



MARCH
2020

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

Information and Resources During the COVID-19 Strategic Pause

As we continue to monitor the rapidly evolving situation around the coronavirus (COVID-19), our first thought is for the safety and well-being of your staff and students. Information is fast moving and constantly changing, and we appreciate the on-going effort to keep all levels of leadership informed. Below are some recaps of the information that has been disseminated recently.

Status Reports

OASD/M&RA recently asked The Spectrum Group (TSG) team to prepare a brief survey to all Program Directors that provides senior leaders in the Pentagon current information regarding the impact of the COVID-19 virus nationwide and also establishes a baseline for your current operating conditions. This was meant to establish a consistent and orderly collection of data.

After the online survey has been completed, TSG will convert it into a shared Google sheet that will allow you to quickly update changes to your status. This spreadsheet will be shared to the site gmail account that was distributed on March 12th, and a course will be created on STARBASE-U that will house a link to the document and other shared materials that will be useful in the weeks to come. These updates will keep our leadership informed of your operating status and the health and well-being of your staff.

Weekly updates to the shared Google sheet are being requested by 1400 EST on Mondays and Thursdays to ensure OASD/M&RA has the latest information regarding the conditions impacting each of your programs. If no changes to your status are needed, simply update the date to let us know that the information still stands.

Jim Gabrielli is your contact for any questions regarding this request. He can be reached by email at jgabrielli@spectrumgrp.org or by phone at (916) 671-2116.

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“Persistence and resilience only come from having been given the chance to work through difficult problems.” -- Gever Tulley

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Action Plans

On March 17th, all sites received direction from Judd Lyons, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Integration, that outlined the request for a program action plan.

This direction specifically requested the submission of a self-assessment of your program. Each Program Director was requested to keep detailed records to account for school cancellations, staff time, and productivity. Programs were requested to use this time out of the classroom wisely on issues such as software upgrades, curriculum development, cross training, general maintenance and upkeep of supplies and equipment, refresh of websites as necessary, preparation of summer academies, deeper dive into additional lessons, refresh of PowerPoint program briefings, outreach and marketing material development, and budget planning for FY 2021.

The memo requested an outline of each program's staff action plans through 30 April (based on your manning model that we currently have on file). Suspense for the action plan submission is 03 April 2020; however, expediency on the submission of these action plans would be helpful.

Further, all Cooperative Agreement issues for DoD STARBASE programs operated by the Air National Guard should be brought to the attention of Mr. Patrick Johnson, NGB Youth Programs.

Online Student Assessment

While we were excited to release the new online student assessment, we understand that many school districts across the nation have ceased operations for up to 30 days. Therefore, we are making arrangements to extend window into June should it become necessary.

In these unprecedented times we realize that some programs and communities may be impacted for a longer period of time than others. We also know that you will be competing with the State mandated testing and this could impact your future class schedule as well. If you are able to return to normal operations this school year, we ask that you do your best to administer the student assessment even if it means you may need to consider modifying your schedule to have one or more classes attend 5 days in a row.

As Mr. O'Toole stated previously, "if the school district or military department implements specific rule sets, we will encourage the program to follow them. I would certainly follow the school district lead and work with them closely to gauge whether or not they wish to continue sending classes. No program will become non-compliant due to these reasons."

Lastly, please continue to document the period of time your program is offline due to school district or military service component rule sets and make sure you're tracking which schools cancelled.

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Please welcome
the following new
Program Director to the
STARBASE family.

STARBASE Nellis (NV)
Julie Watson

TOP LEVEL PROGRAMS

Five DoD STARBASE Locations Receive Top Level Program Designation in 2019

During FY19, select DoD STARBASE locations were evaluated for designation as a “Level III - High Performing DoD STARBASE Academy”. To be eligible for consideration, the location must have maintained a fully compliant Basic Level I and Advanced Level II program for the past six consecutive years, which included having a sustainable STARBASE 2.0 program. In addition, they must have developed an activity or set of activities that significantly advanced the DoD STARBASE program mission and vision.

