



MASTER SGT. CAREY CASEY 819th RED HORSE

Airman 1st Class Joel Johnson (left), and Staff Sgt. Travis Poling, 819th Red Horse, Malmstrom AFB, Mont., bury more than 3,000 feet of electrical cable while assigned here to complete a number of major construction projects.

## Red Horse changes VAFB landscape

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

■ Airmen from Malmstrom AFB, Mont., worked on a variety of construction projects in the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron compound here throughout the past 60 days.

Thirty-nine members with the 819th Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, commonly known as Red Horse, are nearing completion on an ultimate building machine facility, installing area light poles, removing utility poles, and removing, installing and burying electrical cable.

Major construction projects like this are what Red Horse units are designed for, said Master Sgt. Russell Martin, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron Red Horse project

coordinator.

"They're the Air Force equivalent to the U.S. Navy Seabees," said Master Sgt. Robert Nightingale, Red Horse team chief and first sergeant. "Our mission is geared toward war time."

Nightingale said Red Horse units from around the world build major projects to support the warfighting mission.

Nightingale added that construction projects provide civil engineers with the practical knowledge, experience and necessary skills to support the war time mission.

"The UBM facility is a welcome addition to our building facilities," said Martin.

"It replaces one of our old smaller buildings and we

**See RED HORSE Page 4**

## Airmen can trade stripes for bars

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

■ Active-duty airmen can trade in the stripes on their sleeves for gold bars on their shoulders.

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps is offering an opportunity for up to 450 qualified airmen to finish their degree and earn a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

The Air Force is anticipating a production shortfall of about 450 officers between October 2001 and September 2002, said Roger Blanchard, assistant deputy chief of staff of personnel, in an Air Force memorandum.

In response, the AFROTC is activating a one-year commissioning program that requires attendance in AFROTC classes and a summer field-training encampment.

"The program is designed for people who are at or near completion of their degree," said Jim Billings, education and personnel specialist at Vandenberg's education office. Applicants must complete their degree and the ROTC encampment within one year, Billings said. The program is open to all academic degrees.

If selected, the person would be discharged from active duty and enlist in AFROTC within 24 hours of their discharge, becoming a full-time student. Upon acceptance into the program, trainees receive a monthly allowance, scholarship and other financial assistance.

The goal is for each wing to have at least four qualified applicants by May 1.

The application period runs through August 1, but the program will terminate when vacancies are filled. Visit the Vandenberg Base Education Office or call Jim Billings at 275-5907 for information.

Additional information is available on the Internet at <http://web1.maxwell.af.mil/afoats/enlisted/>

### COASTAL AREAS OPEN AT VAFB

■ Approximately eight miles of coastline are available to beach goers at Vandenberg.

These areas include Brown and Seal beaches and the beach area south of the boat house.

Surf, Wall and Minuteman beaches are still closed until further notice.

Maps, directions and safety messages regarding the highlighted beach areas can be found on Page 4.

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Vandenberg features airmen



**Col. Steve Lanning**  
commander,  
30th Space Wing

## Commander's Action Line

**A**s 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.

When you e-mail or call please leave your name and contact number in case more information is needed.

**606-7850**

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

e-mail: [actionline@vandenberg.af.mil](mailto:actionline@vandenberg.af.mil)

### Handy phone numbers

EMERGENCY.....911	Housing maintenance.....734-5586
Poison control.....800-876-4766	Child Development Center.....606-1555
Clinic appointments.....606-4077	MPF customer service.....606-7756
Healthwise line.....888-252-3299	Visitor control center.....606-7662
TRICARE services.....800-242-6788	Fitness center.....606-3832
Law enforcement.....606-3300	Space & Missile Times.....606-2040



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS STEVE SCHESTER

### Top squad

Staff Sgt. Darlene Harris (right), 30th Mission Support Squadron, has Airman 1st Class Michelle Humann, 30th Operations Support Squadron, sign for personnel records at the customer service desk. The 30th Mission Support Squadron was named commander's trophy winner for March. The 30th Space Wing chaplains office was the winner for February.

# Unprofessional relationships will not be tolerated

By COL. JOHN WAGNER

Det. 9, Space and Missile Systems Center, commander

**R**ecently, I concluded a commander directed investigation. My task was to look into allegations of fraternization, unethical conduct, mismanagement, and abuse of authority as specified by Air Force Instruction 36-2902, Professional and Unprofessional Relationships.

During this investigation, I had the opportunity to see first hand the importance of maintaining professional relationships between Air Force members and its impact on a unit. I also saw how perceptions of our actions could be misinterpreted, creating false impressions and conclusions. AFI 36-2909 establishes the standards and responsibilities for professional relationships between officers, enlisted, and civilian employees. This is important because professional relationships are essential to the effective operation of all organizations.

The Air Force encourages personnel to communicate freely with their superiors and participate in organizational activities that can

enhance unit morale and cohesion. However, interpersonal relationships must remain consistent with Air Force core values: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. When relationships create the appearance of favoritism, misuse of position, or abandonment of organizational goals for personal interest, then members may be at high risk of becoming unprofessional.

In my particular case, I investigated whether an officer and enlisted member had an unprofessional relationship, possibly even fraternization, which was creating an unhealthy climate within the unit.

After numerous interviews with unit members, I concluded that the allegation of fraternization, as defined by the AFI, was not substantiated. But I did discover that the officer and NCO did have a close working relationship that transcended into a probable unprofessional relationship.

They carpooled together somewhat frequently, took regular smoking and lunch breaks, and even stored some of the NCO's belongings in the

officer's house for a short time.

Their frequent contact often lacked both official purpose and organizational benefit. As you can imagine, the gossip about these two was rampant within the unit, leading to a complaint and subsequent investigation. It also had an impact on unit morale that will take some time to heal.

