

Base Briefs

BASE HOLDS TREE LIGHTING, PARADE WEDNESDAY

The annual holiday parade and tree lighting is Wednesday. The parade starts at the commissary at 3 p.m. and continues through main base and East Housing. Following the parade, Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, will light the base Christmas tree at 4 p.m. in front of Bldg. 11777. Refreshments will be served in the lobby and Santa will be available for photos with children. For parade route, see Page 6.

MED GROUP CLOSURES FOR RENOVATION

The 30th Medical Group will undergo a renovation of its Family Practice Clinic and Internal Medicine Clinic from today to Monday. The group will close and relocate the Family Practice Clinic to the fourth floor and the Internal Medicine and GYN Clinic to the third floor. Aerospace Medicine is open to everyone today from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for acute needs only. In addition, the pharmacy will be at minimum manning on both days. The Family Practice Clinic will open Tuesday for normal business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS BENEFIT CHILDREN

The 381st Training Group and Vandenberg's First Sergeants Council has placed an Angel Tree in the base exchange lobby. All tags have been taken from the tree to purchase a gift for a child. The 381st staff and first sergeants want to remind people that all gifts must be received by Dec. 8. For more information, call Master Sgt. Mark Webb at 606-1051 or Paulette Taylor at 606-7416.

BASE ENTRY DECALS EXPIRE SOON

The 30th Security Forces Squadron reminds drivers to ensure their vehicle registrations are updated. The "01" Air Force Form 2219 expires Dec. 31. Everyone assigned to Vandenberg is required to register their vehicles. For information, call pass and registration at 606-1853.

PHONE DIALING CHANGES

Base telephone converted to the Air Force Standard dialing plan for DSN federal technology service and local commercial access Nov. 23. The following is a list of the dialing plan access codes: 90-DSN flash override (old code 80); 91-DSN flash (old code 81); 92-DSN immediate (old code 82); 93-DSN priority (old code 83); 94-DSN routine (old code 88); 98-FTS (old code 84); 99-local commercial access (old code 9). For information, call Rick Boyle at 605-7191.

BREAKERS CONTINUES DINNER NIGHT

The 30th Services Squadron staff offers a weekly dinner Thursday at the Breakers dining facility from 6 to 7 p.m. The dinner is open to all family members of personnel deployed in support of

See BRIEFS Page 4

GREEN POWER: Vandenberg explores energy possibilities through wind farming



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Brent Scheibel (left) and Brett Blanchard install a wind-measuring device on to a 30-foot pole Thursday morning off of Arguello Road on south base. Four stations throughout the base will measure wind speed and direction for the next 18 months.

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

■ When the deregulation of California's utility rate structure took effect in January 2001, Team Vandenberg's energy costs nearly doubled.

Answering the challenge, base officials took a step outside of the box to explore economical and ecological energy alternatives as a means to conserve taxpayer dollars.

With 99,000 acres of wind-blown, beachfront property, the answer was carried in by the wind.

"Wind farms use a renewable, nonpolluting source of energy to produce electricity," said Ken Padilla, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron energy manager and utility engineer.

Termed "Green Power" for its environmentally-friendly energy production, Padilla said the wind farms don't generate the harmful pollutants — carbon monoxide,

sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide — normally associated with electricity generation.

On the flip side, he said wind farm technology has its drawbacks.

"Electricity is produced when there are winds available," Padilla said. "As the wind decreases, so too does the amount of electricity produced. Hence the need to study the wind characteristics and compare prevalent wind conditions with the electric-demand profile of Vandenberg."

Although there is an abundance of weather data for the majority of the sites, wind energy applications require a highly refined measurement of local wind characteristics, Padilla said.

Tuesday, the base began installing data logging stations at four sites on base — two on north base and two on south base.

"The data logging stations pro-

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Seminar blasts Vandenberg

Task force teaches bomb blast class to firefighters, law enforcement, EOD

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

■ Vandenberg explosive technicians detonated 350 pounds of ammonia nitrate and fuel oil to destroy a two-and-a-half ton truck on the explosive ordnance disposal range here Tuesday at 11:55 a.m.

The blast was part of a four-and-a-half-day course that members of the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight, a team of FBI explosive technicians, and state and local law enforcement agencies conducted as part of an FBI post-blast seminar.

According to FBI Special Agent Kevin Miles, a bomb technician assigned to the Los Angeles task Force on Terrorism, the class helps students become

familiar with a massive crime scene involving hundreds of pounds of explosives.

Students combed the blast scene looking for clues revealing what type of explosive devices were used, how they were used and who was responsible for the explosion, said Tech. Sgt. Nelson Almodovar, EOD flight chief.

Students from around the country attend the seminars, which are held nine to 10 times per year across the western United States. In their daily lives, they are members of bomb squads (civilian and military), post-blast crime scene teams, forensic scientists and lab personnel.

The instructors are active-duty and retired members of the FBI and local bomb units from around Southern California. All instructors have extensive training and experience in the inner workings of large vehicle bomb crime scenes to include the World Trade Center bombing in 1993, Oklahoma City, Khobar Tow-

See BLAST Page 4



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Sgt. George Gomez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, checks out the remains of a two-and-a-half ton truck on Vandenberg's explosive range Tuesday. The truck was destroyed as part of a post-blast seminar held here by the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron's explosive ordnance disposal flight and the FBI.

First sergeants, spouses give 9,600 cookies to troops

BY 2nd LT. MICHAEL DUNCAN
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ The mission — deliver holiday cheer to the airmen in the dorms.

The message — "We appreciate you. We know you're here."

The method — brightly colored bags filled with 9,600 cookies.

With task at hand, the First Sergeant's Council and the Vandenberg Spouses' Club filled 730 bags with cookies and candy and delivered the sweet bounty to the dorms Nov. 20.

"We want them to know they're remembered during the holidays," said Master Sgt. Roy Blanco, first sergeant for the 30th Operations Group.

Cookies that didn't make it into the bags were given to people in the command post, security forces and other 24-hour work centers.

"They're the guys working the holidays, while the rest of us are with our families," said Blanco. "They also need to know they're remembered."

It took an army of about 30 people — first sergeants, spouses, and other members of the Team V

— to pull it off, said Blanco.

Janet Wagner, VSC member, said she was overwhelmed by the generosity of the people on base. She added that she was happy to be a part of bringing the holidays to airmen away from their homes.

"While we've been doing this, I'll run across a cookie and it reminds me of home," Wagner said during the bagging operation. "I hope they get that same feeling."

The team effort didn't end at the base boundary line either.

According to Blanco, more than 350 students from the Pacific Christian School took the time to decorate the white paper bags and send messages to the airmen living in the dorms. The students, kindergarten through sixth grade, colored 800 bags with inspirational notes and holiday pictures.

With approximately one-third of the students' parents working on base, it didn't take much convincing to get them on board, said Valerie Vassaur, VSC member. She thought the student's involvement would be a good experience for them, so she approached the school.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Spouses' club members and first sergeants bag more than 9,600 cookies at the Pacific Coast Club for to delivery to dorm members Nov. 20.

"That's what this time is about," Vassaur said. "It's about being united. It's not about being military or civilian."

