



# 26 OWS Newsletter



## STARBASE LOUISIANA



What exactly is **STARBASE**? **STARBASE** stands for **S**cience and **T**echnology **A**cademies **R**einforcing **B**asic **A**viation and **S**pace **E**xploration and is a joint program of the military, area industry, educators and non-profit organizations.

**STARBASE** Louisiana is sponsored at Barksdale AFB Louisiana by the 917th wing, Air Force Reserve Command, under the command of Brig. Gen Jack Ihle.

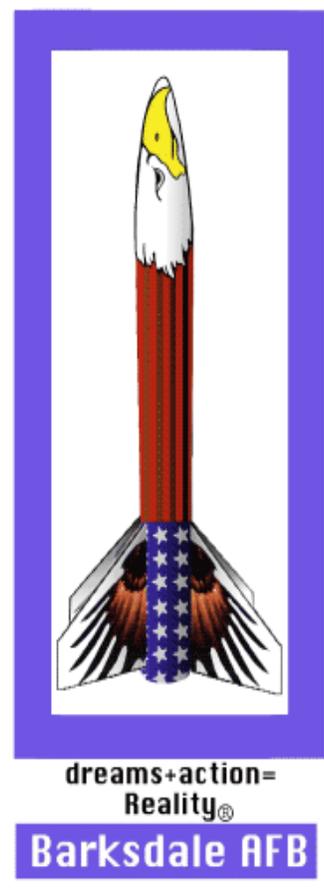
The goal of the DoD **STARBASE** Program is to raise the interest and improve the knowledge and skills of at-risk youth in math, science, and technology by exposing them to the technological environment and positive role models found on military bases and installations. The personnel of the 26OWS have been actively involved with this program since the squadron's reactivation. The **STARBASE** web site was written by Ms. Clarissa Emrick and is hosted on the 26OWS web page.

The program traces its roots to the Air National Guard's 127th Wing at Selfridge ANG Base, Mich., in 1991. There are now some 40 **STARBASE** programs throughout the United States.

**STARBASE** targets high risk 5th graders and includes 25-hours of instruction that stresses hands on science and math, technology, goal setting, teamwork, problem solving and living a drug-free lifestyle in a real world military setting. **STARBASE** curricula correlates with national math and science standards.

The philosophy of **STARBASE** Louisiana is, "**Who I am makes a difference**". The motto "*dreams + action = Reality*", encourages the students to set their career goals and find the importance of education for their personal futures. The philosophy implies that when students understand that the choices they make determine the outcomes in their lives, they will be eager to build the skills necessary to take positive steps toward their dream every day. Success in the program helps build the enthusiasm and confidence the students need to succeed in school, to become responsible citizens, and to reach for their goals in their profession of choice.

Ms. Sheila Schencke is the director of the program at Barksdale AFB. She and her teachers, Kathy Brandon and Marvel Scott, develop the program activities to correlate with the national and state objectives, using aviation as the theme. The program assistant, Bill Scott, is responsible for ordering and preparing the materials for the lessons. In the classroom, the teachers help the students understand that *dreams + action = Reality*, and that whatever their career goal, math and science will help them reach it. They invite Career Guides to speak with the 5th graders during their "Business Lunch", according to several career categories. When double classes are served, part-time teaching assistants Annette Postell and Gina McNally provide the support necessary to make all the activities run smoothly. The nurturing atmosphere and exciting lessons bring out the best in the students. The volunteers from 26OWS cover the environmental/agricultural category every session. The weather field is a wonderful fit with the aviation theme. The **STARBASE** web site can be viewed at: <https://26ows.barksdale.af.mil/starbase/>



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"As a career guide I received a great amount of satisfaction from having influenced young people who are aspiring to do great things with their life. **STARBASE** encourages children to "Aim High" and embrace their potential to succeed in any endeavor." *A1C Mike Daniels*

"I have volunteered for them before and I truly enjoyed it. I love kids and working with them is a great experience...Next week we're going over to help them with their rocket launch project. The 26 OWS takes a big part in volunteering with the **STARBASE** program." *A1C Monica Santos*



"I've launched rockets with the children at **STARBASE** and many of the children I know from my involvement with the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs in Bossier City and Shreveport. The children who know me always ask for me to help them launch their rockets. "

