



Diverse team contains Harris Fire

BY TECH. SGT. BUZZ RITCHIE
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ It's been 23 years since a fire has burned through Vandenberg with the devastation of the Harris Fire. The wind-driven fire that ignited Sept. 13 consumed more than 11,000 acres.

In 1977, a brush fire on south Vandenberg charred 9,040 acres and claimed the lives of the base commander, two fire chiefs and a civilian bulldozer operator.

But unlike that tragic fire 23 years ago, there were no serious injuries as a result of the Harris blaze. Air Force, state and local firefighters here praised the unified command set in place soon after the blaze broke out.

The Harris Fire was completely contained Monday. A fire in a peat bog within Barka Slough continues to smolder.

"What I saw was the teamwork between the Air Force, the county fire departments, and the CDF all working to achieve one goal: maximize the expertise from each department," said Steve

Heil, incident commander for the California Department of Forestry's Incident Command Team 12.

The Harris Fire presented a unique set of circumstances for the CDF's Incident Command Team 12.

"This is the first time I can recall CDF has worked on a military base in a unified command role," Heil explained. It was also the first time a CDF team that size has worked in Santa Barbara County with local fire departments, he added.

"Vandenberg Air Force Base has a very good fire department with some very talented individuals," he said. "With their background they blended right into the system, and it maximized the overall operations."

Those operations included nearly 1,000 firefighters and more than 60 different federal, state and local agencies, said Stan Lake, liaison officer for CDF Incident Command Team 12.

But unlike the devastating fire of 1977, there were just two minor



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Fatigue is etched on the face of an unidentified firefighter here with the California Department of Forestry to quell the Harris Fire.

injuries reported during the Harris Fire.

Harris may also be the last fire fought by Incident Command Team 12,

said the CDF's public information officer, Bill Peters. The CDF is trimming its ranks to 10 teams Dec. 31.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Titan II launches from South Vandenberg

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

■ A Titan II rocket was launched from Space Launch Complex-4 West Thursday at 3:22 a.m.

The rocket's payload is NASA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-L weather satellite.

The NOAA-L satellite will provide long-range weather forecasting. It will operate in tandem with other NOAA satellites currently orbiting the earth. NOAA-L will ensure that non-visible data, for any region of the Earth, is no more than six hours old.

The launch was the result of a combined effort by the men and women of the 30th Space Wing, NASA and the Space and Missile Systems Center in Los Angeles.

"It's been an absolutely outstanding effort given the

level of intensity that we've experienced in the past week," said Maj. Mike Grieco, 30th Range Squadron and Range Operations commander for the launch. Grieco was recalling the hectic schedule of base personnel who successfully supported the Titan II launch and the Harris Fire.

"What impressed me most was how some of the same organizations tasked to support fire operations were also there to support the launch. They certainly met the mark and I was impressed with that and how everything came together in the end. It was truly the best operation I've worked here at Vandenberg," said Grieco.

The spacelift commander for this mission was Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander.

Maj. Dave Salm, 2nd Space Launch Squadron, was the Air Force launch director.

The Titan II rocket lifts off from SLC-4 West.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Colonel Lanning,
 It is with a great deal of pleasure that I write this letter to you. A few weeks ago, three of our kindergarten parents, Lt. Col. Andy Fowkes, Capt. Mike Kamorski and Maj. David Salm saw a need and fixed it. They rebuilt the log cabin playhouse for our kindergarten students. Now our children will have a safe and fun place to play again.

My understanding is that Salm's daughter asked her daddy to fix their playhouse at school. He and his wife gathered the resources, materials and people and made it happen on a Sunday morning.

As the new principal at Crestview Elementary School, I am so pleased and have great expectations for a wonderful productive school year where our children are learning in a safe and caring environment. I realize our school has a lot of parental involvement and for that we are grateful.

Again I want to commend your men and thank them again for their support of our school and the welfare of all our students.

Sincerely, Sally Prentiss

Principal, Crestview Elementary School



STAFF SGT. PAMELA TAUBMAN

Military veterans salute as the national anthem is played at the POW/MIA Ceremony. The ceremony was held at the POW/MIA monument near the base library Sept. 15.



Col. Steve Lanning
 Commander,
 30th Space Wing

606-7850

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.

Handy phone numbers

Fire, Police, Ambulance.....911	Chaplain (duty hours).....606-5773
Poison Control.....800-876-4766	Chaplain (after hours).....606-9961
Clinic Appointments.....606-4077	Red Cross (duty hours).....606-1855
Healthwise Line.....888-252-3299	Red Cross (after hours)..800-660-4272
TRICARE Services.....800-242-6788	Central Security Control.....605-2154
Law Enforcement.....606-3300	EOD (duty hours).....605-1375
Housing Maintenance.....734-5586	EOD (after hours).....606-9961
Space & Missile Times.....606-2040	Base operator.....606-1110
Launch Update Line.....606-1857	CE damage control.....606-1856
MPF Customer Service.....606-7756	Base information.....411
Pest Control.....606-1936	Telephone trouble.....611
Visitor Control.....606-7662	Public Tours.....606-3595

MFH playground neglected

Q I am calling regarding the playground area on Oceanview Street across the street from Cabrillo Court. The playground is watered every night and a standing pool of water forms at its lowest point. This creates a safety and health hazard because children play in the water, and it is a prime breeding ground for mosquitoes. Additionally, the grass is not mowed regularly. I'm just wondering whether or not anyone knows what is going to happen with the area and, if it is known when the water will be pumped out and when the grass will be mowed. More people will be able to use the park when this problem is addressed.

I have addressed this issue through my chain of command. I've called the housing office but I was transferred to about six different numbers. I was told they would get back to me or my director of opera-

tions however, no one has returned my phone calls.

