

DISCOVER DoD STARBASE A Department of Defense Youth Program TODAY

BUILDING 814: Where it all began

Where did STARBASE get its start? A glimpse into the program's history.

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WHAT IS A PARENT LESSON?

Confused about what a parent lesson is and how to use it?

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Our Website: THEN & NOW

With a little help from the Wayback Machine Internet Archive!

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WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to Discover STARBASE Today, your new monthly STARBASE newsletter.

Over the next twelve months, this newsletter will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the national DoD STARBASE Program. We will be highlighting some of the original founding program sites as well as showcasing some of the new program sites that are just starting out.

Discover STARBASE Today is your venue to share your successes and celebrations, and so we will be asking for you to share your special events for national distribution. Discover STARBASE Today will be distributed not just to your peers but also to those interested in STEM educational enhancements who can be instrumental in the continued expansion of the STARBASE Program.

Discover STARBASE Today will also be a place to share ideas and innovations and to inform you of upcoming program changes. Your input about what you want to see and your content contributions are critical to the success of your newsletter. Please send your input, with your pictures, to jennifer.buck@mac.com.

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SEEKING STARBASE ALUMNI

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the DoD STARBASE Program, we are looking for STARBASE graduates who have gone on to STEM careers, hopefully in part from the influence of their STARBASE experience. We are happy to showcase any STARBASE alumni, but we are especially interested in finding graduates from the original 1993/94 classes. Please send any information about a STARBASE alumnus to Ernie Gonzales, at ernie.gonzales@osd.mil.



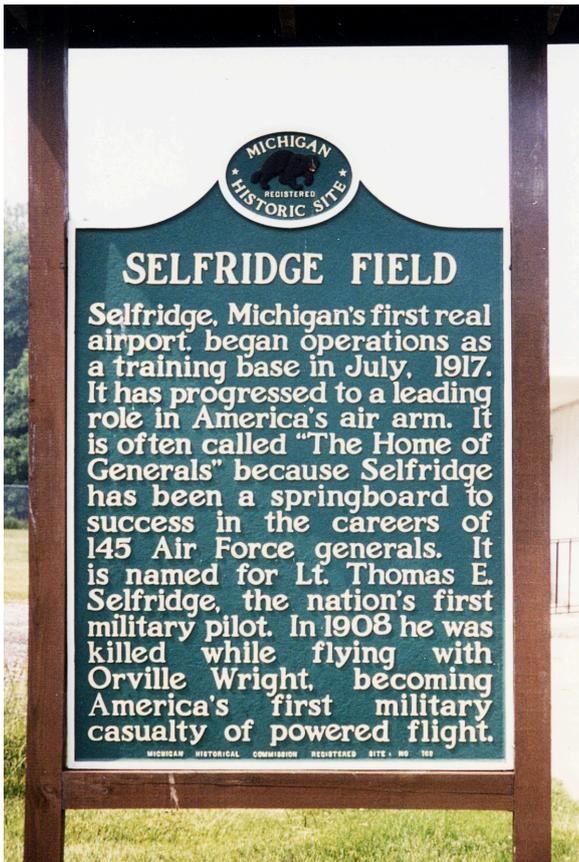
HISTORY

BUILDING 814: WHERE IT ALL STARTED

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the STARBASE Program as a national DoD STEM Education enrichment program. How did it all come about?

The idea for STARBASE was initially developed in the late 1980's, by Barb Koscak in Michigan, as an educational center to promote greater interest in STEM through exposure to military technology applications. The name of the initiative was "Project STARS" (Selfridge's Technological Aerospace Readiness School).

A Kellogg Grant was won in 1990 for Project STARS, and in March 1991, four school districts in Michigan participated. Building 814 at Selfridge Air National Guard Base is assigned to house the fledgling STARS program. In the fall of 1991, Barb Koscak; Brigadier General David



Arendts (Ret.), then Commander of the 127th Fighter Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan; and Rick Simms began to brief Public Affairs officials in the National Guard Bureau (NGB) to expand the STARS concept to other National Guard locations. The National Guard Bureau requested to change the name of the program to STARBASE (since the program would be located at military bases).

During 1992, representatives from other states and NGB officials visited Building 814 to see STARBASE in action. NGB Drug Demand Reduction funding was identified to run pilots. In the summer of 1992, Senators Levin and Nunn presented legislation to include STARBASE program funding in the Department of Defense budget. In October of the same year, President George H. Bush signed a bill into the FY 1993 Defense Authorization and Appropriations Act, making funding available for a pilot program.



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The original intent was that DoD funding would kick-start the initiative for the first two or three years, and that it would be continued through future private funds and grants. FY 1993 funding was provided for programs in Michigan, Kansas, Minnesota, Oregon, California, North Carolina, and Oklahoma.

The decision was made in DoD to continue to fully fund the STARBASE program, and not to take the risk of needing private fund-raising to keep the programs in operation. A separate budget line was created under the management of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, where it still resides today.





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Section 580 of the FY 2000 Defense Authorization Act, signed by the President in October 1999, established permanent authorization under Section 2193b, title 10, U.S.C. for the DoD STARBASE Program as a science, mathematics, and technology education improvement program. It was authorized with the purpose of improving the knowledge and skills of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade in such subject areas. It further required the establishment of at least 25 academies.

The STARBASE Program has expanded well beyond the 25 academies. As we begin Fiscal Year 2013, 76 STARBASE sites are in operation, in 40 States, Puerto Rico, and Washington DC. During this program year, this newsletter will showcase the programs that have made it all possible.



WHAT IS A PARENT LESSON?

Confused about how parent lessons work?

With the move toward a national STARBASE curriculum standard, several adjustments were required in order to ensure that sites would still have the flexibility to create a schedule that reflected the “spirit” of each particular program while still meeting the decided objectives of the program. As more and more sites have participated in the development of this new curriculum, the program has come closer and closer to achieving this balance between site individuality and collectively meeting stated program objectives.

In the near future, almost twenty new lesson plans, activities, and appendices will be available for adoption in all areas of the STARBASE curriculum. These additions will offer more opportunities for site customization than ever before.

However, in order to accommodate the growing variety of lessons, several changes have been necessary to effectively organize this information for use within your schedule. One of these changes, the addition of the parent lesson, has been in place for the last year or so.

As new lessons were being added to the curriculum, it was noted that certain generalized information applied to more than one lesson. The parent lesson, now all clearly identified with the use of “Introduction” in the title, collects all this core information necessary to introduce a topic to students into one short introductory lesson plan.

These parent lessons are always accompanied by one or more appendix activity option. These appendices offer the program an easy way to add activities that work with our overall concepts and objectives while at the same time ensuring easy customization, as sites are able to pick the activity to accompany the parent lesson that best fits their schedule and teaching plan. And, as the program moves away from the focus of spending a specific amount of time on a particular module, except for the required hours for the 3-D Computer-Aided Design, if instructors have a class that moves quickly through the information, they will have multiple approved appendices to choose from that complement our expanding curriculum.

The STARBASE curriculum is evolving into a rich, impressive array of activities for instructors to work with because you have all come together to support this endeavor.

OUR WEBSITE: THEN AND NOW

Looking at how far we have come.



Courtesy of the Wayback Machine Internet Archive, we can see exactly just how far we have come with this screen capture of our website from April 2, 2006.

Today's newly updated look with a brand new design and several new features.