I would like to leave you with the following point. We live in a fish bowl. Especially for officers and NCOs, the people around us constantly observe what we say and do. If an action you take falls into a "gray area" and could be misconstrued, odds are it will. Talk to your first sergeant, supervisor, or commander if you have any doubts about a situation. They can help you from taking a misstep, however unintentional,

which could have serious repercussions.

If you become aware of possible misconduct, inform your chain of command so they can take immediate corrective actions. This can stop perceptions from becoming reality and keep your unit from being the object of an investigation.

**"If an action you take falls into a 'gray area' and could be misconstrued, odds are it will."**



## SPACE&MISSILETIMES

**Col. Steve Lanning**  
30th Space Wing Commander

**Capt. Tom Knowles**  
Deputy Director of Public Affairs

**Master Sgt. Ty Foster**  
Chief, Internal Information

**Staff Sgt. Andrew Leonhard**  
Editor

**Tech. Sgt. Lloyd Conley**  
Staff writer

**Airman 1st Class Steve Schester**  
Photographer

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# Do you know where you're going?

MAJOR JOHN RIGGINS

30th Supply Flight, commander

In 1492, an Italian sailor, Christopher Columbus, made landfall on a small island off the coast of North America. In 1969, an astronaut from the United States of America, Neil Armstrong, walked on the surface of the moon. In 1994, my parents retired to a comfortable home and lifestyle in Arizona. And, in December 2000, I put on the rank of Major.

What do these events have in common? What possible linkage could there be between tales of discovery, mundane domestic pursuits, and professional achievement? The end state can be related back to a beginning, where someone said or thought, "I think I will ..."

Christopher Columbus dreamed of finding trade routes to the East by going West. He courted heads of state to secure the capital needed to finance the adventure, eventually wooing Queen

Isabella of Spain. He researched others' experiences on westward voyages. He provisioned and manned his ships for the expected duration of the journey. Finally, he determined a course and set sail for the New World.

Following the Soviet launch of Sputnik, Americans were captivated with a desire to explore and dominate space. They put their national will behind a 10-year series of space programs—Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo—that

culminated in the Apollo 11 lunar landing. Only a little more than two decades later, the first space shuttle was orbiting the Earth. Today, we're part of an international team assembling a massive orbiting space station.

After teaching high school English for about 40 years, my father and mother sold their home in California, and bought a home outright in Arizona. My parents' pensions and investment earnings ensure them a comfortable, independent living, able to pursue their leisure interests at will. They lived their lives in such a way that now, in their sunset years, they're free to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Finally, on Dec. 1, 2000, I was promoted to major. When I enlisted in 1976, a commission was the furthest thing from my mind. Ten

years later I pursued lieutenant's gold, and went to college. In 1987, I received my bachelor's degree through a base program, and was commissioned two years later.

As a company grade officer, I had little expectation of achieving field grade rank. I knew I could retire as a captain, and felt I had little opportunity for promotion to major, since I was a prior-enlisted officer. The Air Force has changed with time and so did I.

By 1996 I had decided to do what I could for promotion. I completed Squadron Officer School by correspondence and in residence; I achieved my graduate degree, again through a

base program; and I competed for positions which brought me increased and varied responsibilities.

It worked, and now I command the finest, most professional group of supply experts it has been my privilege to know, overseeing the operations of two outstanding logistics service contractors.

What ties these four stories together? Simply this: Each individual or group named their aspiration, determined the steps to achieve it, then started down the road.

My question to you is this: Where do you want to go? What rank or position in the military or your company do you want to achieve? What comes after the military or your current job? What type of lifestyle do you want to have in the future?

Close your eyes and see your goal. Write it down, quantify it then qualify it. Think about the things you'll need to do on the way to that goal: Classes to take; jobs to hold; allotments to start; relationships to establish or mend. Set out a realistic timeline and put dates to each item. Seek counsel from your supervisor, pastor, or parents. Heck, give me a call!

Finally, look at the top of your list, put your finger on the first thing and do it! Everything accomplished in human history, large and small, has consisted of a long succession of individual choices and actions. Make your choice, set your goal, and act on it. All of life's journeys begin with a single step.

***"Make your choice, set your goal, and act on it. All of life's journeys begin with a single step."***





GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY VAL COOMBS

## Brown Beach offers coastal access along North Vandenberg

■ Brown Beach offers 3.75 miles of rocky coast and low-tide sandy beach access along Vandenberg's northernmost shoreline.

California Sea Lions, harbor seals and sea otters can be seen offshore and lounging along the rocky coastline. There are also tide pools along the shore.

To reach Brown Beach, drive west on 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn right on El Rancho Road and travel north. Pass the Minuteman Beach access. Turn left at Oculito Road, past launch facility-9 and park on the bluff west of LF-6. The beach access is a short, steep hike through the prominent cleft in the coastal rocks.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY VAL COOMBS

## Tide pool sea life abundant during low tide at Seal Beach

■ Seal Beach has 2.75 miles of rocky coast access south of Purisma Point. A sea otter colony lives offshore and harbor seals can often be seen hauling out on the rocks. Tide pools are easily accessible during low tide. There is no sandy beach at this site.

To reach Seal Beach, travel west on

Tangair Road over the railroad bridge. Turn left onto Spur Road. Follow Spur Road until the pavement ends at space launch complex 576E then veer left onto the gravel road. A portable bathroom is in prominent view at the Seal Beach parking area. From the parking area it is a 200-yard hike to the beach.

## Boathouse Beach is great for strolling

■ Boathouse Beach offers 1.5 miles of beach access along Vandenberg's southernmost shore. The area is a prime location to spot dolphins, porpoises and migrating gray whales from December through May.

There is a tide pool area located adjacent to the jetty below the boathouse.

The best time for visiting this beach is during low tide.