A We understand your frustration and appreciate your concerns. We have been working this issue for some time now. The major stumbling blocks have been getting the funding needed to remove the ponds and incorporating the common areas into the Grounds Service Contract.

Funding has been requested and we are very close to receiving it. We are poised to execute the work through our SABER contractor once funding is approved. We are also pumping out the ponds and have turned off the irrigation system that has been keeping them full.

All of the common areas have been mowed and we are negotiating with the service contractor responsible for the upkeep of the green belts. Once a cost is negotiated, we will have the new common areas under contract and they can be properly maintained.



SPACE&MISSILETIMES

Col. Steve Lanning
 30th Space Wing Commander

Maj. John Cherry
 Director of Public Affairs

2nd Lt. Chris Watt
 Chief, Internal Information

Tech. Sgt. Lloyd C. Conley
 Editor

Staff Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
 Staff Writer

Staff Sgt. Janice Cannon
 Photographer

The Space and Missile Times is published by Lompoc Record Publications, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 30th Space Wing.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Space & Missile Times 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 appearance of advertising in the publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Lompoc Record Publications, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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.

Be proud of your Hispanic heritage

BY MASTER SGT. ELADIO MERCADO, JR.
30th Medical Group Superintendent

I've been involved in local Hispanic communities all my life. I come from (the barrio) Spanish Harlem, in New York City. It saddens me to hear fellow Hispanics say they don't speak Spanish because their mother or father never taught them the language or told them not to learn the language because, "they are in America now and English is the language to learn."

I've also heard that Hispanic families even kept their children from sunning because they were afraid that if their child got too much sun they would be discriminated against by non-Hispanics. This is the year 2000, the beginning of a new millennium. Although there have been many obstacles in our path, we must never deny being Hispanic.

I am a male Puerto Rican, first generation in mainland United States of America. Although United States citizens from birth, my parents came to main land U.S. in search for a better life. They did not know how to read or write Spanish or English, however, they too wanted the best North America had to offer me. They were proud of their heritage, so it was instilled in me by my illiterate parents that it's okay to be Hispanic and I've never forgotten where I came from or where my roots originated.

What is a Hispanic is constantly asked by those who don't know. I find myself explaining or educating those who are ignorant of the definition. For the purpose of this article, a Hispanic person is a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central or South America, or other Spanish cultures, regardless of race.

Within the last several decades, new immigrations have permanently changed both the racial and ethnic

composition of this country. The immigration from Mexico, and Central and South American countries, coupled with a relatively high birth rate, is increasing the number of Hispanics in the U.S. so rapidly that by the year 2010, Hispanics will be the largest growing minority group in the U.S. This means is that close to 25 percent of the U.S. population will be of Hispanic decent. According to the Hispanic Yearbook 2000, today Hispanics comprises 14.5 percent of the total U.S. population.

Mexicans are the largest Hispanic group, representing 61.2 percent, Puerto Ricans are the second largest group at about 12.1 percent and Cubans are at 5 percent, with Hispanics from Central America, South America and Dominican Republic and Spain representing the other percentage of Hispanics in the United States.

As you can see, we are numerous but not well represented in the federal government. Even though we account for 14.5 percent of the population we are only politically represented at 3.6 percent. It is important that you identify yourself as Hispanic. Allow me to illustrate to you what I mean when I say we are not well represented in government.

Today the federal government is putting lots of resources, time, and money on Hispanic recruitment in an effort to meet the goal of ensuring Hispanics have the representation they need to have in the federal government. The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics is one of the many programs the federal government has initiated with colleges to attract Hispanic students via the internship latter. Through education we can achieve our due. Voting is another avenue we can use to improve our representation.

Hispanics have participated in every war the U.S. has fought, beginning with the Revolutionary War. There are 38 Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients, more than any other cultural group to receive the Medal of Honor. Receiving the nation's most supreme act of heroism for having made the ultimate sacrifice they have contributed their full measure to the life and history of the U.S. It has always been the Hispanic American tradition to have more than their share of stouthearted, indomitable men whenever our country has been in the need.

America's face will not change through the "melting pot" approach, but through cultural pluralism. In the "melting pot," immigrants are Americanized through the educational system and other societal influences, giving up their old identity and replacing it with the values, perceptions, and customs of the new country. In the newer version of acculturation, cultural pluralism, an immigrant does not surrender ethnic and cultural identity in order to become an American. With this approach, America is viewed more realistically, with many diverse ethnic and cultural groups. This view recognizes that one of America's strengths is its cultural diversity, and that this diversity should not be denied but highly valued.

You see it's important for you and I to get along with each other, as Ruben Blades, a great Salsa singer, composer, movie star, politician, and Harvard graduate said, "we are here to stay, no one is going to leave anywhere. We need to get along with each other, capitalize on our strength as oppose to our differences, and we'll get somewhere."

That's exactly what I have done with myself, why don't you.

It's okay to be Hispanic.

Smoke engulfs base, Central Coast

County, state, federal officials look to put lid on smoke

BY TECH. SGT. BUZZ RITCHIE
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Ten days after a fire broke out on property adjacent to Vandenberg and raced through parts of the base, a peat bog fire in Barka Slough continues to smolder and produce heavy, pungent smoke.

A team of federal, state and county officials met earlier this week to devise a plan to suppress the smoke and eventually extinguish the 65-acre fire burning a peat bog in the northeastern corner of Barka Slough.

"Our first concern is the health and safety of the people who live in the surrounding communities of the central coast," said Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander.

Water cannons capable of saturating hot spots in the peat bog fire with thousands of gallons of water are running 24 hours a day to suppress the

smoke, said Mark Farias, an assistant fire chief at Vandenberg.

