

Vandenberg launches Minuteman II missile

BY TECH. SGT. LLOYD CONLEY
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ An unarmed Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile target vehicle was successfully launched in support of the National Missile Defense Program at 9:18 p.m. July 7 from North Vandenberg.

Twenty minutes later the prototype interceptor was launched from Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. The interceptor did not reach the Minuteman II target.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronald T. Kadish, director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, explained immediately following the test that the exoatmospheric kill vehicle, the “bullet” of the NMD architecture, apparently waited for a signal from the booster rocket that never came. Lacking the signal, he said, the kill vehicle shut down its timeline and never attempted to intercept the Vandenberg target. The kill vehicle relies on hitting a target to destroy it.

Defense officials reported July 8 that everything else from kill vehicle sensors to ground control systems performed as expected up to the moment separation should have occurred. They also said preliminary indications are that the prototype tracking radar at Kwajalein performed well and discriminated the mock warhead from all other objects, includ-

ing debris from an improperly inflated decoy balloon.

Government and industry officials will review the test data to trace the failure and determine what test objectives were or were not met. They could not estimate when the review would be complete.

This is the fifth NMD test, but only the third intercept attempt, said Adm. Craig Quigley, Pentagon spokesman. It was the second intercept mission for the program this year. The last mission took place Jan. 18.

The test did not proceed without controversy, though. The environmental protection group, Greenpeace, exercised their constitutional right by aggressively protesting the NMD program and the Vandenberg test launch.

Team Vandenberg carried out its mission to support the ICBM test launch despite attempts by demonstrators to stop the launch by trespassing on Vandenberg and reportedly sending their ship, the Arctic Sunrise, into the launch safety zone off the central California coast.

“We’ve shown why Vandenberg is the world’s premier spaceport,” said Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander and spacelift commander for the test launch.

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DAVA HELGENSEN SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORY

The Minuteman II lifts off from north Vandenberg July 7. The photograph was taken from the Del Punta viewing site.

Protestors attempt to stop launch

Vandenberg security forces detain Greenpeace activists on north base

BY MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ It’s a little after 3 a.m. in the canyon above Shuman Creek, five miles inland from Minuteman Beach. It’s 55 degrees under a clear sky. The northwesterly breeze off the Pacific brings a bite to the humid air.

Branches rub against each other, weeds rattle, and animals small and large go about their nightly foraging.

Ticks forage, too. Just the thought, the mere mention of the word, and Staff Sgt. Robert Rabjohn seems to feel them crawling up his leg, down his back and in his hair. Indeed, they are. He must remain silent. Rabjohn is waiting for an intruder out there somewhere in the darkness. He must remember that

the next couple of hours are critical; it will be light soon. His enemy prefers the night. It can be a defender’s enemy—darkness. It can also be his friend.

Rabjohn sits alone in the darkness watching the rugged terrain. The dew gathers on the cold steel of his M-16. He scans the area before him with his night-vision goggles and hand-held thermal imager. The cool night air serves as a dark mat to highlight even the smallest light signature—a field mouse, a coyote—a

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Comment

“Men and women of the 30th Space Wing thank Gen. Looney for the Mission well done day.”

Where are the heroes? At Vandenberg

BY COL. STEVE LANNING
30th Space Wing Commander

Last week, Team Vandenberg found itself tested in the crucible of public scrutiny. While our men and women carried out one of the most demanding missions any military unit could execute – missile launch operations – our team of airmen, NCOs, officers and civilians fought a battle along our perimeter and in the glare of international camera crews.

On July 7, we successfully launched a Minuteman II ICBM in support of the National Missile Defense program. We demonstrated why Vandenberg is the world's premier spaceport. It was a heroic effort.

Sometimes we hear people ask, “Where have all the heroes gone?” They search for heroes to inspire, to lead the way, and to set standards of excellence for achievement. But I know the answer to their question: the heroes are here at

Team Vandenberg. Our team is full of these people. They're not hard to find.

Vandenberg is a national asset. Our national command authorities depend on us to carry out very demanding missions that include support for ICBM test launches and spacelift. The Western Range, with its more than 99 percent reliability, provides essential command and control for spacelift operations and the special test mission we flew last week.

Team Vandenberg carried out its mission to support intercontinental ballistic missile test launches despite attempts to stop the launch by demonstrators trespassing on Vandenberg and claims by Greenpeace that their ship was in the Stage One Booster Drop Zone.

We got the job done in a professional fashion because we have the team with the best talent. Our helicopter crews from the 76th Helicopter Flight conducted low-altitude sweeps of north

base using Forward Looking Infra-red Radar to spot infiltrators. Team Vandenberg's security forces on the ground were wearing night vision goggles and using hand-held and vehicle mounted thermal imagers. As impressive as this new technology is, I'm more impressed with what makes this capability work – our people.

When I look across Team Vandenberg, I'm reminded that the capability this organization brings

to our nation's defense comes from a mosaic of people with a variety of skills and expertise.

