



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

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Opens Doors for DoD STARBASE

On May 5, 2022, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) welcomed its first class of fifth grade students from Fort Dix Elementary School to its new STARBASE program.

“When students are in a traditional classroom environment, there are tests and standards they have to meet,” said Christina Fletcher, Director of STARBASE at JB MDL. “When they come to STARBASE, it’s more of a hands-on approach, making it more engaging for the students being able to see Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) outside of a piece of paper.”

With the STARBASE Program, fifth grade students are offered opportunities that normally wouldn’t be presented due to their current environment.

“This is really about focusing on at-risk youth.” said April Boatner-Allen, a school liaison specialist at JB MDL. “These students that are coming may not have had this opportunity to engage with STEM fields anywhere else which is why it’s important to have this program here at JB MDL.”

STARBASE JB MDL has created community partnerships with the local school districts of Pemberton, North Hanover, Manchester, and Lakehurst, along with an additional

partnership with the Camden Dream Center. Community partnerships like this help encourage local agencies and the military community to connect and empower the youth with STEM knowledge.

“The goal of this program is to ignite the passion for STEM,” said Boatner-Allen. “It’s also helpful for our students to understand that the sky is not the limit.”



“We should not teach children the sciences; but give them a taste for them.”

-- Jean-Jacques Rousseau



Director's Questionnaire

A huge THANK YOU to all the sites that have already worked toward submitting portions of the FY22 Director's Questionnaire!

Information about the FY22 Curriculum Schedule submission will be sent out on or about September 1st, and your schedule will be due back September 23rd.

Please make note of these dates!

STARBASE Fort Harrison Visits the Montana National Guard Civil Support Team

Kessler Elementary School students who attended STARBASE Fort Harrison (SBFH), along with their teacher - Ali Suchy, were able to visit the Montana National Guard Civil Support Team (CST) unit. The CST's mission is to support civil authorities at a domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) incident site by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current or projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for additional follow-on state and federal military forces. Units can also provide immediate response for intentional and unintentional CBRNE or hazardous material (HAZMAT) releases and natural or manmade disasters that result in, or could result in, catastrophic loss of life or property.

The CST unit includes a command vehicle, operations trailer, a communications vehicle called the Unified Command Suite (which provides a broad spectrum of secure communications capabilities), an analytical laboratory system vehicle (containing a full suite of analysis equipment to support the complete characterization of an unknown hazard), and several general purpose vehicles. The CST units are typically comprised of 22 full-time, Title 32 Active/Guard/ Reserve (AGR), Army (ARNG) and Air National Guard (ANG) personnel.

The CST, much like the National Guard as a whole, is a great example of cooperative collaboration between the U.S. and State government agencies in support of the citizens of our country. CST units across the country are often prepositioned to support large public events requiring extra security such as the Super Bowl, concerts, visits by foreign dignitaries or political speeches, to name a few.

The Kessler students received guided tours of each piece of equipment from members of the CST staff including the Unified Command Suite, Analytical Laboratory System, operations trailer, and ambulance. The CST staff graciously answered all the curious questions the students had while explaining the various components that keep the soldiers, airmen, and public safe. The students particularly enjoyed seeing the CST robot that is used in a myriad of ways on various types of missions. STARBASE Fort Harrison is grateful that the CST team took time out of their day to allow some of our students to visit and experience the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) to our nation's military, readiness, responsiveness, and security.



Unexpected Visitors at STARBASE Wichita

Kansas STARBASE Wichita had an unexpected visit one late afternoon in May from Mr. J. Mario Miranda, Navy International Programs Office, and Lt. Jill Brown, Naval Public Affairs. The visit was coordinated through the 22nd ARW's Public Affairs office at McConnell AFB with STARBASE being selected as one of their stops due to the positive impact on the surrounding community.

Prior to the visit, Mr. Miranda and Lt. Brown indicated that they were not familiar with the DoD STARBASE program, but were highly impressed with what they saw. A few of the things that stood out to them were the integration of the best technology available into the curriculum, the ratio of one device per student, the number of Title I students that come through the program, and the number of girls that are getting more involved in STEM.

The Wichita site director, Tony McDonald, was also complimented on how organized the facility was and that the four classrooms were already set up and fully prepared for the next day's activities and lessons. Visits of this nature continue to spread the word of the DoD STARBASE program and the level of STEM excellence it provides to local youth.



2022 Virtual Workshop Recordings

Recordings from the 2022 Virtual Workshop have been published on STARBASE-U.