Alyssa Schmidt, a first grader, wrote messages like "God Bless America," "God Bless You" and "Happy Thanksgiving" on her bags, while classmate Ryne Ortega was proud to sign his name in cursive for the men and women serving in the military.

Sandy Rogers, a sixth-grade teacher at the school, said there has been tremendous support by the students and the teachers here.

"During a week of half-days, teachers don't like to give up time, but everyone knew this was important and was willing to help out," Rogers said.

Vassaur summed up the spirit of the occasion when she said, "It's about working together for the good of our country."

(2nd Lt. Michelle Mayo contributed to this story)



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Airman Brandon Porter, 30th Security Forces Squadron, receives his dozen cookies from Master Sgt. William Lintiacco, 30th SFS executive staff. More than 500 dorm residents received cookies for the Thanksgiving holiday.

VANDEMBERG PREPS FOR PROTESTORS

■ A civilian protest may occur Saturday at the Main Gate. The following information has been included as a reference for Vandenberg members and visitors if protestors gather:

- ♦ **Gates:** The Main and Utah gates will be open. Lompoc Gate will be closed.
- ♦ **Travel:** In the event of a protest, anyone traveling to Santa Maria should use Utah Gate and Firefighter Road. People traveling to Lompoc may use the Main or Solvang gates.
- ♦ **Information:** Team

Vandenberg should report all suspicious activity or vehicles to the law enforcement desk at 606-3911. Don't try to apprehend or detain suspicious people, observe and report only. Team Vandenberg members are encouraged to watch the Commander's Access Channel 2 for updates.

- ♦ **Awareness:** Remain vigilant at home and work. Also be aware of computer security.
- ♦ **Child care:** For information call the family child care program manager at 606-3255 or 606-4632.

Missile defense test launches Saturday

■ Team Vandenberg is set to launch an unarmed Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile Saturday in support of the Missile Defense Test Program.

The planned four-hour launch window is scheduled from 6 to 10 p.m.

The Ground-based Midcourse Defense Segment, formerly the National Missile Defense Program, is managed by the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization's Joint Program Office, Washington, D.C.

This is the second Vandenberg launch for the program this year.

During the July 14 test, the exoatmospheric kill vehicle successfully intercepted the target launched from here.

For more information about the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Segment, see the BMDO website at www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/bmdolink.html.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DIANA HELGENSEN SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORY

A modified Minuteman II streaks into the sunset during the July 14 launch from Vandenberg. The target travels about 4,800 miles toward the Kwajalein Missile Range during the \$100 million tests.





PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. PAM TAUBMAN

Col. Robert M. Worley II (center), 30th Space Wing commander, receives some quick tips from Betty Conley, lead cook at the Breaker's Dining Hall, on how to carve a steamship round. Hundreds of Vandenberg members enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner served up by wing leaders Thanksgiving Day.

No time for rest: press forward, excel

By MAJ. PAUL KIMBLE
30th Transportation Squadron commander

The Operation Readiness Inspection is finally over. The holidays are rapidly approaching. Heck, even the Russian Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty team was here. Time to relax? Not exactly. The post-ORI period provides the perfect opportunity to correct those areas in your organization that were identified as deficient, improve those areas that met standards and fine-tune your excellent programs. First, take the opportunity to recognize the performance of everyone in your unit. Now is the time to thank them for all the hard work leading up to the ORI. Document above and beyond actions in upcoming performance reports, award packages and decorations. Ensure everyone receives credit for the accomplishments of the team. Recognizing the contributions of everyone will enhance morale and provide a catalyst for continued success. Second, take a fresh look at your processes. The IG praised many and criticized a few. Some of the programs we thought were error-free have some holes identified by the IG's unbiased

eyes. Rather than waiting for the next semiannual self-inspection, analyze these areas and map out a plan in place to make them better. Ask the process owners what they learned from the inspection. Compiling a comprehensive "lessons learned" database will complement the ORI report and serve as a starting point for your improvement efforts. For your stronger programs, craft a strategy to get them to the next level. What prevents them from achieving "Best Practice" status? What can be done better? Again, get the process owners involved in creating this strategy. Knowing they have a vested interest in the outcome will foster an atmosphere of continuous improvement. Beyond examining your processes, evaluate leadership as well. Ask supervisors at all levels what they learned about themselves as leaders. Identify those who performed well during the inspection. Create a "win-win" situation by pairing up a top performer with a program that may need some help. The individual will appreciate the new challenge and opportunity to shine, and process improvement will come about naturally. Analyze your own performance

also. Do a little soul-searching. What role do you play in sustaining the high level of performance in your organization? What can you do to build on that performance and take the unit to new heights of success? Next, examine your vision and mission statements. Do they accurately describe what your unit is trying to accomplish? Have the troops bought in to the concept? Do they understand their role? Is the unit's vision established to provide a foundation for excellence, or is just a mechanism to fulfill the requirement for vision statement? Your vision statement speaks volumes about your approach to success. Lastly, take care of your people. This goes beyond recognition. This also goes beyond giving everyone a few days off. Know them—their goals, aspirations and trepidations. Care for them—keep track of those with potential for financial problems or child care issues as the holiday season approaches. Lead them—inspire your troops to greatness through your own commitment. We demonstrated a commitment to excellence during the ORI that impressed the heck out of the IG. Maintain that intensity and renew that commitment now.



Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander,
30th Space Wing

Commander's Action line

Mission success is our top priority, and the talented men and women of Team Vandenberg get it done with excellence. Key to the effectiveness of any great team is good communication. The 30th Space Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct communication link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice your concerns, share constructive ideas, or give your Vandenberg teammates a pat on the back. I appreciate your input, and I am personally involved in every response. While the Commander's Action Line is a great way to communicate, don't forget there are many other avenues to get answers to your questions including your chain of command, first sergeants, base services officials, and many other base professionals. Thanks for helping to make Vandenberg such a great place to work and live. When calling the action line, please leave your name and phone number.

Call or e-mail at 606-7850 or actionline@vandenberg.af.mil

EMERGENCY.....	911
Information.....	411
Poison control.....	800-876-4766
Clinic appointments.....	606-2273
After-hours urgent care.....	888-252-3299
TRICARE services.....	800-242-6788
Health Care Information Line.....	800-611-2883
Law enforcement.....	606-3911
Housing maintenance.....	734-5586
Child Development Center.....	606-1555
MPF customer service.....	606-7756
Visitor control center.....	606-7662
Chaplain (after hours).....	606-9961
Red Cross (duty hours).....	606-1855
Red Cross (after hours).....	800-660-4272
EOD (duty hours).....	605-1375
Public tours.....	606-3595
Base operator.....	606-1110
Pest Control.....	606-1936
Fitness center.....	606-3832
Base Exchange.....	734-5521
Base locator: Military (duty hours).....	606-1841
Base locator: Civilian.....	0



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Discover prehistoric past of Vandenberg

By 2nd Lt. Michelle Mayo

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Long before missiles and rockets were launched from here, long before this land was known as Vandenberg Air Force Base, the Chumash Native Americans lived and thrived here.

Evidence of these original inhabitants, known as the Chumash, can be found at many places on Vandenberg.

