

News from the field of the premiere DoD Youth STEM education program.

## STARBASE Martinsburg Partners with Air National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program to Host STEM Night in the Community

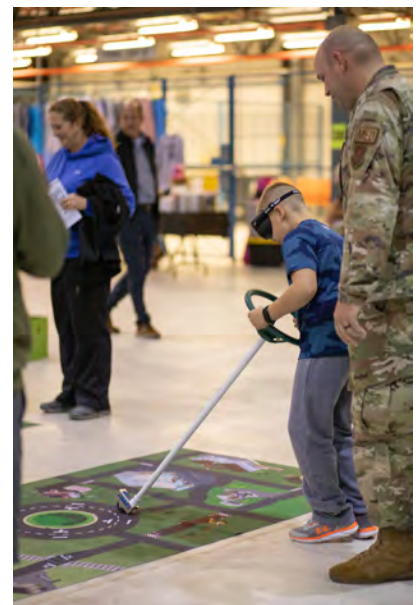
Remote-controlled robots rolled across the hangar floor as foam rockets launched towards the rafters above. Jupiter could be viewed through a telescope outside, while drones buzzed around the rear of the building. Drug dogs demonstrated their ability to sniff out illegal substances, and students wearing alcohol impairment goggles navigated a road map on a floor mat.

The hangar, formerly used by Sino Swearingen at the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport, was full of activity again for the Family STEM Night, Oct. 26, co-hosted by STARBASE Martinsburg and the Air National Guard's (ANG) Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP), in honor of Red Ribbon Week, a drug-use prevention campaign.

More than 30 vendors comprised of law enforcement, civilian, and military agencies with ties to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and drug and alcohol awareness were on hand offering activities and education on a wide range of topics.

The event had been a longtime goal for STARBASE Martinsburg program director, Sherra Triggs. She and her staff bring Berkeley and Jefferson County fifth graders to the 167th Airlift Wing to provide STEM education each year, but she had been looking for ways to engage a wider audience with STEM education and STEM career possibilities.

"Creating a big outreach event can be a huge undertaking. The more people you have invested and participating, the more success you are bound to have," said Triggs.



*(Continued on page 3.)*



"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."

-- Dorothy Parker

## Kansas TAG Honors VIPs

Kansas STARBASE Inc. recently hosted a reception to honor distinguished guests that have highly contributed to the Kansas STARBASE program. The event, held at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka, KS on October 20, 2022, focused on honoring outgoing Kansas STARBASE Inc. board members. Kansas STARBASE Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization that operates in coordination with Kansas STARBASE to support STEM academies at five locations across the state in Kansas City, Manhattan, Salina, Topeka, and Wichita. Kansas STARBASE Inc. operates through corporate grants and donations from private donors. These funds are used to provide additional supplies to Kansas STARBASE classrooms, support STEM outreach programs, and sponsor staff development, just to name a few. Kansas STARBASE is a premier program for the state's youth, and Kansas STARBASE Inc. strives to provide resources and opportunities to continue their legacy of excellence.

Melissa Peat, Kansas STARBASE Executive Director, welcomed Maj. Gen. David Weishaar, Kansas Adjutant General, and Brig. Gen. Michael Venerdi, Kansas National Guard Chief of Staff – Air, as well as the outgoing board members. Those members included former STARBASE Inc. president, Brig. Gen. (ret) Deborah Rose, former STARBASE Inc. treasurer, Col. Gary Wells (ret), and former STARBASE Inc. vice president, Dr. Emily Arnold. Also, being honored for their contribution to the Kansas STARBASE program were Maj. Enrique Aguiniga De La Torre, the outgoing Kansas STARBASE Federal Program Manager, and Karen Whitacre, former Kansas STARBASE Executive Director, now with the Spectrum Group.

Kansas Adjutant General David Weishaar expressed his appreciation to each of the honorees for their part in making DoD STARBASE Kansas such a successful program. Additionally, he challenged the new board members to keep the legacy going so that more Kansas students have the opportunity for STEM education.