"We're optimistic that the water cannons will have a significant effect on the smoke," Farias said Wednesday at a press conference held in the Vandenberg Center.

The team at Vandenberg working to suppress the smoke and fire at the peat bog includes officials from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, and 30th Medical Group. The California Highway Patrol and Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office are handling traffic safety on roadways where visibility is affected by smoke from the peat bog fire.

Law enforcement officials are urging motorists to exercise extreme caution when traveling State Highways 1, 101 and 135 in the local area. Fog mixed with smoke can reduce visibility to near zero, said an officer with the California Highway Patrol. An official from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office said Harris Grade Road would be closed at night because of poor visibility and road conditions.



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

A team at Vandenberg is working around the clock to abate the smoke from the 65-acre Barka Slough bog fire.

Air Force bio-environmental officials are monitoring the local air quality of the areas affected by the peat bog smoke. As a precaution, children and adults in those areas should avoid strenuous exercise outdoors and remain indoors, said an official with the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control Division.

This is especially important for people with pre-existing health conditions, including asthma, emphysema and heart disease.

CALTRANS can provide up-to-date information on closed roads by calling (800) 427-7623.

Space pioneer celebrates 90th birthday



AMN. CANDICE ANGLIN

Retired Gen. Bernard Schriever visits Vandenberg with other ICBM Old-timers Sept. 14, 15.

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

■ A living legend graced Team Vandenberg with a visit Sept. 13 to 15.

Retired Gen. Bernard Schriever, chief architect of the Air Force missile program and first commander of the Air Force Systems Command, was here to celebrate his 90th birthday Sept. 14.

Schriever was here with the ICBM Space Pioneer Old-timers. The group is made up of officers who created the space era known today in Air Force Space Command.

During their visit, Schriever and the Old-timers visited with Maj. Gen. William Looney, 14th Air Force commander, and Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander. They also took a base tour and visited the Western Range Operations Control Center.

Schriever is the only living Air Force member to have a base named after him.

In the mid-1950s, he headed a small group of officers who organized and formed what has

since become the Air Force's ballistic and systems division under AFSPC. They held top secret meetings at a small church in Inglewood, Calif. The well-known Thor, Atlas, Titan and Minuteman ballistic missiles were the ultimate products of those meetings. Schriever's influence touched all aerospace systems that have been launched into orbit, to include support for NASA in its manned space flights and other programs.

"The introduction of missile applications and the operation and technical programs involved was a major change for the future," said Schriever. "It played an important role in the exciting major force change."

Since his retirement in 1966, Schriever has consulted with civilian organizations and has served as adviser to the Air Force and Department of Defense.

"His passion is for missiles ... he is always thinking about space," said his wife, Joni Schriever.

Retired Gen. Bernard Schriever, first commander of the Air Force Systems Command, cuts into his 90th birthday cake at the Pacific Coast Club Sept. 14.

**NEWS
BRIEFS**
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEEDS
AEROSPACE SHOW VOLUNTEERS**

Public affairs needs volunteers to operate the information booth 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. Oct. 14 and 15 and to escort disadvantaged adults and children meeting the Air Force Thunderbirds during the Aerospace Show 2000 special needs day Oct. 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. To volunteer, call public affairs at 606-3595 or 606-5814. A meeting for all escorts will be held Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. in the Vandenberg Center.

**VANDENBERG TOP THREE HOLDS
SNCO DEVELOPMENT COURSE**

There will be a Senior NCO Professional Development Seminar Monday through Friday in the Vandenberg Center. To sign up, call the 30th Space Wing Command Section at 605-2855. For further information, call Senior Master Sgt. Don Savella at 606-2786 or Master Sgt. James Storch at 606-8836.

**AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL
GRADUATES CLASS 00-F TUESDAY**

The graduation banquet for Airman Leadership School Class 00-F will be Tuesday in the Pacific Coast Club. Social hour starts at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. The attire is mess dress or semi-formal.

For more information or to make reservations, call the ALS staff at 606-5595.

**MEO SEEKS CHAIRPERSON
FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February has been designated as a time for raising awareness and education about the accomplishments of African-Americans. The 30th Space Wing Military Equal Opportunity office is looking for a motivated person with the rank of captain or above or staff sergeant through chief master sergeant to serve as chairperson for Black History Month. Volunteers should contact the military equal opportunity office at 606-0370.

**VANDENBERG HOLDS
AEROSPACE SHOW 2000**

The men and women at Vandenberg will hold Aerospace Show 2000 Oct. 14 and 15. The event is free and open to the public. Gates open at 8:30 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.. The main attractions for this year's show are the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team and the U.S. Air Force Special Tactics and Rescue Specialists Parachute Demonstration Team.

Other attractions include fly-bys of a B-2 stealth bomber and F-117 stealth fighter, aerial acrobatics by modern and vintage aircraft, and static military aircraft and commercial spacelift displays. For more information, call the 30th Space Wing Public Affairs office at 606-3595 or visit the base's website at ww.vandenberg.af.mil.

**VANDENBERG LATINO ASSOCIATION
HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING**

The Vandenberg Latino Association meets the last Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Services Center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Eldio Mercado at 606-8736.

**TIMBER LANE TRAFFIC LIGHT
CONSTRUCTION BEGINS MONDAY**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' contractor, Valenzuela Engineering, will begin installing traffic lights at the intersection of U.S. Highway 1 and Timber Lane.

Flashing yellow warning lights will be installed 300 feet before the intersection in each direction. Drivers are cautioned to obey the directions of flagmen during lane closures.

Traffic cones, warning signs and notices will be posted throughout the construction period. The work is scheduled to be complete in November.

