Classroom!

## DTTP, NASA Help Students Tame the Wild Comet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLUMBUS, Ohio, 15 Apr 03 - Comet Wild 2 is currently racing toward the inner solar system at a speed of nearly 1,000 miles per second. Its nucleus is approximately one mile in radius, and it is expected to pass just outside the orbit of Mars - a mere 141 million miles from the sun - in early 2004. But long before then - on April 15, 2003, at 10:00 am EST, in fact - it made a tremendous impact on a group of students in Columbus, Ohio.

Thirty-six sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in Columbus City Schools' Young Astronauts Program were the latest among a growing number of youngsters who have studied space science - ranging from space farming to the effects of space on the human body - courtesy of an innovative collaboration between NASA and the National Guard Bureau.

The 60-minute event, led by David Maness of the Virginia Living Museum from the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., is part of a continuing partnership between the National Guard Bureau and NASA to deliver innovative math, science, and technology programs to students across the country, especially those in remote regions who might otherwise not be able to participate. Under the partnership, NASA provides the educational content, as well as the scientists, engineers, and astronauts to teach it, and the National Guard, through its Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP), provides the infrastructure to deliver the content nationwide.

During the session, Mr. Maness and Katrina L. Townes-Young, NASA-Live Project Manager, led the students on a lively discussion of comets, their makeup, and planned missions -- such as Stardust, which will rendezvous with Wild 2 in 2004. Mr. Maness even created a "comet" using laboratory materials.

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For more news about the partnership, or for information concerning the 15 April event please contact MAJ Stephan Picard, Chief, DTTP Policy & Liaison, at 703-575-4382.

## About DTTP

The National Guard Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP) is a state-of-the-art communications and learning-delivery system designed to support the Guard's traditional and expanding operations at home and abroad. Its congressionally mandated missions are to improve military readiness; enhance command, control, communications, and computers (C4); and energize America's communities by providing shared access to high-performance communications, research, and development tools. There are more than 300 specially designed multimedia classrooms throughout the country, linked by a terrestrial network and emerging satellite technologies. These classrooms support such varied activities as military language-sustainment training; first-responder instruction; terrorism-preparedness training; emergency operations support; communications support, and scientific-education programming aimed at school-age children. For more information, please visit the DTTP website at <http://www.dttp.ngb.army.mil/>.

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