

A Letter from L. Scott Martens

Being fortunate enough to be approved for a STARBASE not only offers an enormous educational benefit, but an opportunity for the entire community to participate in a program to



improve their quality of life.

A true partnership among the military, the school system, and the community, STARBASE motivates fifth grade students at all economic levels to explore science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

STARBASE Savannah is a rather unique academy. Having graduated its first class in March 2012, it is located in a custom designed facility at Hunter Army Air Field, a part of Ft. Stewart in nearby Hinesville, GA. It is the first and only active Army facility to host a STARBASE in the country. The Savannah area is a very military friendly community with a lot of interaction in the way of events, celebrations and family activities.

In addition to the Army's involvement, the school superintendent happened to have been on a STARBASE board prior to arriving in Savannah, so he was very supportive of the effort. The STARBASE Savannah Foundation was formed to represent the community by way of fundraising and constant communication. To augment the Foundation's activities, a 30 member Task Force comprised of community educators, retired military officers, and business leaders serves as a support group.

What does STARBASE mean to Savannah? It means bringing the community closer together with our military and their families. It means giving the school system another tool to improve education. And, it means reaching the students at that vulnerable age to become excited about STEM and point them in a direction of becoming highly skilled and productive citizens. That benefits the entire nation and leads to a secure and fruitful future.

L. Scott Martens

Chairman

STARBASE Savannah Foundation, Inc.

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Name: L. Scott Martens,

Title: Chairman, STARBASE Savannah Foundation, Inc

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