It was the defenders in the 30th Security Forces Squadron, and not their hardware, who maintained this installation's security, protected the launch operations facility, and apprehended trespassing demonstrators.

The military members and civilian employees in the 30th Services Squadron cared for our children in their

(Heroes are) someone like our airmen here who know the easy way is often not the best way, or the right way. They show their strength of character in the choices they make, whether it's working a double shift, caring for our children in home daycare, or facing a barrage of media in the glare of national and international attention.

Col. Steve Lanning
30th Space Wing Commander



Lanning talks with Santa Maria Time reporter Janeen Scully..

homes and at the child development center so we could focus on the launch. The team from Services also provided hot, nutritious meals for our cops in the field and provided lodging for out-of-town visitors supporting the launch.

The 30th Transportation Squadron's men and women were phenomenal. They provided extra vehicle support for the launch, giving sedans, sport utility vehicles and buses to security forces for their patrols, protocol for distinguished visitors and public affairs to move the press from our main gate to the media viewing site.

Our partners at Detachment 9, Space & Missile Systems Center carried out a technically difficult launch perfectly.

The men and women in the 30th Range Squadron made sure the range was ready in the face of a number of challenges. Thanks to them, range support was outstanding.

Our forecasters in the 30th Weather Squadron once again fed the launch operators accurate, up-to-date weather information for locations around the

globe.

The chaplains also assisted with the superb weather forecast and, as always, the spiritual needs of our warriors and families.

The photographers and videographers in the 30th Communications Squadron provided extensive support to our security forces, including extra radios for forces patrolling the base for intruders. COMM also released a professional, first-look video of the launch within hours of liftoff and distributed it through public affairs to the media.

The 30th Medical Group effectively stood up their Medical Control Center and coordinated helicopter response and ground ambulance support with local community emergency services.

Public affairs fought the battle for public support via 86 media representatives from 37 different outlets in eight countries. They answered more than 200 requests for information from media around the world, escorted eight live broadcast TV satellite tracks to the

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SPACE&MISSILETIMES

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Vandenberg AFB Public Affairs Office. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are Air Force photos.

Publication deadline is 4:30 p.m. every Friday. The Public Affairs Office reserves the right to edit all submissions for style and space. Send submissions to: 30SW/PA, 747 Nebraska Ave., Room A-105, VAFB, CA 93437; via fax at DSN 276-8303 or commercial (805) 606-8303.



Col. Steve Lanning
Commander,
30th Space Wing

Commander's Action Line

As the wing commander, my primary focus is on the mission and I believe that our mission success will be based on how well we care for our people on and off the job.

The Action Line is your direct link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice your concerns, share constructive ideas or give your fellow base members a pat on the back. The Action Line is not a replacement for using the chain of command.

Callers are asked to leave their name and contact number in case more information is needed.

I want Vandenberg to continue to be the best Air Force base in the world. Working together, it will be.

606-7850

CE CONTRACTORS REPAIR SIDEWALK

Q I live in east housing. A few weeks ago, contractors tore up the sidewalk and have not returned to fix it. I would like to know when the workers will fix the sidewalk. It needs to be soon. My children cannot play in the front yard because of the big hole. Please let me know what is going on.

A Thank you for the inquiry. The sidewalk on Timber Lane was restored June 19. The base civil engineer has restructured the work schedule to ensure the concrete pour for the new sidewalk follows closely behind the demolition of the old and the contractor will restore the lawn.

HOT WATER FURNACE AT AQUATIC CENTER

Q For the last few days the water in the shower at the pool has been ice cold. I talked to the aquatic director and she told me that she had notified CE of this condition. What concerns me is whether or not this condition will exist when children begin their swimming classes, especially the ones in the morning.

A Thank you for your concern. The showers in the men's and women's locker room were ice cold because the furnace in the pump room was broken. Civil engineers explained the furnace was still under warranty and they were waiting for the contractor to repair it. The showers were fixed by June 14.

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Del Punta viewing site, and provided a chance to view the launch for more than 250 members of the local community.

The 30th Space Wing Operations Centers' controllers superbly ensured operational reports and other messages were forwarded in a timely manner to higher headquarters and made sure base leadership was aware of developments occurring day and night.

The 576th Flight Test Squadron posted people at each launch facility as "listening posts" to help protect the base's security.

Our folks in the 30th Operations Support Squadron made sure our airfield was able to support our helicopter crews flying surveillance for Friday's launch.

The staff judge advocate and his staff gave excellent advice on how to deal with the apprehension of trespassers.

Our safety officials gave the launch team sound advice on the Greenpeace boat claiming to be in the booster drop zone. Our numbered Air Force commander, Maj. Gen. William Looney, and the Headquarters 14th Air Force Flying Tigers provided us with the absolutely best support during the important military campaign.

Finally, our families were the "wind

beneath our wings," providing us with the love and support during the many challenges we faced last week.

Team Vandenberg had a clear sense of purpose executing and supporting the Minuteman II launch. We knew our priorities, and we held fast to our convictions in the face of pressure.

