

Base Briefs

LAST TIMES FOR 2002

Dec. 20 is the last issue of the *Space & Missile Times* for 2002. The next issue is Jan. 10. The deadline for submission is Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m., nine days prior to publication. Submit all articles, briefs and community calendar inputs the week prior to desired publication. The SMT staff cannot guarantee publication of inputs submitted after the deadline.

HOLIDAY BILLBOARD CONTEST

The Holiday Billboard contest is today at 1 p.m. in front of the Vandenberg Center. Judges are Maj. Gen. Michael Hamel, 14th Air Force commander; Command Chief Master Sgt. Steven Crocker, 14th Air Force; Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander; Col. Wayne Louis, 30th Space Wing vice commander; and Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Morey, 30th Space Wing. Five children from Operation Kids' Christmas will assist them. All of Vandenberg is invited.

ART UNVEILING

Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, presides over the unveiling of the painting *Vandenberg AFB* by artist Nilo Santiago at noon Wednesday in the Pacific Coast Club. All of Team Vandenberg is invited to attend. The painting is part of the Air Force Art Collection and on loan for display here.

WILDLAND FIRE MEMORIAL SERVICE

In memory of the 1977 wildland fire that claimed the lives of the Vandenberg base commander, fire chief, assistant fire chief, and a bulldozer operator, the Vandenberg Fire Department holds a memorial service at 1 p.m. Dec. 20. at Fire Station No. 2. The service is open to all Vandenberg personnel. Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, gives the memorial message. Make reservations by Monday at 606-3111.

FREE LOMPOC POPS CONCERT

A free concert by the Lompoc Pops Orchestra is set for 12:30 p.m. Sunday in Chapel 1. Parking for the concert is at Sesto Auditorium, Breakers dining facility and the Commissary. