

Base Briefs

VANDBERG PROMOTES 77

Team Vandenberg's next promotion ceremony is at 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Pacific Coast Club. Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Morey will congratulate those promoted on their new responsibilities.

LOMPOC SCHOOLS CLOSE LABOR DAY

Lompoc Unified School District schools and offices are closed Monday in observance of Labor Day. Classes resume Tuesday.

BASE CELEBRATES BIRTHDAYS

The quarterly birthday meal at the Breakers Dining Facility begins at 5 p.m. Sept. 26. Since the last birthday meal was canceled, this one will include enlisted members with birthdays between April and September. Base senior leaders will serve the meal. First sergeants have menus and are taking sign-ups or call 606-3219.

UNIVERSITY NEEDS AF VOLUNTEERS

Fresno State University needs officer volunteers for its ROTC Career Day. The AFROTC detachment is requesting officers from the following career fields: space, communications, security forces, nursing, intelligence, OSI, public affairs and legal. Volunteers are asked to speak with cadets about education and training as well as duties and responsibilities of their respective career fields. The career day is 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Oct. 3 and includes lunch. To sign up, call 2nd Lt. Donald Kentner at (559)278-2593 or e-mail dbkent@csufresno.edu.

MPF CLOSING FOR THREE DAYS

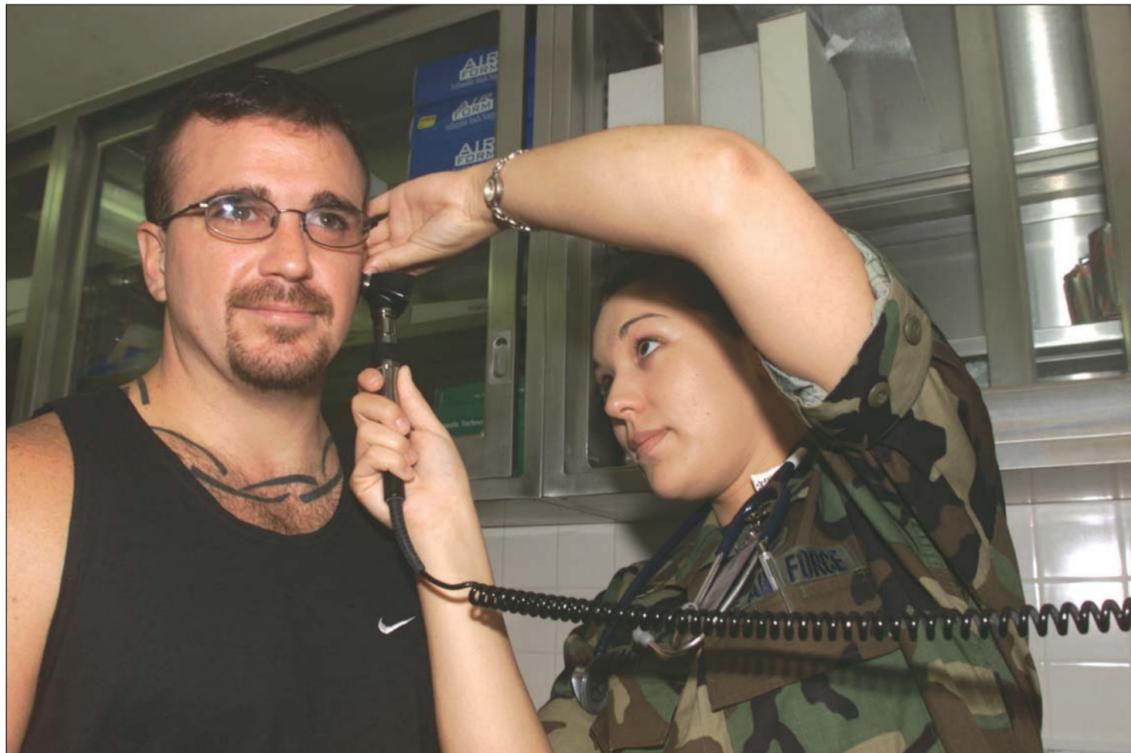
Vandenberg's Military Personnel Flight here will be closed Sept. 16 - 18 while equipment is installed to support issuing the new identification card. For emergencies, call 2nd Lt. Amy Garrett at 606-2276.

COUNCIL KEEPS UNITS POSTED

The next Health Care Consumers Advisory Council meeting is at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 9 in the 30th Medical Group auditorium. The council meets quarterly to advise unit representatives on clinic changes and activities. The group also fields representative's questions.

FIRING RANGE OFF-LIMITS

The 30th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms Range Complex located off San Antonio Road West, is off limits to all unauthorized personnel. Danger signs are posted around the hazardous area of the range complex. For entry, call the Combat Arms Section, 605-5025.



Airmen 1st Class Sandra Beach, 30th Medical Group medical technician, pre-screens family member Joseph Ciolino by checking his ears, heart, temperature and blood-pressure before he sees his primary care manager.

PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS KARA MCCORMICK

30th Medical Group shines

By CAPT. PATRICIA FOWLER
30th Medical Group

In early July the 30th Space Wing Commander received notice that the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and the Air Force Inspection Agency would inspect the 30th Medical Group in the next 30 days.

The accreditation surveyors and the Air Force's Health Services inspectors were set to arrive Aug. 14. Similar to an operational readiness inspection, these teams measure the medical group's readiness to meet its mis-

sion requirements. Added to the inspection process is an evaluation of how well the group provides day-to-day patient care.

JCAHO's mission is to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public. They do that by providing accreditation and related services in order to support performance improvement in health care organizations. The AF Health Services Inspection Team's mission is to assess readiness; provide an independent assessment of medical care; identify instances of fraud, waste, or abuse;

and finally, to evaluate and report on the effectiveness and efficiency of medical management. The two organizations come together to conduct a combined inspection known as a Sustained Performance Odyssey.

Medical Group staff here began the groundwork for the inspection immediately, said Elaine Huggins, 30th Medical Group point of contact for the team. As Aug. 14 approached, the preparation intensified. The staff finalized updates on group operating instructions, recorded reviews, and generally cleaned up

the facility.

Along with making their own preparations, the staff developed a work center for the inspection team, Huggins said. They assigned escorts and ensured all required documents were assembled and available in the team's work center.

Finally, the medical group staff identified members to be present during the inspectors' interviews. They also met with these members to review checklist items and potential interview questions.

See MED Page 3

Launch marks new era in space vehicles

By 2nd LT. WARREN COMER
45th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ PATRICK AFB, Fla. — A new era of space launch vehicles began when the first Lockheed-Martin Atlas V lifted off the pad at Cape Canaveral Aug. 21.

This launch begins the operational start of the Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program, the latest in technology for launching critical payloads into space.

EELV is a rocket system that can carry any type of payload while the main booster of the rocket remains the same. The user simply adds more boosters and smaller solid rocket boosters to increase lift for larger payloads.

The payload for this Atlas V was Hotbird-6, a European television and radio communications satellite. "The Air Force took two con-

tracts out on EELV to ensure that we always have assured access to space," said Lt. Col. Tony Taliachich, director of Detachment 8, EELV Cape Consolidated Task Force. "With EELV we will have the ability to maintain reliability goals and drive down the cost of launch by 25 to 50 percent."

It was decided to split the contract in two and award it to Lockheed Martin and Boeing so they could develop two distinct rocket programs that would be similarly capable of accomplishing what the Air Force required.

He said the operational use of two proven and reliable rocket systems like Atlas V and Delta IV will soon drive down the need for heritage rockets like the Titan IV, which costs almost \$500 million.

See EELV Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOCKHEED-MARTIN
The first Lockheed-Martin Atlas V lifted off the pad at Cape Canaveral, Fla., Aug. 21.

Promotions mean more responsibility for Team V

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES STAFF

■ The following Vandenberg AFB men and women pin on their new rank tomorrow.

"I am very proud of each of the promotees and I congratulate them," said Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander. "This recognizes the confidence the Air Force has in you to lead your team on to greater success!"

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Bryan Bell, 532nd Training Squadron
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Troy South, Det 1, 345th TRS
Ryan Stark, Det 1, 345th TRS
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Christopher Correia, 30th SFS
Michelle Humann, 30th Operations Support Group
Roy Jaramillo, 30th SFS
Carl Kimball, 30th SFS
Matthew Loiselle, 30th SFS
Cassiopeia Lucas, 30th SFS
John McCollough, 30th Communications Squadron
Pasha McMurray, 30th SFS
Jason McWilliams, 30th SFS
David Mercier, 30th SFS
Patrick Noppenberg, 30th Services Squadron
Mario Pattarozzi, 30th CES
Ronaldo Rey, 30th TRNS
William Rule, 30th SFS
Chaunte Shepard, 532nd Training Squadron
Simon Urbina, 30th SFS

See PROMOTE Page 3

Combined Federal Campaign kicks off

By 2nd LT. ERIKA VASAUSKAS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs
transition student

■ This year's Combined Federal Campaign kicks off with the CFC's Agency Expo Sept. 5 at the Pacific Coast Club. The CFC runs Sept. 9-Oct. 18.

The expo highlights some of the charities participating in the Combined Federal Campaign. This is a chance for base personnel to see how they can contribute on the local and national levels. Most of the participating agencies will be from the local area and will only represent a handful of options in the CFC.

The CFC allows federal employees to pick from a diverse listing of charitable organizations. These charities must apply through the local or national Combined Federal Campaign in order to qualify for donations. Options for donations range from such charities as the National Space Society to Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled.

