



# Guardian Challenge 2004

Vol. 13 no. 3

Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

May 4, 2004

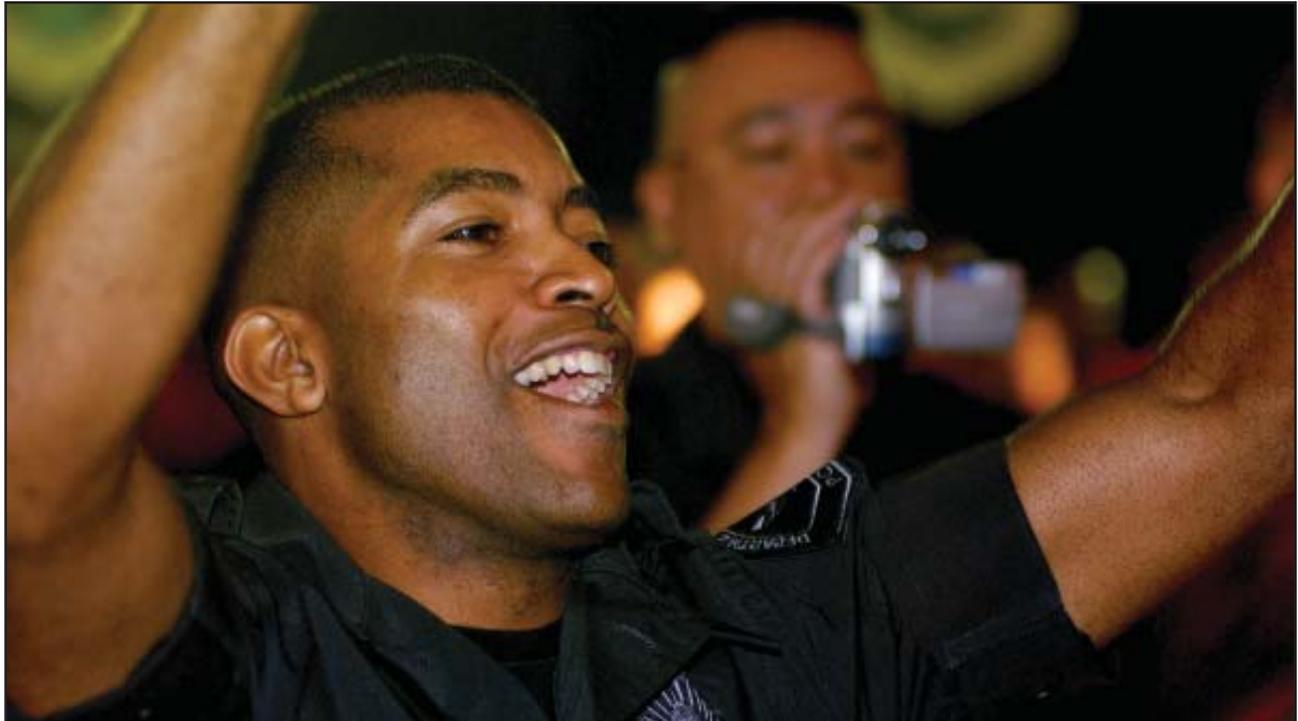


Photo by Staff Sgt. William Greer

**Darrel Worthen, Space and Missile Systems Center team member from Los Angeles Air Force Base Calif., cheers during the opening ceremony of Guardian Challenge 2004 Monday.**

## *Opening ceremonies kick off GC 2004*

**By Airman 1st Class Katie Booher**  
*Guardian Challenge Public Affairs*

Decibal-breaking shouts of "Bully," "Shark attack" and various other cheers rang throughout the hangar as Air Force Space Command teams entered for the Guardian Challenge 2004 opening ceremonies Monday.

After the arrival of the official party, the national anthems of both the United States and the United Kingdom were played and a prayer was given.

Brig. Gen. Doug Fraser, master of ceremonies, said Guardian Challenge was designed to test the skills of Air Force Space Command's best warriors, but during the competition, people should also think about every warrior who has gone before them and worked hard to make Space Command what it is today.

"The Guardian Challenge competitors represent the finest space and missile force in the world," he said. "In this, the 50th year of Air Force space and missiles, let us also

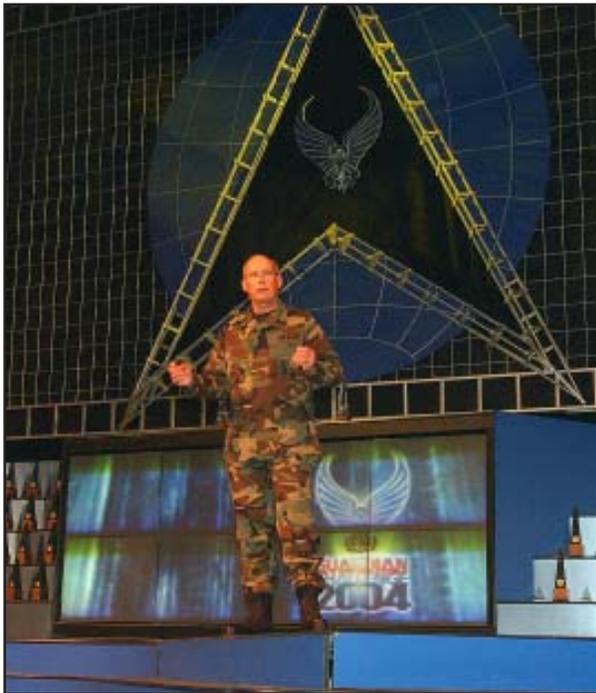
remember the hard work and sacrifices of those who came before us in making this command and this country great."

After the speech, the honor guard from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., was recognized as the official honor guard for the competition. Then, the youngest competitors from each team received awards.

Maj. Gen. John Regni, 2nd Air Force commander, a competition judge, said although it was his first time as a judge, he would use Gen. Lance Lord's example as a GC 2000 judge to guide him.

"It's my duty to oversee this week's events, tally your scores and on Thursday I get to hand out the trophies," he said. "I'm honored to be here this week as your competitive judge and I'm really excited to be a part of such a rich heritage. Guardian Challenge 2004 is already shaping up to be the best competition ever."

And with a swift wrap of his oversized gavel, General Regni officially opened the Guardian Challenge 2004 competition to the ear-pounding cheers of the audience.



## From the top

“I want the competitors to do their best and realize they can’t do this by themselves – they’re part of a team and we look forward to letting the best teams win. They get to compete for all these trophies and it will be a wonderful, wonderful time for them.”

-- General Lance W. Lord  
Commander, Air Force Space Command

### Tomorrow’s weather



72/46



### Firsts ...

In 1988, Peacekeeper missile competitors joined the Olympic Arena tradition, which is what GC used to be called. Three years later, the First Aces from the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB marked another milestone after winning the Blanchard Trophy two consecutive years — a competition first. Security police teams didn’t compete in 1991 due to Gulf War commitments.

## STAFF

- GC Competition Commander..... Col. Robert Keyser
- Chief of Public Affairs ..... Jenna McMullin
- Deputy Chief of Public Affairs ..... Maj. April Jackson
- Chief of Community Relations..... Capt. Amy Sufak
- Chief of Media Relations..... 1st Lt. Michelle Mayo
- NCOIC of Media Relations..... Staff Sgt. Shad Eidson
- NCOIC of Public Affairs ..... Staff Sgt. Phyllis Duff
- Chief of Internal Information ..... Staff Sgt. Susan Mrowiec
- GC newsletter editor ..... Airman 1st Class Shaun Emery
- Staff Writer ..... Airman 1st Class Lauren Hasinger
- Staff Writer ..... Airman 1st Class Chris Smith
- Staff Writer ..... Airman 1st Class Katherine Booher

**T**his funded Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members participating in Air Force Space Command’s space and missiles competition, Guardian Challenge. Contents of this newsletter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The content is edited and prepared by the Guardian Challenge Public Affairs team, Vandenberg AFB, Calif. This newsletter is published daily during the competition.