Sudden Road is normally gated and locked. To check out the gate key, visit outdoor recreation at building 11154D.

To reach Boathouse Beach, drive south on Arguello Road from the South Vandenberg Gate. Turn right on Bear Creek

Road. At Coast Road, turn left. Turn right where Coast Road forms a T intersection at space launch complex-6. Travel south to the posted and locked railroad-crossing gate and veer left. The gate at Sudden Road is approximately one mile down Coast Road on the right.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY VAL COOMBS

### Coastal access precautions

- Vandenberg wildlife officials advise people to adhere to the following safety precautions when visiting any of the base beaches.
  - ◆ No swimming is allowed due to dangerous rip tides.
  - ◆ Avoid flushing or otherwise disturbing marine mammals.
  - ◆ Keep pets on a leash at all times.
  - ◆ Do not harvest live plants from beach or tidepools.
  - ◆ Do not collect live animals from the beach or tidepools.
  - ◆ Visit rocky coast access areas only during low tide.
  - ◆ Consult local weather forecasts for tidal information.
  - ◆ All beaches are closed from dusk until dawn.

## MAFB team tackles base construction projects

### RED HORSE from Page 1

can use the facility to warehouse the equipment normally stored in several different storage containers."

Martin said besides using the UBM as a warehouse, the new building will also house the electrical and utility shops, and the zone three and vertical shops.

It took about a week and a half to erect the 45 foot by 200 foot UBM structure, said Master Sgt. Carey Casey, Red Horse NCOIC and UBM project manager. "During Desert Storm we could put one of these up in two days, but that was without the

concrete base."

The other construction project involved a number of tasks said Staff Sgt. Travis Poling, Red Horse project manager for electrical distribution. The job called for the installation of 10 area light poles, 7,000 feet of primary cable and one six-ton manhole. "We also buried 3,000 feet of cable and removed 13 utility poles," he said.

With their Vandenberg mission winding down, 19 of the 39 Red Horse crew-members are still here said Casey. The others returned to Malmstrom after their portion of the project was finished.

Poling said that overall, the construction projects were a success. "The rain we received over the last 60 days only set us back a week," he said. "Other than that, construction progress went well."

"The support we received here is the best I've seen in a number of years," said Casey.

"We received everything we needed from vehicles to billeting to equipment."

Nightingale said the equipment support really made the difference. "We would not have been able to accomplish our mission without it."

**NEWS YOU****CAN USE****30TH SW COMMANDER'S CALL TODAY AT 2 P.M. IN PACIFIC COAST CLUB**

Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander, will hold his final commander's call today at 2 p.m. in the Pacific Coast Club.

This is a mandatory formation for all 30th Space Wing members. There will be free food and drink following the commander's call.

**BASE BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY AT SERVICES CENTER**

A blood drive is scheduled Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the services center. The event is open to everyone on Vandenberg. All donors will receive free donuts, cookies, coffee and juice. The goal is 100 pints. For more information, call Master Sgt. Claude Sirois at 606-9701.

**BURGER KING RECALLS RATTLING PADDLING RIVERBOAT TOY**

Burger King Corporation and the Alcone Marketing group in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission are voluntarily recalling 400,000 Rattling, Paddling, Riverboat toddler toys. The plastic toy's recall was initiated over concern that metal pins with plastic caps on the toy can come out and pose a choking hazard.

Customers **should not** return the toy to Burger King restaurants. Instead call (800)661-9173 for instructions to return the toy.

**VANDENBERG TECHNICAL LIBRARY HOLDS OPEN HOUSE APRIL 4**

The Vandenberg Technical Library staff has scheduled an open house April 4 from 12:30 to 4 p.m. in Building 7015. The event is to celebrate National Library Week. The staff will demonstrate the use of the library's computer equipment and other services. Refreshments will be served. Call 606-9745 for details.

**AFA BANQUET HONORS ASTRONAUT BUZZ ALDRIN APRIL 6 AT THE PCC**

The Goddard chapter of the Air Force Association has scheduled a banquet April 6 at the Pacific Coast Club. Astronaut Buzz Aldrin will be attending. Tickets are \$25 and seating is limited. Call Melanie Habaner at 606-7528 for more information. To learn about or join AFA, call Capt. Matt Stevens at 606-5003.

**MED GROUP STRESSES NEED FOR PREVENTIVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

The Preventive Health Assessment is a new way to assess the health of Air Force active-duty people.

It is not a physical examination, but rather consists of the following critical components: records review, health risk assessment, prevention-based screening, occupational physical, fitness scores, and military unique medical requirements. The PHA is a mandatory requirement. Appointments

are scheduled through squadron health monitors by birth month. For more information, call your PCM team or Capt. Brenda Morgan at 605-4756.

**DEPENDENTS RECEIVE RESIDENT STATUS FOR COLLEGE COURSES**

California has passed a law to give resident status to military dependents beginning the Spring 2001 semester. The new law allows military dependents to enroll in courses at California resident prices, such as \$11 per unit at Allan Hancock College. For more information, call the Base Education Office at 606-5933 or Allan Hancock College's Vandenberg center at 734-3500.

**PUBLIC HEALTH EVALUATES RISKS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS**

Supervisors of civilian Air Force employees must refer pregnant employees to the 30th Medical Group Public Health office. Public health and bioenvironmental engineering will evaluate her workplace for risks that may affect the pregnancy. Officials will advise the expectant mother of the risks and report recommendations to the supervisor. For more information, call public health at 606-0648.

**OSC OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2001 SCHOOL YEAR STUDENTS**

The Vandenberg Officers' Spouses' Club is offering scholarships to high school graduates in 2001 who are dependents of active-duty, retirees or deceased military members. Spouses of active duty or retired military members are also eligible. Anyone interested in applying should contact their high school counselor or Carol Rieping at 734-3960. Applications must be received by March 30.

**ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

The Military Equal Opportunity office is looking for volunteers to help with this year's Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The event takes place in May. For more information, call Staff Sgt. CeeJay Brown at 605-5069 or e-mail her at carolyn.brown@vandenberg.af.mil

**OFFICERS NEEDED FOR ESCORT DUTY DURING GC 2001**

The Guardian Programs Office is looking for officers to serve as escorts for distinguished visitors during Guardian Challenge 2001. All volunteers should be in the rank of second lieutenant through major and be available for duty May 6 through 11. Strong military bearing and communications skills are necessary. Call Capt. Mike Hillman at 606-6035 to volunteer.

**VANDENBERG HONOR GUARD SEEKS ADDITIONAL MEMBERS**

The Vandenberg Honor Guard is looking for volunteers. Buglers are also needed. For information, about joining the Honor Guard, call 606-3654.

# U.S. tracks Mir's orbit, provides Russians data for March splashdown

By GERRY J. GILMORE  
American Forces Press Service

■ WASHINGTON—U.S. space specialists are providing Russian technicians with Mir space station positional data to help ensure the vehicle's safe splashdown in the Pacific Ocean later this month.

U.S. Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., is now providing the tracking information through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to the Russian Aviation and Space Agency—RosAviaKosmos—in Moscow, said SPACECOM spokesman Air Force Maj. Perry Nouis.

"We have an observer role limited to providing data to the Russians," Nouis said. "This is actually routine for us. We've been tracking Mir since it was launched in 1986." Mir is one of 8,300 orbiting objects SPACECOM tracks daily to provide space situational awareness and warning against possible incoming ballistic missiles, he said.

The Russians have stated the Mir's controlled re-entry is strictly their responsibility, Nouis emphasized. Unusual to the operation, though, "is the amount of data and the frequency of updates SPACECOM is providing the Russians—several times a day," he noted.

As Mir gets closer to splashdown—now estimated to occur around March 17 through 20 somewhere in the South Pacific between New Zealand and South America—the United States plans to provide hourly updates, he added.

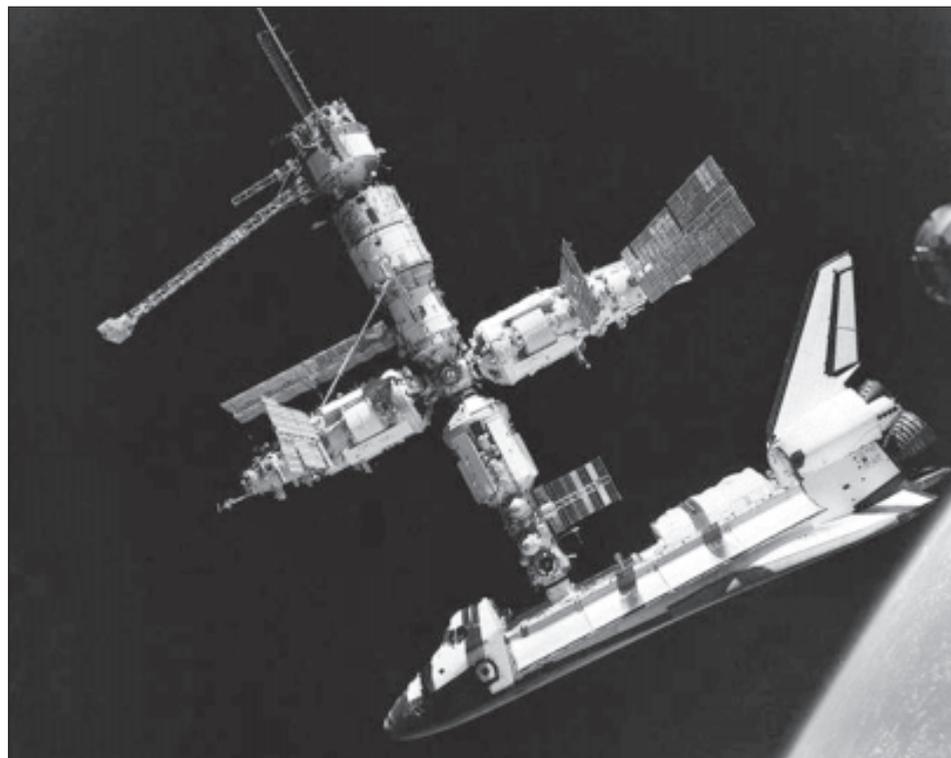
"We're just one source of information for them," Nouis said, adding that the European Space Agency is also providing Mir tracking information to the Russians.

The Soviet Union launched Mir's main module into orbit Feb. 20, 1986, Nouis said.

After gathering scientific data for more than a decade, the 140-ton space station—with several modules each the size of a school bus—has reached the end of its useful life, he said.

For years, Nouis noted, NASA astronauts and Russian cosmonauts have worked together on various projects aboard Mir.

Controlled re-entries of old spacecraft aren't anything new for the Russians. They've "directed successful splashdowns of many other units," Nouis said. The U.S. government has agreed, within its capabilities, to provide Russia with Mir tracking and trajectory data, as well as scientific data on atmospheric conditions,



NASA PHOTO

The U.S. Space Shuttle Atlantis (bottom) undocks from the 140-ton Russian Space Station Mir in April 1996. Mir is losing altitude and scheduled for a controlled re-entry into Earth's atmosphere in late March 2001. U.S. Space Command is providing the Russians with tracking information to help keep the operation safe.

including solar activity, during the de-orbit period, according to a March 2 U.S. State Department news release.

SPACECOM uses its Space Surveillance Network's ground-based radar sensors and telescopes at 19 locations around the world to track the Mir and other objects, Nouis said.

He noted the Russians would incorporate U.S.- and European-supplied Mir data with their own.