Each honoree was presented with a personal token of appreciation for their time and service to the program. Over 50 attendees enjoyed a time of refreshment and reminiscing about the STARBASE journey in Kansas.



Pictured left to right: Maj. Enrique Aguiniga De La Torre, Dr. Emily Arnold, Col. Gary Wells (ret), Karen Whitacre, Brig. Gen. (ret) Deborah Rose

### 2023 Teacher Survey

The 2023 Teacher Survey is available now in STARBASE-U in the *SB Program Directors Course* under the Academy Management section. Please contact [email@dodstarbase.org](mailto:email@dodstarbase.org) with questions.

## A Call for Participation

Throughout the year, this newsletter will continue to spotlight the achievements, partnerships, and tips of the participants of the DoD STARBASE program. Please share your achievements, success stories, and helpful tips with us at [email@dodstarbase.org](mailto:email@dodstarbase.org).

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Which is why the event only came to fruition after Chief Master Sgt. Christina Rader, senior regional manager for the Air National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Program, asked Triggs for assistance reaching more youth for Red Ribbon Week. By joining forces, Triggs and Rader were able to leverage support from STARBASE, regional DDRP, the 167th Airlift Wing, and numerous community agencies.

"It seemed natural to partner with STARBASE during 2022 National Red Ribbon Week for a STEM night, promote drug and alcohol awareness, and have community helping agencies and resources readily available for families," said Rader. "This event was actually used to serve as a benchmark to show other wings what is possible with prevention, education, and outreach efforts when they team up with STARBASE and others in their communities."

Rader and Triggs both hope to make Family STEM Night an annual event during Red Ribbon Week. "After the success and community outreach of this event, I only see it getting bigger and better," said Triggs.



*Story by Senior Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle 167th Airlift Wing,  
West Virginia Air National Guard*



## Save the Date | 2023 STARBASE Workshop



This year's in-person workshop will be August 2nd-3rd. Plans are in the works, and further information about location will be provided as soon as it's available. Please protect these days and necessary travel days on your calendar!

# STARBASE Henderson Opens Its Doors



In December of 2022, the National Guard sponsored STARBASE program in Henderson, Nevada had its official Grand Opening! STARBASE Henderson has quickly become a STEM hub in the local community. The base has transformed into a hands-on, minds-on classroom that provides students with an unmatched learning opportunity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Fifth graders from Clark County School District are able to participate and engage in STEM subjects like never before! STARBASE Henderson director, Traci Davis, is already looking to grow the program to increase the number of students the Nevada National Guard program can accommodate. Major General Ondra L. Berry, the Adjutant General for the State of Nevada and a huge supporter of the DoD STARBASE program in his state, attended the Grand Opening. He stated "I always say this...if you can do STEM, you can do anything. It makes students be more critical in their thinking, more analytical and prone to problem-solving, enhances their decision-making skills...and they're excited about it!"

Check out the video of the grand opening [here!](#)





## STARBASE Great Falls & the C-130 Hercules

Every class that visits STARBASE Great Falls at the 120th Airlift Wing in Montana has the wonderful opportunity to view, tour, and learn about the C-130 Hercules airplanes. The C-130 Hercules can operate

from rough dirt strips, making it the prime transport for airdropping troops and equipment into hostile areas. In addition, basic and specialized versions of the aircraft perform airlift support, Antarctic ice resupply, aeromedical missions, weather reconnaissance, aerial spray missions, firefighting duties for the US Forest Service, and natural disaster relief missions.

STARBASE Great Falls students meet the men and women who work on the C-130s and are shown how the plane is customized for different cargo and missions. They are invited to sit in the cockpit to learn about piloting and navigation. For some of these students, this is their first experience with military life and being on a plane in any capacity. In the summer of 2022, STARBASE instructors were invited to fly on the aircraft they visit many times over the school year in appreciation for the relationship between the 120th Airlift Wing and STARBASE and in recognition of the connections and opportunities the STARBASE staff is providing the Great Falls community. STARBASE Great Falls is proud of their relationship with the Montana Air National Guard and proud to be a part of DoD STARBASE!