**TRANS WORLD ASSURANCE
BARRED FROM VANDENBERG.**

As of Sept. 12, Trans World Assurance and its representatives have been barred from Vandenberg for wrongful solicitation among other allegations.

The California Bureau of Insurance, Consumer Fraud Division, asks that any one who feels they were misled about the nature of the TWA "Flexible Dollar Builder" policy-sold as a savings plan, call 800 927-4357 to obtain a Request for Assistance form. The form will be given a tracking number to avoid handing out generic ones to clients. This allows the progress of their investment to be monitored.

The legal office will assist military members in the completion of the form.

In addition, the 30th Space Wing legal office strongly recommends that people who have purchased insurance from TWA come by during legal assistance hours and talk to attorneys. Legal assistance hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday 4:30-5:30 p.m. Call the legal office at 605-6220.

**AFSA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR
AEROSPACE SHOW BOOTH**

The Air Force Sergeants Association needs volunteers to assist with its booth for the Vandenberg Aerospace Show 2000 on Oct. 13 to 15. For more information or to sign-up, please call Senior Airman Andrew Pence at 606-6621, or e-mail Senior Airman Eryn McConnell at Erin.McConnell@vandenberg.af.mil

**MINI-COMM EXTENDS
OPERATING HOURS**

The operating hours at the mini-commissary are scheduled to change Oct. 1. The new schedule can accommodate early bird and late-night shoppers. The new schedule will be:

- ◆ Monday, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 to 9:30 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday, 6 to 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Saturday, no change.
- ◆ Sunday, no change.



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

James Pablo and his hunting partner readies equipment for a day of hunting on Vandenberg Sept. 9.

National Hunting, Fishing Day Saturday

BY TECH. SGT. BUZZ RITCHIE
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ The men and women at Vandenberg will join millions of outdoor enthusiasts Saturday and celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day with a nature hike and skeet shooting tournament.

National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to recognize the time and money donated by hunters and anglers to wildlife conservation programs. Since then, sportsmen's clubs, conservation groups and state wildlife agencies have used NHF Day to introduce millions of Americans to outdoor sports.

"This is Vandenberg's first year supporting National Hunting and Fishing Day," said Airman 1st Class John Smith, 30th Security Forces Squadron fish and wildlife section. Two events are planned for Saturday.

The first is a nature hike around the Pine Canyon lakes, Smith said. The hike begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends about noon. For information, call Vandenberg's fish and wildlife section at 606-6804.

The second activity open to all members of Vandenberg is a skeet shooting tournament at the

base's rod and gun club. The skeet tournament, held on the club's range located at the end of Taco Road above Wall Beach, starts at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. People shooting in the tournament must bring their own shotguns and shells. One round of skeet costs \$2.50 for 25 shots. Three door prizes will be awarded and one first prize. Call Lance Stewart at 606-4560 for information.

"National Hunting and Fishing Day reminds us to appreciate and care for our nation's natural resources," Smith said. Hunters are the primary method used to control the base's population of deer and wild pigs, he explained. Each year, the Marshallia Ranch Golf Course suffers thousands of dollars worth of damage from feral pigs.

"Hunting on base provides a safe and efficient way to control the population of deer and pigs," he said.

The "natural invitation to step outside" is one way newcomers can get instruction and an opportunity to join other outdoor enthusiasts and conserve the nation's natural resources, Smith concluded.

Fourteenth Air Force changes to SPACEAF

AFSPC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

■ PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. - In a move to align the designation of Fourteenth Air Force with numbered air forces in other unified commands, the commander of U.S. Space Command ordered that the component designation for Fourteenth Air Force be changed from AFSPACE to SPACEAF.

Gen. Ed Eberhart changed Fourteenth Air Force's designation in August to correspond with U.S. Central Command's long-standing designation of Ninth Air Force as CENTAF and U.S. Southern Command's Twelfth Air Force as



SOUTHAF. Fourteenth Air Force is U.S. Space Command's component for U.S. Air Force space operations, headquartered at Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

The name change is also designed to eliminate confusion caused by Fourteenth Air Force's former designation AFSPACE.

Air Force Space Command, located at Peterson AFB, Colo., is frequently referred to as AFSPACE even though it officially goes by AFSPC, and Fourteenth Air Force was often confused with AFSPC because of the similar acronyms.

30th MSS initiates walk-in hours

BY TECH. SGT. LLOYD CONLEY

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Three flights assigned to the 30th Mission Support Squadron will transition to walk-in hours Monday.

The walk-in hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and the affected flights are the military and civilian personnel flights located in Building 11777 and a portion of the education services flight which is located at the education center complex across the street from the commissary.

The affected parts of the education services flight is awards and decorations, formal and base training, "This change in hours is necessary to better serve Team Vandenberg customers," said Senior Master Sgt. Rene Alvarez, Superintendent of the Military Personnel Flight. Lower manning and an increase in customer flow has negatively impacted our ability to accomplish personnel actions in a timely manner," he added.

The inability to promptly address these actions can adversely affect career issues like promotions, reenlistment bonuses and recognition, said Alvarez.

"The overall quality of customer service for Team Vandenberg personnel is our primary concern, and much of what we do takes place behind the scenes and at the computer," said Maj. Lee Shick, Commander, 30th Mission Support Squadron. "This change in hours will give our specialists and technicians time to take care of all the actions critical to each customer's needs."

Shift workers can schedule appointments for non walk-in hours so the change will have little or no impact on services, said Alvarez. In addition, the MPF customer service section will keep its regular hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Customer services like identification cards and DEERS enrollment will not be affected by the change, he concluded.