There are more than 2,000 prehistoric sites on the base and the oldest are more than 9,000 years old, according to Bob Peterson, staff archaeologist for the 30th Civil Engineers Squadron.

Vandenberg has a significant percentage, close to 15 percent, of archeological sites found on Air Force bases.

The Chumash, who had one of the most highly developed cultures in North America, are known for their prehistoric rock art.

"The Honda Ridge site is one you can visit and is probably the most interesting prehistoric site on base," said Peterson.

"It's surface is unusual and not like any other rock art site I've seen," Peterson added. "The surface is smooth and so clear in some places that you can see your reflection."

The Honda Ridge rock art site, has quite a few paintings —

including layers of paintings on top of each other.

The Chumash used ocher mixed with some kind of binder, possibly animal fat or blood, as paint. Most of the painting seems to have been done with the fingers, but there is evidence of brushwork as well, Peterson said.

Honoring early Americans

Today concludes National American Indian and Alaskan Native History Month. The annual celebration of "Native American History" month began in 1990.

Team V commemorated Native American history month with a cake-cutting ceremony, children's craft day at the library and luncheon that featured Grammy-award winning flutist Carlos Reynosa and performances by Chumash drummers, said Staff Sgt. Carolyn Brown, NCO-in-charge of Military Equal Opportunity.

Some of the paintings have been identified as a raven's head, rattlesnakes and the sun, "but in general, we are just guessing, when we try to assign meaning to most of the art work of prehistoric peoples," Peterson added.

"It may not have been as important to produce an actual picture as to have left your mark on the place," said Peterson.

Their territory extends along the coast from northern San Luis Obispo County south to Malibu and to New Cuyama in the east.

The Chumash lived in permanent villages with up to 1,000 inhabitants, he said.

There is no evidence of a village at the Honda Point site, but there were large villages on

the coast nearby.

According to Peterson, the nearby village of Nocto was occupied as early as 9,000 years ago and was still in existence in 1796 when the first Spanish explorers came to the area. The Spanish recorded the village as being occupied by 60 people living in 10 houses.

Nearly 18,000 Chumash once lived in the Central Coast area, but now only about 7,500 remain — many of whom live in the Chumash reservation in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Currently, the base archaeologist's office has a program underway to put

up interpretive signs at the Honda ridge site to explain the history and interpret the art. For now, visitors can explore the site on their own.

Vandalism has been a problem in the past and explorers will notice pen carvings in the walls. Many of those were made in the 1920's before the area was protected.

Today, anyone caught defacing any of the archaeological sites on base will face stiff fines, said Peterson.

"All cultural resources on base are protected," he said.

For more information about Honda Ridge and other historical sites on base, check out the Vandenberg website.

Mm-mm-good



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD

Senior Master Sgt. David Fuentes, base IMA administrator, and his 8-year-old son Gabriel partake of a Thanksgiving feast at the Youth Center Nov. 20. More than 150 guests attended the annual dinner.

Fast Facts: Native Americans in the military

- Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita of population.
- During the last century, nearly 190,000 Native Americans have served in the military, including eight Medal of Honor winners.
- During World War I, 120,000 Native Americans served in the military, while 144,000 fought in World War II.

The next generation of Air Force leaders

The following are the graduates from the Nov. 20 graduation of ALS Class 02-A, including award winners:

Senior Airmen

Drysdale, Jessica (John L. Levitow Award Winner)

Dickel, Jason (Leadership Award Winner)

Flores, Jesus (Academic Achievement Award Winner & Distinguished Graduate)

Marks, Travis (Distinguished Graduate)

Saunders, Kristofor (Distinguished Graduate)

Abegaz, Yared

Aguilar, Thomas

Beeler, Frank III

Brady, Kathryn

Castillo, Liberty

Chica-Fincher

Drop, Johnathan

Forney, Sean

Funderburk, Paula

Holmes, Jeffery

Jackson, Denovice

Joncas, Jason

Jones, Scott

Laanes, Jose JR

Lamotte, Tammy

McComas, William

Miller, Jason

Moffatt, Justin

Montero, Jose

Montez, Cassandra

Moore, Paola

Nelson, James

Retzlaff, Mitchell

Rivera, Ferdinand

Schneider, Raylene

Snider, Chris

Tompkins, Dale

Vidaurre, Jessica

Villamor, Franco III

Wennberg, Joshua

Williams, Kevin



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JERRY CLEMENS

Senior Airman Jessica Drysdale, formerly of the 30th Weather Squadron, accepts the John L. Levitow award from 30th Space Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Morey. The award is given to the top graduate of Airman Leadership School.

Flashy smile may cost \$\$

By Staff Sgt. Andrew

Leonhard

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

People get their teeth straightened for many reasons. Some have dental problems, others might just want to have a straighter smile.

Whatever the reason, active-duty people who want orthodontic treatment can look forward to a healthy smile — and a healthy bill.

"Most orthodontic treatment is elective or deferrable and is not an entitlement," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Jessup, 30th Medical Group Dental Flight commander.

Since orthodontic care is primarily cosmetic and elective, active-duty members are not reimbursed for orthodontic care they receive at other military treatment facilities or civilian providers.

Consequently, Vandenberg doesn't have an orthodontist assigned to the base dental clinic, he said.

Active-duty patients may elect to seek civilian orthodontic treatment at their own expense, but only after the written approval of the chief of dental services or their designee, said the dental flight commander.

According to Jessup, patients are counseled on Air Force policies regarding elective orthodontic treatment and potential financial implications related to deployment or permanent change of station. Rated personnel require a waiver from aerospace medicine prior to seeking civilian orthodontic treatment.

Additionally, he said, active-duty people selected for temporary

duty assignments of two to four months require the placement of a passive arch wire prior to departure.

Patients are informed that appliances will not be adjusted while deployed.

Use of the passive arch wire during an extended TDY will likely extend the length and cost of treatment, Jessup said.

During a permanent change of station move, orthodontic patients have additional factors to consider.

The patient may move to a location where continued orthodontic care isn't possible, Jessup said.

Depending on the situation, the braces may need to be removed and replaced with a suitable retention device.

For more information about orthodontic care, call the dental clinic at 606-1846.

By Staff Sgt. Andrew

Leonhard

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

The Vandenberg commissary and Defense Commissary Agency want to help assist families with the cost of higher educational needs of military children.

Applications for the second annual \$1,500 Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation Scholarships for Military Children Program are now available at the commissary and for download at www.commissaries.com.

"The response at the Vandenberg commissary was great last year," said Randy Epps, Vandenberg commissary store director.

Epps hopes this year will prove to be even better. "We have a goal to receive twice as many applications this year," he said. The Vandenberg commissary received 25 applicants last year.

Vandenberg's winner last year was Tia Flowers, daughter of Su and retired Master Sgt. Tim Flowers, Special Security Officer for

Vandenberg.

Flowers is a graduate of Cabrillo High School and is majoring in nursing at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif.

More than 5,000 students worldwide applied for the scholarships, and through the generosity of industry partners, nearly 400 scholarships were awarded, said Maj. Gen. Robert Courter Jr., Defense Commissary Agency director.