"If there's a cause you're interested in, it's more than likely you'll find it," said 1st Lt. Ericka Brewington, a 30th Space Wing coordinator for this year's event.

The program was created in the 1960s by an Executive Order consolidating the efforts of individual federal organizations raising money for charities. Since the CFC is employee oriented, it's simple to make donations for as little as \$1 per pay period.

In order to preserve the spirit of giving, the donation process is regulated. This includes prohibiting supervisor solicitation, 100 percent contact goals, and setting personal participation goals. This protects the voluntary status of the program.

Vandenberg remembers Sept. 11, 2001

By STAFF SGT. REBECCA BONILLA
Editor, Space & Missile Times

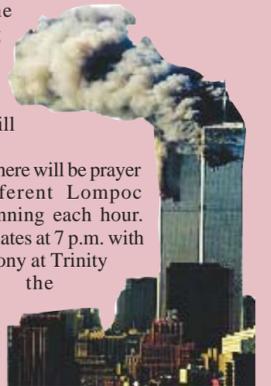
■ As the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon, World Trade Center and Flight 93 approaches, Vandenberg prepares to mark the tragedy on base and in the local community.

The chapel staff has planned a commemorative service at Chapel 1 beginning at 1 p.m. Sept. 11. An ensemble from the Lompoc Pops Orchestra will perform during the service which is open to all base personnel and their families.

That evening, the full Pops orchestra will put on a commemorative concert at 7 p.m. in Chapel 1. Once again, the event is free and open to all base personnel and their families. Military members who have deployed or who are about to deploy are asked to attend wearing their desert uniforms.

In Lompoc, the city will remember the attacks in a day-long event throughout the city. A commemorative service starts the day at 11 a.m. in the Olde Towne park gazebo at South H and Locust streets. Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, is the keynote speaker. The Vandenberg Honor Guard will post the colors and Patriot Voices will perform.

Following, there will be prayer vigils at different Lompoc churches beginning each hour. The day culminates at 7 p.m. with a choral ceremony at Trinity Church of the Nazarene. All the city events are open to the public.



In this issue of the



Also view The Space & Missile Times at http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news/space_times/index.html



Check out the Vandenberg Honor Guard's new bus
See Page A4.



Civil engineers beat test squadron in softball playoffs
See Page B2.

Weekend forecast
Low clouds in the morning and evening with clear afternoon skies.



Low/High
53/65

For a full VAFB weather report visit www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather_index.html

America *Sometimes it takes tears to remind us of our heritage*

By SHARON HEDMAN
2nd Space Launch Squadron

Sept. 11, 2001 was certainly a life-changing day for every American. But, for some of us, change doesn't always come immediately – it takes time. My personal moment of revelation came months later in the spring of 2002.

I had the incredible opportunity to attend an international defense management course in Monterey, Calif.

Walking across the tree filled campus every morning, often hearing peacocks screeching, was a wonderful start to a day crammed with economics and strategic lectures.

One morning I was late for class. I was hurrying across campus so as not to get caught by the morning playing of the national anthem. I was about two thirds of the way across when the anthem began so I stopped, reluctantly.

In the midst of my internal grumbling I looked up. Nearby, a general from Germany, a high-ranking official from the Israeli military, a general from South Africa and a captain in the Australian navy stood at attention saluting my American flag.

My eyes filled with tears and my heart melted. I was so ashamed of my wanting to hurry into the building feeling a lack of heart-felt respect for my flag that I would have gladly hid in the nearby squirrel hole.

Prior to that beautiful morning on a campus in Monterey my life had returned to "normal." I had, once again, begun to take for granted the freedoms I enjoy. Those freedoms gained by the sacrifice of others for me, my flag and my country.

I watched those distinguished gentlemen standing nearby. As the strains of the American national anthem faded away, they each reached up



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

Honoring our nation's flag is a privilege -- not a chore. Retreat sounds at 5 p.m. daily.

and brushed away a tear. Our flag and our anthem moved them to tears.

I asked them why they felt so strongly about a country that they did not live in.

"America is people from around the world," the German general said. "American people rescued my people from evil men and helped us rebuild.

"Americans were instrumental in tearing down the wall that divided my country," he continued. "Americans care for people of the world in times of need. In many ways, we model our governments and cultures after America because of its great people.

"That is why, every morning, we walk slowly across this beautiful campus, so we may have the chance to salute the 'Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave,'" the general said.

Then, I was the one brushing away a tear. I thanked my German friend for opening my eyes and my heart with his honesty.

God is blessing America with friends around the world who help open our hearts and minds to the reality of freedom we have and need to hold dear.



Call 606-7850
or

E-mail your message to
actionline@vandenberg.af.mil



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

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 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 in case more information is needed.

Important Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY.....	911
Command Post	606-9961
Poison Control.....	800-876-4766
Clinic Appointments.....	606-2273
Information.....	411
After-Hours Urgent Care.....	888-252-3299
TRICARE Services.....	800-242-6788
Health Care Information Line.....	800-611-2883
Pharmacy Refill (recording)	605-0200
Law Enforcement.....	606-3911
Housing Maintenance.....	734-5586
Child Development Center.....	606-1555
Youth Center	606-2152
MPF Customer Service.....	606-7756

Good deed keeps tooth fairy in business

Dear Col. Worley,

My 8-year-old son, Thomas, lost two teeth. He wanted to clean them for the tooth fairy. Unfortunately, they both fell into the drain. It was 11 p.m. on Sunday. Thomas cried himself to sleep.

My husband was in the office preparing for an upcoming inspection.

I didn't know what to do. I called maintenance.

Ms. Brice was sympathetic and put me through to Mr. Mike Kelly, the plumber on duty. He talked me through how to unscrew the pipes, but the configuration was not what he expected. Mr. Kelly was kind enough to stop by to rescue the two teeth from the drainpipe.

My son awoke the next day and found the teeth next to his nightstand. He was so happy – it was like Christmas.

I want to thank Mr. Kelly for taking care of my family while my husband was taking care of the mission.

Sincerely,
Yuen DeAnda

Mom questions base kiddie pool policy

Q I had a question in reference to the base swimming pool. The small pool is for ages six and under, and the large pool is for ages six and up. My 7-year-old son does not feel comfortable going in the large pool. He would rather go in the small pool with my 3-year-old son. If I am supervising both of my children, why can't my 7-year-old be in the small pool when there is only a one year age difference?

A I can understand why moms often feel the need to be in two places at once. After the public pool in Lompoc closed, our base pool seemed to flood with patrons

overnight. Unfortunately our shallow pool was not designed to accommodate the large number of patrons who use the facility. That's why the pool staff had to institute the policy of allowing only children under 6 years old to use it. It's important for the lifeguards to enforce the policy because we have to ensure the safety of our youngest patrons. To help your older son feel more comfortable in the pool, the family aquatics staff offers swimming lessons during the summer as well as private lessons the rest of the year. Additionally there are lifeguards on duty and life vests are available to borrow. I hope these services will help you continue to use and enjoy the pool.



Edina Benton

Plan on partying over Labor Day weekend?
Don't drive after you drink alcohol!
These Airmen Against Drunk Driving volunteers will give you a free, no-questions-asked ride home!
Call 698-8822 or 698-8823.



Lonnie McBride



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

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

The Public Affairs Office reserves the right to edit all submissions for style and space. **Deadline for publication is 4:30 p.m. every Friday.**

Send submissions to: 30SW/PA, 747 Nebraska Ave., Room A-105, VAFB, CA 93437; via fax at DSN 276-8303 or commercial (805) 606-8303; or by e-mail to Space&MissileTimes@vandenberg.af.mil

Questions regarding the paper can be directed to the Space & Missile Times staff at (805) 606-2040.

MPF clears up promotion test myths

By 1st Lt. Catherine Braxton
Vandenberg test control officer

During the last testing cycle, there was a lot of confusion about certain procedures for promotion testing.

Some basic information about promotion testing should help to set the record straight.

"Air Force promotion tests are designed to measure an individual's knowledge and ability in a given area. The individual's effort and initiative are significant factors measured by the test," according to Air Force officials.

To begin with, military members must be prepared to test on the first day of the testing cycle.

Those who will be unavailable during the entire testing cycle due

to reassignment or scheduled temporary duty must be prepared to test prior to departure even if the departure is before the first day of the testing cycle.

Testing up to 10 duty days prior to the announced cycle is authorized. Testing early does not require concurrence by the military member.

Those who decline to test early when directed to, become ineligible for promotion for the remainder of that cycle.

Anyone requesting to test out-of-cycle must send a memorandum of request to the 30th Mission Support Squadron Commander through his or her unit commander.

Exceptions to testing during the promotion cycle are approved on

a case-by-case basis. Usually, those exceptions are approved in rare circumstances where one or more of the following conditions exist:

- Scheduling the member to test prior to departure will result in degradation of the mission.

- Scheduling the member prior to departure will not allow the required 60-days minimum study time. In this instance, the member must justify the steps they took to acquire their career development course.

- The member was notified of their TDY 10 calendar days or less before their scheduled departure. In this case, the member must have had no advance notice of the tasking or its probability.

If the TDY period begins before the testing cycle starts and extends beyond the end of the testing cycle, every effort should be made to test members at the TDY location if testing facilities are available and TDY requirements permit testing.

All enlisted members who deploy at least 90 days in support of a contingency operation will have 60 calendar days of preparation time before testing for promotion. That includes, 30 days of personal time, including any leave taken upon completion of the TDY, and 30 days study time.

It's the member's responsibility to ensure they receive the authorized personal or study time. Those who test early, waive their right to the full 60 days preparation time.