*MSgt Robert Segreti*



" **STARBASE** was an excellent experience for me. I wish I had a group like the 26OWS when I was a child to come and inspire us kids. "

*A1C Brian Smith*

"I have been involved with **STARBASE** since summer 2000. It is always a wonderful experience to talk to these kids. They always come up with some pretty interesting questions and often surprise me with their weather knowledge. I was selected to do the career lunch for a very special bunch of kids who were handicapped and it was an honor to spend time with them. I always leave the career guide lunches feeling really good about myself, like I did something that mattered. It's great to be able to serve as a role model for these children. My feelings are if I reach one child and make a difference in their life then I have done my job. One day they might be faced with a difficult decision and have to chose between right and wrong and hopefully they will do the right thing based on something I said. I always stress the need to stay in school and to stay away from drugs because bad decisions now could affect the rest of their lives. I encourage everyone to volunteer at least once and experience the feeling you get from doing it. It's addictive!" *SSgt John Rosario*



"My briefings there have been fun, discussing everything from tornado safety and hurricanes to general stuff on weather forecasting and other places I've been in the world." *Mr. Charles Lee, 26OWS Trainer*

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. Does the 26 OWS archive weather data?**

A. Yes, we archive graphic data from our webpage for up to 30 days. This information can be accessed via our webpage at <https://26ows.barksdale.af.mil/wxdata>.

**Q. Does the 26 OWS do forecast reviews, and are they available to the CWT's?**

A. The case studies are available on our web page at **add web site address**.

**Q. Do the CWTs have control over the first two hours of the Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs)?**

A. Short answer is no. This concept was initially considered during early AFW reengineering working groups, and was incorporated into the original DRAFT version of AFMAN 15-129. In an attempt to stay ahead of the game, the 26th OWS adopted this "draft" guidance, until updates to AFMAN 15-129 became available. Ultimately, the proposal did not make the sanity cut past the first draft, therefore, it is not and never was official guidance. The OWS owns the TAF and the TAF production cycle. It is 26 OWS policy, that we will consider all inputs from the CWTs for the entire TAF, and make our decisions based on sound, meteorological reasoning. In cases where there are disagreements with no clear cut answers, we tend to lean towards the CWTs input.

**Q. How much time is acceptable for CWT/OWS forecast discussions?**

A. "As you know, time is a valuable commodity during severe weather breakouts, and sometimes discussions via the phone have to take a backseat to resource protection. Since the ultimate responsibility for resource protection lies with the OWS, there will be times when that detailed conversation will not be possible due to time constraints, but we will try our best. Extensive discussions with the CWTs, in some cases, has resulted in late or poorly produced products. For this reason we have limited the forecaster discussions for all our bases to 10 minutes or less to allow our forecasters to focus on producing the best possible products for their bases. This gives adequate time to get inputs from the CWT, make informed decisions and produce their products. If the CWT feels there is a need to discuss anything further, they will be transferred to the Regional Manager for that area."

Submitted by Capt. Elton Gray (26OWS/WXO/CC)

***Congratulations to our newest Arrivals:***

***Rebecca, born March 14 2002 to SSgt's Alice and James Shryock***



Responsibilities by Position

**Regional Operations:** Metwatch/Data Collection (Local scale)

**Forecaster:** Produce TAFs, and resource protection products for two bases in their zone

**Regional Forecaster Apprentice:** In training (see above)

**Regional Operations Manager:** Metwatch for a four base region (Local scale)  
 Review all TAFs/resource protection products issued by interns, before they are sent to the QC Que;  
 Ensure they are meteorologically sound and technically correct  
 Ensure horizontal consistency of products within the region  
 Give OJT and mentor interns

**NCOIC/Asst OIC:** Metwatch for respective Zone (Meso scale)

Produce all required graphics products

Review and send to web, all products in the QC Que (ie...graphics, TAFs, WWAs)

Ensure horizontal consistency of products within the zone

Handle customer relations within the zone

\*\*NCOIC\*\* -- Responsible for all enlisted personnel issues

**OIC:** Metwatch AOR (Synoptic scale)

Assist with QC of all products

Ensure horizontal consistency of all products produced by the OWS

Ensure products are representative of actual weather and/or model of the day

Model comparison and select model of the day

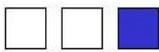
Handle customer relations for the operations floor