More than 26,000 items have been shot into earth orbit since the Russians

launched Sputnik in 1957, Nouis said.

More than 17,000 have re-entered the atmosphere since then, he added, with most splashing down in the oceans or disintegrating from friction.

Mir is so large, he said, that scientists around the world estimate about 25 tons of it could survive the return to earth.

Oceans cover 75 percent of Earth's surface, Nouis said, noting "there is lots of uninhabited ocean between New Zealand and South America in the Mir target area."



DOD GRAPHIC

## Airmen among casualties at Al Udairi Range, Kuwait

■ WASHINGTON—One airman was killed and one other injured Monday as a result of a training accident in the vicinity of the Al Udairi Test Range in Kuwait.

According to U.S. Central Command officials, a U.S. Navy F/A-18 Hornet from the USS Harry S. Truman operating in the Northern Arabian Gulf dropped an MK-82, 500-pound bomb on or near an observation post at the Al Udairi Test Range. The range is a training facility located approximately 45 miles northwest of Kuwait City.

Six coalition military personnel are confirmed dead—five U.S. military personnel and one New Zealand military member.

One of the dead is Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason M. Faley, a tactical air controller with the 19th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Five U.S. military personnel were injured and taken to a local military hospital, including Air Force Staff Sgt.

Timothy B. Crusing, a tactical air controller with the 19th ASOS. He is currently hospitalized in stable condition.

The F/A-18 aircraft was participating in a routine close air support training exercise involving joint and coalition forces. This exercise involved both day and night training. Such exercises are held quarterly for the purpose of practicing air operations against hostile ground targets in close proximity to friendly forces, said USCENTCOM officials. The exercises involve friendly ground and airborne forces pointing out targets to friendly fighter aircraft orbiting overhead. The fighter aircraft then deliver weapons on the targets.

USCENTCOM officials have appointed an accident investigation board to determine the facts and circumstances of the accident, and to provide conclusions and recommendations. The board will arrive in Kuwait this week. (Courtesy Air Force Print News)

Six coalition military personnel were killed by a 500-pound bomb dropped from a Navy F-18.



Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld (left) responds to a reporter's question during a joint press conference March 8 with NATO Secretary General Lord George Robertson at the Pentagon.

## Rumsfeld: It's not national or theater, it's just missile defense

By JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

■ WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has stopped differentiating between National Missile Defense and Theater Missile Defense.

Rumsfeld, speaking with NATO Secretary-General George Robertson at a March 8 joint press conference in the Pentagon, said tagging the missile defense effort as either theater or national is “unuseful.”

“What’s ‘national’ depends on where you live, and what’s ‘theater’ depends on where you live,” he said.

The Bush administration has called for a missile defense system to defend all 50 states.

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization is working on such a system. At the same time, BMDO and the services are working on systems that would intercept ballistic missile attacks on deployed U.S. forces.

“Obviously, if you prevent such an attack against U.S. forces in an area, you also defend the civilian population of the area,” a DoD official said. “That might be theater missile defense for American forces, but it’s national missile defense for that country.”

Rumsfeld said he is interested in negating the threat of rogue states launching missiles armed with weapons of mass destruction at the United States or its allies. “The United States has friends and allies with whom we’re linked very tightly to,” he said.

Bush administration officials have characterized the launch of such a weapon — or the threat of a launch — as the ultimate expression of terror, blackmail and aggression.

“I feel that we are approaching (missile defense) in a rational way by avoiding something that could create significant differentials in vulnerabilities (between the United States and its allies),” Rumsfeld said.

“Over time,” he said, “it’s every bit as important to us to be able to defend this piece of real estate and our population in this location as it is to defend our deployed forces and to have our allies feel equally secure to the extent that’s possible.”

# Teen takes aim at state title

By STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD  
30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Public Affairs

**T**eens throughout California will compete March 23 to 25 in the Miss Teen California pageant. One of those young ladies is from Vandenberg AFB.

Jeanette Darling, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Richard and Carrie Darling, 30th Security Forces Squadron, will try to sway the judges to vote for her as the next Miss Teen California.

The Miss Teen contest is a scholarship pageant which judges girls on academics, achievements, poise, personality and speech.

"The speech will be the toughest part of the pageant," said the Cabrillo High School junior. "The tough part is not saying 'ums' and 'ahs.'"

During the competition, Darling will endure long days. The schedule starts at 7 a.m. with breakfast, then rehearsal practice for the pageant show and lights out at 11 p.m., she said.

Darling hasn't decided on a college, but does have some criteria for the school. "It must be far away from home." Then, like any normal sibling she took a jab at her older brother, who attends Allan Hancock College, "Unlike my brother who visits daily, my visits will be for special occasions."

Like many teens, Jeanette creates special occa-

sions in the lives of others she meets. With 13 years in Camp Fire Boys and Girls, she's sung for residents at the Franciscan Manor, made cards and gifts for veterans and shut ins, and collected toys for underprivileged children during the holidays. She's also busy with high school activities including the swim, water polo and cross country teams.

The 16-year-old lists band as her favorite class, "Because we take fun trips to Disneyland and I get to spend time with my friends."

The teen plays trombone for the Cabrillo marching band, symphonic winds, jazz band and pit orchestra. She was selected as a Santa Barbara County Honor Band member and last summer she participated with the Spirit of America National Honor Band and performed throughout Europe.

Despite all the school activities and world travelings she maintains a 3.93 grade point average and is listed in the 2000 edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

Her goal after college is to be a band director or high school coach. She is already building her resume as the Village Rip Tides, a youth water polo team, coach. The team was undefeated last year and hopes to extend that record this year.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS STEVE SCHESTER

*Jeanette Darling practices with the Cabrillo High School Band. Darling will be competing in the Miss Teen California pageant March 23 to 25.*

Darling competes next week against the other 300 girls vying for the same title. The winner will go to Florida and compete in the Miss Teen USA pageant.