That's how you find a hero. They're someone like our airmen here who know the easy way is often not the best way, or the right way. They show their strength of character in the choices they make, whether it's working a double shift, caring for our children in home daycare, or facing a barrage of media in the glare of national and international attention.

But the men and women of Team Vandenberg are willing to risk the negative in order to enjoy the positive.

We have the

"Never give up! Never, never give up!"

Winston Churchill

insights and skills needed to carry out our mission better than anyone else in the world. We can do this because Team Vandenberg has built a foundation of trust and teamwork.

All of you are heroes. I think your attitude is the reason why we're the world's premier spaceport. Winston Churchill summed it up best when he gave what many think is his greatest speech. It was seven words long:

"Never give up! Never, never give up!"

Vandenberg firefighters snuff blaze

Crews make short work of brushfire before MM II launch

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Emergency response crews from Vandenberg responded to a small brush fire between Korina Street and Lompoc Casmalia Road near base housing around 4 p.m. July 7.

A 30th Security Forces Squadron patrolman in the area noticed smoke and called the law enforcement desk, which has a direct line to the fire dispatch. Vandenberg's fire department responded within 10 minutes to the location with two wildland brush trucks, two bulldozers, two water pumpers, a 5,000-gallon water tender, and a helicopter from the 76th Helicopter Flight. The firefighters extinguished the blaze within minutes.

The large response was due to the fire's close

proximity to base housing, the heightened fire dangers on base, and the high profile of Friday's Minuteman II missile launch.

"The fire danger right now is high; we're very close to extreme conditions for a possible large fire," said Mark Farias, systems fire chief for the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron.

The fire danger level is determined by the moisture content of the vegetation, humidity levels, temperature and other variables, Farias explained.

"With the location of the fire by base housing, we didn't want to take a chance with a shift in the wind direction. Also, we didn't want to interfere with the launch," Farias said.

Firefighters feared a repeat of the 1997 fire called the "Halloween fire." It was started by embers from an Explosive Ordinance Disposal operation. It also started small, but it spread fast then lasted for two days.



Vandenberg Hot Shots tend to the Santa Lucia fire in 1997.

"We didn't want that to happen with the protest and launch going on," Farias said.

Less than an acre was burned Friday, there was no damage to property and no one was injured. The results of the investigation revealed the fire was started by a child who was playing with a lighter, said Farias.

Career broadening offers opportunities for officers

A variety of positions available, chance to get an expanded view of the Air Force

■ RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Air Force officers who want to enhance their career and experience something outside of their specialty should check out the opportunities offered through career broadening assignments.

There are a variety of positions available, which give line officers an opportunity to get an expanded view of the Air Force and develop some skills they may not be able to develop in their own career field, according to Lt. Col. Charles Kelker, career broadening branch chief.

With positions such as aide-de-camps, air attachés, exchange officers, Air University instructors, Basic Military Training or technical school commanders, international politico-military affairs and protocol, there are a number of opportunities available.

"The Air Force has been taking a strong look at developing leaders and one of the keys is to make sure the officer corps is broad in experience so they can succeed in a wealth of leadership positions," Kelker said. "Career broadening gives an officer

that breadth of experience they might not get otherwise.

"For instance, someone in a specialty that does not have many overseas requirements may never get an opportunity to go overseas," he said. "If they want that experience, which is very valuable since we are an expeditionary force, they could volunteer for career broadening in an overseas area to gain that experience."

Officers who are interested in a career broadening assignment need to understand "there is a right time to do career broadening," according to Kelker. Historically, officers did career broadening after they've been in their career field between five and seven years. However, we are seeing more opportunities for field grade officers as the number of field grade career broadening requirements are increasing.

"There is no right time for everybody," Kelker said. "It just depends on what they've done so far and if their primary career field manning can support temporarily losing the officer to a career broadening assignment."

Capt. Michelle L. Hamerla, 85th Mission Support Squadron military personnel flight commander, Keflavik, Iceland, said her career broadening assignment as an Air Force ROTC instructor at Kent University, Ohio in

1995, gave her a jump-start toward her graduate degree while also starting her down a path of diverse Air Force knowledge.

"My career broadening assignment

"People sometimes look at career broadening jobs with a 'What will that do for me?' attitude. That's not right. It's really about, 'What can I do for this job? What can I do that will make a difference?' That's the attitude that will make a difference."

Capt. Michelle L. Hamerla,
85th Mission Support Squadron

experience gave me two years of close contact with officers from other career fields — for example, missileers and acquisitions officers," Hamerla said. "To be a good instructor, I had to know about all the career fields.

"I also had the opportunity to mentor young people and introduce them to military service by teaching in the classroom and recruiting both on campus and in the community,"

Hamerla said. "ROTC duty is really everything you put into it. Doing well means being self-motivated, creative, excited, and driven to do your best for the Air Force.