Anyone who deploys for less than 90 days can request a delay in testing of up to 30 days. Requests must be made to the MSS commander through the unit commander.

The unit commander should consider the duration of deployment and the conditions at the deployed location when making a determination.

Once a test date is received, members must keep rescheduling to a minimum to preclude disruption of the testing cycle and to ensure timely promotion consideration.

Testing will not be rescheduled to accommodate normal leave unless the leave was approved prior to notification of the test date.

Requests to change scheduled test dates for reasons other than documented TDY, family or medical emergencies, medical conditions precluding testing or sick call must be submitted through the unit commander to the MSS Commander for final approval. This authority may not be delegated.

Each reference is taken from Air Force Instruction 36-2605 *Air Force Military Personnel Testing*.

There should be no surprises in the promotion testing process...All necessary information is available in the AFI.

Anyone with questions regarding promotion testing should refer to the AFI or call 606-3259. They can also call the test examiner, Frank Romero, at 606-4572.



Senior Airman Lance Farias
30th Security Forces Squadron

PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS: KARA MCCORMICK

Team Vandenberg Spotlight

Duty: 30th SFS, mobility equipment manager
Time on Vandenberg: 2 years

Time in service: 5 years
Hobbies: Outdoor activities, surfing, body boarding, volunteer work

Educational goals: pursuing a bachelors degree in fire science

Supervisor's comments: "Senior airman Farias thrives under pressure," said Master Sgt. James Morrow, 30th SFS. "If you have a tough job you need done fast and done right the first time, you can count on Senior Airman Lance Farias! He's one of the hardest working troops in Air Force Space Command."

Thrift shop needs more volunteers

By Master Sgt. Ty Foster
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

To date this month, the Vandenberg Thrift Shop has raised more than \$1,950 to be used for charitable purposes.

In August, the shop gave money to the following organizations:

- \$500 to the First Sergeants for a heart transplant patient
- \$100 for care packages to deployed troops
- \$100 to the Base Library Summer Reading Program
- \$500 for National Night Out
- \$1000 for youth soccer scholarships

Last year, the Thrift Shop donated \$18,740 to organizations such as:

- Airman's Attic
- Vandenberg Spouses' Club Sports Scholarships
- Crestview Elementary School
- VSC Academic Scholarships
- American Dream Foundation
- Lompoc Mural Society
- Cabrillo High School
- Santa Maria Area Special Olympics

- Base Library Summer Reading Program

- Air Force Sergeants' Association

- VAFB First Term Airmen Center

To meet the Thrift Shop's charitable goals this year, they need to raise \$25,000.

"We need your help! We need volunteers!" said Sharon Egan, Thrift Shop publicity chairperson.

"Please come out and support an organization that has given so much to the Vandenberg AFB community by volunteering, consigning, and shopping!" she said.

The shop is located next to the Skills Development Center in Bldg. 11180.

Store hours beginning in September are: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Consignments are taken from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. During September only, the thrift shop will be open Thursday evenings from 4 to 8 p.m. and take consignments from 2 to 7 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, call 606-3128.

Timeless virtue stays in style

By Col. Eugene Whitaker
11th Wing staff judge advocate

Honesty is a timeless virtue, always in demand and lately, seemingly in short supply.

According to recent survey polls, the American military enjoys the highest approval, trust and confidence rating of any other American institution.

In contrast to the distrust pervasive throughout the 1960s anti-war movement, the American people now have faith in their military leaders.

This trust was not an overnight gift.

Americans have historically made tremendous sacrifices for leaders of integrity who can admit their faults, call it as they see it

and accurately deliver bad news as well as good.

Our Depression and World War II-era leader, President Franklin Roosevelt, had little good news to deliver until his third term in office when the Allies began to turn the tide of battle. Still, the American people rallied to support this forthright leader as he explained the daunting challenges posed by the Depression and then World War II.

Not all American institutions enjoy our high "trust" ratings. Recently a huge energy giant collapsed amid allegations of lying, deceit and misleading financial records. Moreover, that company's accounting firm, the watchdog appointed to protect the public, is accused of compli-

city in this web of deceit. And there are others we have all read about in the news.

Often, the difference between success and failure is honesty.

Daniel Webster captured the essential essence and scarcity of this prized virtue when he said, "There is nothing so powerful as truth, — and often nothing so strange."

In descriptions of our Air Force core values, integrity has been described as "the basis for the trust that is imperative in today's military."

The simple U.S. Air Force Academy creed, "We will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does," speaks volumes about what we expect of our uniformed service members. Recently an area defense

counsel had these sage words of advice for young airmen: "When you are questioned you have two options: tell the truth or shut up. Lying is not an option."

Many careers have been ruined due to a failure to follow this seemingly obvious advice. For instance, an officer who lied in an attempt to conceal an adulterous relationship forfeited a large portion of his pay as a result of an Article 15 punishment and resigned after 23 years in service. An airman was reduced in rank and discharged after he lied while trying to protect a "friend" who had been using Ecstasy.

Your honor and the hard-won reputation of the Air Force are at stake every time you speak, so make the American people proud.

PROMOTE: Vandenberg welcomes five new senior NCOs

From Page 1
William Wingfield, 30th SFS

STAFF SERGEANT

Joseph Aceves, 532nd TRS
Michelle Agcaouli, 30th Medical Operations Squadron
Daniel Basil, 576th FLTS
Virginia Briggs, 30th Mission Support Squadron
James Collins, 30th CES
Cedric Evans, 30th TRNS
Anthony Hooks III, 30th CES
Richard Keener, 576th FLTS
Christopher Phelps, 532nd TRS
Crystal Shaffer, 30th Operations Support Squadron
Erin Stewart, Det. 9, Space & Missile Systems Center

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

William Monroe, 30th SFS
Sylvester Bloomfield, 30th CES

Mark Bauer, 30th CS
Michael Mier, 30th CES
Guy Williams, 576th FLTS
Dion Wilson, 30th OSS
John King, 30th CES

MASTER SERGEANT

David Cotton, 30th Range Squadron
Michael Dobbs, 30th TRNS
Steve Sidhu, 614th Space Operations Squadron

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Michael Bilicki, 30th SFS
Paul McGinnis, 30th TRNS

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Amy Grenier, 30th SW
Fernando Ontiveros, 30th CS

CAPTAIN

Jeffrey Hunter, 576th FLTS
Jared Jurgensmeier, 2nd SLS
Ladonna Walters, 30th MDOS

EELV: Vandenberg set to launch September 2003

From Page 1

"It's the government's effort to modernize its space launch fleet," said Taliancich. "It was decided (by Congress in the mid-90s) that we needed a more modern launch vehicle to replace current systems, some 30 years old or more."

In its largest configuration, the Atlas V and Delta IV will be the largest expendable rockets to launch since the Saturn V rocket sent man to the moon.

"Our awareness is up since this is the maiden voyage of this particular vehicle," said Staff Sgt.

Greg Jones, aerospace control officer from the 45th Range Squadron, responsible for making sure the airspace used for the launch will be clear and safe to use.

The government has already agreed to 28 military and national security payloads to be launched by the Atlas V and Delta IV family of rockets.

The first EELV launch from Vandenberg is set for September 2003. A Delta IV is set to lift-off from Space Launch Complex-6.

(Courtesy of AFSPC News Service)

MED: Group aces accreditation commission inspection, takes 194 of 200 possible points in preliminary findings

From Page 1

During the inspection, the anxiety around the clinic was clear, Huggins said. But the 30th Medical Group shone. The proof is in the preliminary results.

The accreditation commission is recommending the 30th Medical for full accreditation. The preliminary score for ambulatory health care was 95 out of a possible 100 points. At 99 out of 100, the preliminary score for behavioral health care

was even better. The Air Force inspection team in its preliminary results, found the clinic to be Mission Ready—the best you can do!

"We put a lot of hard work into getting ready for the inspection and the scores demonstrate how prepared we were," said Col Charles Campbell, Jr., 30th Medical Group commander. But he said the group didn't just use the 30-day notification to get ready.

"The 30-day notification is more

of a way to evaluate how we perform on a daily basis rather than evaluate how well we can get spun up for the inspection," he said.

With that in mind, Campbell said, the group started training in February and performed a thorough self-inspection in April. He said the unit strives to be inspection-ready all the time. "It's nice to have the inspectors come here and validate that our focused training was right on target," Campbell said.

TRICARE

TRICARE's Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinators located at each military treatment facility. These experts can assist customers with TRICARE questions and concerns.

Bonnie Robles
Vandenberg BCAC 606-7483.

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TRICARE

ALCON: Alpha

A general threat of possible alcohol abuse or DUI activity exists.

Days since last DUI **9**

Saves by AADD **21**

DUI totals for the Year **18**

Operations Group	0
Logistics Group	2
Support Group	5
Medical Group	0
30 th Space Wing Staff	1
14 th Air Force	0
381 st Training Group	2
576 th Flight Test Squadron	1
Detachment 9	1
Others	6

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Honor Guard

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PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KARA MCCORMICK

(Left) Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, tours The Vandenberg Honor Guard's new bus. (Above) Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Morey and honor guard member Staff Sgt. Marvin Banks get ready to take the new wheels for a spin. The new bus will facilitate the numerous off-base events the team supports. It comes complete with a changing room and weapons rack.



Oil companies agree to settlement in 1997 oil spill

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

After almost five years of legal proceedings, the companies responsible for the Platform Irene oil spill in September 1997 have reached a settlement agreement.

"Torch Energies Services, Inc., Nuevo Energy Company, and Black Hawk Oil and Gas Company agreed to pay trustees in the oil spill suit more than \$4 million for civil penalties and environmental restoration along the Southern California coast spoiled by the 40-mile oil spill in 1997," said Glen Richardson, 30th Space Wing environmental attorney.