"We hope that Jeanette's experience will be one she'll never forget," said Carrie Darling. The Darlings also hope that Jeanette will make friendships to last a life time.

Expressing her kindness to her challengers she said, "Good luck, and I hope you win ... wait what am I saying. I hope I win!"

# GC 2001 team preps for maintenance eval

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

**W**ith Guardian Challenge 2001 right around the corner, Vandenberg's three spacelift maintenance competitors are being put through the paces by a skilled team of trainers.

Led by Master Sgt. Tier Williams, three 2nd Space Launch Squadron NCOs are developing hundreds of possible scenarios to prepare the rookie team for competition.

Bringing more than 20 years of expertise to the table, Williams' extensive experience led to her selection as the spacelift maintenance lead trainer.

In 1995, she fulfilled a unique role for Guardian Challenge.

"I wrote the first script for the spacelift maintenance competition," she said. That experience came in handy for her a few years later. In 1998, she competed and achieved a perfect score in spacelift facilities maintenance evaluation.

Trainers and competitors have a full plate in front of them as the April 27 spacelift maintenance competition approaches.

"For the trainers, it's a combination of preparing the training material and conducting the training—and trying to keep one step ahead of the competitors," said Lt. Col. Joe Hogler, GC 2001 project officer. "For the competitors, it's countless hours of self study and training."

For the next month and a half, 2nd SLS maintenance controllers Tech. Sgt. Scottie Benson, Tech. Sgt. William Gardner and Staff Sgt. Charles Spice will be poring over stacks of technical orders to bone up on their procedural proficiency.

Day-to-day, the controllers verify that Lockheed Martin Astronautics contractors perform the launch-related tasks correctly, said Staff Sgt. Mark Masters, a GC 2001 spacelift maintenance trainer.

During GC 2001, the competitors



*Tech. Sgt. William Gardner, 2nd Space Launch Squadron, reviews procedures to inspect the launch pad deluge system.*

will be evaluated on their ability to ensure contractor technicians follow procedures, he said. Active-duty 2nd SLS members will substitute as contractors during the evaluation, he said.

Working hand-in-hand with the GC 2001 trainers, the Lockheed professionals are helping the 2nd SLS competitors hone their skills.

"Lockheed engineers are helping me prepare for the competition by reviewing schematics, procedures and troubleshooting guidelines," Benson said. "We have a great rapport with the technicians and engineers."

By the end of April, they'll also be able to respond to any hazards that can come up. Benson

and his teammates will be ready to respond to bomb threats, fire, earthquakes, heart attacks, severe weather warnings, and a myriad of safety violations.

"If we've done our job right, they're prepared for the worst possible scenarios," said Staff Sgt. Mark Masters, a 2nd SLS booster electrical maintenance controller and GC 2001 trainer.

"We want to overtrain them," said Tech. Sgt. Johnny Vasquez, a 2nd SLS facility maintenance controller and GC 2001 trainer.

"We want to get them to the point where no matter what you throw at them, they've already done it so many times that their response is second nature."



*Staff Sgt. Charles Spice, 2nd Space Launch Squadron, reviews the electrical system schematic for the pyrotechnic battery system.*



*Staff Sgt. Scottie Benson, 2nd Space Launch Squadron, walks through an inspection of the fuel propellant loading unit. Benson and his Guardian Challenge 2001 teammates are studying countless volumes of technical orders and procedural checklists in preparation for the April 27 spacelift maintenance evaluation.*

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS STEVE SCHESTER

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TECH. SGT. LANCE CHEUNG

Former Tuskegee Airmen pilots and navigators take time to pose in front of a B-25 Mitchell bomber. Jeff Hefner (third from the right) co-owner of the vintage bomber, restored the aircraft. Members of the Tuskegee Airmen who flew the aircraft during World War II got a chance to ride in it for the first time since World War II.

## Tuskegee airmen; Airmen of core values

By CAPT. JEFFREY JOHNSON  
*76<sup>th</sup> Helicopter Flight*

■ It's not uncommon to remember the Tuskegee Airmen during Black History Month, but their story is so much more.

They are American history at its finest. Their organization marked the first time in U.S. history that a large-scale government program was set up to provide an opportunity for Blacks to participate in a technically sophisticated function. This was a genesis of a national struggle for equal opportunity in our country that continues to this day.

As I was deciding on an appropriate title for an article to highlight the Tuskegee Airmen it dawned on me that there was nothing more fitting than tying our core values to these true American heroes. As dedicated warriors for freedom in an army that made them use separate drinking fountains, they were, and are, examples of Americans at their best.

Integrity first; Along with the racial pressures, the cadets at Tuskegee were subjected to rigid military training and discipline similar to that experienced by cadets at West Point. The physical and mental hazing that was instated in the Air Corps was designed to test their integrity, commitment to duty, and respect for authority.

What became evident was that these cadets had the capability, qualifications, and desire to

be officers and pilots in the Army Air Corps.

Service before self; They flew and fought with valor in the dangerous European skies, but at the same time they were arrested for setting foot inside "whites-only" officer's clubs. Because of the color of their skin, they endured harassment and discrimination from a system that wanted them to fail. What sustained them was their common love for America in spite of its imperfections. The Tuskegee Airmen were proud and happy to be Americans and regarded service to their country as their duty and as an honor.

Excellence in all we do; The bottom line in military aviation is success in aerial combat. After the Tuskegee Airmen were assigned the mission of long-range bomber escort, these fighter pilots became legends in the making. The Red Tail Angels, as they became known by bomber crews, ended World War II as the only fighter group to never lose an escorted bomber to enemy fighters. This excellence resulted in 111 downed enemy fighters and the destruction of countless ground targets during treacherous attack missions. Sixty-six Tuskegee Airmen gave their lives in combat.