"People sometimes look at career broadening jobs with a 'What will that do for me?' attitude. That's not right," Hamerla said. "It's really about, 'What can I do for this job? What can I do that will make a difference?' That's the attitude that will make a difference."

Officers need to look at their career pyramid, talk to their assignment managers and their supervisors to find out when it's appropriate for them to consider a career broadening assignment. Once that decision is made, they should indicate their special duty request on their Preference Worksheet and e-mail the point of contact here to let them know they are interested in a career broadening assignment.

"We're looking for officers with good attitudes, solid records, and a willingness to go out and learn something new," Kelker said.

To find out more information, check out the Career Broadening Assignments site on the Air Force Personnel Center web page at <http://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/careerbroad/career-broad.htm>.

NEWS BRIEFS

381ST TRSS WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

The 381st Training Support Squadron change-of-command ceremony is today at 10 a.m. at the 381st Training Group flagpole. Lt. Col. Michael McNeely will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Edward Rios. For more information, Call Maj. Roderick Davis at 606-5737.

AIRMAN'S CENTER NEEDS MANAGER

A position is available for a qualified technical or master sergeant as manager of the First-Term Airman's Center. Duties will include coordinating with 35 separate base organizations and networking with all base units.

The person selected must possess a strong supervisory background and have no negative administrative actions. The program manager will report directly to the 30th Mission Support Squadron Commander. Resumes and letters of recommendation need to be submitted by July 24. For more information, call Master Sgt. Brian Joseph at 606-2990.

BASE EDUCATION CENTER OFFERS SAT

The Scholastic Aptitude Test is scheduled, for military members only, July 29 at 8 a.m. in the base education center, building 14002. The test will be administered if enough people are scheduled. Call 605-5902 for an appointment. SAT scores are required for various commissioning programs.

VAFB TOP 3 OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP

The Top Three will award two \$300 scholarships during the Aug. 17 general membership meeting at the Pacific Coast Club. The scholarships are targeted at the base's active-duty enlisted members. Candidates must submit a two-to three-page essay featuring an important aspect of enlisted military history. The deadline for this year's scholarship is Aug. 10. For more information, call Master Sgt. Richard Niner at 606-3120 or Senior Master Sgt. Miller at 606-3077.

VAFB TOP THREE HOLDS MEETING

The Vandenberg Top Three general membership meeting is scheduled for noon Thursday at the Pacific Coast Club. The agenda will include selection of a new Top Three president for the remainder of the year 2000 term. Call Master Sgt. Mike Fox at 605-6468 for more information.

30TH MEDICAL GROUP CLOSES FOR FUNCTION

The 30th Medical Group will be closed after 11:30 a.m. July 28 for an official function. Anyone with an emergency should call 911 or report directly to an emergency room. For acute healthcare needs call healthwise at (888) 252-3299. General questions about health should be directed to the Health Care Information Line at (800) 611-2883.

SEASON OPENS FOR THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

Open season for the Thrift Savings Plan is now through July 31. During the open season, federal civilian employees can use the benefits and entitlements service team automated system. Call (800) 997-2378 to enroll, or change the amounts, contributions or allocation of TSP contributions among three investment funds. To obtain current information during the open season, visit the TSP web site at <http://www.tsp.gov>, or call Fredrick Davis in the work force effectiveness section at 606-5847.

DON'T REMOVE LANDSCAPE MATERIAL

Military family housing residents are asked not to remove flowers, shrubs, trees and landscape materials from vacant homes or vacant mobile home spaces.

In some cases, the vacating occupant has not had a final inspection and removing these items increases the person's workload. Also, plants accepted by the housing inspector become government property and removing the property is considered theft of government property. Missing or removed items will be reported to the 30th Security Forces Squadron law enforcement desk. For more information, call Earnest Gillless at 606-3795.

New AF officers gain practical experience

By 2nd Lt. David Anderson
392nd Training Squadron

■ Vandenberg seems to be inundated with some of the newest members to the Air Force.

They appear to be everywhere and tend to travel in pairs or packs because there is safety in numbers and less chance of getting lost. They are sometimes called "Leaper," "L.T.," or even "hey, you!"

They are the newest officers in the Air Force assigned to the 392nd Training Squadron here.

Quite a few of them are transition students.

The transition lieutenants are commonly called LEAPs, an acronym for Lieutenant Early Accession Program, and are assigned to various base offices and organizations while waiting for their security clearance from the Defense Security Service.

The intent of the program is to provide an opportunity for officers awaiting formal training to develop leadership and staff skills by gaining practical work experience in different Air Force specialties.

"From the Operational Readiness Inspection to Guardian Challenge 2000, and from the Special Olympics to the Vandenberg sports day, the transition student program has positively touched our base," said Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander.

"I am grateful for the great efforts the individual students contribute to the overall mission success of Team Vandenberg," he continued.

The Air Force began assigning transition students, their official title, to the 381st Training Group in 1995 when second lieutenants were placed on active duty within 60 days of commissioning.

In 1999, the term LEAP was changed to transition student to more accurately reflect the students' status.