The \$1,500 scholarships are open to qualified sons and daughters of U.S. military members who are on active duty, retired or in the guard or reserves.

Eligibility of applicants, including survivors of deceased members, is determined using the Department of Defense identification card directive. Epps hopes that a few changes to the scholarship program will assist with the store's higher goal this year.

Two major changes for the 2002 program are that students do not have to show identification at the commissary when turning in their applications and applicants who don't live near a commissary are

able to mail their applications to their closest commissary location, Epps said.

Student eligibility is verified through the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System before scholarships are awarded. Sponsors should ensure their children are enrolled in DEERS prior to applying for a scholarship.

The Fisher House Foundation is administering the Scholarships for Military Children program through a professional scholarship evaluation company. Fisher House is known for building and donating fully furnished comfort homes near military medical facilities.

A permanent information page for the Scholarships for Military Children Program has been added to www.commissaries.com. Look for the link under "What's New." Applications on Vandenberg can be picked up and returned at the customer service office of the main store or mini commissary during operating hours. The deadline for filing applications is Feb. 5.

(Bonnie Powell, Defense Commissary Agency, contributed to this story)

Team Vandenberg Spotlight



PHOTO BY AIRMAN MICHELLE MIRANDA

Name: Airman 1st Class Alexander Argudin

Assignment: 30th Communications Squadron, Ground Radar Systems Apprentice

Hometown: Chicago, Ill.

Time on Vandenberg: 6 months

Time in Air Force: 18 months

Why he loves his job: "I get to work with and learn from wonderful and interesting people. I know that my job in radar maintenance affects the whole Central Coast of California by its accurate weather data."

Supervisor's comments: "His drive to excel as a radar technician has resulted in ground radar systems having the best Department of Defense-maintained Next Generation Weather Radar with an operational up-time rate of 99.8 percent. It's been a real pleasure having the opportunity to mentor such a sharp young troop — one that's always going above and beyond all requirements," said Master Sgt. Richard Chavez-Hatton, NCO-in-charge of ground radar systems.

Commanders!
Supervisors!
Wanna see your
troop's face
here?
Send Team
Vandenberg
spotlight info to

space&missiletimes@vandenbergafl

PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

A two-and-a-half ton truck explodes with 350 pounds of explosives on Vandenberg's explosive range Tuesday.

Base plays important part in post-blast seminar

BLAST from Page 1

ers, the African embassy bombings and the USS Cole.

The course on Vandenberg, called the Large Vehicle Bomb Post-Blast Crime Scene School, began in May 1998 and was meant as a graduate-level post-blast crime-scene school, said Miles, a 22-year explosives expert.

According to Almodovar, this class is one of a kind. "The course is held here for its location, facilities and excellent support from 30th Space Wing and base agencies," said Almodovar.

Miles passed on kudos on Team Vandenberg's support. "Vandenberg was one of the first bases to host the class and their support has been instrumental in the success of the course," he said.

This class marks the seventh time Vandenberg's EOD flight has hosted the class.

Stations gather data over 18 month period

WIND from Page 1

vide an accurate measurement in these four geographic areas for the potential development of wind farms," Padilla said.

Three of the stations are mounted atop 30-meter masts.

According to Padilla, each station will take measurements of wind speed and direction to calculate instantaneous, average and peak readings.

The data will be used to determine long-term and short-term variants over a period of 18 months,

he said.

"This data will be used in determining whether a site is suitable for wind farm development," the energy manager said.

"The cost savings that will be achieved through the harvested wind must be sufficient to offset the costs of an operable wind farm over its designed life," he said.

If the site is suitable, the data will also be useful for determining the optimum size of the wind turbines and the type of turbine technology best suited for each site, he said.

DOD announces alternative to holiday mail programs

■ WASHINGTON — Department of Defense officials announced an alternative to the "Any Servicemember" and "Operation Dear Abby" programs, which were suspended indefinitely in the wake of anthrax mail attacks.

The Navy has developed a Web-based alternative to benefit members of all services. The program can be reached at the Navy LIFELines Services Network at <http://www.LIFELines2000.org> or <http://AnyServiceMember.Navy.mil>.

Those who want to send a message of support or holiday greeting to military servicemembers will find a simple process for delivering messages at these Web sites. The "Any Servicemember" program allows participants to select from one or all branches of the military.

To receive a message of support, servicemembers log onto one of the Web sites and choose messages for their branch of service and home state. Those sending a message who wish to receive a response may include a return e-mail address. Since all messages are viewed on the Web, the military's regular e-mail service is not affected.

"Operation Dear Abby" was founded by the newspaper advice columnist and has delivered mail to servicemembers overseas during the holiday season for more than 17 years. The "Any Servicemember" mail program began during Operation Desert Storm in 1990, and continued to grow during operations in Bosnia, starting in 1995. (*Air Force Print News*)

Air Force parents get extended child-care

■ SAN ANTONIO — A new Air Force child-care program is helping people who are supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Extended Duty Child-Care Program is for Air Force parents needing care beyond their typical 50-hour requirement or when they have child-care emergencies. They may use extended care for mission-related duty, extended workdays, temporary shift changes, problems with regular child-care arrangements, and rapid mobilization or deployment.

The program, however, is not intended to be a family's regular source of child-care.

Parents needing extended service must be enrolled in the program, in which family child-care coordinators arrange for children to stay in licensed family child-care homes on base.

Extended-duty providers are part of the Air Force Family Child-Care Program. They have been specifically selected by base family child-



Around the Air Force

chief, finance division at the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office. "This will ensure everyone's end-of-year leave and earnings statement and W-2 form are accurate since bonus pay is taxable in the calendar year it is paid, not in the year the entitlement is earned."

Individuals who do not receive their bonus payment this calendar year may receive double payments next year which may result in a higher tax bracket, according to officials. People can reach the contact center at DSN 665-2949 or 1-800-558-1404 Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. central time. (*AFPC News Service*)

Edwards helps NASA capture Leonid data

By Leigh Anne Bierstine

Air Force Flight Test Center Public Affairs

■ EDWARDS AFB, Calif. — People from the Global Reach Combined Test Force here stepped up to the plate recently to help NASA researchers capture one-of-a-kind data.

The squadron offered 18 U.S. scientists a ride aboard a specially modified aircraft so they could collect data during this year's Leonid meteor shower.

The specially modified aircraft, an NKC-135E Stratotanker, is also known as the Flying Infrared Signature Technology Aircraft. The aircraft is equipped with quartz-crystal windows designed to support advanced technology optical data collection. The windows include defrosters and adjacent mountings for cameras, and highly specialized equipment to gather signature data on meteors.

The mission left here at 10 p.m., flew throughout the shower, and returned at 6:30 a.m. the following morning.

While the shower could be viewed from the ground, the goal for the mission was to get above the clouds and other atmospheric interference to meet NASA's specific viewing needs.

With the current operations tempo at the test center, accommodating the flight was challenging but well worth the extra effort, said Lt. Col. Jeff Smith, director of the Global Reach CTF.

"This data is being used to better characterize the threat that our satellites have to space hazards, so its benefits will touch each of us someday," he said.

