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## Swamp Fox Has Another Record Year

STARBASE Swamp Fox, a Department of Defense math and science program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders held at McEntire, set an attendance record this year and surpassed over 1,000 students served for the second year in a row.

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) John “Coach” Motley, the program’s director, said, “I can hardly believe we are at the close of another school year. Time really does ‘fly’ when you are having fun.

“Not only are the students having fun but our instructors are making a difference in these children’s lives.”

The DoD’s vision statement for STARBASE is to raise interest and improve the knowledge of skills of at-risk youth in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, which will provide for a highly educated and skilled American workforce who can meet the advanced technological requirements of DoD. The program at McEntire offers 25 hours of hands-on learning and experiments and includes a curriculum focusing on such topics as Newton’s Laws of Motion, Bernoulli’s Principles, and Properties of Air.

SCANG pilots and other personnel from McEntire participate in the program by serving as teachers, role models and mentors.

Secondary goals of the program include the promotion of healthy lifestyles and drug avoidance. All this ties into the program’s motto “Dreams + Action = Reality.”

Students and STARBASE staff come up with their own call-signs” during the program and the week of instruction culminates with the students building and launching their own model rockets.

This past academic year, STARBASE Swamp Fox served a record 1,098 students, 72 percent of whom the DoD classifies as “at-risk.” STARBASE Swamp Fox taught 50 classes this year, and McEntire’s program received an increase in their operating budget because of its increasing enrollment. The record attendance also allowed them to fund two part-time instructors.

Some of the new participating schools this year included Nursery Road Elementary School from Lexington-Richland Five School District, West Lee Elementary School from Lee County Schools, and Catawba Trail Elementary School, a new school from Richland School District Two.

Motley is quick to credit his staff, the instructors and the volunteers that make STARBASE Swamp Fox team such a success year after year. “We have an outstanding staff and great

volunteers on McEntire.,” he said. “‘Lightning’ Hiott, ‘Sugarr’ Banks, ‘Mad Scientist’ Willing, ‘Sharkbite’ Peraza and ‘Boo’ Brooks create an atmosphere that is both professional and personal as they adapt to each and every child. They build strong teacher-student relationships in the short period of time the students are at STARBASE.

“The volunteers who assist us on a weekly basis represent the icing on the cake as our students get to mingle with our military and civilian employees in various work centers around the base,” Motley said.

The schedule for the 2012-2013 school year has filled up and there’s already a waiting list of schools who would like to participate, according to Lt.Col. (Ret.) Jim Hiott, the STARBASE Deputy Director. In the meantime, the STARBASE staff will be busy this summer preparing for next year as well as conducting their annual summer camp. This month, STARBASE Swamp Fox will host a four day summer camp for the children of SC National Guard members (rising 5th and 6th graders only) from July 17-20. Guard members who are interested having their children attend should contact Hiott at 803-647-8127 for more information.

Story by Lt. Col. Jim St.Clair, JFHQ/PA from SCANG News Vol XXXVIII, No 7, July 2012

For the full newsletter please visit: <http://www.169fw.ang.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120705-050.pdf> [1]

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