



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

## TOP LEVEL PROGRAMS

### Five DoD STARBASE Locations Receive Top Level Program Designation in 2019

During FY19, a process was piloted to evaluate select DoD STARBASE locations for designation as a "Level III - High Performing DoD STARBASE Academy." This is the top level of STARBASE program performance. 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 includes operational and program enhancements, higher-level problem-solving techniques, time-sensitive improvements, and efficiencies. Such enhancements must promote the welfare and STEM skill/abilities of the student population, demonstrate program sustainability, provide transportability to other locations, and have the ability to be installed and operable at another STARBASE location within an 18-to-24-month period.

Over the past year, evaluators from The SPECTRUM Group assisted OASD/M&RA in the identification of candidates as well as the solicitation and review of applications from potential candidates along with the verification of program enhancements. The result was the nomination of five locations – STARBASE Louisiana, STARBASE New Mexico, STARBASE Oklahoma-Tulsa, STARBASE Robins and STARBASE Wright-Patt for Level III High Performing DoD STARBASE Academy designation and the award of the same to all five sites.

Each month, for the next four months, we will highlight one of the new Level III sites. This month, we feature STARBASE Louisiana. Congratulations to all of these exemplary locations who are now officially designated as a "Level III - High Performing DoD STARBASE Academy."



"My Administration will do everything possible to provide our children, especially kids in underserved areas, with access to high-quality education in science, technology, engineering, and math."

--President Donald J. Trump



"The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you."

-- B.B. King

# STARBASE Louisiana

## Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, Louisiana – Air Force Reserve

STARBASE Louisiana was recognized for the longevity of their STARBASE 2.0 Program and their sustainability/retention of their military mentors. When exploring options for their new STARBASE 2.0 program, STARBASE Louisiana searched for topics that were current, relevant, and high-tech without overlapping into the already saturated robotics programs in the area. Utilizing project-based engineering competitions not only generated interest and built excitement, but also attracted grant-donors to invest in the program.



The curriculum was designed for multi-year participation with no overlaps so students can participate year after year without redundancy. The active participation and support from partner teachers and schools have allowed their 2.0 programs to grow from one location with three clubs in the pilot year to five locations with 13 clubs in FY19.

Creative scheduling has been used to embed the STARBASE 2.0 curriculum into the school-day in multiple sites, allowing the Louisiana 2.0 team to serve more students. They have also extended the program into high school to create a true pipeline into college and career readiness.

An additional strength of the STARBASE Louisiana program is their unprecedented support from military organizations at Barksdale Air Force Base which include the 307th Bomb Wing Mission Support Group, 2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office, the First Sergeants Association and other base associated personnel. Their dedication to the STARBASE 2.0 initiatives and the basic STARBASE Louisiana program makes them a key contributor to the programs' success.



“ The active participation and support from partner teachers and schools have allowed their 2.0 programs to grow from one location with three clubs in the pilot year to five locations with 13 clubs in FY19.”

# A Letter of Support from Graduate 1LT(P) Joshua Douglas Anderson

**COMMANDER: BRAVO COMPANY 1-108<sup>TH</sup> AHB "SHADOW RIDERS"**

**SUPERVISORY INSTRUCTOR PILOT: ARMY AVIATION FLIGHT FACILITY #2, SALINA, KS**



Ever since I can remember, I wanted to be in the armed forces.

I grew up on 80 of the most beautiful acres in Kansas, at least in my opinion. Hunting, fishing, and camping were all parts of my childhood, and being outdoors was my normal. In fact, I remember my mother purposely kicking my brother and me out of the house and telling us to not come back until the sun was setting. When you send two boys into the woods, it's not long until a fictitious war breaks out, with only GI Joes around to stop the capture of all that you hold dear (which consisted of your favorite pocketknife and your puppy).

Fast forward several years and my yearning to be a soldier continued to grow, which brings me to my 5th grade year. I was a participant in the Salina, Kansas, DoD STARBASE program. I remember learning about Bernoulli and his principles, building and launching rockets, and the best part – taking a tour of the Blackhawk helicopters at the Army Aviation Support Facility.

It was this tour that solidified my desire to become a soldier.

