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September 22, 2011
Release No. 2011-09-22-062

VING & Rotary Kick Off New School Year of Character Education

The Virgin Islands National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) along with Rotary Clubs of St. Croix will host the Coole School Program 2011 Kick off at the Juanita Gardine Elementary School on Monday, September 26 at 9 a.m. Past District Governor Rupert W. Ross Jr. and Rotarian Devorath Elcock are the guest speakers for the Coole School Kick-off.

The Safe & Drug Free Coole School Program began in 2000 when the CDTF began supporting the U.S. Attorney's Office with its after school Peer Helpers Homework Assistance Program at Juanita Gardine Elementary School on St. Croix. The CDTF now conducts the Coole School Program at 13 schools on St. Croix and 10 schools on St. Thomas.

The Coole School Program is designed to reinforce academics and character-building skills. It also has a research-based substance abuse prevention component. Coole School's vision and mission is to raise protective factors, lower risk factors and enhance refusal skills for students. These skills are taught by teachers, parents and Guardsmen through a character education program using games, puzzles and articles in a planner.

For more information contact Staff Sgt. Melinda Gibson, CDTF Drug Demand Reduction non-commissioned officer, at 340-712-7744 or email: melinda.b.gibson@ng.army.mil.

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