Meteor storms have historically eluded planned observation. The Leonid storm offered researchers an opportunity to plan viewing based on its predicted appearance.

The Leonids are minute dust particles shed by comet Tempel-Tuttle. The comet swings around the sun once every 33 years, leaving a trail of dust. Each November, the Earth's orbit takes it through that slowly dissipating trail.

care panels to provide such services. As licensed providers, they have completed all required screenings, trainings and inspections.

Under normal circumstances, parents using this program pay no more than \$2 per hour for additional care; however, Air Force Services, which manages this program Air Force-wide, has waived the parent co-payment until Jan. 5. Parents will continue to pay for regular child-care but will not be required to do so when using extended-duty care.

The program started as a retention initiative but has come into its own after Sept 11, with 71 bases currently offering the program.

The amount of care provided in September was three times higher than in August, said Beverly Houston, an Air Force child development specialist for Air Force Services in Washington. More than half of it was used on weekends.

She added that Air Force Services is seeking funds to expand the program to serve Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve people supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, along with support parents needing care for mildly ill children and parents assigned to missile bases. (*Air Force Print News*)

Officials urge people with pay or bonus problems to call AFPC Contact Center

■ RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Air Force personnel officials are asking all airmen with pay or bonus payment problems to call the AFPC contact center by Dec. 7.

As the Air Force's internal tax reporting deadline approaches, personnel officials want to ensure individuals have received all their pay and entitlements so they're not faced with problems when tax season rolls around.

Officials want to make sure they have enough time to work with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to resolve all cases in time for this tax year.

Common problems may include initial enlistment or reenlistment bonuses, special or incentive pay, or problems with regular pay.

"It's important that we identify any remaining members and try to resolve their cases by early December so DFAS has time to update their pay records," said Lt. Col. Thomas Major,

BRIEFS from Page 1

an overseas operation. To participate, family members must bring a copy of their spouse's orders to the services squadron front office in Bldg. 11013 across from Bldg. 11777. For information, call 606-5031.

OFFICIALS ADVISE PATIENTS TO SAVE MEDICAL RECEIPTS

Recent changes to medical benefits cover non-active duty TRICARE Prime beneficiaries with reimbursement for travel for medically necessary, non-emergent care that is more than 100 miles away. Vandenberg beneficiaries traveling south further than Oxford or north further than Templeton may be eligible. For more information, call Peggy Carter at 606-8560 or Bonnie Robles at 606-8624.

MINI-COMM, MAIN STORE ANNOUNCE HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec. 24 - the main store is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the mini-comm is open from 6 to 9:30 a.m.

Christmas - both stores are closed.

Dec. 26 - the main store are closed, but the mini-comm is open from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

New Year's Day - both stores are closed.

PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Teen V Spotlight

Name: Brita Popma, 18

School: Freshman at University of California at Berkeley.

Major: Interdisciplinary studies.

Parents: Don Popma, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron and Ilse Popma.

Hobbies: Sports, live music and dancing.

Career goal: In the medical field.

Kudos: Was awarded the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund scholarship of \$750.

Other Honors: The Scholarship Cup and awards for excellence in the humanities, history, varsity volleyball and varsity soccer. Captain of the volleyball, soccer and lacrosse teams at Dunn School in Los Olivos, Calif.

Motto: "I think that everything happens for a reason."

Team V player scores for AF

By 2nd LT. CARLOS DIAZ
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

People often dream of becoming sports heroes — representing their city, state or country.

Yet many of them don't fathom the hard work it takes to achieve those goals. That's not the case with Senior Airman Danny Hidalgo, 30th Space Wing Safety information manager. Hidalgo recently brought home a silver medal from the Armed Forces Soccer Tournament as a member of the Air Force soccer team

"Practice was hard — three

mile run, dribbling, more running and then a little game with the guys — all this by 11:30," Hidalgo said. "Then we would take a break and come back to practice at one and continue until four," Hidalgo added.

Making the cut for the Air Force team was not easy. His most difficult obstacle to overcome was the stiff competition, Hidalgo said. Players stationed overseas seemed to have the advantage since they gain proficiency from playing in local leagues where soccer is the national past time.

An added obstacle was

reduced practice time.

The attacks on New York and the Pentagon Sept. 11 cut the team's practice time from three weeks to one, because there were no flights available due to the emergency.

With only one week of preparation, the Air Force team traveled to Everett Naval Station, Wash. in early October, with high hopes of knocking off the Army, Navy and Marine squads to compete in the All Armed Forces Soccer Tournament. With two wins, two losses and two ties the team took home the silver just getting edged out by the Army.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Danny Hildago, 30th Space Wing Safety information manager, shows off the medal-winning skills that got him on the Air Force soccer team. The Air Force team placed second in the Armed Forces Soccer Tournament.

Wanna see more sports in your

Give us a heads up on what your team's up to!

space&missiletimes@vandenberg.af.mil or call 606-2040.

Runs like the wind



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JEANETTE COPELAND

Samantha Ray, 614th Space Operations Squadron, finishes in first place with a time of 21 minutes, 51 seconds during the Native American 5-K run Monday, while the Fitness Center's Amy Divelbiss, assistant director, and Brian Owen, special event coordinator, take

time. The top three male finishers for the race were Rich Reed (17:33), Scott Anderson (17:52) and Robert Estep III (19:16). The top three female runners were Ray, Astrid Ospina (21:58), and Sharon Owen (22:16). For information on upcoming races, call 606-3832.

Next week's intramural sports schedule

FLAG FOOTBALL

National League
Round 3 Monday
30th SFS1 vs. 30th MDG at 5:30 p.m.
381st TRG vs. 30th TRANS at 6:30 p.m.
30th SPTG vs. 14th AF/614 SOPS at 7:30 p.m.

Round 4 Wednesday
30th TRANS vs. 30th SFS1 at 5:30 p.m.
30th MDG vs. 14th AF/614 SOPS at 6:30 p.m.
381st TRG vs. 30th SPTG at 7:30 p.m.
American League
Round 3 Tuesday
576th FLTS vs. 30th OG at 5:30 p.m.
533rd TRS vs. 30th CES at 6:30 p.m.

30th SFS2 vs. 30th CS at 7:30 p.m.
Round 4 Thursday
30th CS vs. 30th CES at 5:30 p.m.
576th FLTS vs. 533rd TRS at 6:30 p.m.
OG vs. SFS2 at 7:30 p.m.
All flag football games are played at the base football field.

SOFTBALL

Monday
30th TRANS vs. 30th OG at 6:30 p.m. on Field 1.
30th SFS No. 2 vs. 30th CES at 7:30 p.m. on Field 1.
30th SFS No. 1 vs. 30th CS at 7:30 p.m. on Field 2.
Wednesday
30th CES vs. 392nd TRS at 6:30 p.m. on Field 1.
30th CS vs. 30th SFS No. 2 at 7:30 p.m. on Field 1.

30th SFS No. 1 vs. 30th OG at 7:30 p.m. on Field 2.

OVER-30 SOFTBALL

Tuesday
Det 9/SMC vs. 381st TRG at 6:30 p.m. on Field 1.
30th MSS vs. 30th SFS at 7:30 p.m. on Field 1.
30th CS vs. 14th AF/614th SOPS at 5:30 p.m. on Field 2.
NRO vs. 576th FLTS at 6:30 p.m. on Field 2.
Thursday
NRO vs. Det 9/SMC at 5:30 p.m. on Field 2.
30th CS vs. 576th FLTS at 6:30 p.m. on Field 2.
30th SFS vs. 30th OG at 7:30 p.m. on Field 1.
14th AF/614th SOPS vs. 30th MSS at 6:30 p.m. on Field 1.

Community Calendar

Events

30 FRI The Chapel sponsors a **Drop and Shop** today from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Chapel I Annex. Parents can drop their children off for a fun evening, while they do Christmas errands. Call the base chapel at 606-5573 to pre-register children.

A performance of *The Nutcracker* is at the Performing Arts Center in San Luis Obispo Saturday at 2 p.m. This matinee performance is followed by *Clara's Tea Party*, where patrons are served "tea and cookies" by Clara, the heroine of the ballet, and her friends, in the Lobby of the Performing Arts Center. The second performance of *The Nutcracker* will take place in the evening at 8 p.m. and will include a special reception for Civic Ballet Contributors in the Green Room following the performance.

The Santa Maria Civic Theatre presents *Fruitcakes*, a production of music and laughter written by Julian Wilkes, on Friday, Saturday and Dec. 7, 8, 14, and 15. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and curtain time is at 8 p.m. Call (805) 922-4442 to make reservations.

The benefit for **Unity Shoppe Kids Helping Kids at the Zoo** is Friday. Free admission for those who donate a can of food or a new toy. For more information, call (805) 962-5339.

1 SAT Grover Beach's **35th Annual Holiday Parade** is Saturday at 10 a.m. along Grand Avenue from 16th Street to Eighth Street. Call Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce at (805) 489-9091 for more information.

Santa Maria's **Holiday Parade of Lights** is Saturday at 7 p.m. along Broadway beginning at Santa Maria High School. Call Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce at (805) 925-2403 for more information.

Solvang's Annual Lighting of the Community Christmas Tree & Ceremony is Saturday. Call (805) 688-6144 for more information.

Olde Fashioned Christmas in Los Olivos is Saturday. All the galleries and businesses host open houses as the town glows with hundreds of luminaries. Call (805) 688-1222 for more information.

2 SUN Solvang's **Traditional Danish Christmas Celebration** at the Elverhoj Museum of History and Art is Sunday. This is the opening of the Holiday Exhibit. Call (805) 686-1211 for more information.

The **Sugar Plum Party Performance** is Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center in San Luis Obispo. The performance is always a favorite with the young ones, where, following the ballet, patrons are invited to the Lobby of the Performing Arts Center to meet the entire

It's beginning to look like Christmas



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Senior Airman Virginia Prinze (above), Aeronautical Missions supervisor for the 30th Range Squadron, decorates the Pacific Coast Club for the holiday season.

cast for autographs, pictures and a surprise treat.

The closing performance of the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo's 24th Anniversary performances of *The Nutcracker* is Sunday at 6 p.m. Groups of 10 or more receive a 10 percent discount to the closing performance by calling 544-4363.

7 FRI Lompoc's **60th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony** is Dec. 7 at

10 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, South H and Locust. Keynote speaker is Navy Cmdr. Byrd, 14th Air Force. Also representing the Air Force and Vandenberg will be Col. Robinson, 30th Support Group commander.

Santa Maria's **60th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony and Freedom Monument** unveiling is Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. at the Abel Maldonado Youth Center. Col. Robert Worley, 30th Space Wing Commander, represents the Air Force and Vandenberg.

The Vandenberg Spouse's Club

8 SAT December event is a **Holiday Outing in Solvang** Dec. 8. Meet

at the visitor center at 8:30 a.m. to car pool. Breakfast is at the Belgian Café, \$10. A holiday ornament and decoration exchange follows breakfast. The price range is around \$10 for the ornament or decoration exchange. R.S.V.P. by Dec. 6 to Beki Melone if your last name begins with letters A through K at 734-2668 or Dawn Orban at 734-2218 for all others. New members and guests are always welcome.

12 WED The Vandenberg Commissary has a **zucchini break bake-off** Dec. 12. The winner of the contest receives a \$50 shopping spree. Three local commanders will judge the bread. For more details, call the commissary at 734-3354.

This year's annual **Lompoc Children's Christmas Parade** is Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. at Pine Avenue and H Street.

14 FRI Immediately following the parade is the **Community Christmas Tree Lighting** at Centennial Park. For more information, call JoAnne Plummer at 736-6565 ext. 15.

Classes

1 SAT A **Holiday Workshop: Rubber Stamping Greeting Cards** is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Anderson Recreation Center, Conference Room in Lompoc. This one-day workshop provides ideas and techniques for creating homemade greeting cards. A \$5 materials fee is payable to the instructor. Fees are \$10 for discount resident and \$12 program fee.

4 TUE An **Individual Transition Plan** session is offered every Tuesday morning from 8 to 9 a.m. except during the transition assistance seminar week. An ITP is required for military members scheduled to retire or separate at least 90 days before they leave the service. The mandatory counseling session includes information about service member's benefits. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call Sunny Park at 605-0134 for more information.

5 WED The health and wellness center has **weekly nutrition classes** Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. Topics include heart smart for cholesterol control, meal planning for diabetes, prenatal and child nutrition, and nutrition for health. For more information, call the HAWC at 606-2221.

7 FRI **Sewing Class for Beginners** is Dec. 7 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Anderson Recreation Center, Panorama Room in Lompoc. During this two-day workshop, the basics of sewing are taught. Students can leave with a finished garment. Sewing machine is required. Fabric and patterns are provided. The fee is \$60 for discount residents and \$72 program fee.

8 SAT A **Holiday Workshop: Rubber Stamping Gift Bags and Boxes** is Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Anderson Recreation Center, Conference Room in Lompoc. This one-day workshop provides ideas and techniques to create beautiful gift bags and wrapping paper using rubber stamps. A \$7 materials fee is payable to the instructor. Fee is \$10 for discount resident and \$12 program fee.

Homemade Bread Making class is Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lompoc Valley Community Center kitchen. Just in time for the holidays, this one-day workshop covers all of the how-tos with lecture, demonstration and hands-on experience. Bring a very large bowl and an apron. The fee is \$20 for discount resident and \$24 program fee.

VANDEMBERG HOLIDAY PARADE ROUTE

The parade will begin at the commissary Wednesday at 3 p.m. and take the following route:

1. Wyoming
2. Left on Utah
3. Left on Korina
4. Right on Aspen
5. Left on Laurel
6. Right on Korina
7. Left on Utah
8. Right on Juniper
9. Left on California
10. Right on Mountain View
11. Right on Mulberry
12. Left on Timberlane
13. Right on Highway 1
14. Left on California
15. Left into Bldg. 11777

Native American performers



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER

(Left to right) Connie Sendejas, of the Chippewa nation, Corine Green Sky, of the Lakota, Teresa Martinez, a local Chumash, and Doni Jo Munro, of the Juchi tribe, pose for a photo opportunity

prior to their performance during the **Native American Heritage Month luncheon at the Pacific Coast Club Thursday**. The group danced and played Native American instruments at the event.