Against the backdrop of bigotry, humiliating segregation, and discrimination, the Tuskegee Airmen achieved a record of unique accomplishments. More importantly, they are a testimony to honor, discipline, and skill.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS STEVE SCHESTER

### Hoop it up

Adam Walker with the 576<sup>th</sup> team No.1, goes for a layup over Chris Adams of the 533<sup>rd</sup>. The 576<sup>th</sup> team won the game 68-47 and improved their record to 8-1.

## Intramural basketball standings

### National League

Team	Win	Loss	Pct.
30 <sup>th</sup> SFS No. 1	9	0	1.000
576 <sup>th</sup> No. 1	8	1	0.889
30 <sup>th</sup> CES No. 1	6	2	0.750
30 <sup>th</sup> MSS	6	3	0.667
392 <sup>nd</sup> No. 1	5	4	0.556
533 <sup>rd</sup> TRS	3	5	0.375
30 <sup>th</sup> SFS No. 3	3	5	0.375
381 <sup>st</sup> TRG	3	6	0.333
30 <sup>th</sup> OG No. 1	2	6	0.250
30 <sup>th</sup> Cons.	2	7	0.222
30 <sup>th</sup> CS.	0	9	0.000

### American League

Team	Win	Loss	Pct.
614 <sup>th</sup> SOPS	8	1	0.889
30 <sup>th</sup> TRANS	6	1	0.857
30 <sup>th</sup> CES No. 2	6	2	0.750
576 <sup>th</sup> No. 2	4	3	0.571
Det. 9	4	3	0.571
392 <sup>nd</sup> No. 2	4	6	0.400
30 <sup>th</sup> MDG	4	6	0.400
534 <sup>th</sup> TRS	3	3	0.500
30 <sup>th</sup> SFS No. 4	3	4	0.429
30 <sup>th</sup> SFS No. 2	1	8	0.111
30 <sup>th</sup> OG No. 2	0	7	0.000

**SPORT****SHORTS****FITNESS CENTER HOLDS ALL-STAR GAME**

The fitness center is sponsoring an all-star game and slam-dunk contest March 30 at 6 p.m. Call Staff Sgt. Ryan Masters at 606-3832 for more information.

**FITNESS CENTER SPONSORS BIATHLON**

The fitness center's annual biathlon is scheduled for March 24 at 9 a.m. People can sign-up now by calling Staff Sgt. Ryan Masters at 606-3832.

**VCA SPONSORS GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The Vandenberg Competition Association is sponsoring a golf tournament April 6 at Marshallia Ranch Golf Course. Registration is 10 to 11:30 a.m. Shotgun start is at noon. The cost is \$15 per person plus green fees. To register, call Werner "Pete" Hope at 606-9927.

**30TH CES HOLDS GOOFY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The Civil Engineer Activity Counsel is sponsoring its third annual Goofy Golf Tournament April 5 at the Marshallia Ranch Golf Course. Check-in is at 11:30 a.m. with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Entry fees are \$10 per person. Green fees are \$10 for airman basic through senior airman, \$16 for staff sergeants and above, \$19 for civilian and DoD employees and \$30 for contractors. Individuals or teams can sign up by calling Staff Sgt. Thomas Merrett at 606-9876 or Ron Case at 606-4116.

**GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM HAS OPENINGS**

VAFB youth center girls, ages 11 to 13, softball program still has openings for one more team. To sign-up, call the youth center Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 606-9374 or 606-2152.

**FIRST SERGEANTS HOLDS TOURNAMENT**

Vandenberg first sergeants will hold a golf tournament March 29 at Marshallia Ranch. Registration is 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. with a noon shotgun start.

Entry fee is \$10 per person plus green and cart fees. Contact unit first sergeants to sign up. For more information, call Master Sgt. Mark Reed at 606-5747. No more than 36 teams will allowed to play.

**AIR FORCE SPONSORS RUGBY CLINIC**

The Air Force Rugby squad will hold an instructional camp and team tryout April 12 to 15 in Washington, D.C. Tryouts are in conjunction with the Cherry Blossom Invitational Rugby Tournament. Classroom and field instruction will be offered before the tournament. All Air Force active duty, active reserve and Air National Guardsmen are eligible. The selected Air Force team will compete against the Army, Navy, Marine Corp and Coast Guard teams in the Armed Forces Rugby Championships Oct. 8 to 13 at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. For more information, go to [www.afrugby.com](http://www.afrugby.com).

**OSC, THRIFT SHOP OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Vandenberg Officers' Spouses' Club and the thrift shop are offering \$40 sports scholarships for children participating in youth sports. A family may receive more than one scholarship. Everyone is eligible to apply. Applications can be picked up at the base youth center, the library, the family support center or the food pantry. Call Moyra Hower at 734-9844 for more information.

**VANDEMBERG HOLDS SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Team Vandenberg is hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Santa Barbara County Special Olympics at the base sports field April 21. Volunteers are needed as team leads, escorts and organizational points of contacts. Call Capt. Stacy Huser at 606-1542, extension 3106 for information.

**LADY HAWKS NEED MORE PLAYERS**

The Vandenberg Lady Hawks Basketball team has openings on the team. Interested people should call Tyrone Edins at work 606-4099 or 606-4199.

**AT THE MOVIES**

**TODAY**

**Antitrust**; starring Ryan Phillippe and Tim Robbins.  
Synopsis: When a young computer whiz is wooed by a huge silicon valley company. He soon discovers that his boss has rather nefarious ways around antitrust complaints.  
Rated PG-13 for some violence and brief strong language.