Transition students currently work in more than 25 different offices throughout Vandenberg. Some of the offices and units they work in are 30th Space Wing Public Affairs, the 76th Helicopter Flight, 2nd Space Launch Squadron and the 30th Medical Group.

"I have learned so much," said 2nd Lt. Danielle Edelin, a transition student monitor.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

2nd Lt. Patrick Wilkerson, 392nd Training Squadron transition student, serves as a tour guide with the 30th Space Wing Public Affairs Office at the Vandenberg Heritage Center.

Working in other Air Force specialties has provided her an opportunity to learn different aspects of other career fields, she said.

"Every year we train about 350 lieutenants in our school house," said Capt. Edie Edmondson, 392nd Training Squadron Student Administration flight commander, "On average, there are 45 second lieutenants in transition status at any given time."

What determines the length of time a lieutenant stays in transition status depends on when the appropriate security clearance is received and 392nd classroom availability, Edmondson said.

The number of new lieutenants arriving at Vandenberg fluctuates with graduations from the various college and university ROTC units, officer training school and the Air Force Academy. The majority of the students arrive during the summer months.

After in-processing, each lieutenant is assigned to a class or to an office that requests transition students from the 392nd TRS transition student monitor. The transition student monitor is also in transition status. The students work in that organization until they receive their security clearance and class start date. A student could remain in transition status for weeks or months because of the backlog of clearances at DSS.

"So long as there are missiles on alert and satellites flying over head, the 381st Training Group and 392d Training Squadron will continue to prepare new lieutenants for those missions," Lanning said.



30TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON VIDEO

Security Forces detain an alleged Greenpeace activist for trespassing.

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man!

Rabjohn's pulse quickens, weapon at the ready—patience. Like a hunter, he waits. Are there more? No, the intruder is alone. Weapon loaded and on safe, he rises to challenge: "Halt!"

He advances on the subject, who is dumbfounded to be caught in the six-foot tall sagebrush. After all, this country is owned only by the feral pig, coyote, deer...and the men and women of the 30th Security Forces Squadron.

All told, 30th SFS quick reaction forces on the northern part of the base detained 12 trespassers attempting to prevent the July 7 Minuteman II launch in support of the National Missile Defense Program test.

"We received intelligence on a planned penetration of the base," said Master Sgt. Bill Kane, 30th SFS noncommissioned officer in charge of flight operations.

Vandenberg's immense size, 98,400 acres, makes it logistically impossible to prevent isolated or random penetration attempts, said Capt. Victor Moncrieffe, 30th SFS operations officer.

"Our primary objective was protection of the launch facility," he said. "The entire operation was a classic example of an air base defense operation."

Kane emphasized the people, their dedication and professionalism, were the key factor in the operation. Balancing the manpower need during the operation was only part of the equation. Shift coverage afterward had to be considered as well.

People like Staff Sgt. Danny Speaks were the key, working long hours in austere conditions, said Chief Master Sgt. Louis DeMonte, 30th SFS Manager.

"He'd worked a swing shift, that's 1300 to 2300. He heard that we had room for a couple of additional people for the nightshift out in the field, so he volunteered.

"These are the type of people I have working for me," he said. "I haven't been prouder in my 23 years of service."

"Everybody was armed up, ready to go, even while at their desks," said Master Sgt. A.P. James, 30th SFS NCOIC of installation security. "You could hear the excitement in their voices. Those guys did an excellent job!"

"Everybody realized the magnitude of what they were doing and what impact failure could bring," Kane said.

"I felt like I was doing something vital," said Senior Airman Michael Adams, quick reaction force team member. "We were doing something important and felt appreciated."

Adams was joined by Senior Airman Scott Suzadail and Airman 1st Class Curt Richter as part of Tech. Sgt. Dalton Tisdale's team.

According to Richter, the team trudged through man-high brush, up and down steep, rocky hills constantly on the look out for intruders—and snakes.

"I saw two rattlesnakes," said Suzadail. "I was a few feet from a three-footer ready to strike."

The long, hot day took its toll on their bodies but not their high spirits...then they got the call for back up.

Describing how he felt when the call came in, Adams said, "I was full of adrenaline—in a good way!"

"It was two miles to where four intruders were being detained," Richter said.

While Richter managed the entire hike on foot, his teammates were picked up by a patrolling helicopter to place them at the scene more quickly, he said.

While on scene, Tisdale's team watched while the cooperative detainees were searched and removed. Eventually Richter and Adams ended up carrying the intruders' backpacks two miles

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"Vandenberg is a national asset," Lanning said. "The Western Range, with its more than 99 percent reliability, provides essential command and control for spacelift operations and the special test mission that flew."

"Our forces were calm and professional while they maintained the security of the launch operation and safeguarded the well-being of demonstrators and the general public," Lanning said. "The quality of the men and women on Team Vandenberg is unequalled."

The program is managed by the NMD Program Executive Office, Washington, D.C.

