



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

Welcome DoD STARBASE Central Florida!

DoD STARBASE Central Florida officially celebrated their opening with a ribbon cutting on 12 April 2022, which just so happened to be the evening of the program's first graduation of sixty-one inaugural students. DoD STARBASE Central Florida (SBCFL) specializes in introducing fifth grade students to the world of modeling, simulation, and training (MS&T) while practicing approved DoD STARBASE lessons. Orlando is the epicenter for the MS&T workforce and provides SBCFL students and teachers the opportunity to gain experience with diverse subject matter experts from the MS&T workforce through partnerships with industry, government, and academia.

"This is truly a feather in the Team Orlando cap," said George Cheros, president and CEO for National Center for Simulation and a member of Team Orlando and the organization charged with managing the STARBASE award. "This effort is the epitome of what Team Orlando stands for," said Capt. Dan Covelli, commander of Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division and NSA-Orlando. "As the sponsoring base for this DoD program, we're committed to providing mentors and guest speakers, along with our sister services, to ensure that the effort will prosper. I feel that we — our team, NCS, and University of Central Florida as our experts in education — are the model community to host a STARBASE."



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"We can teach from our experience, but we cannot teach experience."
— Sasha Azevedo

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Team Orlando leaders believe that the acquisition of a STARBASE program will expand and diversify the number of Central Florida students introduced to STEM skills and the military, and help to build a talented workforce in Florida, but will also help close the STEM achievement gap that has emerged between the United States and other countries.

Leading the program's day-to-day activities is the director, Lindsey Spalding, who works closely with Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division STEM outreach manager, Emily Sherkow. Together, they shape the STARBASE students' experience, offering time in the STARBASE Learning Lab for "hands-on, minds-on" activities, but also interaction with military personnel to explore careers and observe STEM applications in the "real world."

DoD STARBASE is thrilled to welcome STARBASE Central Florida to the family and is looking forward to seeing the change and impact they will make in the Orlando community.



Portions of the above article were taken from the following online resource: <https://teamorlando.org/starbase-central-florida-holds-ribbon-cutting-graduates-first-class/>

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.

A VIP Visit to STARBASE Arizona

STARBASE Arizona was honored to host Mr. Daniel Toporek and Ms. Arlethe Morrison of United States Senator Mark Kelly's office, as the Military & Defense Outreach and Constituent Service representatives. The visit centered on the important S.T.E.M. work DoD STARBASE provides for students in the community as well as engaging in hands-on activities, which allowed the visitors to experience what students complete throughout the program and what truly encapsulates the mission and vision of DoD STARBASE.

As participating students worked diligently on designing a restraint system for Lieutenant Eggbert, Mr. Toporek and Ms. Morrison were focused on the development of their own safety restraint prototype. The last launch of the day ended with the testing of their design, and it was a success! Senator Kelly, a former NASA astronaut, would have been proud! The day also included an opportunity to work with Onshape and the powerful lessons that provide students a foundation in the world of computer-aided design. Additive manufacturing enhanced the conversation, and examples were displayed from the classroom 3D printers.

In addition to participating in the engineering activities, Mr. Toporek and Mrs. Morrison saw firsthand the positive relationships STARBASE Arizona has with the military community. During their visit, they joined the same students while receiving a briefing from an airman representing the 355th Rescue Squadron. They observed how dedicated installation personnel are through volunteering to showcase careers and explain how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are applied to their fields.

STARBASE Arizona is extremely grateful for the time Senator Kelly's team spent getting to know the program, staff and the incredible work DoD STARBASE accomplishes and all that it stands for.



Senator Kai Kahele Visits STARBASE Hawaii

On 10 March 2022, STARBASE Hawaii was honored with a visit from the Honorable Senator Kaiali'i Kahele.

Senator Kahele spoke to cadets from Youth Challenge Academy-Hilo, who were attending the DoD STARBASE program that week, in an informal presentation about their YCA journey and what it means in the larger context of the island community. He began with telling his own story, from a troubled and disadvantaged youth to United States Senator. He touched on themes of service, focus, setting achievable goals, working to improve our community, and keeping with a circle of friends that makes one a better person rather than a circle that encourages trouble.

His visit was well received, and cadets were full of great questions about their futures, the Senator's past, and were clearly working to synthesize information at a personal level.

This was Sen. Kahele's first, and hopefully not last, visit to STARBASE. STARBASE Hawaii looks forward to seeing his message of inspiration and motivation on future visits!

During the pandemic, many STARBASE sites across the nation who found themselves in close proximity to a Youth Challenge location, partnered with the academies to teach STEM to the participating cadets. What a great moment and opportunity for two DoD Youth programs to align in support of a common mission.



STARBASE Louisiana Hosts National Workshop

STARBASE Louisiana held a two-day rocketry workshop here for educators from Department of Defense STARBASE programs across the nation April 21-22.

The effort was part of a DOD STARBASE initiative to hold workshops at program sites with specific areas of expertise.

Laurie Ilgenfritz, STARBASE Louisiana director, said the workshop was a natural fit since the program has extensive knowledge in teaching rocketry to middle school and high school students.

"We've been working on our rocketry for a long time. We made all the mistakes, but we have a successful program as evidenced by several of our teams making the national competition multiple times," she said. "Several STARBASE programs wanted to start rocketry programs, and we wanted to help them avoid some of the same mistakes we made."

Ilgenfritz said the program at Barksdale is one of the largest in the nation and one of the few working with high school students.

Barbara Koscak, the founder of DoD STARBASE, was on hand for the first day of the workshop.

"Louisiana should be proud of their STARBASE program at Barksdale," she said. "The STARBASE team is professional and did an outstanding job presenting rocketry."

Teachers attending the workshop learned how to build a rocket similarly to how STARBASE Louisiana students are taught, using blueprints and design software.

The instructors also learned how to set up and use an altimeter and went over safety procedures before taking part in several launches. Each launch required data analysis to fix any errors.



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The workshop ended with a course on starting and maintaining a successful rocketry program.

Dawn Bailey, a program instructor with STARBASE Manhattan in Kansas, was one of the workshop attendees.

“We do rocketry, but not on this scale,” she said. “Here, they build much larger rockets from scratch, so I want to take that information and use it with our program.

Rodney Sanders, an attendee from Columbia, South Carolina, said the workshop would provide several benefits for his local STARBASE students.

“It’s great because you get to teach certain principles through rocketry,” he said. “The biggest takeaway is how much we can go into mathematics, engineering, and physics and use this as a means to help students learn.”

STARBASE Louisiana, founded in 1999, is sponsored by the 307th Bomb Wing.

Source: <https://www.307bw.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3010216/starbase-louisiana-hosts-national-workshop/>



STARBASE vs. Starbase?

Have you ever wondered whether or not STARBASE is capitalized or not? Do people ask you if STARBASE stands for anything? Well, wonder no more!

- » STARBASE is always written in all capital letters.
- » STARBASE is NOT an acronym.