**S**ubmissions should be sent to the GC Public Affairs office in the Vandenberg Center. All submissions will be edited for space to conform to standards set forth in the Air Force Instruction 35-301 and the Associated Press Stylebook. For more information, contact the editor at DSN 276-6272 or (805) 606-6272. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise noted.

# Sharp shooters aim for victory

*GC cops rack up points during marksmanship competition*

By Airman 1st Class Chris Smith  
Guardian Challenge Public Affairs

The unmistakable sound of gunfire blasts from the firing range and can be heard all around. The base isn't under attack, but there is still a battle being waged.

Fully clad in battle dress, flak vests, gas masks, Kevlar helmets and rucksacks, the 460th Panthers, the 21st Knights, 50th Generals, Space and Missile Systems Center and the 45th Sharks security forces teams began their marksmanship competitions Monday to see which team has the sharpest eyes, deadliest aim and the skill to win the title "best-of-the-best" as marksmen.

**"We're gonna give em' hell and bring home a trophy."**

Airman 1st Class Tim Robblee  
406th Security Forces

The purpose behind the marksmanship competition is to test and evaluate basic security-force skills required to function and survive in military operations ranging, from day-to-day security to combat, including military operations other than war.

Just being a part of the team that's competing is a great experience, said Airman 1st Class Tim Robblee, 460th Panthers security forces team.

"I think it's really cool to be chosen out of so many who tried out," said Airman Robblee.

Airman Robblee added, "We're gonna give em' hell and bring a trophy home."

And like other participants on rival teams, the Panther security forces team think they'll be the team to win.



photo by Senior Airman Karolina Gmyrek

**Tech. Sgt. Todd Knutson, 50th Space Wing security forces marksmanship team leader, gestures for team members to remove their gas masks during a marksmanship competition Monday.**

"I think we'll win because we've put forth a lot of hard training," said Airman 1st Class Chris Dickerson, also a Panther. "We've got great skill, a real cohesive team and we work well

together."

The 90th Wranglers, 91st Rough Riders, 310th Bombardiers, 30th Hawks and 341st Grizzlies are scheduled to compete in the marksmanship competition today.

# Getting things started



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Wallis

Left to right, Senior Airman Lee "The General" Heineken, Staff Sgt. Gabriel "Snark" Nelson, Tech Sgt. David "Teddy" Larrison, and Master Sgt. Jeffrey "Road Kill" Carr, mug for the camera.

Maj. Gen. John Regni, 2nd Air Force commander, swings the gavel as presiding competition judge to signify the start of competition during the opening ceremonies of Guardian Challenge.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Wallis



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Greer

Right, Chief Master Sgt. James Travis, from the Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., trades pins with Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Morey, from the 20th Air Force, F.E. Warren



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Greer

**Above, LT. Col. David Morrow, head chaplain from the 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., says a prayer to start opening ceremonies.**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Edmund Gibbons

**"Iron Mike," Staff Sgt Jason Hand, mascot from 21st Space Wing, Peterson AFB Colo., motivates the 21st Space Wing team.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Greer

**Team members from the Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., bow their heads in prayer.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Greer

**The Guardian Challenge Honor Guard, which is from the 45th Space Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., this year, presents the colors during opening ceremonies.**

# *Staying on top of their game*



Photo by Master Sgt. Rodney Jones

From right: Co-pilot 1st Lt. Lindsay Carl commander Capt. Ryan Dahlin, and Staff Sgt. Brian Waits, flight engineer, all assigned to the 76th Helicopter Flight at Vandenberg Air Force Base, plan an exercise flight scenario Monday.



Senior Airmen Kevin Cain and William Cacek of the 90th Space Wing, F.E. Warren Air Force Base Wyo., do a familiarization on a hydraulic pusher set prior to competing in the hydraulic exercise.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Craig Cisek