The goal of the test was to demonstrate the ability of the exoatmospheric kill vehicle, or EKV, to intercept the target. The kill vehicle is the bullet of the weapon system in the

NMD architecture. Using a hit-to-kill concept, it destroys a target using only kinetic energy or the force of impact.

Quigley said Air Force officials will present a Deployment Readiness Review to Defense Secretary William Cohen.

"In the weeks ahead, the secretary will make his DRR recommendation to the president and the president will then make his decision later on this fall," he said. If the president were to give the program the green light, it would be operational in fiscal 2005.

The system is being designed to protect the United States from a limited intercontinental ballistic missile attack. It consists of ground-based interceptors, command, control and communication, X-band radars and upgraded early warning radars.

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back, Richter added.

"That was another 100 pounds we had to (carry) out over the rough ground we'd just come over," he said.

While the excitement of the apprehension waned with their numb shoulders, Richter said he was glad they'd found those four and removed them prior to entering the impact limit line area.

Moncrieffe pointed out that Tisdale's team was one part of a layered "defense in-depth" that integrated technology, manpower and resources.

Although he was not on foot, Staff Sgt. Keivan Faalzadeh, quick reaction force leader, fulfilled an integral role in the defense as he patrolled the region around the launch facility with Airman 1st Class Cynthia Picos, noted Moncrieffe.

"We had assigned sectors to patrol in our vehicle. That's when we made contact with our 'friends,'" Faalzadeh said, referring to the intruders.

Faalzadeh recalled the initial confrontation.

"One of the intruders turned and said, 'We're not going to stop for one person, you better get some more people up

here,'" the staff sergeant said.

According to Faalzadeh, as he called in his location, the man clambered up the rugged hillside in an attempt to evade. Immediately, security forces responded to Faalzadeh's report.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Bolden responded to the site on his all-terrain vehicle. Staff Sgts. Scott Bleau and William Monroe converged on the infiltrator's location with their military working dogs, a 65-pound Belgian Malinois named Zeus and Duke, a 96-pound German Shepherd. "Once the canine was on scene, the infiltrator complied," he concluded.

Canine patrols were an important aspect of the layered defense, Moncrieffe said.

In another canine patrol, Staff Sgt. Jeff Hardin was teamed up with Staff Sgt. Johnny Smith and Astor, an 80-pound Belgian Malinois MWD, climbed and crawled through the chest-high scrub.

"We picked our way down animal trails into a steep-walled ravine," Hardin said.

After jumping down from a seven-foot ledge, they wound their way through tick-infested pampas grass with the dog on

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STAFF, SGT JANICE CANNON

Watch me

Kaylyn Hyder demonstrates the doggie paddle as her brother David Hyder looks on Monday at the Vandenberg Family Aquatic Center. The aquatic center instructors hold swimming lessons Monday through Friday beginning at 9 a.m. for 30 minutes. Cost is \$18 for active duty family members and \$23 for civilians. There are two sessions left this summer; July 24 to Aug. 4 and Aug 7 to 18. Call 606-3581 for more information and to sign-up.

14 FRI The Santa Barbara County Fair

is going on now and ends Sunday at the Santa Barbara Fair Grounds in Santa Maria. This year the theme is "Race to the Fair." Today is Agriculture Day. Military and Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is Saturday. Active duty military members get free admission with a current identification card. Fiesta Day is Sunday.

Chapel services

CATHOLIC

- ♦ Sunday Morning Mass 9:45 a.m., Chapel 1
- ♦ Saturday Evening Mass 5 p.m., Chapel 2
- ♦ Daily Mass 11:30 a.m., Chapel 2
- ♦ Confessions Saturday 4:15 to 4:45 p.m., Chapel 2

PROTESTANT

- ♦ Contemporary Worship Service 8:30 a.m., Chapel 2
 - ♦ Traditional Worship Service 11:15 a.m., Chapel 1
 - ♦ Inspirational Worship Service 11:30 a.m., Chapel 2
- For information call the Chapel Office at 606-5773.

The **Olde Town Market in Lompoc** starts tonight and continues each Friday through Oct. 27 on south "H" Street at Centennial park from 5 to 8 p.m. Each Friday will feature a different theme. Tonight's theme is "Rib-cook off night." The season ends with "Halloween" on Oct. 27.

The farmers' market, currently located in the parking lot next to the Lompoc Chamber of Commerce, will move to the north and south parking lots of the Sleep Shop on the corner of Cypress and south "H" Street. The market will still operate from 2 to 7 p.m. There will be music, entertainment, food, booths and other activities.

15 SAT The Santa Barbara Muscular Dystrophy Association is holding its eighth annual **Black and Blue Ball** Saturday at the Santa Barbara Polo Grounds. Three bands and twenty five restaurants from the county will be serving food. The

event begins at 6:30 p.m. with a VIP reception and general admission begins at 8. The ball will last until midnight. It is called the Black and Blue ball because of the black tie and blue jeans attire. VIP and General admission tickets may be purchased by calling (805) 683-8566.