**SATURDAY**

**Head Over Heels**; starring Shalom Harlow and Ivana Milicevic.  
Synopsis: A single girl in Manhattan, finds herself rooming with four super-fabulous model roommates. She finds herself in head over heels and she's not sure whether to thank her lucky stars or curse her lot in life.  
Rated PG-13 for sensuality and some strong language.

**SUNDAY**

**Valentine**; starring David Boreanaz and Marley Shelton.  
Synopsis: Four friends start to receive morbid Valentine day cards. Someone out there is stalking them. Someone they all spurned when they were younger, and Valentine's Day 2001 is the day that person exacts his revenge.  
Rated R for strong horror violence, some sexuality and strong language.  
*All movies start at 7:30 p.m.*

**COMMANDER'S ACCESS CHANNEL SCHEDULE**

Now showing every even hour on Vandenberg commander's access channel;

- ♦ Air Force and civilian experts counter anthrax vaccine allegations.
- ♦ More Kelly AFB, Texas, workers found with Lou Gehrig's disease.
- ♦ Air Force Major battles cancer.
- ♦ Commander-in-chief promises pay raise, quality of life improvements.
- ♦ Ecstasy use investigations widen; more airmen convicted.
- ♦ California Air Force bases contribute to energy conversation.
- ♦ An example of what happens when personal identification is not protected.
- ♦ Multi-faceted training system provides flexibility at Edwards AFB, Calif.
- ♦ Airmen at Davis Mothan AFB, Ariz. contribute to recruiting and retention.
- ♦ 2001 NASCAR season begins with Air Force Recruiting center stage.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS STEVE SCHESTER

**Practice makes perfect**

*Airman 1st Class Edith Vazquez, Staff Sgt. Marvin Banks, Senior Airmen Romeo Orio and Christine Smith of the base honor guard conduct a dress rehearsal before the Travis AFB Air Force band concert Monday at the Trinity Church of the Nazareth in Lompoc.*

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**16 FRI** Col. Steve Lanning, 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing commander would like to let everyone know the following **services are available to all contractors on Vandenberg**; the bowling center, snack bar, equipment check out and outdoor recreation, FAMCAMP, fitness center, aerobics center, Foggios Pizzeria and Deli, John's Barbershop, Base Library, Billeting, Marshallia Ranch golf course, A Natural Knead Massage Therapy, Pacific Coast Club, Rod & Gun Club, Child Development Center, family day care, school age program, youth center, services center and Vandenberg information tickets and tours. Call the 30th Services Squadron at 606-5031 for more information.

**Southern Illinois University** at Edwards AFB, Calif. offers a bachelor of science degree in industrial technology. The accelerated courses are held on weekends. The industrial technology courses can be completed in 16 months. Credit for work experience is given. Car pooling is available. Call Alicia Gourlay at (661) 258-7257 or e-mail her at siuedafb@as.net for more information.

**18 SUN** The Cal Poly Arts department will present the **New Shanghai Circus** Sunday at 3 p.m. in the PAC-Cohan Center on the Cal Poly campus in San Luis Obispo. Call (805) 756-

2787 for ticket information.

**19 MON** A **Sponsorship Training** class will be held Monday at 3 p.m. in the family support center. People can learn sponsorship responsibilities, relocation resources and tips to assist Vandenberg newcomers. Call relocation assistance at 606-0801 to register.

A **cholesterol education class** will be held Monday in the commanders' conference room at the base clinic from 1 to 4 p.m. Participants can learn about lifestyle changes, exercise, and medications by attending the class. Call 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kevin Staples at 606-7291 for information.

A **free non-credit class** will be held in the Ancient art of t'ai chi, chi gung, and relaxation exercises Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. at the services center. The class will focus on improving balance, flexibility, cardiovascular fitness, stress management, and emotional well-being. To register, call 606-2221.

The Cal Poly Arts department will present a concert featuring **Buddy Guy** Monday beginning at 8 p.m. in the PAC-Cohan Center on the Cal Poly campus in San Luis Obispo. Call (805) 756-2787 for ticket information.

**20 TUE** A **veterans affairs home loan workshop** is scheduled for Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the family support center. People can learn the basics of the VA home loan process like applying for a loan and

understanding the entire VA escrow procedure. Call Sunny Park at 605-0134 to register.

There will be an **advanced stocks workshop** Tuesday and Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the family support center. Bring a lunch and attend this two-part class to learn what drives the stock market, different types of common stock and how to evaluate a company. Call Jimmy Camacho at 606-4491 to register.

**21 WED** The family support center's **career focus program** will provide information on local job employment opportunities and sources for job seekers Wednesday at 10 a.m. Participants can find out who's hiring and who's not, techniques for placing a resume on the Air Force and local websites. Contact Tinisha Agramonte at 605-8557 for information.

**22 THUR** The **Women, Infants and Children** office will visit the family support center Thursday. For more information, call the Lompoc WIC office at 737-6470 or Teresa Orozco at the family support center at 606-4636.

The Cal Poly Arts department will present a black-light puppeteer production of the children's book, "**The Very Hungry Caterpillar and the Very Quiet Cricket**," Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the PAC-Cal Poly Theatre on the Cal Poly campus in San Luis Obispo. Call (805) 756-2787 for ticket information.

**23 FRI** A **Kids on the Move** video will be shown March 23 at 3 p.m. in the family support center. The video, "Let's Get a Move On," will form the core for discussion and activities for children, ages 6 to 11, arriving or departing Vandenberg in the next 3 months. Call relocation assistance at 606-0801 for information or registration.

**26 MON** Team Vandenberg will host a **women's history luncheon** March 26 at 11 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. Call Master Sgt. Kathleen Noles at 606-0366.

**28 WED** An **interviewing and dress for success workshop** is scheduled for March 28 at 9 a.m. in the family support center. People can learn tips to dress for interviews and the workplace. Call Tinisha Agramonte at 605-8557 for information.