



STELLARXPLORERS III



SecAF's Space Symposium Remarks, Tuesday, 12 April 2016

<http://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/16%2004%2012%20SecAF%20Space%20Symposium%20AsDelivered.pdf?timestamp=1460639561474>

Now, before I exit the stage this evening, I do want to just take a moment and offer my thanks to everyone here tonight, who has worked to cultivate and challenge our young people, our youth in the areas of math, science, and technology. I know many of you are working on this, have worked on this, and thank you to the Space Foundation, the Space Symposium there is a whole separate track that has been focusing on our young people.

Now last year I announced that the Air Force was partnering with the Air Force Association and industry to develop a STEM outreach competition called StellarXplorers. Now this similar in some ways to the successful CyberPatriot program, which is a competition in the cyber domain for StellarXplorers, is for all of us, but with the focus is on space.

Now five teams competed last year. This year, we saw StellarXplorers expand to 27 teams across the globe and there are plans to expand further in next year's competition. So needless to say I think this is fantastic growth, the program is really catching on. And it is my hope that the StellarXplorers program will generate excitement about the space-cyber business and inspire America's youth to follow that career path. And all of the programs that contribute to science, technology, engineering and math, and inspire our young people, there is goodness in all of them. So I want to thank all of you for your contributions to – that special thanks to StellarXplorer sponsors, AGI, Orbital, Kratos Technology, and the Space Foundation, and of course to AFA as well, to taking the program and running with it.

Now while I'm proud to say that the Air Force is unmatched in the sky...You know that is really not the end of the story. Because the truth is, the sky is not the limit for our Air Force. The sky is not the limit for you and it's not the limit for United States of America. So I challenge you... just like I challenge our Airmen every day... to think beyond the limits that we perhaps have put on ourselves and to know, to know way deep down, that innovation, hard work, and commitment – these are what will carry us way beyond the stars in the future. I thank you so very much. And thank you for your contributions to our very important space mission!