17 MON A prenatal and postnatal exercise class is

scheduled for Monday at the base hospital's fourth floor conference room from 2 to 4 p.m. The class will be taught by Nancy Gonzalez and sponsored by Family Advocacy's new parents support group. To register call 606-8217.

A **Sponsorship Training class** is scheduled for Monday at 3 p.m. at the Family Support Center. The class is designed to teach members responsibilities, relocation resources and tips to assist newcomers. Call the relocation office at 606-0801 to register.

See CALENDAR Page 11

CALENDAR from Page 10

18 TUE A **Money Management Basic** class is schedule for

Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Members can learn the basics of managing a checkbook, developing a budget, and using credit. Call Jeri Salveter at 606-4491 to sign-up.

19 WED The Family Support Center staff will hold a traditional **IRA's vs. Roth IRA's class** on Wednesday at 1 p.m. Learn which individual retirement account is right for you. Call Jeri Salveter at 606-4491 to register.

20 THU A **Manage Your Move** class is scheduled for

Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Family Support Center. Members will receive information from finance, housing, TMO, legal and TRICARE. Call the relocation office at 606-0801 to register.

The **Vandenberg AFB Officer Christian Fellowship** meets Thursdays at 7

p.m. in Chapel One. People interested in fellowship and bible study with VAFB officers may attend. Call Col. Kenneth Van Sickle at 606-4315 or Chaplain William Toguchi at 606-5773 for details.

24 MON **Vacation Bible school** runs July 24 through 27

from 9 a.m. to noon at the Religious Education Complex. To kick it off VBS the chapel will host a family barbecue July 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information or to register for Vacation Bible School, call 606-6920 or 606-7718.

27 THU A satellite office of the **Women, Infants, and**

Children program visits the Family Support Center every fourth Thursday of each month. Individuals eligible must be pregnant, breastfeeding, or women with infants and children up to age five. For details on how to sign up for the program, contact Teresa Orozco at 606-4636 or the Lompoc WIC office at 737-6470.

**At the Movies**

Tonight
Small Time Crooks
(PG) 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Center Stage
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Sunday
Center Stage
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

July 21
Gone in 60 Seconds
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

July 22
Dinosaur
(PG) 3 p.m.
Gone in 60 Seconds
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

COPS from Page 8

point searching for intruders, he said.

While Hardin, Smith and Astor didn't encounter any of the Greenpeace trespassers, they, along with the others had more intimate intruders to deal with personally.

Everybody in the field, including the intruders, were infested with ticks, Kane said. "They pulled more than 100 ticks off each of the dogs."

"They were big, ugly ticks," said James, who pulled several off himself.

Ticks were a reality for the deployed forces. Fortunately, their technology came to their aid reducing the brush-beating during the hazardous night-time operations, Moncrieffe emphasized.

"The night-vision goggles and hand-held and vehicle mounted thermal imagers were among the equipment our forces used during the operation were invaluable," he said.

"We use this equipment everyday. We're constantly training on it. That's part of normal flight ops,"

Among the items found on the trespassers were a scanner with 30th SFS radio frequencies, night-vision goggles, global positioning systems and detailed maps, Moncrieffe said.

One person was found with a cellular telephone equipped with a long-range antenna and "wearing headphones to remain stealthy," Faalzadeh added.

"They were very well equipped," Moncrieffe said.

Operations surrounding the

launch facility were only part of the story.

"It was a well-coordinated effort with California Highway Patrol, Santa Barbara County Sheriffs Department, FBI, U.S. Marshal Service, Department of Justice, and the U.S. Coast Guard," he added.

Col. Duane Lamb, 30th Support Group commander, encapsulated the 30th SFS response to the threat by saying, "I could not have been more proud of the security forces squadron. The planning by Lt. Col. Prucey was remarkable; even more impressive was the flawless execution of that plan by the entire security forces unit.

"They truly are the best of the best!"

A beach's beauty can be deceiving

BY TECH. SGT. DOUGLAS FIELDS
533rd Training Squadron

■ Vandenberg has an outstanding location on the central coast of California. A mild climate allows us to enjoy outdoor sports and recreation activities, especially water activities, year round. However, there are risks associated with these activities. While it's great to play hard, people should also play safe.

Many military families did not grow up near a beach, and may not be familiar with its dangers. They may let children go unsupervised at the beach. The adults may be physically present, but sunbathing, walking, talking, or other distractions prevent them from closely monitoring their children. After all, the parents hope to enjoy the vacation, too. Parents are responsible for the safety of their children, but they can only do it right if they know what their children are doing, and what dangers are present.

The Air Force has guidelines for parents regarding the close supervision of children younger than 10 years old while at home, which are based on a child's maturity and judgment. It makes sense to apply this same principle when at the beach: closer supervision for younger kids, less for teens, but even then, neither should ever be left alone.