CHAPEL NOTES

Catholic Worship Services

Saturday at 5 p.m. in Chapel 2
Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in Chapel 1
Daily Mass is Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. in Chapel 2.

Catholic religious education is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the religious education building.

Confirmation is Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the religious education administration building.

Youth confirmation is Sundays at 6 p.m. in the religious education administration building.

Protestant Worship Services:

Contemporary Service is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in Chapel 2.

Traditional service is Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in Chapel 1.

Gospel service is Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in Chapel 2.

Protestant religious education opportunities are as follows:

Summer Sunday school is 10 a.m. in the religious education building.

The Youth Believers in God seminars are scheduled for Sundays at 6 p.m. in the religious education building. For other faith groups or concerns, call the chapel at 606-7773.

Catholic community Bible

study is 7 p.m. Thursday in the religious education building. Call Deborah Cotey at 734-4202 for more information.

Men's weekly Bible study is 6 a.m. Wednesday in the Breakers Dining Facility.

The Vandenberg Officer's Christian Fellowship meets at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at 623 Aspen Street. Any officer who would like to be involved in fellowship and bible study with other base officers should attend. People with questions should call Col. Kenneth Van Sickle at 606-4315.

Protestant and Youth Bible

Study is Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. in Religious Education Bldg. across from tennis courts. Call Senior Master Sgt. Ken Gordon at 734-1816 for more information.

Bell Choir rehearsals are scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 13 and 17 at Chapel 1. Call Michelle Urban at 734-2305 for more information.

The Protestant Women of the Chapel Quilting Classes are Thursday mornings in the Religious Education Administration Bldg. For information, call Lucille McLain at 733-2630.

AT THE MOVIES

Today BANDITS

Two bank robbers hope a final string of scores will finance their south-of-the-border retirement dreams. *Rated PG-13*

Saturday THE OTHERS

Three new servants arrive at Grace's home to replace the ones that inexplicably disappeared. Frightening, supernatural events begin to unfold. *Rated PG-13*.

Sunday CORKY ROMANO

Corky Romano, the emotional son of a mob boss is called upon by his long-lost father to infiltrate the FBI. He fakes his way through one tough assignment after another. *Rated PG-13*.

All movies start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

S 30th Services

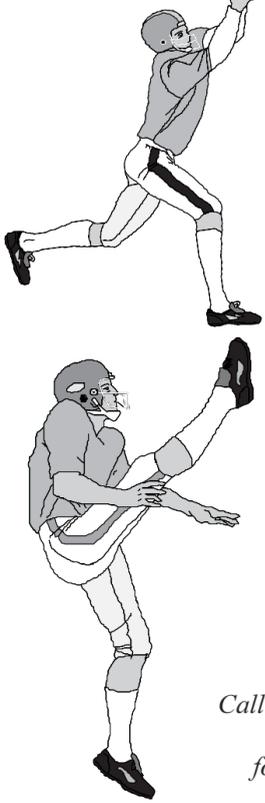


NEWS

FOOTBALL Frenzy 2001

at the Pacific Coast Club

FOOTBALL TOSS! WIN PRIZES! FOOD! FUN!



December 3
Green Bay
vs. Jacksonville

December 10
Indianapolis
vs. Miami

December 17
St. Louis
vs. New Orleans

December 22
Tennessee
vs. Oakland

December 29
Baltimore
vs. Tampa Bay

Call the Pacific Coast Club
at 606-3330
for more information.

Breakfast With Santa



15 Dec

9-11am

Youth Center Gym

TICKETS:

\$2.50 Members/Global Hearts
\$3.50 Non-members
Purchase Tickets by 12 Dec

Each Ticket Gets You:
Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs,
Juice, Coffee, and
a Picture with Santa!

Save Those Tickets For
Door Prizes!
Christmas Bingo!

Santa Will Visit
From 10-11am.

Questions??
Contact the Youth Center
at 606-2152

Tickets not available at the door. Minimum participation required.



Get your
Christmas Gift Certificates

now at Natural Knead
Certificates for 90-minute,
60-minute or 30-minute
massages are available.

We also have GIFT BASKETS!
See us at the Arts & Crafts Faire
December 8th at the Services Center!
Call 605-4748
for more information.

V.I.T.T.



SANTA VISITS BASE HOUSING

If you would like Santa to visit your children in your home (base housing only), stop by the Services Center and sign up today. Cost is \$5 per family. Just bring a small, wrapped gift for each child to the Services Center the day before your scheduled visit, and Santa will deliver them in person.

Visits available Mon-Fri,
Dec. 10-14 and 17-21.
You may sign up starting
Monday.

For more information, call 606-7976.

GOLF

FRIDAY - CMSGT Shotgun Tournament
12 p.m., open play Shotgun, 7:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY - Ladies Priority, 8:32-9:04 a.m.

New Twilight Hours start at 1 p.m.

New Snack Bar Grill hours:

Daily: 6 a.m.-6 p.m.
Weekends & Holidays: 5:45 a.m.-6 p.m. Grill closes at 2:30 p.m.

FITNESS CENTER

FRIDAY - Wild Turkey Shot
Tip-off at 6 p.m. at the Fitness Center.
Contact Brian for details at 606-3834.

ROCK CLIMBING CLUB -
Contact Rod Paronto at 606-3832 for more information.

30 MINUTE MANIA - New Incentive Program!
Patrons who complete a 30 minute workout can win great prizes. Every time you complete a 30 minute workout stop by the front counter and pick up an entry form for this month's drawing. Call Fitness Center for more information, 606-3834.

BOWLING

3-6-9 Turkey Shoot - Dec 3-9
For league bowlers only. Put up a dollar before scheduled time to bowl, get a strike in the 3-6 and 9th frame and receive 1/3 of the pot. Repeat for three games. If no winners, proceeds go to the league prize fund.

YOUTH SPORTS

VAFB YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM
is still taking registrations for boys grades 6th-8th to fill the Senior Boys Basketball Division. Registrations will be taken Mon-Fri, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Youth Center until teams are full. Call 606-2152 for more information.

V.I.T.T.

DISNEYLAND or CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE -
Thursday. Cost \$35, transportation only. Buy discount tickets at the Tickets & Travel desk. For more information, call 606-7976.

UPS COUNTER ONLY -
Open, Dec 8 & Dec 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
(No tickets available those days).

Get Your Tickets NOW for the...

PACIFIC COAST CLUB

New Year's Celebration

December 31 • 8 p.m.

\$30 per person Champagne or Sparkling Cider
Heavy Hors D'Oeuvres toast at Midnight
8-10 p.m. Breakfast from 12:15-1 a.m.

Live Entertainment 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
featuring 'Great American Dance Party'

Come and celebrate the New Year in New York-style!

Get your tickets at the club. Call 606-3330 for more information

Friday, 6-10 p.m.

KARAOKE NIGHT

in the
OFFICERS' LOUNGE LAUNCH PAD

in the
ENLISTED LOUNGE HAWK'S NEST

Friday, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.