This is the second of a five-part series to introduce you to the new Level III programs. This month, we highlight STARBASE New Mexico. Congratulations to all of these exemplary locations who are now officially designated as a “Level III - High Performing DoD STARBASE Academy”.



STARBASE New Mexico

Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico – Air Force



The achievements of DoD STARBASE New Mexico centered around the development of a guidebook that outlines their process and success they have experienced with their involvement in the TEAM America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) as part of their STARBASE 2.0 program. Six TARC teams were fielded at STARBASE New Mexico during the 2018-19 school year.

The STARBASE New Mexico staff has fully documented their approach to TARC as used in their STARBASE 2.0 program. This includes curriculum, schedules, equipment lists, estimated costs and all other information needed to begin a TARC based program for middle school students at other DoD STARBASE Locations. Dedicated mentors from the Air Force Research Laboratory and across the base coach and engage the students in the TARC process. Their enthusiasm for working with the students results in them returning to the program year after year.

Students for the program come from the Albuquerque Institute of Math and Science (AIMS), a charter school that is open to any middle school student within the Albuquerque school district. School scheduling at AIMS includes a weekly “intensive” program during school hours. Students who want to participate in the STARBASE 2.0 program commit for both semesters, covering TARC through the challenge season and filling the remaining time with other student chosen STEM topics. Students tend to stay with the program until they “age-out”, mentoring new students as they come into the program.



“DoD
STARBASE
brought
science
to life for
me.”

A Letter of Support from Graduate Zachary Cook

As a 6th grader, STARBASE made me feel like being a scientist could be cool, instead of the generic career goal of being a professional football player.

Two specific activities are remembered fondly: Circuit Boards and Navigation.

My first experience with electrical circuits was at STARBASE. That sparked an interest I was able to build upon in high school and that later enabled me to test well enough on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) to qualify for my current career as an Avionics Technician for the new KC-46 Pegasus refueler in the United States Air Force. The hands-on learning we received, such as manipulating components to complete a circuit and turn on a light, inspired me to dig into electrical projects during my teenage years.

We did another lesson on navigation at STARBASE that I specifically recall as my first experience with reading large maps and locating places, using latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates.

Something else I remember with detail was our STARBASE Class STEM Careers Tour to the F-15 Maintenance Hangar at Kingsley Field Air National Guard Base in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Both of my parents were in the Air Force, so simply being on Base was commonplace for me, but when my entire class had the opportunity to enter that hangar and see the jets up close, I loved to see their excitement and awe.

My enthusiasm for science is what has now driven me to further my education. Beginning next term, I will be a freshman at the College of the Air Force, studying for a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in geology. I intend to one day teach others to love science the way I do.



Zachary pictured with his family upon completion of Air Force Basic Training in 2018 in San Antonio, Texas

Girls in Aviation Fly into Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport

By: Michelle Klos-Gonzalez, Staff Development Program Specialist

Milwaukee, Wis. — On October 5th, young women participated in the International Girls in Aviation program providing them with an introduction to aviation careers to include airport operations, air traffic control, airline operations and the science of flight. Fifty-three girls and young women between the ages of 8 and 17 years old participated in the program at the Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport. Youth traveled from southeastern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois to participate. The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Women in Aviation planned and sponsored the event as a desire for “our local girls to see there are exciting careers available to them as engineers, astronauts, pilots, dispatchers, air traffic controllers, and dozens of other jobs within the aviation community.”

STARBASE Wisconsin staff provided instruction on flight simulators teaching them to land a single engine Cessna 172 aircraft at Mitchell International Airport. Youth also learned to fly a route from Milwaukee to the Racine and Waukesha airports experiencing navigation and map reading. The young women also participated in tours of an Air Wisconsin Airlines aircraft and the Milwaukee Air Traffic Control Tower. Question and answer sessions with female aviation professionals took place during the event, as well as, an aviation scavenger hunt around the airport concourse experiencing airport operations and local aviation history.



The 2020 Call for Participation

Throughout 2020, 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.