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Food drive

The Vandenberg Enlisted Action Team held a food drive at the commissary Saturday, to replenish supplies at the base food pantry.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

22

FRI

The Health and Wellness Center staff is holding a **monthly cooking class** at the HAWC today at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The class will discuss heart healthy fall cuisine menus. Call 606-2221 to sign up.

The Hispanic Heritage Planning Committee invites all Team Vandenberg members to come out to the free **Hispanic Heritage month**

expo today from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Services Center. The expo will feature Team Vandenberg's finest appetizers, cultural exhibits, dancing exhibitions and food. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kitty Noles at 606-0366.

24

SUN

The **single's ministry** will meet Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Wall Beach for a Bible study focusing on the single life. They will also discuss upcoming events to meet the needs of the group. Call Chaplain (Capt.) John Shipman at 066-8270 for more information or for a ride to the beach for the event.

25

MON

The family support center staff is holding a **stress management class** Monday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday 8 a.m. to noon. People can look at what aspects of their life they experience stress or pressure and learn tools to

See CALENDAR Page 11

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Sept. 23, 1961- The first successful silo-lift launch of a Titan I was conducted from launch facility 395A here.

Sept. 27, 1991- President George Bush announced plans to take certain weapon systems off alert status and to halt development of the Peacekeeper Rail Garrison Program, underway at Norton AFB, Calif. and here.

Sept. 28, 1962- The first Minuteman 1A was launched from here. The missile malfunctioned after liftoff and was destroyed.

Sept. 28, 1962- The first international satellite launch from here (Canada's Alouette) was successfully carried out by a Thor/ Agena booster.

Sept. 2, 1963- The first Thor/Able-Star launch from Vandenberg carried a navy payload that was also the first satellite to be operated completely by nuclear power.



Hispanic heritage

Col. Rosemary Heredy, individual mobilization augmentee to the 30th Space Wing commander and Capt. Patricia Teran-Dick, section commander 30th Civil Engineer Squadron cut a cake at the Base Exchange signifying the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month.

CALENDER from Page 10

manage them. Call Linda Bastine at 606-9958 for details or registration.

27 WED

The Health and Wellness Center staff holds a **weekly nutrition class** at the HAWC Wednesdays 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m. Topics discussed include: heart smart for cholesterol control, diabetic meal planning with carbohydrate counting, prenatal and child nutrition and nutrition for health.

28 THU

The **Vandenberg Officer Christian Fellowship** meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at 623 Aspen Street. People interested in fellowship and Bible study with other base officers may attend. Call Col. Kenneth VanSickle at 606-4315 or Chaplain (Maj.) William Toguchi at 606-5773.

Family Advocacy and the Family Violence Prevention and Intervention Partnership are sponsoring a conference on family violence called "Building Bridges to Peaceful Families." The conference is designed to provide up-to-date information on family violence issues as they relate to practitioners, law enforcement, medical professionals and attorneys in the field of family violence. The one-day conference is scheduled for Thursday at the Marriott in Buellton from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, call Teri Zuniga at (805)347-9994 or Valerie Trewren at 606-5338.



At the Movies

Tonight
Coyote Ugly
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Dinosaur
(PG) 3 p.m.

Space Cowboys
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Sunday
Space Cowboys
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Group solves logistics of fighting Harris blaze

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

Team Vandenberg, with assistance from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Incident Command Team 12 and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, pulled together last week to control and extinguish the Harris and Peacekeeper fires that started Sept. 13 and consumed more than 11,000 acres.

At its height, more than 900 military and civilian firefighters joined forces to combat the blaze. It was definitely a unified team effort by Air Force, state and local agencies, said Col. Duane Lamb, 30th Support Group Commander.

The 30th Logistics Group played crucial parts in the fire containment efforts. The LG command section provided 24 hour presence at the battle staff coordinating logistics support for the fire fighting teams, said Col. Mitchell Slate, 30th LG commander.

The 30th Communications Squadron provided phone lines and phones for the base camp, computer support for the Disaster Control Group and a 24 hour DCG presence coordinating communication requirements in addition to imagery collection aboard the helicopters, said Slate.

The 30th Supply Flight, through its contractor, provided two 1,200-gallon fuel trucks to refuel firefighting equipment at the base camp staging area, said Capt. John Riggins, flight commander.

"In addition, we also provided aircraft refueling at the flight line for



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Firefighters cut a fire brake to contain the Harris Fire that consumed 11,000 acres on Vandenberg. The logistics group supplied fuel, vehicles, communication and money to feed almost 1,000 firefighters.

the 76th Helicopter Flight's UH-1N helicopters."

The 30th Contracting Squadron provided for the needs of the firefighters, said Slater. "We spent more than \$92,000 to feed almost 1,000 military and civilian firefighters and crews," said Staff Sgt. William Robbins, 30th CS.

"We also contracted with 14 hotels in Lompoc, Santa Maria and Buellton to provide billeting for them," he added.

More than \$350,000 was spent setting up the base camp said Robbins.

"We contracted for things like office supplies, water, tents, cots and rented bulldozers," he added.

In the early stages of the fire, the 30th Transportation Squadron supplied buses and drivers when it appeared that a possible evacuation of East Housing might have been necessary, Slater said.

In addition, transportation squadron members performed maintenance and thorough safety inspections on the civilian and military firefighting equipment.

"Our mechanics along with two

California Department of Forestry mechanics inspected 173 CDF vehicles and responded to more than 30 mobile maintenance calls," said Master Sgt. Paul McGinnis, 30th Transportation Squadron.

"To a person, everyone jumped in to integrate with the firefighting effort and ensure the fire was contained," Slater said.