## STARBASE Directors Brown Bag Series

As you may already know, a Directors Launch Training was developed for new STARBASE directors in 2022. After conducting two sessions of this in-person training, it is clear from the feedback that this information would be beneficial for all directors! To reach the widest audience possible, please consider joining us at one or all of the virtual brown bag sessions below. Look for an email with registration information soon!



**Thursday, February 23rd @ 1pm ET**

Operating Tempo  
& School Relations

**Thursday, March 23rd @ 1pm ET**

Reporting and Data Collection  
Requirements

**Thursday, May 11th @ 1pm ET**

Resource Management Part 1:  
Property

**Thursday, May 25th @ 1pm ET**

Resource Management Part 2:  
Fiscal

# Lights, Camera, STARBASE!

STARBASE Hill becomes the backdrop for a U.S. Air Force Reserve national spot.



You never know who might come knocking on your door when on a fully operational Air Force Base. In late October, the crew with Air Force Recruiting Service (AFRS) contacted STARBASE Hill looking for a classroom environment to use for one of their national commercials. Here on Hill Air Force Base (HAFB), the 419th Fighter Wing houses its operations. One of their Reservists, MSgt Janet Lindsay, achieves her weekend requirement proudly as a member of the 419th Air Transportation Squadron. However, during the rest of the month, she battles in the education ranks as a principal for Bear Lake Middle School. Located in Montpelier, Idaho, MSgt Lindsay, travels over two hours for her weekend responsibility here at Hill. Although the drive can be described as beautifully picturesque, it could not be considered feasible to bring a crew of 25 with all of their camera gear to her location. So, STARBASE Hill stepped up to assist the efforts of AFRS and their spot production.

On November 4th, after Wood Cross Elementary departed from their exciting day at STARBASE Hill, the video crew entered and transformed Lab 1 into a commercial set. About five hours later, the crew exited with confidence they had all the shots necessary to produce a stunning 30 second spot exhibiting the life of a U.S. Air Force Reservist. Along with the location support, the STARBASE Hill Office Manager, Mrs. Alise Denning, also got some of her kids in the commercial as students.



MSgt Stephen China, the AFRS on-site lead, and members of GSD&M, the Air Force's marketing contractor, were truly grateful of the support given to their mission. They "coined" the members of STARBASE Hill for presenting a great location and assisting in the production of this valuable commercial spot for the Air Force Reserve. With the Air Force Reserve currently behind enlistment goals by up to 1500 recruits, commercials such as this hope to spark enough interest where young men and women will enter the doors of their local recruiter. STARBASE Hill gladly supports all branches of service and hopes this mission will boost the current shortfalls experienced by the Air Force Reserve component. According to AFRS, the spot should be ready sometime in early 2023.

# STARBASE Battle Creek partners with Battle Creek Air National Guard Base for Fall Family Day



A partnership started “brewing” this summer when STARBASE Battle Creek offered to help with a haunted house at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base (BCANG) in Battle Creek, Michigan. Once all the proverbial dust settled, STARBASE hosted the haunted house with funding and support from the base. STARBASE staff worked closely with BCANGB’s Lead Outreach Coordinator, Jean Wixson, to acquire necessary props and supplies. The staff used their lunchroom and other parts of the All-Ranks Club to guide students through a haunted path that included two candy stops. At one of the stops, students had to reach their hands into a candy bowl that activated a bent over scarecrow to pop up with a scream and a laugh.



Children of all ages, along with their parents, enjoyed ringing the “Enter If You Dare” doorbell, and then they were led along the path by a STARBASE staff member. Visitors were greeted by spooky sounds, fog, strobe lights, and candles. They witnessed a skeleton with glowing eyes having a mug of cider at a pub table. There were also spiders and webs galore as well as 3D bats flying over a full moon! Glowing Jack-O-Lanterns decorated each table in the lunchroom, and a haunted broom roaming about the club kept visitors on their toes! Children were also given the opportunity to use plasma balls at two locations on the path.

Truly a little cooperation and coordination goes a long way! Plans to make the STARBASE haunted house an attraction each Fall Family Day are in the works.