Orchestrate workload/loadshedding on ops floor

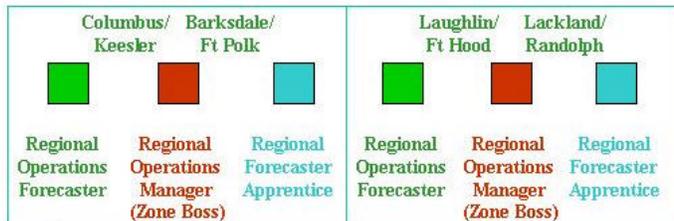
Handle operations administrative issues

Execute the Plan of the Day

**OPERATIONS FLOOR LAYOUT**

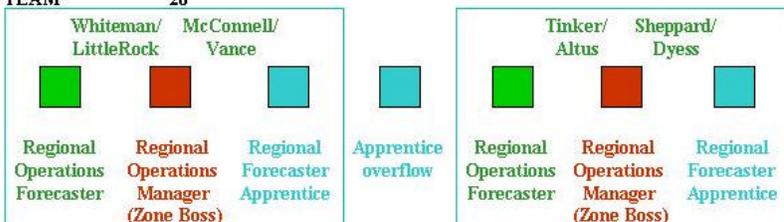


Ft Wx Briefers



NOTE: Graph represents positions, not actual personnel. Any position may be held by more than one person.

	01 APR
OIC	1
NCOIC	1
Asst OIC	1
Operations Manager	4
Operations Forecaster	8
Forecaster Apprentices	5
<b>TOTAL PER 'TEAM'</b>	<b>20</b>



Operations Production

**•Flight Weather Briefings:**

- 2001 - @ 5200

-2002 JAN-MAR - @ 2150

**•Resource Protection Products**

-2001 - @ 1700

-2002 JAN - MAR - @ 4000

**•Avg. Daily Terminal Forecasts**

- 44

**•Installations Currently Supported**

-Active Duty - 16

•14 full time support

•2 part time support

-Guard/Reserve - 47



## MISSION TAILORING

### What's the difference?

The difference is "Mission Tailoring." The Introduction in FYI Number 48, "Mission Tailoring," reads,

A key to good weather support is *communicating the forecast to the customer*. It is important to know what the customer needs, how they need it; and is it also important to know what they do not need. The technique is to tailor the forecast to the mission, hence the term "mission tailoring." But mission tailoring is also as much a process as it is technique, and it is as dynamic a process as the atmosphere that we are trying to forecast. If the process is applied correctly, it will enable commanders to operate smarter and *"Exploit the Weather for Battle."*

I've added the highlights, underlining and italicizing to emphasize that mission tailoring is the reason there is an Air Force Weather (AFW), charged to provide weather information to support the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army, and Air Force. "The commander who can best measure and take advantage of the weather conditions has a decided advantage over his opponent. By understanding the effects of weather, the commander can set the terms for battle...Weather conditions will impact execution decisions by dictating tactics or the weapon system employed."

I would not want to lead you to the conclusion that weather or weather operations will be the ultimate tool in a commander's kit bag, but I absolutely want to leave you with the thought that weather and weather operations do impact decisions. The perception that "they'll fly anyway" may seem to be the "rule;" however, battle commanders at many levels must weigh the variables, including the enemy threat, importance of destroying the target, psychological advantages or disadvantages on the enemy, *and weather* and make the best decision.

This mission tailoring falls right in line with the Air Forces' Air and Space Basic Course (ASBC), formally the Aerospace Basic Course (ABC). The Air Force leadership recognized the need to educate our young officers, Air Force wide, on the overall mission of the Air Force and air operations. A large portion of this PME focuses on the Air Force's role in wartime operations and the development of an Air Tasking Order (ATO). Among other topics covered when learning about the ATO, young officers learn about the different factors that require consideration in the early planning stages of an ATO, to include weather.

Many view weather as only impacting the tactical and execution levels of air operations. ASBC provides a

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### Bits n Pieces



The wettest place in the world is Meghalaya, India which averages 467.5"/year.

The wettest US state is Louisiana which averages 56"/year.

RAF Lakenheath, UK Averages only 19.5"/year.