"This case is unique because it was the first Air Force case tried under the Oil Pollution Act," Richardson said. "To my knowledge, the only other DoD service that has done one of these cases is the Navy involving an oil spill at Pearl Harbor."

"This was the worst oil spill on the Central Coast since the 1969 Santa Barbara spill," said the wing environmental attorney. "That spill was the catalyst that helped start the environmental movement in the United States."

Richardson pointed out that this was a multi-party case and added

that the trustees in the case were multiple state and federal agencies responsible for natural resources.

According to Richardson, state trustees in the case were California Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the California Coastal Commission and the California State Lands Commission.

Federal trustees in the case were the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Minerals Management Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Additionally, Santa Barbara County, who under federal and state statutes was not a trustee, also sued the energy companies for violating their county permits.

"Although the Air Force is a trustee in the case, the funds will not come directly to the base, said Nancy Read, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight biologist.

"Instead, they'll go to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund, managed by the Department of the Interior," she said. There the natural resources trustees decide funds allocation.

She added that the funding provides for natural resource restoration projects that'll be accomplished on or near Vandenberg.

Richardson explained that restoration is any action or combination of actions to restore, rehabilitate or replace natural resources to pre-existing conditions, as closely as possible, before the environmental damage was suffered — an oil spill in this case.

Details for specific restoration projects are contained in a restoration plan proposal, or proposals, developed by the natural resource trustees, Richardson said. Trustees consider investigative results of damages caused by the oil spill in deciding how the funds will be distributed and which projects will be funded.

Richardson said that the trustees determined that the oil spill caused the greatest injuries to the sandy beach and rocky intertidal habitat; seabirds, including common murre, cormorants, and the western snowy plover, mussels and abalone.

As a result, the restoration funds will be used primarily in

Restoration Proposals

- Enhance native plants
- Restore shellfish beds
- Educate the public

projects to compensate for the loss of these resources.

Read added that projects identified as feasible thus far involve several areas. To restore dune habitat, European beach grass would be eradicated and native plants would be enhanced. Black abalone and mussel bed restoration in the waters on and around Vandenberg is another project along with seabird colony enhancement through public education.

She said that the final projects may not be the same as those identified, but the fund has to be used for natural resource restoration and related expenses. There will be a public comment period, including any required national environmental protection agency documentation, once the council of trustees decides on the appropriate use of restoration funds.

Richardson added that the final restoration plan, would be prepared and put into practice jointly by the trustees, after providing public notice, opportunity for public input, and consideration of any public comment.

Space planning office opens at AF Space Command

■ PETERSON AFB, Colo. — Air Force Space Command recently activated the Space Situational Awareness Integration Office in Colorado Springs, Colo.

AFSPC officials called the office the next step in the development of America's future space situational awareness architecture. Space situational awareness includes the surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence, weather, command, control, and communications required for operating in space.

Members working for the SSAIO will research and analyze the requirements and capabilities of the U.S. military services and various government agencies and integrate these into a coherent system of systems.

The SSAIO's aim is to create an overall blueprint for a wide variety of military and government agencies, all of which have differing needs and uses for space assets.

Operating with an initial budget of \$3.5 million for 2002, the SSAIO currently has a staff of 18 military

and contractor personnel. The office could potentially grow to a staff of 50 by 2004, AFSPC officials said, ultimately comprised of representatives from the Air Force, Army, Navy, national agencies and experts from aerospace industry.

"With various organizations working closely with the SSAIO, we will be able to integrate our nation's requirements for space situational awareness. This will enable the U.S. government to improve our overall SSA capabilities, to include the systems we buy and how we integrate and operate them," said Lt. Col. Tom Simpson, SSAIO acting director.

Air Force Space Command will operate and manage the daily operations of the office. SSAIO participants include U.S. Strategic Command, Air Force, Army, Navy, the National Security Agency, National Reconnaissance Office, National Imagery and Mapping Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NASA and others. (Courtesy of AFSPC News Service)

Oil spill devastates Vandenberg coastline

BY MASTER SGT.
LLOYD CONLEY

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ An oil spill from platform Irene in September 1997, dumped about 163 barrels of crude oil and 24 barrels of corrosion inhibitor into the Pacific Ocean off Point Pedernales near Vandenberg, said Glen Richardson, 30th Space Wing environmental attorney. That's equivalent to more than 9,000 gallons of crude oil and sludge off Vandenberg's coast.

Afterward, the ocean currents carried the raw petroleum to the coast covering roughly 17 miles of Vandenberg beaches from Minuteman to the boathouse and impacting tidal and estuary regions.

Richardson added that the degree of oiling varied along

the affected coastline, but Surf Beach received the heaviest amount of the crude.

He said some stretches of beach had more than 50 percent of the surface area below the high tide line covered with oil. The high tide moved the oil through the intertidal zone and along the coast affecting estuaries at San Antonio and Honda creeks and the Santa Ynez River.

He also pointed out that between 636 and 815 birds, including Western Snowy Plovers, a threatened species, and brown pelicans, an endangered species, came in contact with the raw crude.

"Some of the coastal fowl were so severely covered in the thick and goeey crude that they were airlifted to the University of California at Davis for treatment," he said.



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Dead men do tell tales

Armed forces pathology institute investigates circumstances surrounding soldiers' infection, death

AMERICAN FORCES
PRESS SERVICE

■ WASHINGTON — When a Special Forces soldier died unexpectedly of malaria in Puerto Rico recently, one of the first military medical officers notified was Army Maj. (Dr.) Lisa Pearse.

"The soldier was part of a group that had just returned from Nigeria, so we knew his death could be just the tip of the iceberg as far as others being exposed," said Pearse, the new director of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology's Mortality Surveillance Division in the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner.

She investigated the circumstances surrounding the soldier's infection and death and learned he was indeed just one of several from the same unit to come down with the infection. Malaria is preventable when proper precautions are taken.

Concerned that these malaria cases could be due to newly drug-resistant parasites, Pearse notified the Office of the Army Surgeon General. In the ensuing investigation, officials discovered that the cases resulted from poor compliance with preventive measures — a much more manageable issue than dealing with the emergence of drug-resistance in Africa.

"This was a sentinel event — an epidemiological term that tells us something happened to indicate the existence of a bigger problem," Pearse said. "Sentinel events are what we look for when we're doing medical surveillance."

Pearse's division is the result of a joint effort by the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner and the Department of Defense's Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System to obtain baseline mortality data on military members and to monitor mortality trends. Mortality surveillance through the medical examiner has distinct advantages. It allows timely notification, which leads to more rapid intervention when necessary. It also improves accuracy in determining cause of death, and provides access to the legal authority of the medical examiner.

The division collects data within hours after an active-duty service death is reported to casualty offices. That data is supplemented through direct contact with local pathologists and clinicians. Information includes death certificates, medical records, autopsy reports, AFIP consults, toxicology studies, and investigative reports from legal agencies and safety centers.

Pearse, a preventive medicine

expert, was recently program manager of what is now the Reportable Medical Events System for the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. She joined the medical examiner's staff in August 2001. Currently focusing on deaths among Army active-duty personnel, she hopes to one day become a triservice resource on military active-duty deaths for medical surveillance and prevention research.

"We have the most detailed and accurate information and, with some epidemiological analysis, can provide a lot of answers to the questions folks have about why something folks have about why something we've been on the lookout for," Pearse said.

"Our young soldiers are generally healthy, so they don't typically die of infectious causes. Bioterrorism has always been something we've been on the lookout for," Pearse said.

If an infectious agent is the suspected cause of death, specimens are sent to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, where experts in multiple departments are available to provide a confirming diagnosis. Prompt di-

agnosis can lead to rapid and specific treatment options for others who may have been exposed.

Pearse advocates the new system as a sound investment for the military health sector. It produces timely, useful data not only on infectious disease deaths, but also on deaths from causes as diverse as accidents, suicides and cardiovascular disease.

"For instance, we observed a significant increase in motor vehicle deaths in the Army in November 2001. We now believe this increase was due to a preference to drive rather than fly during the holidays in the post-Sept. 11 environment," she said. "These types of findings may play a role in shaping policy decisions related to the amount of time and miles a soldier is permitted to drive."

She also hopes to one day com-



DoD PHOTO

"Our young soldiers are generally healthy, so they don't typically die of infectious causes," said Army Maj. Lisa Pearse of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. One of her special focuses is to detect deaths related to emerging infections or possible bioterrorist attacks.

bine forces with the AFIP's world-class tumor registry and the Defense Medical Surveillance System to track cancer deaths among Army personnel.

"These are superb resources with the potential to look in a detailed way at the types of tumors seen in soldiers in the context of assignment histories and deployments and to match our findings and rates to what we would expect to see in the civilian sector."

DoD to develop biological early warning system

BY GERRY GILMORE

American Forces Press Service

■ WASHINGTON — Say you wake up one fine morning in Anytown, U.S.A., walk over to the open window and take in a deep breath of fresh air ... ahhhhhh!

Terrorists would likely prefer you inhale some anthrax or smallpox at the same time. That's why DoD will start work this fall on a biological agent detection and identification program as part of efforts to develop a national early warning system for urban areas.

The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America and the subsequent anthrax assaults through the U.S. Postal Service highlighted a national need for standard systems to detect and provide warning for the presence of biological agents, said Anna Johnson-Winegar, deputy assistant secretary of defense for chemical and biological defense programs.