Sessions pertinent to Program Directors can be found in the *SB Program Directors* course.

Recordings related to the "Onshape Update from PTC" and the "Inquiry Based Learning and Curriculum Updates" sessions are available for all staff in the *STARBASE News* course.

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.



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 with questions.

Air Force Research Laboratory Partners With New Mexico Army National Guard In STEM Aviation Event

The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) New Mexico STEM Academy located on Kirtland AFB recently gave incoming fifth and sixth graders an opportunity to expand their career knowledge by participating in a summer program called DoD STARBASE STEM Camp.

“STARBASE New Mexico is a premier educational program under the sponsorship of the DoD and managed by the AFRL New Mexico STEM Academy,” said Estike Gutierrez, who leads the AFRL program. “Our mission is to increase excitement and knowledge in STEM for New Mexico’s youth, especially in populations underrepresented in the STEM workforce. We are passionate about providing students with stimulating and challenging ‘hands-on, mind-on’ STEM experiences and activities.”

During the STEM camps that encompassed two weeks in June, students had opportunities to interact with AFRL scientists and engineers, and to explore careers and observe STEM applications in the real world.

This summer’s program included a partnership with the New Mexico Army National Guard (NMARNG), in which 25 students from the surrounding community and 25 students from Kirtland AFB families visited the Guard to expand their knowledge, and perhaps even open their minds to a STEM career within the military.

“The AFRL New Mexico STEM Academy calls for volunteers from across Kirtland for flight enthusiasts to speak with our students participating in the DoD STARBASE New Mexico program,” Gutierrez said. “We were excited that this year the Guard suggested we bring the kids to the flight line to tour their Black Hawk helicopter, crawl around, talk to Soldiers, and learn more about their mission.”

Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CW4) Charles Boehler, a standardization pilot with the New Mexico Army National Guard 168th MEDEVAC Company, has volunteered with STARBASE for the past four years.



“I see this STEM program as a great opportunity to discuss aviation in general with the kids, and specifically talk about helicopters, since many classes tend to focus on airplanes,” Boehler said. “Interacting on a personal level with the students is the most fun part, and they never fail to impress me with their questions and interest, especially at this particular event where they got to look at a U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter in person.”

Boehler, who has 35 years of military service, said that making kids aware that they can be a part of something like aviation, engineering or science is important so that their knowledge and abilities can grow towards career fields that they may have never thought about before.

(Continued on Page 5.)

(Continued from Page 4.)

A three-time volunteer with the AFRL New Mexico STEM Academy, pilot CW3 Anita Guderjohn is the aviation mission survivability officer in the NMARNG 168th MEDEVAC Company.

"I have enjoyed each experience with the AFRL New Mexico STEM Academy and have been very impressed with the program and the teachers," Guderjohn said. "It's really a cool experience to talk with the students about the aviation industry that we are so passionate about. I developed an interest in becoming a pilot when I was very young and feel honored to have achieved that in my life. I would like to help foster that interest in the future generation of pilots."

"This year's STARBASE New Mexico summer camp, in partnership with the New Mexico Army National Guard, was among our best programs, and a great opportunity for kids to learn more about STEM in action," Gutierrez said.



(Article Borrowed From: <https://ladailypost.com/air-force-research-laboratory-partners-with-new-mexico-army-national-guard-in-stem-aviation-event/>)

Curriculum Abstract Data Call

The STARBASE Curriculum Advisory Group (SCAG) is soliciting your input for new lesson plans to be included in the approved curriculum for the DoD STARBASE Program.

This is an opportunity for you to showcase lessons that you may have utilized in summer programs, and that you would like to see become part of the approved curriculum of the STARBASE Program.

Using the form available on STARBASE-U in the STARBASE News course, please submit your proposed abstract no later than **Tuesday, September 6, 2022** to email@dodstarbase.org. The SCAG will review your abstract submission and notify you that your idea has been accepted to be developed into an approved lesson plan in early October 2022. Further dates will be provided throughout the process.

Specifically, we are looking for abstract ideas that would become appendices to support the new parent lessons available in Applying Technology section of our curriculum. We are also looking for Lesson Plan (LP) Enhancements, as they were explained at July's virtual workshop. These LP Enhancements provide a way for your site to make lesson plans unique to your site or expand learning for students while still staying true to the lesson's key concepts.

The SCAG is excited to review your ideas. Thank you in advance for your work on this endeavor to expand and keep the STARBASE Curriculum fresh.