A very real hazard along the central coast is the dangerous rip tide beneath the water's surface. Rip tides may not be obvious to someone already in the water or a potential swimmer standing on shore, but these strong, underwater currents are created by waves moving over, around and along offshore sandbars. These waves could've been formed by storms hundreds of miles from shore. That's why it may

be a beautiful day at the beach, but the water is too dangerous to enter.

The United States Lifesaving Association says 80 percent of all rescues by lifeguards at America's beaches are due to people being caught in strong currents. People can sometimes identify these strong currents by the foamy, choppy surface, or the dirty-looking water caused by the sand being turned up by the current. The water may be colder than the surrounding water, and waves may not break as readily in the strong current as in adjacent waters.

If someone becomes caught in one of these strong currents, they should relax, tread water and float.

Don't try to swim against the current; this is difficult even for experienced swimmers. It might even tire the person to the point where they can't stay afloat.

Should an individual feel themselves being pulled against their will, yell or wave for assistance.

The strong current will eventually release its grip, and only then should the individual work back toward the shore. Don't be surprised if the current has carried them several hundred yards along the beach before it releases them.

Other beach dangers include sharp rocks, toxic shells and discarded fishing lines and hooks, all of which can cause lacerations and infections.

Families need to become better educated about water safety, not only to protect their children, but also to protect friends and themselves. Know and understand what the hazards are, wherever you're planning a vacation.



STAFF: SGT JANICE CANNON

To the hoop

Several Team Vandenberg members take part in a mid-day pick-up basketball game at the base fitness center. The center is open to active duty members, civilian employees, and dependents.

HAWK SCHEDULES WEIGHT TRAINING CLASS

A beginners weight training class is scheduled for Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Fitness Center.

SPORTS

BRIEFS

Learn the how to's and basic exercises of weight training.

For information, call Tyson Grier at the Health and Wellness Center at 606-2221.

SOFTBALL ALL-STARS PLAY

The all-star softball tournament is scheduled for July 21 on Field No. 2

6 p.m. - National League All-stars vs. American League All-stars

7 p.m. - Homerun Hitting Contest

8 p.m. - All-star winners vs. men's varsity softball team.

HAWKS NEED VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS

The VAFB Lady Hawks varsity volleyball team is looking for players. Interested women who would like to play volleyball at an intermediate level, and are active duty, dependent or DOD civilians on base, should call 2nd Lt. Rich Otton at 606-6375 for more information.

WHITE WATER RAFTING OFFERED

Outdoor Adventure is offering two-day American River whitewater rafting trip. The trip includes transportation, six

See SPORTS Page 16



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Try this one

Ray Orozco, Detachment 9, awaits the pitch from Brian Holbien, 533rd Training Squadron, during American League action Monday night at field two here. Det. 9 snuck by the 533rd 9-6. With the win, the Detachment ups their record to 3-9 and the 533rd drops to 3-9.

SPORTS from Page 13

meals, snacks on the road and rafting costs. Cost is \$115, which does not include

SPORTS BRIEFS

wetsuit rental or meals while traveling to

and from the American river.

VANDENBERG SCHEDULES TRIATHLON

A triathlon is set for Aug. 12 starting at 9 a.m. in the base pool. Swimmers will cover 400 meters, or 16 lengths of the pool. Triathletes will leave the pool and bike a 20-kilometer race before finishing the triathlon

with a 5-kilometer run.

There will be four age classes for men, two for women, and a category for teams. Trophies will be presented to the first and second-place finishers in each age group and team competition. For more information or to sign up, call Staff Sgt. Jessyca Castillo at 606-3832.

LETTERS OF INTENT DUE

Letter of intent for the over 30 softball and intramural soccer season. Must be turned in to the fitness center staff by July 20. Call Tech Sgt. Marvis Neal at 606-3832 for more information.

2000 INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL

| National League | | | | American League | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|-------|-----------------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct. | | W | L | Pct. |
| 30 th SFS | 11 | 0 | 1.000 | 533 rd TRS | 11 | 1 | .917 |
| 576 th FLTS No.1 | 12 | 1 | .923 | 30 th MSS | 9 | 2 | .818 |
| 392 nd TRS | 8 | 3 | .727 | NRO | 9 | 3 | .750 |
| 2 nd SLS | 8 | 3 | .727 | 30 th CES No.2 | 9 | 3 | .750 |
| 30 th CS | 7 | 6 | .538 | 614 th SOPS | 8 | 4 | .667 |
| 30 th CES No.1 | 5 | 7 | .416 | 576 th FLTS No.2 | 6 | 6 | .500 |
| 381 st TRG No.1 | 5 | 9 | .357 | 381 st TRG No.2 | 3 | 9 | .250 |
| 30 th TRANS | 3 | 10 | .231 | Det. 9 | 3 | 9 | .250 |
| 30 th CONS/LG | 3 | 11 | .214 | 30 th MDG | 1 | 11 | .083 |
| 576 th FLTS No.3 | 2 | 11 | .154 | 576 th FLTS No.4 | 0 | 11 | .000 |
| As of Tuesday | | | | | | | |