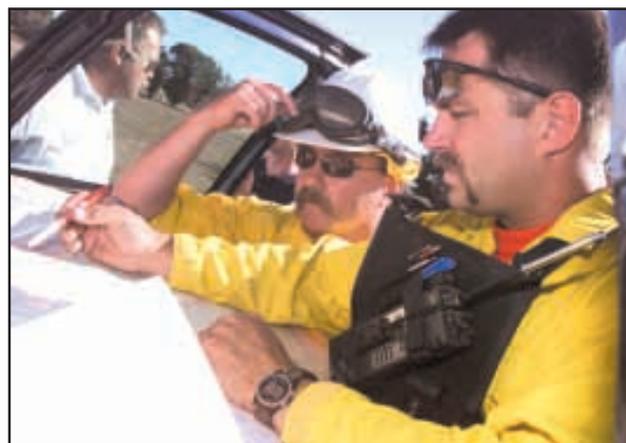
"This is what we train for. Our communications, contracting, supply and transportation operations helped the fire fighters do their job."

Group's support critical to success of firefighters

BY 2ND LT. CHRIS WATT
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Providing firefighters and equipment are only a few of the ways the 30th Support Group has supported the firefighting effort here since the first reports of the Harris and Peacekeeper fires.

In addition to the 123 Vandenberg firefighters, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron sent the wildland fire bulldozer team and had the power production team



TECH. SGT. SCOTT WAGERS

Mark Smith and Grant Gallagher map the location of crews fighting the Harris Fire.

working generator issues as well as fully manning the 24-hour disaster control center.

30th Services Squadron provided food and water to

the firefighters and the Disaster Control Group, as well as arranging for lodging on and off base.

Up to 108 30th Security Forces Squadron airmen were on the ground, controlling traffic, establishing roadblocks and working evacuations. 30th SFS Fish and Wildlife troops were on horseback finding and evacuating hunters and hikers in the danger areas as soon as the fire started.

30th Mission Support Squadron had airmen working the set up and tear down of the DCG as well as providing information management support, said Capt. Robert Haselden, 30th SPTG executive officer.

Additionally, 30th MSS had a team assisting at the firefighter base camp near the mobile home park.

"We put it together in a moment's notice and by that evening everything was in place and working," said Col. Duane Lamb, 30th SPTG commander. "All the training we do paid off. I couldn't be prouder."



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Air Force, state and local firefighters and law enforcement officials gather around a map of the Harris Fire at the disaster control group's location in the Vandenberg Center.

Group shifts into high gear, provides helo ops, weather info

BY SENIOR AIRMAN PAUL GROVE
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

It was the best and the worst of a terrible situation. Last week's Harris Fire was the worst blaze Vandenberg experienced in 23 years, burning more than 11,000 acres. At the same time, it brought out the very best aspects of teamwork that have come to symbolize Vandenberg.

Nowhere was this more evident than with the 30th Operations Group. As preparation continued for Thursday's launch of a Titan II rocket, the group swung into high gear to assist in the fire-fighting efforts.

As the fire raged Wednesday, the 30th Weather Squadron evacuated its building along Corral Road for six hours. Yet they were able to provide hourly weather updates and briefings for lead officials in the

Disaster Control Group operating from the Vandenberg Center, according to Monique Pellitieri, 30th WS duty forecaster. In addition to informing fire crews about temperature, visibility and wind conditions, forecasters also provided briefings for aircrews before their missions.

As the 30th WS briefed the aircrews, the 30th Operations Support Squadron provided airfield operations support for base and county helicopter crews.

According to Capt. Thomas Schmidt, 30th OSS airfield operations flight commander, his staff extended airfield operations during the most critical stages of the firefight on Wednesday and Thursday. They also supported reconnaissance flights over the Harris Fire Sunday.

While the 30th OSS manned the airfield, the 76th Helicopter Flight brought the airpower.

Using three helicopters from the squadron, the 76th performed more than 240 bucket drops on the Harris Fire from Sept. 13 to Monday. As of Monday, the squadron logged 34.3 hours of flight time and dropped

more than 42,600 gallons of water on the blaze, according to 2nd Lt. Mike Synakiewicz, 76th HF operations duty officer. Helicopter crews performed more water drops Tuesday before going on standby Wednesday.

"The 76th HF, 30 WS, 30OSS, 30 RANS and 2nd SLS are some of the best

assets Team Vandenberg and the surrounding communities have," said Col. Mark Owen, 30th Operations Group commander. "The men and women of these organization continue to deliver impressive results under the most demanding conditions. Most recently, with an eye-watering response to the Harris Grade and Peacekeeper fires while also simultaneously supporting the Titan II/NOAA launch. These are the true professionals."

"The men and women of these organizations continue to deliver impressive results under the most demanding conditions...These are the true professionals."

Col. Mark Owen
30th Operations Group commander

Group epitome of service before self

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

More than 30 people from the 30th Medical Group assisted with the Harris, Peacekeeper, and Barka Slough fires that started here Sept. 13.

During that time, medics from the group treated 178 people for strains, poison oak, heat exhaustion, bee stings and smoke inhalation.

The staff gave out ice packs for heat exhaustion and bee stings, said John Hotz, director of medical readiness for the 30th Medical Group. "We also have eye irrigation systems for the smoke and other irritants the firefighters deal with while fighting the blaze," Hotz said. Sunscreen was also available from the medical group.

The bioenvironmental engineering section fielded a team to sample air quality 24 hours a day as the 65-acre peat bog in Barka Slough burned.