"This is really a very critical issue for us as a nation, and I think DoD has a tremendous amount of expertise," she noted. It's important, she said, to have an integrated effort

— "for all of us to be able to work together and to present a national response."

The threat of biological agent use is higher now than it's ever been, she noted. The anthrax letters last fall turned the concept of biological warfare on U.S. soil into a reality, Johnson-Winegar said.

The DoD Biological Defense Homeland Security Support Program seeks to expand and augment pilot programs in Washington, D.C., and other locations after Sept. 11 and the anthrax assaults, she said. The idea, she continued, is to be able to more rapidly determine potential attacks involving biological weapons and agents in the atmosphere.

She said the program is to begin this fall at locations throughout metropolitan Washington and at Kirtland AFB, N.M. She noted more than \$400 million has been allocated for the program in fiscal 2003.

The biological agent detection system under development consists of an integrated network of environmental sensors coupled with the monitoring and surveillance of local health systems, Johnson-Winegar noted.

As part of the program, real biological agents, like anthrax, will be used to test detectors placed inside specially enclosed chambers, she said. Kirtland already has a compatible infrastructure that can support a future test bed facility, she noted.

The detection equipment comes in a variety of sizes and shapes, Johnson-Winegar said. Whether used indoors or outdoors, the sensors will be unobtrusive, she noted, like mailboxes or utility boxes, similar to equipment used at the recent Salt Lake City Olympics. Some sensors will have replaceable filters that need to be removed and tested at a lab, she said, while others will have remote alarms.

The testing program is expected to produce a prototype biological agent early warning system in place in 2004, Johnson-Winegar noted.

She said DoD intends to begin installing biological agent detectors in the fall at nine military installations across the United States. DoD hopes to glean a lot of information from this, she noted, because the selected bases are different sizes, geographic location and have different missions.

Afghan weapons cache discovered

BY JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

■ WASHINGTON — U.S. troops found another weapons cache in Afghanistan, Joint Combined Task Force 180 officials said.

U.S. forces uncovered a weapons cache Monday, near the town of Deh Rawod in eastern Afghanistan. The soldiers found hundreds of recoilless rifle rounds, hundreds of 82 mm mortar rounds, tens of thousands of rounds of machine gun ammunition and the tripods of four anti-aircraft weapons.

In another incident Monday, a special operations forces soldier and a Swiss deminer were wounded near Bamian when a piece of ordnance went off. Both received hand wounds.

The Swiss deminer was treated at Bamian and released. The American was evacuated to the U.S. hospital at Bagram AB, near the capital city of Kabul, and is undergoing treatment. CJTF-180 officials said the soldier is expected to regain full use of his hand.

Searches and operations continue in the country, officials said.

From the Top

Got sideburns? Keep them trimmed! Sideburns, when worn must be even in width, no wider than one inch and have no flare at the termination point. They may not extend any lower than the lowest opening of the ear.

Around the Air Force

Global wargame brings mobility up front

By CYNTHIA BAUER

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

■ **SCOTT AFB, Ill.** — When military wargamers come to the table, they usually assume that forces are ready to fight and have the equipment they need to get the “bad guys.” In reality, the Air Force and Defense Department global mobility and logistics systems must come into play before and during the fight to make sure all the necessary people and equipment are in place.

To assess these challenges realistically, the Air Force’s Air Mobility Battlelab and Air Mobility Command, in partnership with the Air Force Wargaming and Experimentation Division, held a three-day computer-assisted Global Mobility Wargame here Aug. 20 to 23. The event marked the first Air Force-level wargame spotlighting the capabilities of the Air Force’s air mobility and logistics teams.

Global Mobility Wargame 2002, or GLOMO 2002, served as a precursor for Global Engagement VI, an Air Force Chief of Staff-directed wargame series to examine the comprehensive application of aerospace power to support the objectives of the warfighting commanders-in-chief. GLOMO 2002 provided the director of mobility forces and his staff with practical experience in preparation for the joint wargame, as well as for real-world contingencies.

“This wargame is important for transforming the Air Force to new, better and more efficient ways to do our mobility business,” said Brig. Gen. Winfield W. Scott III, commander of the 43rd Airlift Wing at Pope AFB, N.C., and the wargame’s director of mobility forces. “Having the wargame builds areas of expertise we may not already have, and we’ll walk away with increased knowledge.”

“For Global Engagement VI,” he said, “we hope we can help the commands in the Air Force see our

contributions in providing forces and supplies. The exercise also lets us step out and explore new ideas and how they apply to real-world issues. We can’t fight tomorrow how we fight today. There will be new force structures, new challenges.” (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

Research lab uses robotic technology

By 2nd LT. ALBERT BOSCO

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

■ **TYNDALL AFB, Fla.** — Following recent terrorist attacks, Air Force officials have identified a need to safely remove or disable bombs, called improvised explosive devices, remotely from suspect vehicles. The Air Force Research Laboratory’s airbase technologies division here is working on alternatives.

The result is a robotic system known as the all-purpose remote transport system, or ARTS.

ARTS is a commercially available landscaping tractor with a robotics upgrade developed by the research lab and manufactured by Applied Research Associates. ARTS has gone through many changes, and improved technology has paved the way for new applications for this unique system.

To better protect explosive ordnance disposal specialists who must locate and dispose of hazardous material, such as unexploded munitions, the research lab here is finding new ways for EOD troops to accomplish their mission in a safer manner.

“Our goal is to develop technologies to protect, support and augment the warfighter,” said Sue Hamner, research lab science and technology information coordinator. “We base our developments on user feedback and requirements and cost-effective solutions, while also taking into consideration agile combat support contingency missions.”

There are several projects currently being developed at the re-

search lab, such as a set of robotic arms that, once attached to the ARTS, can be used to remotely manipulate nearly any object a human can physically manipulate. This system is aptly named articulated remote manipulation system, or ARMS, and features dual “joysticks” on moveable arms that the operator uses to control the robotic arms. The arms are also pressure sensitive and provide sensory feedback to the user via the joysticks.

Other EOD-related projects include high-velocity water cannons, lasers and even rifles that can be mounted on the ARTS as separate attachments. These attachments are known as stand-off munitions disruption devices and are used to disrupt or detonate explosive devices. Also, a skid has been developed that will allow ARTS to “carry” the EOD’s current robot, the Mark VI, into an environment that would otherwise be inaccessible to the system.

With the successes achieved, the research lab is preparing to take the system on the road. Further testing will consist of real-world applications at Nellis AFB, Nev., where it will be used to clear submunitions from the Nellis range, followed by testing at Hill AFB, Utah, where it will be put through its paces clearing munitions fuse caps from the range. (Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

AF extends reservists per diem entitlement

■ **WASHINGTON** — Reservists in Air Force Reserve Command called to active duty in support of operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom may receive per diem for up to 730 days at one location.

Michael Dominguez, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, signed a waiver Aug. 21 extending his original entitlement waiver for the payment of per diem from one year up to two years. His initial waiver

Desert seafood?



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHERESA CLARK

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM — (Left to right) Senior Airman Garth Courtney, Tech. Sgt. Ken Pronti, Staff Sgt. James Hallmark and Tech. Sgt. John Barone, assigned to the 407th Expeditionary Aerial Refueling Squadron, look for “customers” on the deck they constructed at a forward-deployed location supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The four are from the New York Air National Guard’s 107th Aerial Refueling Wing at Niagara Falls, N.Y. (Courtesy of Air Force News Service)

signed Sept. 22 had authorized per diem entitlements for members up to 365 days at one location.

Per diem entitlements under this authority are not taxable and cannot be arbitrarily reduced, according to officials in the office of the Air Force Reserve’s directorate of personnel. Per diem is not payable to people in a commuting status.

Air Force officials will issue a message providing administrative information concerning this entitlement. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

Absentee voting program in high gear

By JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

■ **WASHINGTON** — With the 2002 general election fast approaching Nov. 5, Federal Voting Assistance Program officials are sponsoring Armed Forces Voters Week, Sept. 1 to 7. The week is designed for installations worldwide to highlight voting issues.

“The objective is to create awareness of the electoral process and to motivate military members to participate in the upcoming general election,” said Polli Brunelli,

federal voting program director. “We want to encourage our military members, their dependents, our federal employees overseas and our overseas citizens to be aware of the elections and to exercise their right to vote.”

She said that the 2002 elections cover a third of the U.S. Senate, the entire U.S. House of Representatives, 37 governors and hundreds of local races.

“These are lawmakers who will effect policies that govern our way of life,” she said.

The states govern the voting rules for their residents. The FVAP works with state officials to ease absentee ballot processes. For example, Brunelli said, program officials asked state officials to allow service members deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to receive voting materials by fax machines and to fax in completed ballots.

The agency urges military personnel to contact installation voting assistance officers to learn about what they must do to vote in 2002. All units with more than 25 people also have voting assistance officers.

U.S. citizens residing overseas

can visit embassies and consulates and get the same information.

The program launched an education process to teach voting assistance officers what they need to know to help service members. Worldwide, the office sponsored more than 100 workshops, Brunelli said.

She said her office has met with state leaders to ensure that all absentee ballots are in on time, properly filled out and counted.

“We’re working on postal issues as well,” Brunelli said.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz signed a memo to the military postal service to ensure that all voting materials are post-marked and cancelled for all deployed vessels and personnel. Further, military postal service employees will look for voting materials to ensure they are moved expeditiously.

For more information on Armed Forces Voting Week or absentee voting, go to the FVAP Web site.