# KUDOS. KUDOS. KUDOS

## Congratulations

TSgt William Wilson, 80 OSS/DOW, Sheppard AFB, TX on winning the **Pierce Award**, Outstanding Weather NCO at Air Force level.



Flanking SrA Daniel Gaynor at the Airman Leadership School graduation are (from L to R) Major Dennis, CMSgt Haines, Lt. Col Elkins, SMSgt Flieg and MSgt Montgomery.

### 26OWS Award Winners

#### 8th Air Force Enlisted Quarterly Award Winners

SMSgt Steven M. Yelenic, SNCO (Jan-Mar)

#### 608th Air Operations Group Quarterly Award Winners

A1C Brian S. Smith, Airman (Jan-Mar)

SSgt John R. Rosario, NCO (Jan-Mar)

2Lt Jay M. Anderton, CGO (Jan-Mar)

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Mr. Nicholas Fillo, CIV (Jan-Mar)

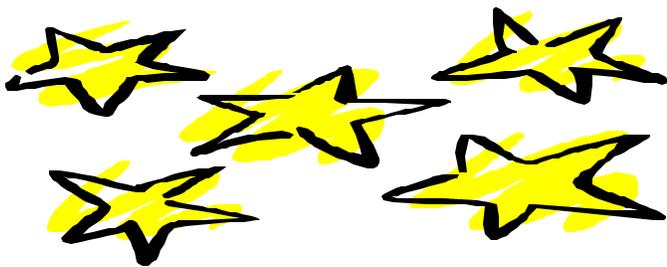
#### 8th Air Force Monthly Award Winner

A1C Deanna Llenas, April Airman of the Month

#### 26OWS Monthly Award Winners

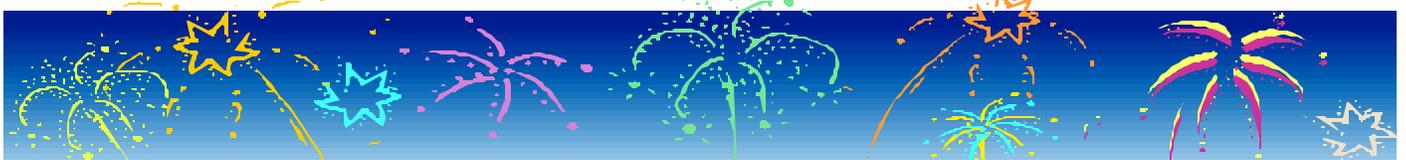
SSgt(s) Eric Allen, March Airman of the Month

A1C Deanna Llenas, April Airman of the Month



If you would like recognize outstanding individuals in your unit, please send the information to the editor at:

[Leslie.sexton@barksdale.af.mil](mailto:Leslie.sexton@barksdale.af.mil)





# From the Chief



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forum where knowledgeable weather officers can spread the word to fellow officers as to the specifics of how weather is needed in all phases of an ATO. Our weather officers learn in depth the part weather plays in ATO planning at the OWS. The OWS serves as a tremendous training environment for new weather officers to learn from the experience of others in the weather field, both officer and enlisted. Also, an OWS provides opportunities for weather officers to participate in exercises and see, first hand, how weather can impact the air and land battle. From this education at the OWS, a young weather lieutenant learns how weather supports all phases of an ATO and, ultimately, supports the Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) and the Joint Forces Commander (JFC).

Granted, the ASBC curriculum itself does not get into the in-depth role of weather and its impact in the planning stages, but weather officers can educate other young leaders of weather's role. By doing so, the future JFACC's and JFC's are privy to how weather and weather operations can positively or negatively impact air operations, not only in the execution phase, but in the planning phases, too.

Though the new Combat Weather Team Operations Course, the Air and Space Basic Course and mentoring by the "old" folks, we're entering a new age in Air and Space power and Air Force Weather operations. The challenge for you is to study and understand your profession. The FYI is a great start. The FYI is full of many examples of why and how to effect mission planning, and I challenge you to read it. Actually, the challenge is to study and understand it.

Submitted by 2Lt. Rich A. Stedronsky/CONUS Ops

We've had a good start on suggestions for a newsletter name. Here's the list so far:

***Tornado Alley Tribune***

***26 OWS Vor-text***

***Twister Times***

Got a good idea, send it to the editor at:

[leslie.sexton@barksdale.af.mil](mailto:leslie.sexton@barksdale.af.mil)