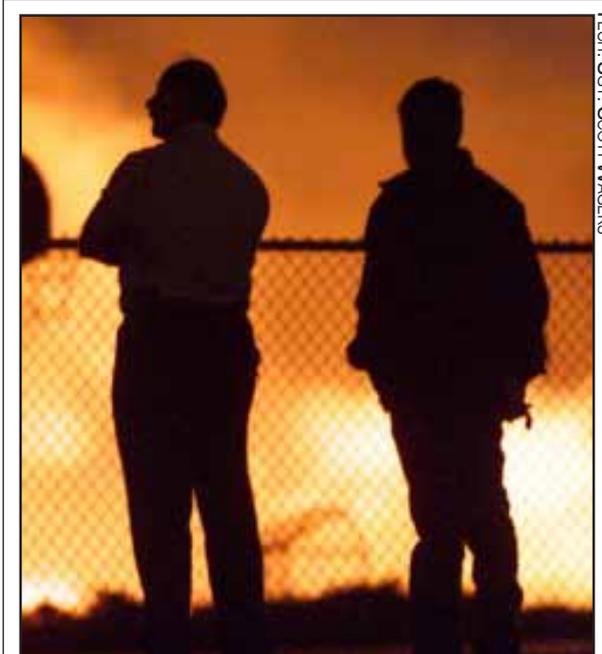
"More than 530 man hours have been involved by the medical group since the fire started," said Master Sgt. Gordon Ringer, NCOIC of medical readiness.

During the Harris Fire, medics provided continuous medical support at the fire base camp until its deactivation Wednesday.

"Our ambulance service provided uninterrupted coverage for the community while responding to the needs of the large contingent of firefighters," said Col. Alan Newton, 30th Medical Group commander.

During the fire, routine medical care continued uninterrupted at the medical group clinic.

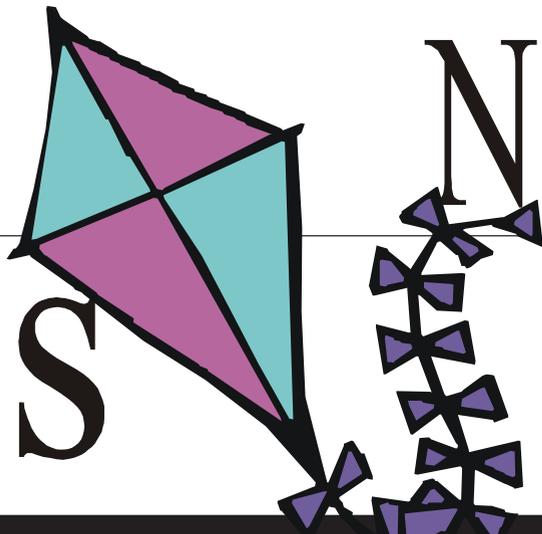
"It was largely due to their efforts that only 2 firefighters sustained relatively minor injuries out of a total workforce of 1000," Newton continued. "The response of our medics exemplified the epitome of service before self."



TECH. SGT. SCOTT WAGERS

Mike Kitzman and Duane Schuyler of Lompoc Unified School District view the blaze.

S 30th Services NEWS



Air Force Community Centers present the Neil Buckley Performing Arts Series

Sign UP NOW!

OCTOBER 12, 2000

family & teen talent contest

Call Lynn Warner at 605-8974 for audition and show times.

GOLF YOUTH

Al Walker Tournament
Saturday
10 a.m.

Highway Patrol Shotgun
Sunday
12:30 p.m.
Intramurals every Tuesday and Thursday at 11 a.m.
Ladies Priority every Wednesday 8:30 to 9 a.m.

Crazy Shoe Week!
Monday to Sept. 30

Tournament Day!
Monday 4 to 7:30 p.m.

Spelling Bee!
Tuesday 4 to 5 p.m.

Warball!
Wednesday 4 to 5 p.m.

BOWLING

Thunder Alley now starts at 10 p.m.

With the Winter Bowling league starting up, Thunder Alley will be running from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays.

Capture the Flag!
Thursday 5 to 7 p.m.

Roller Skating Obstacle!
Friday, 5 to 7 p.m.

Dance!
Sept 30, 6 to 9 p.m.

9-Pin No-Tap

Sept 30
Sign up at 6 p.m. bowl at 6:30 p.m.
\$10 per person

SEPTEMBER REMINDERS!

2000 FOOTBALL Frenzy

EVERY MONDAY AT THE CLUB

BINGO MANIA

Returns Oct. 1 to the Pacific Coast Club!

The Pacific Coast Club PRESENTS!

"Conexión Latina"

Oct. 6, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
NO COVER CHARGE
Open to all members and their bonafide guests!