Today, I am still involved with DoD STARBASE, but this time as a program volunteer hosting student tours of our military installation. I tell all the STARBASE tours that come through my facility that I really was recruited into the Army at 11 years old. I, like many others, went through necessary growth periods in my teenage years to really understand what I wanted to be in life. Regardless, I finally settled on becoming a soldier and fulfilled my dream in September of 2011. I graduated college, got married, and went right to the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) to swear in. I graduated Basic Cadet Training (BCT) and went to Officer Candidate School (OCS). When it was time to choose a branch, I knew exactly what I wanted to be – a pilot. I recalled how I felt sitting in that UH60L Blackhawk and wanted to fly it for real. In 2014, I went to flight school at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, and graduated in 2016. I even got an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) job at the same flight facility that I toured as a 5th grader.

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“It was this tour that solidified my desire to become a soldier.”



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In 2018, I deployed with my unit as a detachment commander of six Blackhawk helicopters in Northern Iraq and Northeast Syria, where I flew over 100 sorties and 250 combat hours, including air movement, hasty assaults, and medevac operations. I have seen some amazing things in the world and proudly served my country as a combat leader. Now I am proud to give back to the program by dedicating my time in helping with the facility tours. I truly believe it is because of programs like STARBASE that I became a soldier.

## STARBASE Training Update

### Creo I Training

Creo I training is for teachers/staff who are new to STARBASE or who need to update their skills in Creo as well as become more familiar with the Creo lessons. The first FY20 PTC Creo I Training went very well. Training days ran from 9AM to around 4:30-5PM. The first day of training focused on learning the fundamentals of Creo, navigation, assemble, part creation, etc. The second day was focused on learning the current and new STARBASE lessons. Each attendee was provided a certificate to certify the number of training hours completed.

All PTC Classes are filled, and there is a waiting list.

### iPad Training

There are still openings for iPad Training:

- » April 21 in Portland, OR
- » June 16 in Portland, OR

### STARBITS Training

There are still openings for STARBITS (if you love littleBits you're going to love STARBITS even more). You will make one set at the training class.

- » April 23 at Camp Rilea, OR has 2 openings left
- » June 18 at Camp Rilea, OR has 5 openings left

*If you are interested in the available training opportunities, contact Barbara Koscak at [bkoscak@spectrumgrp.com](mailto:bkoscak@spectrumgrp.com).*



# Online Student Assessment FAQs

As we prepare for the release of the new Online Student Assessment, the questions below will give you a little more information about what to expect!

**1. Will we will receive detailed instructions for administering the online student assessment?**

Yes, you will receive detailed instructions for administering the online assessment just as you have with the previous scantron version.

**2. Will the teachers be able to assist students with the translation of the test if they have ELL students in the class?**

Yes, you will be able to translate the test if you have ELL students in your class. Be advised that the test may take longer to administer if you are translating the material but you will not be timed out of the online assessment as long as the student makes continuous, uninterrupted progress towards completing the exam.

**3. Will STARBASE staff be able to test/ensure the link to the online assessment is working prior to administering the test?**

Yes, the link to the online version is scheduled to be available by March 16, 2020. STARBASE staff may access the link to the online assessment in advance to ensure the link is working properly. STARBASE staff will need to ensure they logout before the student begins the assessment.

**4. Our STARBASE instructors travel to remote school sites (outreach) for instruction. We plan to administer the test using the school's computer lab. Will we have access to the assessment at a remote location?**

Yes, your STARBASE instructors will have access to the student assessment link at the remote school site.

**5. Are the student knowledge assessment questions aligned to the DoD approved curriculum?**

Yes, several new questions were added to the assessment and others were re-worded to provide additional clarity. The total number of knowledge questions remains the same (21).

**This year's testing window will be March 16<sup>th</sup> - May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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](mailto:email@dodstarbase.org).

## CREATING CONNECTIONS

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

STARBASE Maxwell (AL)  
*Kathryn Ganster*

STARBASE Edwards (CA)  
*Amira Flores*

STARBASE Connecticut - Windsor Locks & Waterbury  
*Ted Garner*

STARBASE Wichita (KS)  
*Tony McDonald*

STARBASE Louisiana  
*Laurie Ilgenfritz*

STARBASE North Dakota  
*Jon Dawson*

STARBASE Oklahoma (4 Locations)  
*Rita Miller*

STARBASE Patrick (FL)  
*Charles Parker*

STARBASE Sioux Falls (SD)  
*Donna Van Veldhuizen*

STARBASE Goodfellow (TX)  
*Jesus Longoria*

STARBASE Kelly (TX)  
*Katherine Kiobassa-Spalding*

STARBASE Hill (UT)  
*David Amparan*