Exercise prepares participants for real-world events

By MAJ. MICHELE DEWERTH

MEDFLAG Joint Task Force

Public Affairs

■ **ENTEBBE, Uganda** — Working with seven partner nations and the host nation of Uganda, U.S. military forces kicked off MEDFLAG 2002 here Aug. 17.

MEDFLAG is an annual Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed military medical exercise. MEDFLAG 02 includes disaster and mass casualty response training, a simulated mass casualty exercise, medical civic assistance program activities and a Joint Task Force providing command and control, said Maj. Julie Harmon, lead exercise planner and project officer.

Participants include nearly 200 U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine personnel, and military people from seven partner nations and Uganda. The partner nations are South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda, Morocco, United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands, Harmon said.

“The purpose of coming here is to share and exchange information,” she said. “For instance, while the U.S. team briefed the Ugandans on how we manage an accident, the Ugandan’s leading expert on HIV/AIDS and Ebola provided training to our medics.”

Officials from 3rd Air Force headquarters at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, form the core of the JTF headquarters. The JTF directs the medical and civilian engineering projects occurring in areas surrounding Soroti, approxi-

See EXERCISE Page A7

EXERCISE, From Page A6

mately 250 miles north of Entebbe, said Harmon.

"This gives us the chance to practice and provide command and control of forces spread out in many locations," said Col. Tom Yanni, MEDFLAG commander of air forces. "We are currently commanding forces in Soroti and Entebbe while reaching back to Europe to coordinate with U.S. European Command."

What continues to impress everyone the most is the people.

"Everyone here has been wonderful," Yanni said. "The reception we received and the professionalism of the UPDF are absolutely outstanding." (Courtesy of U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service)

Operation Pillowcase eases family separation

■ WESTOVER ARB, Mass. —

An award-winning program designed to make children feel less anxious is softening the sting while a parent is away from home on military duty.

Operation Pillowcase, developed by the 439th Airlift Wing family support center staff here, provides children of activated reservists with a pillowcase printed with a picture of their deployed parent. The family support center started the program after Sept. 11 created a demand for additional deployments of Air Force Reserve Command people.

The program recently received a \$3,000 grant as part of the Newman's Own Awards for Military Community Excellence. The grant will be used to make custom pillowcases for families of deployed servicemembers such as Staff Sgt. James McLaughlin, a reservist with

Aircraft storage center receives first B-1



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JEREMIAH ERICKSON

The first B-1 Lancer to be stored as part of the Air Force B-1 reduction plan touches down at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., Aug. 20. The base is home to the Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center where the B-1s will be stored. A total of 24 bombers will be retired to AMARC. (Courtesy of Air Force News Service)

the 439th Maintenance Squadron.

"Family support helps to bridge the distance by helping us keep in contact while he's deployed," said the sergeant's wife, Stacy, after the family received pillowcases for their two children.

More than 400 pillowcases have been mailed to children age 10 and younger since the inception of the project, said Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Babin, a family support technician here.

"It's great to see a concept such as this receive recognition," Babin said. "The money will be spent on a heat-press machine, digital camera, special printer, color ink cartridges, envelopes and postage."

Previously, funding for the program came from activated reservists' monetary donations to the United Services Organization. Besides reservist donations, the Massachusetts' American Legion donated more than 900 white linen pillowcases, 410 iron-on transfers and \$100 for postage. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

New facility for airborne laser ground testing

By LEIGH ANNE BIERSTINE

Air Force Flight Test Center
Public Affairs

■ EDWARDS AFB, Calif. — With the airborne laser flight test program under way, members of the

ABL Integrated Test Force here are putting the finishing touches on a new facility that will be key to upcoming ground tests.

The \$18.5 million test support structure, known as the Ground Pressure Recovery Assembly, will allow the test team to operate the weapons-class chemical laser and conduct testing on the ground.

The laser, which sits aboard a modified 747-400 series freighter aircraft, is designed to shoot down ballistic missiles while they still are over an enemy's own territory.

Because the laser was designed to function at the lower air pressures found at altitudes of 40,000 feet, the facility serves to simulate

that lower pressure on the ground. The facility's large, sphere-like top is a negative pressure vessel, which sucks in the heat energy and water vapor generated by the chemical reaction of the laser. This venting action keeps the chemical reaction of the laser going. Without the release of heat energy and vapor, the chemical reaction would choke and light from the laser would cease.

The facility supports ground tests, which will take place inside the ABL Systems Integration Laboratory, known as the SIL. Ducting will connect the aircraft housed inside the SIL to the recovery assembly. Ducting can also be routed to additional hangars inside the ABL

test complex to accommodate testing at other locations.

According to Kevin Montoya, ABL project manager here, the recovery assembly is part of the ABL program's risk-reduction plan. The industrial grade chemicals needed to produce the laser beam require detailed support and expertise from across the base, Montoya said. Therefore, safety continues to be paramount for the test team.

"We want to reduce our safety risks as we build up this weapon system," Montoya said. "This means learning about the operation of the laser inside the SIL and through ground testing. What we learn could reduce the overall flight test risk of the program."

The ABL program's ultimate goal is to shoot down a ballistic missile with a beam of ultra-powerful light by the end of 2004. The aircraft, tail No. 00-0001, which made its first flight July 18, will arrive at Edwards later this year.

According to Montoya, it is possible that other Department of Defense agencies as well as private industry could use the recovery assembly for similar directed-energy tests in the future; however, currently the team is concentrating on preparing the aircraft for its major test against a ballistic missile. Besides testing on the ground, the test program includes laser firings against a number of objects in the air over White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, such as balloon-dropped instrumented targets and short-range rockets.

"Our focus right now is to shoot down a missile in 2004," Montoya said. "We don't want to sideline that in any way, but if some synergy exists that can ultimately save the taxpayer money, then it's in our best interest to consider that down the road."

Destinations Central Coast

BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN HILL
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Recently I got the call – dreaded for some, wonderful for others – from mother wanting to come out to Vandenberg and visit her son. Some airmen cringe at this infringement on their free time, especially if it involves an entire weekend, and I can't say I'm any different. Although it's nice to see family, it also throws you into the loathsome position of playing tourist in the local area you've come to call home.

I should've known, it was inevitable, we would be driving up to San Simeon to tour Hearst Castle.

I've read a lot of books, most of them biographies, and I'd come across a book on William Randolph Hearst years ago, plus I'd seen Citizen Kane more times than I can count, so I had some background information to go on.

If you don't know, Hearst was born into a wealthy family and eventually became the biggest newspaper publisher in the country. In the 1920s, he started building his home in San Simeon. Hearst Castle was never officially completed (he was known for being indecisive about his design concepts) and the house was eventually turned over to the California Park Service after Hearst's death in 1951, but the massive art collection and enormous castle is really something to see – it makes those houses on MTV's Crips look like Cletus' shack on The Simpsons.

Here's a little information to help you in your quest to visit this tourist Mecca.

First, driving up there is no problem at all, except

if there's a three-car accident that backs traffic up for five miles on Highway 1. This happened to me. Once you get off Highway 101 in San Luis Obispo, you'll start seeing signs for Hearst Castle. They'll tell you to get on Highway 1 North. The drive is very scenic – most of it along the ocean or through mountains – so if you get into a good conversation, it really doesn't feel like you drove 90 miles from Vandenberg until you step out of your car and feel those road trip cramps. The walk from the parking lot up to the visitor center relieves that pain in the buttocks and those legs that fell asleep.

Here's tip No. 1: buy your tickets before you drive all the way up there. If you haven't done so already, you may have trouble getting same-day tickets. There are five separate tours and nine different lines you can stand in to buy tickets, but everyone and their third cousins are trying to get same-day tickets and there's just not a very good chance of getting them.

You'll see them all standing in a line that does not move called "Cancellations." They wait there for the slim chance somebody will call and cancel their reservations for a tour. In that case, the curtain opens and the tickets go on sale – but you won't know which tour it will be or at what time until they're right there in front of you.

Note: If you have the means, bring a cell phone with you for the drive up in case you get stuck in one of those traffic jams. If you think you'll miss your tour time, call ahead and cancel and you'll get a refund. They should be able to tell you if you'll be able to get in on a later tour or if you should just turn around and go home.

Hearst Castle has so much to see that one

Hearst Castle Hours of Operation

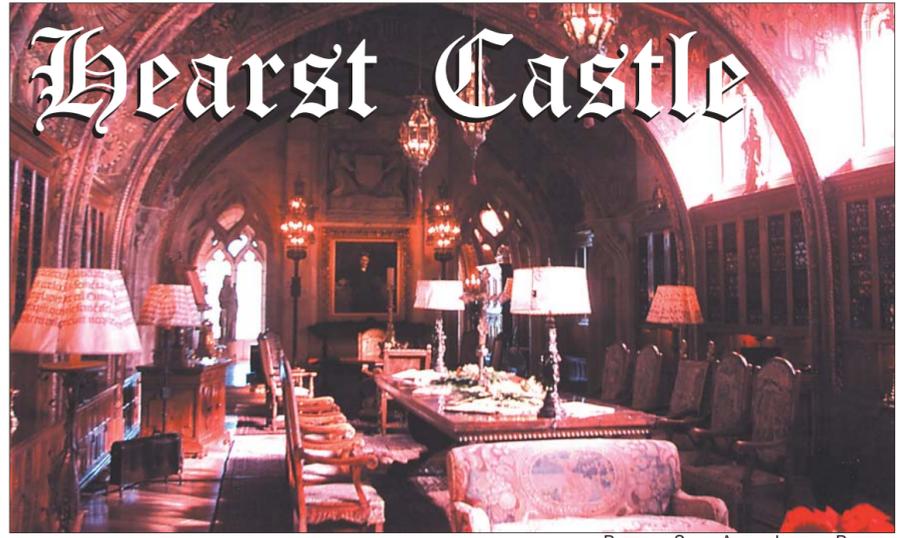
Hearst Castle is open for tours daily except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

Day tours start at 8:20 a.m. The last tour usually starts at 3:20 p.m. Daytime tours take about one hour and 45 minutes.