Live Band

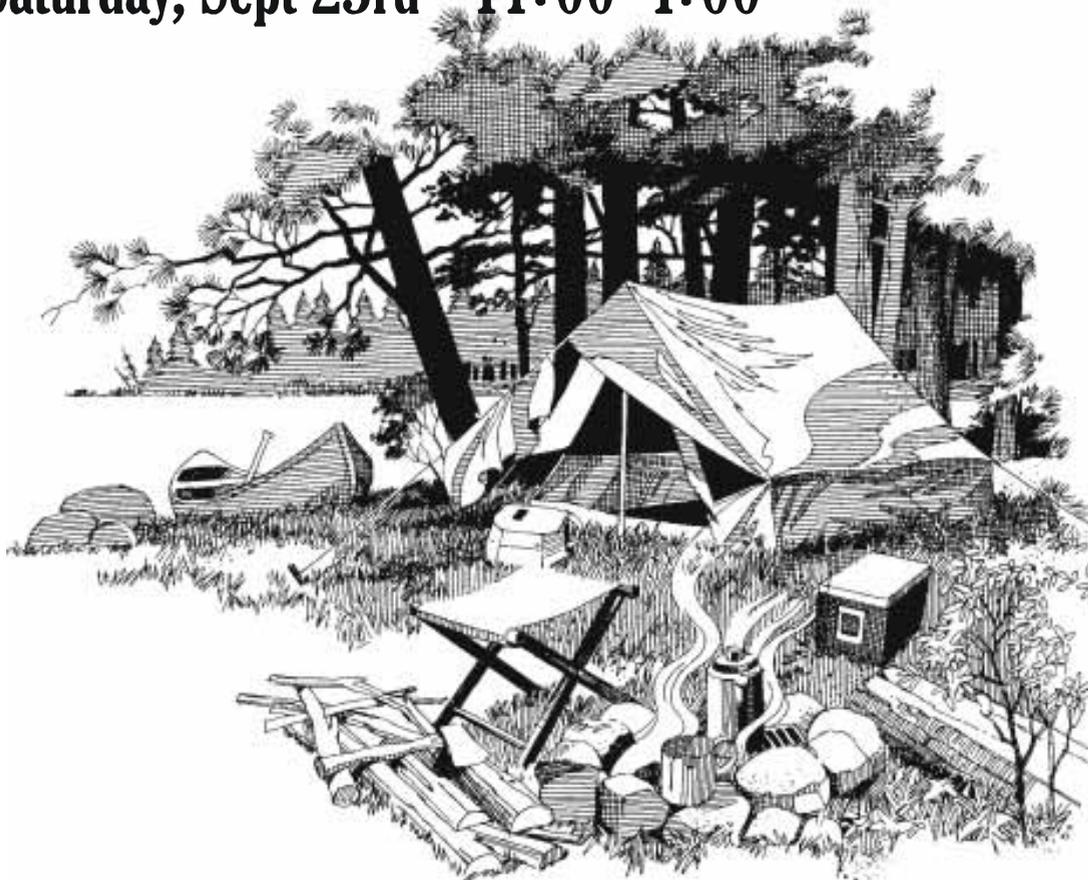
30th Services

NEWS

National Hunter & Fisherman Day

V . I . T . T . T
v e n t u r a

Saturday, Sept 23rd 11:00 - 1:00



Drawing for door Prizes at the Rod & Gun!

For more information call 606-4560

Door prizes including a knife, cooler, round of skeet.
Come on down for your chance to win.
Open to all base personnel

Oct. 7
\$30 per person
Leave VAFB at
7:30 a.m.
Discount tickets
available at
V.I.T.T. 606-7976

Located in the
Services Center

30 minute session \$25
60 minute session \$40
90 minute session \$65

To make an
appointment
call Mary
at 605-4748 or
717-9088



4 HOT NEW
COMICS!



MILLER COMICS RETURNS
TO THE PACIFIC COAST CLUB
IN OCTOBER!



TECH. SGT. ROBERT HARGREAVES

Blue 30, Hike!

Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander, takes the first snap of the football season with the Vandenberg Village Titans during opening ceremonies Saturday in Vandenberg Village.

SPORTS BRIEFS

2000 WOMEN'S SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Women's softball season championship playoffs are scheduled for tonight. The semi-final game will be on field one at 5:30 p.m. followed by the final at 6:30 p.m.

2000 MEN'S SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The fitness center staff will hold an end of season men's intramural softball tournament tonight and Saturday on fields one and two.

The action starts at 7:15 p.m. on field two when season champion 2nd Space Launch Squadron faces 614th Space Operations Squadron.

The final game for the tournament is schedule for Saturday at 5:45 p.m. on field one.

WOMEN'S VARSITY BASKETBALL NEEDS COACH

The fitness center staff needs a women's varsity basketball coach. If interested, call the fitness center staff at 606-3832.

FITNESS CENTER HOLDS BIKE RACE

The base fitness center staff will hold an 18-mile bike race Sept. 30. The race will start at 9 a.m. at the fitness center. Call the fitness center staff at 606-3832 to sign up.

Project Good Neighbor golf tourney benefits base

By MASTER SGT. ROY BLANCO
30th Operations Group First Sergeant

■ Some people may have heard of Project Good Neighbor and are not quite sure what it is and what it does for Team Vandenberg.

PGN provides an invaluable resource for all base personnel working on Vandenberg Air Force Base. It is managed by the First Sergeant's Council and provides grants and no-interest loans to families in need.

Today is the programs biggest fundraiser, the Project Good Neighbor Golf Tournament. This event is responsible for almost 80 percent of PGN's annual proceeds. Through the generosity of the base and local community, the golf tournament has been a cornerstone PGN success to help people.

The tournament will be a four-person scramble with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start at Marshallia ranch golf course. If people are not a golfing, they can still help out by sponsoring a tee, many local organizations have already stepped forward for tee sponsorship.

The entry fee is \$15, which includes green fees and golf cart rental, clubs are available for rent for \$5.

Over the last 15 years that PGN has been in existence, it has provided an average of \$5000 annually to needy families on base. These grants are given primarily during the holidays; however, assistance is provided for financial emergencies throughout the year. Whether it's an airman's family needing help with a financial hardship or a civilian recovering from a catastrophic fire. PGN has maintained plenty of flexibility to step forward and provide the needed help when other assistance agencies cannot assist.

PGN is a key and vital program for the welfare of all people at Vandenberg. Individual donations ensure it will continue to provide assistance in the future. Members should see any first sergeant to sign up for the tournament or to offer a donation. Call Master Sgt. Mark Webb at 606-7358 or Master Sgt. Tim Knipp at 606-1194 with any questions. Thanks for helping us help our folks!

AEROSPACE SHOW 2000

Oct. 14 and 15. Gates open at 8:30 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.
The event is free and open to the public.