80s NIGHT

Arts & Crafts FAIRE



Dec. 8
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
in the
Services Center

For more information
Services Center
at 605-8974 or
Skills Development
at 606-6438.

V team's advisor shines light to guide airmen's careers

BY MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Team Vandenberg's career assistance adviser is ready, willing and able to help people who are uncertain about their career options or undecided about whether to re-enlist.

"The creation of the career assistance adviser is one of many initiatives the Air Force has implemented in response to retention issues," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Tierney, 30th Space Wing career assistance adviser.

"The grass isn't always greener on the other side. The Air Force has a lot of great benefits to offer," he said.

"There are many airmen and NCOs who are unaware of all the options and benefits available when faced with the decision to re-enlist, separate, or transfer to the Guard or Reserve," he said.

"I want to help people make an informed decision that is right for them and their families, regardless of what that decision turns out to be," Tierney said. "The worst scenario is when someone separates based on some 'barracks lawyer's' misguided advice.

"The emphasis on retention has brought about some great changes ranging from the military thrift savings plan to bringing back the base of preference program," he added.

"Mike is the right guy for the right job in helping to retain Team Vandenberg people for the Air Force," said Chief Mas-

ter Sgt. Michael Morey, 30th Space Wing command chief master sergeant. "His footprint is everywhere and he takes the duties associated with this job very seriously.

"In his role as the career assistance adviser, he ensures senior leadership, at all levels, remain attuned to the needs of the enlisted force and that we are continuously updated on available benefits, retraining requirements, re-enlistment issues and other factors involving our young people," the chief added.

Tierney was selected from a pool of four senior noncommissioned officer applicants to fill the position here.

Before becoming one of the 100 career assistance advisers in the Air Force, candidates attend a one-week course at Randolph AFB, Texas.

Tierney's office is located in building 11777, room C-207.

For more information, call him at 605-9815 or visit the web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/benefits.htm



Senior Master Sgt. Michael Tierney, 30th Space Wing career assistance advisor, explains the benefits of an Air Force career to Airman 1st Class Heather Hoxey, a 30th Mission Support Squadron information manager.

Air Force career benefits

Retirement pay: Ranges from 40 percent of base pay and a \$30,000 lump sum payment to 75 percent of base pay.

Annual leave: Accumulate 2.5 days per month, 30 days of paid vacation each year.

Education: The Air Force pays 75 percent of tuition, up to \$250 per semester hour in off-duty courses.

Commissioning opportunities: Officer Training School, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship programs and Airman Education and Commissioning Program.

Montgomery GI Bill: Individuals enrolled in MGIB contribute \$100 per month for one year, benefits are \$650 per month for 36 months.

Air Force secretary shares views on space road map

BY HAP PARKER

Space and Missile Systems Center
Public Affairs

■ LOS ANGELES AFB, Calif. — Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche has spelled out what he sees as the new space road map — the integration of air and space.

Roche was in Los Angeles recently and addressed military and industry partners at the Air Force Association National Symposium.

"Since I became secretary of the Air Force almost six months ago, I've spent a lot of time on the road, meeting many people across the Air Force, industry and our communities," he said. "But wherever I go, I've engaged with folks about how we intend to shape our Air Force so it is poised for the current century."

Roche briefly commented on the situation in Afghanistan and said that America is united in a war for liberty and "for all of the same freedoms and values that mark our manner of life."

He said that in the months ahead he will continue the enormously important work to make changes that are necessary to adapt and strengthen the air and space contributions to national defense.

"It seems to me, as we look at space and the future of the Air Force, our performance in the space arena will prove to be a key indicator of how well the Air Force as a whole will fulfill our responsibilities for the 21st century," he said.

With that in mind, Roche singled out four general categories he will focus on: strategy, people, efficiency and the industrial base.

He said his first priority is to work with his colleagues to adjust strategic parameters to fit the challenges and opportunities of a new security environment.

Then, as part of the overall imperative to attract and retain the best people in a high-technology world, he will accelerate efforts to develop a space cadre for the Air Force.

"And this includes developing a career

progression, educational opportunities and other tangible measures of affirmation that capitalize on the brilliance and expertise of our airmen and civilians," he said.

Roche said his third priority is to recognize how the Air Force must be efficient and cost-effective, in part by looking to best business practices and processes in acquisition programs and operations.

"We simply must find ways to get more out of our space assets — through horizontal integration of systems, best practices and smarter management of the information we obtain from space systems," Roche said.

He said that employing space assets seamlessly with air and ground will enhance the conduct of global operations.

"Finally," Roche said, "there is the critical need our nation faces to provide more incentive in industry for innovation. Over the past several years, the number of suppliers to the Air Force missions in space has dwindled from the double digits to only a handful.

"If we can begin to solve these issues in the space domain, we will be well on our way to completing the transformation of the Air Force we began years ago, and which our president and (Defense) Secretary (Donald) Rumsfeld have envisioned for the future," he said.

Roche said he will stay the course with these efforts, even as the Air Force continues to patrol the skies over Iraq for Northern and Southern Watch, protects the airspace above America, conducts combat operations over Afghanistan and provides humanitarian support to people all over the world.

"It is a great day to be an American, with many of the dividing lines and distinctions between us all fading away," Roche said. "It is a great day to be an airman in today's Air Force, with an incredible sense of purpose and knowledge of our place in history. It is also a great day to be a part of the Air Force family." (*Air Force Space Command News Service*)

SECAF visits CAAs, praises work, role

BY TECH. SGT. DAWN HART

AFPC Public Affairs

■ It's not too often the Secretary of the Air Force flies half way across the country to talk personally with a small group of senior NCOs. But that's just what happened Nov. 7 when Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James D. Roche flew into Randolph to tell the 100 career assistance advisers how important keeping good people in the service is.

Secretary Roche explained his vision of their job to the advisers in town for their worldwide CAA conference.

"You are unbelievably important to the future of the Air Force because of the cost to replace good people, and the opportunity cost of a good person leaving who could have gone further in their career," the secretary said.

He said the CAAs, a career field that's only a year old, are a lynchpin in recruiting and retention efforts. "If we retain well, then we recruit well," he said.

"The words he said are very encouraging," said Chief Master Sgt. Ramsay Pryce, CAA at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. "We are all excited and energized by the fact that he came. He is striking out in a bold new direction regarding retention and he's very passionate, as we all are, about getting things done."

Saying supervisors are the key to a person's decision to re-enlist, the secretary said the CAAs need to work with the supervisors and directly with airmen to "make sure none of our best leave because they don't know enough about the opportunities.

"You need to train supervisors to do the retention and career discussions," he said.

The CAAs asked the secretary many direct and pointed questions about everything from retraining opportunities to pay and entitlements, some of which the secretary promised to focus on and come up with "imaginative and clever" ways of changing programs and policies.

"It meant the world to the CAAs for him to come out, showing that leadership honestly does care, knowing that he did listen, and that his thoughts are true," said Senior Master Sgt. Judy Turner, one of two CAAs at Tinker AFB, Okla. "He didn't just say 'Oh yes, we'll look into that.' He thought about it, repeated what we asked, and voiced his opinion — and he had most everything we talked about nailed as to what we were thinking about."