Tour costs vary from \$14 to \$20 for adults and from \$7 to \$10 for children.

Strollers are not permitted on the tours. There are other tour restrictions on items that can be carried during the tour.

For tour ticket reservations, call (800) 444-4445.



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

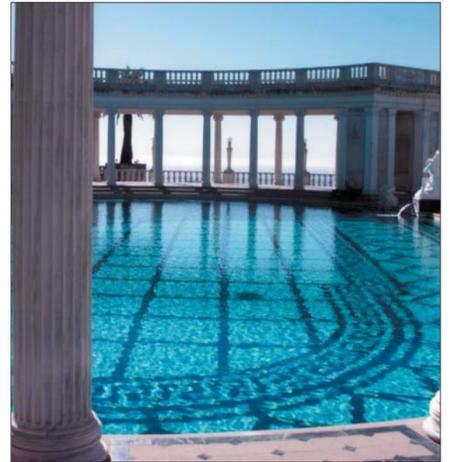
(Above) The gothic features of William Randolph Hearst's private study are one of the many attractions Tour 2 guests can enjoy. (Right) All tours include the Greco-Roman style Neptune Pool.

general tour would not allow you to appreciate everything, so the five tours I'm referring to are tours of different parts of the house. They all last about one hour, 45 minutes.

I was told a first-time visitor should start with tour one – The Experience Tour. It gives a general overview of the whole place. The other tours cover certain parts of the house more in depth, such as Hearst's bedroom and the garden.

If you drive up there as unprepared as I was though, the visitor's center has much to offer the ticket-less tourist. There is an exhibit gallery with all kinds of artwork and personal memorabilia from the castle. In addition to being a publisher, Hearst was very involved in the film industry and banked a lot of support on his mistress, actress Marion Davies. There is an entire section on his film exploits.

You can also check out the theater, where a general information film on the castle plays every 45 minutes. If you really enjoy it, I think I saw a DVD copy for sale in the gift shop. In there, you'll find all that is Hearst Castle related. I bought a shot glass with the words "Hearst Castle" in lead glued on it for \$7.99 – a little expensive, but where else are you going to get one?



If you go, call at least a day ahead to get tour tickets. Remember, the drive is about two hours from the base not counting traffic jams, gas stops or speeding tickets, so allot for time.

Also, check out the Hearst Castle website, www.hearst-castle.org/. You can purchase tickets and find much more information than I can tell you here.

So if your family is visiting you and complaining about not seeing anything out here, take them to Hearst Castle – it's really interesting and it kills most of the day.

Chapel Notes

For information about other religious denominations and events, call the Chapel at 606-5773.

EVENTS

- ♦ **G.I. Java coffeehouse** - open 5 - 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday in the Delta Dormitory. To volunteer, call Staff Sgt. William Spencer, 606-5773.
- ♦ **9/11 meditation and remembrance** of Sept. 11 events - 1 p.m. Sept. 11 in Chapel 1. The Lompoc Pops Ensemble will be at the service. Call Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Bomberger, 606-5773.
- ♦ **Lompoc Pops Orchestra United We Stand remembrance concert** - 7 p.m. Sept. 11 in Chapel 1. Call 606-5773.
- ♦ **Monthly prayer breakfast** - 6:30 p.m. Sept. 12 in the Chapel 1 Annex. Call Chaplain (Capt.) Mitchell Zydadlo, 606-5773.
- ♦ **Commanders and first sergeants luncheon** - 11:30 a.m. Sept. 19 in the Chapel 1 Annex. Call Chaplain (1st Lt.) Veblun Beck, 606-5773 by Sept. 17.
- ♦ **Vandenberg food pantry drive** - first weekend of each month. Call 606-5773.

PROTESTANT

- ♦ **Chapel Community Night** - 5:30 - 7 p.m. Sundays in the religious education classrooms.
- ♦ **Brothers and Sisters in Christ** - 5:30 - 7 p.m. Sundays in the religious education classrooms. Call Jill Hembroff, 606-5773.
- ♦ **Women's Evening Study** - Call Julie Wittkowski, 734-3788.
- ♦ **The new apologetics Bible study group** - 7 p.m. Monday in the REA building.
- ♦ **Protestant adult and youth Bible study** - 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Chapel 1 Annex. Call Tech. Sgt. Mark McKinney, 605-7564.
- ♦ **Men's weekly Bible study** - 6 p.m. Wednesdays in the Breakers Dining Facility. Call 606-5773.
- ♦ **The Vandenberg AFB Officers' Christian Fellowship** - 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call Christy Keana, 734-0696.
- ♦ **Protestant Women of the Chapel beginner quilting classes** - 10 a.m. Thursday in the Chapel 1 annex. Call Lucille McLain, 733-2630.

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Praise and Worship - 8:30 a.m. in Chapel 2
Traditional Protestant - 11:30 a.m. in Chapel 1
Gospel - 11:30 a.m. in Chapel 2
Catholic Mass - 10 a.m. in Chapel 1
Daily Mass - 11:30 a.m. in Chapel 2
Saturday Mass - 5 p.m. in Chapel 2

♦ **Women's Saturday morning bible study** - 10 a.m. third Saturday of the month in the religious education admin building. Call Genette Howard, 734-1693.

CATHOLIC

- ♦ **New Bible study group** - 7 p.m. Mondays in the religious education administration building. Call Deborah Cotey, 734-4202.
- ♦ **Fellowship Thursdays** - 7 p.m. Thursdays in the religious education administration building. Call Deborah Cotey, 734-4202.
- ♦ **Tuesday daily Mass** - 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays throughout the summer in Chapel 2. Call Kelly Reape, 734-1437.

JEWISH

- ♦ **Jewish community Torah study session** - Sunday evening. Call Anita Friedman, 605-7564 or 736-5822.

At The Movies

All movies start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Patrons need to be at the theater before scheduled show times.

TODAY
K-19: The Widomaker, PG-13

SATURDAY
Eight Legged Freaks, PG-13

SUNDAY
Men In Black II, PG-13

SEPT. 6
Road to Perdition, R

SEPT. 7
3 p.m. Country Bears, G
7:30 p.m. Road to Perdition, R

SEPT. 8
3 p.m. Stuart Little II, PG

Community Calendar

EVENTS

- 31 SAT** **Operation Kids' Christmas 2002 Barbecue** - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday in the Long's Drugs parking lot in Santa Maria. Call 606-3663.
- 5 THU** **Horse show** - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday at the Hoyt S. Vandenberg Saddle Club. Call 606-0829; (805) 733-0834 or visit the web page at <http://www.geocities.com/hsvsaddleclub>.
- 7 SAT** **Avenue of Flags Car & Motorcycle Show** - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 7 on Avenue of Flags in Buellton. Call (805) 688-7829.
- 9 MON** **Operation Baby Launch** - 5 p.m. Sept. 9 in the 30th Medical Group auditorium. Call 605-8254 or 606-8217.
- 11 WED** **Lompoc Sept. 11 commemoration** - 11 a.m. Sept. 11 at the Olde Towne park gazebo at South H and Locust streets. Col. Robert M.

Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, is the keynote speaker. Vandenberg's honor guard and Patriot Voices will perform.

Lompoc Pops Orchestra Sept. 11 concert - 7 p.m. Sept. 11 in Chapel 1. Call 606-5773.

21 SAT **Mega Case Lot Sale** - Sept. 21-22 at the commissary.

21 OCT **Central Coast Birding Rally** - 7 a.m. - noon Oct. 4-6. Visit lpas.westhost.com/rally. Call (805) 925-0304.

CLASSES

- 30 FRI** **Allen Hancock College Late registration** - through today for fast-track classes and through Saturday for semester-length classes. Call (805) 922-6966.
- 3 SEPT** **Pre-separation briefing** - 8 a.m. Tuesday in the family support center. Call 606-0134.
- 3 TUE** **Advanced self-defense workshop** - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Tuesday for participants who've attended one of

the two-night personal safety and self-defense workshops. Call 736-8535.

Sponsorship training class - 3 - 4 p.m. Tuesday in the family support center.

Tobacco cessation classes - 1:30 p.m. - noon Tuesdays in the health and wellness center, call 606-2221 to sign up.

Pre-separation briefings - 8 - 9 a.m. Tuesdays in the family support center. Call 605-0134.

Civilian Personnel Management seminar - Tuesday - Thursday in Bldg, 14006, room C-3, call 605-5913.

How to Start Your Own Business class - 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Sept. 5 in the family support center. Call 605-0134.

Free community education classes - beginning Sept. 7 at several locations. Schedule available on-line at www.hancockcollege.edu. Call (805) 922-6966.

One-on-One marriage

enrichment counseling - Call 606-9958.

Pre-deployment briefing - Call 606-1607.

Jiu-Jitsu self-defense classes - 7-9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Unified Center for Martial Arts, 1766 S. Broadway in Santa Maria. Call (805) 934-2158.

Self-defense workshop - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday for women and girls 12 years and older at the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center. Call 736-8535.

Writing for results - Monday and Tuesday in Bldg 14007 room D-4. Call 605-5913.

MEETINGS

- 3 SEPT** **Single parents support group** - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday in the services center. Call 606-9958.
- 3 TUE** **Space and Sea Girl Scouts** - Call the Scout Hut, 605-2217 or 734-5545 and leave a message or call 606-1119.

