



Guardian Challenge 2004

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Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Osberry

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Carr of the 341st Space Wing, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., sends his team roaring into competition. Sergeant Carr is "Road Kill," the Malmstrom Grizzly.

Teams touch down for GC 2004

By Airman 1st Class Chris Smith
Guardian Challenge Public Affairs

Awaiting competitors and spectators cheered Sunday as jet engines wound down and the last of the Guardian Challenge 2004 participants exited their planes, the grins on their faces showing the excitement they knew was to come.

Space and missile warriors traveled from Air Force Space Command bases across the country to participate in the Guardian Challenge competition, the Air Force's premier space and missile competition.

With this year being the first year Los Angeles Air Force Base teams will participate, it marks the first time the entire command will be represented at the competition.

Several senior officers greeted the participants on the flightline, including the commander of Air Force Space Command Gen. Lance W. Lord; Maj. Gen. Michael A. Hamel, 14th Air Force commander; Maj. Gen. Frank G. Klotz, 20th Air Force commander and Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Fraser, director of Air and

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Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Osberry

From the top

“Guardian Challenge represents day-to-day combat readiness – both on the space and missile side of Air Force Space Command. I’m a firm believer that if we’re going to win the global war on terrorism, we’re going to have to use the capabilities of this command and other commands our colleagues represent. It’s important to come to Vandenberg and demonstrate those skills, and we look forward to a great week.” -- General Lance W. Lord, commander of Air Force Space Command.

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Space Operations. Each and every contestant was greeted with a salute and a handshake, shortly after setting foot on the flightline.

“This is very exciting,” said Capt. Jonathan Royer from headquarters AFSPC. “I’m not accustomed to arriving to this kind of welcome.”

Arriving on Vandenberg’s flightline and being welcomed by General Lord and other AFSCP personnel from across the country was an exciting and unforgettable event, said Chief Master Sgt. Gilbert McKay, 137th Security Forces Flight.

“This is the best welcome I’ve had since Desert Storm,” he said.

Following everyone meeting the awaiting generals

and personnel, members from each unit gathered together to yell their unique motivational chants.

This was the time when the teams could yell their intentions to defeat other teams in the coming competitions.

“We’re ready and we’re pumped.” said Col. Allen Kirkman Jr., 460th Air Base Wing commander, after he and his teams finished shouting their chant.

After the teams finished their motivational chants, they loaded onto their buses and were driven off the flightline to get some rest and ready themselves for the competitions to come this week.

More than 200 participants will compete throughout the five-day event and to improve space and missile procedures and operations.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Greer

Above, Michael Hill and Salvador Lopez, both from the Space and Missile Systems Center Team, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., offload supplies and equipment after arriving at Vandenberg for Guardian Challenge. Below, The 91st Space Wing "Roughriders" from Minot Air Force Base, N.D. gather their "bully sticks" together for an inspirational cheer.



Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Osberry

Members of the 45th Space Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. arrived with one idea in mind, bringing home the Schriever Trophy. The 45th Space Wing completed their launch and maintenance competition April 21 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kyle Fidel

The 460th ABW arrive from Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. with their mascot "Buck Lee", wearing their team jackets.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Greer

Tech. Sgt. Janice Cannon, from the 30th Space Communications Squadron, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., gathers members from the Space and Missile Systems Center Team for a group photo during Guardian Challenge arrivals.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Craig R Cisek

The 90th Space Wing, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., (left), arrives at Guardian Challenge

Tomorrow's weather

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Making changes

Two significant competition "firsts" highlighted the competition in 1975. For the first time women crewmembers competed; and security police teams joined the competition.

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