4 WED **AL-ANON** - 7 - 8 p.m. Wednesday. Call 734-0784.

5 THU **Titan Toastmasters** - 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Thursday's in the base library. Call 606-1541, Ext. 3722.

19 THU **Vandenberg Top Three** - noon Sept. 19 in the services center. Call 605-6214.

YOUTH

American Red Cross Certified babysitters - Family support center is compiling a list for distribution to Vandenberg families seeking childcare services. Call 606-1607.

Accepting letters and resumes for head and assistant basketball coaches - Address letters to Amy Divelbiss, fitness center director, Pamela Coffey, assistant fitness center director or Rod Paronto, varsity director. Call 606-3833.

Youth soccer league needs volunteers - Call

606-9374 or the Youth Center, 606-2152.

Maintenance upgrades - through Sept. 10 at the base football and soccer field. Fields are closed. Call 606-8297.

HEALTH

3 SEPT **Box aerobics classes** - noon Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. Saturdays. Call 606-7979.

3 TUE **Sensible Weight Loss class** - 90-minute class. Call the Health and Wellness Center, 606-2221.

9 MON **HAWC's Relaxation Room** - 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. Call 606-2221.

Indoor cycling classes - 6 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; noon Fridays; 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 8 a.m. Saturdays in the services center. Call 606-7976.

Anger management class - 2 - 4 p.m. Tuesday in the HAWC. Call 606-5338.

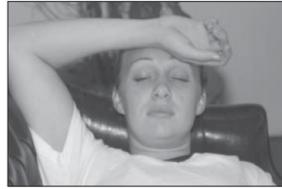
We are the champions!



PHOTO BY DARRA BRADLEY

The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron defeated the 576th Flight Test Squadron 17-16 in the final game of the intramural softball playoffs here Aug. 23 to win the championship.

Remember R.I.C.E.



Rest
Rest is essential for musculoskeletal injuries. The amount of rest needed will depend on the severity of the injury

Maintain compression to reduce swelling. Remove the elastic wrap at night and elevate.

fitness tips by Tyson Grier



Compression



Ice
Apply ice to the injury for 20 minutes every 1-1.5 hours. Apply ice for 1-3 days after an injury.

Elevate the injured area above the level of the heart to help reduce swelling.

Elevation



Soccer players...

The Varsity Soccer Team is looking to add a few more committed and talented players to its roster. In particular, the co-ed team needs female players who will compete in an Arena Soccer League to be held on Tuesday evenings at the Santa Maria Valley YMCA. The men's team is also looking for additional players to play Sundays. Call Scott Vincent at 605-0755 for details.

Rollerhockey season is coming!

Teams are forming now. Call your unit sports representative or the fitness center at 606-3833 for more information.



30th Services News

SERVICES CENTER

BED RACE



Sept. 21 - 11 a.m.

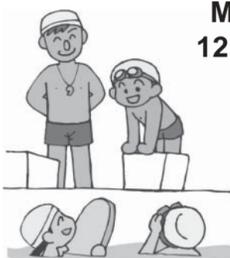
held at the
Services Center Parking Lot

Visit the Services Center for sign up packages with bed specifications and rules. Sign up deadline is 4:30 p.m. Sept. 16. Call Mike Renner for more information at 606-7976.

Get ready for the Lompoc Bedrace to be held Sept. 28!

SWIMMING POOL

Labor Day SWIM



Monday
12 - 4 p.m.

\$1 - 14 and younger
\$2 - for active duty and 15 and older.

Call Jennifer at 606-3581 for more information.

LIBRARY

ATTENTION:
All Summer Reading Program Kids!
If you did not attend the final party, you may pick up your certificate and prizes from the Base Library. If you turned in your reading records you may also pick them up along with your stars from the Reading Wall. You may pick them up any time before Sept. 1.

YOUTH CENTER

NOTICE: Effective Immediately,
the Youth Center Open Recreation Program (teen side) will resume 'school time' operating hours as follows:
Mon. through Thurs. - 2:30 - 7 p.m.
Friday - 2:30 - 10 p.m.
Saturday - 2 - 10 p.m.
On all minimum school days, open rec starts at 12:30 p.m.

GOLF

MONDAY
Labor Day Holiday, course open.

TUESDAY
Course closed.

WEDNESDAY
Ladies Priority,
8:32 - 9:04 a.m.
Central Coast Seniors,
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

THURSDAY
Intramural Golf, noon - 1 p.m.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Did You Know?

Allan Hancock College offers two Community Education noncredit classes, Sept. 5 - Dec. 12 at the Skills Development Center...

MULTIMEDIA ART WORKSHOP CERAMIC PAINTING and FINISHING

For more information regarding these classes, call Davis Butler at the Skills Development Center, 606-9487 or the Allan Hancock Education Center, 734-3500.

ATWIND Ice Cream Social

Today, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
at the Services Center

Come to the Services Center for ice cream with toppings and get an ATWIND game piece! **FIRST 20 NEW SIGN UPS** get an ATWIND T-SHIRT! **ENTERTAINMENT!**
Try a NATURAL KNEAD 5-minute massage!
SPIDERMAN CUTOUT GIVEAWAY to be awarded at 3 p.m.
(You need not be present to win.)

Pacific Coast Club



ELECTRIFIED MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Join the Club and be eligible to win the newest, coolest electronics!
Over \$200,000 in prizes!

Just pick up an application from the Pacific Coast Club and sign up Sept. 3 through Dec. 20 to be eligible for the random drawings.

Current members are already entered to win!



The Pacific Coast Club will be improving the value of Club Membership with this exciting new program!

Members First enhances the value of club membership with exclusive discounts. Starting Oct. 1, club members will receive a minimum \$2 discount on lunch and dinner meals, and a \$2 minimum discount on all special functions. Plus, members receive a 10 percent discount on 'personal' functions they book with the club, such as weddings and birthdays.

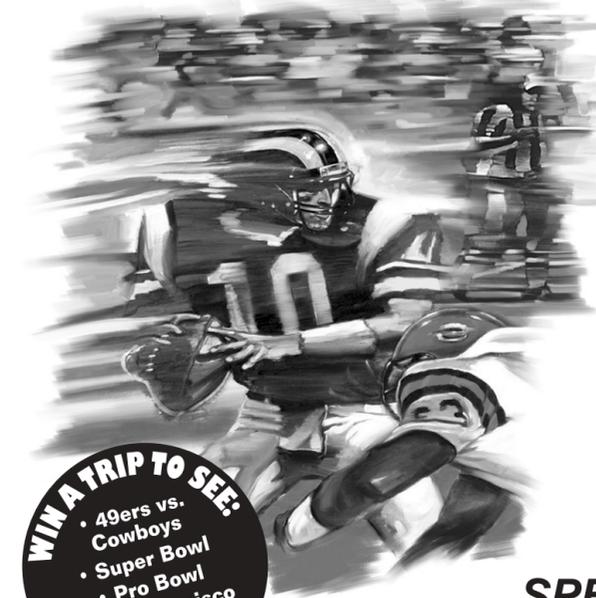
It pays to be a club member!

Chicago HONEY BEARS • Sept. 5

Two Performances at the Pacific Coast Club, 6 p.m. & 8 p.m.
\$5 for members and \$10 for non-members

The performers will be available to meet and sign autographs in the lounges following the performances.

They will also give one free performance, 4 p.m. at the Youth Center for Youth Center members (children) only, courtesy of the Pacific Coast Club and the Vandenberg Youth Center.



WIN A TRIP TO SEE:
• 49ers vs. Cowboys
• Super Bowl
• Pro Bowl
• San Francisco to meet 49ers Terrell Owens

FOOTBALL Frenzy

Come to the club every Monday night starting Sept. 9 for FOOTBALL FRENZY!
5 - 10 p.m.

SPECIAL MENU and SPECIAL PRIZES!

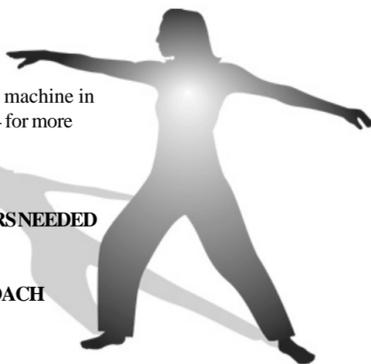
Sponsored in part by Miller Brewing Company, American Airlines, +Battery+ Energy Drink, Destination Arlington, First USA and Double Tree Alana Waikiki (Pro Bowl only). No Federal endorsement of commercial sponsors intended.

Cook-Your-Own Steak or Chicken! Sept. 13 5 - 7 p.m. in both lounges \$8 members - \$11 nonmembers

FITNESS

PRECORBASICS STRETCHING CLASS
Wednesday, noon
Precor stretching basics class will cover the use of the stretching machine in the Life Circuit room. Call 606-3834 for more information.

WOMEN VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS NEEDED
Practice will be held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
NEEDED: VARSITY HOCKEY COACH
Call 606-3834 for information.



BOWLING CENTER

All winter leagues are starting the first week of Sept. If you haven't signed up yet, swing by the Bowling Center and join up. It's a great way to get out during the winter and have some fun. Squadron teams stop by the Fitness Center for your letter of intent. Build up those commander's points for your squadron by participating in the intramural bowling league! Call the Bowling Center at 606-3209 for more information.

WEEKLY LUNCHTIME BOWLING
Starts Sept. 30, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. It's a 3-game series to see who's best each week. Open to any and all authorized users.

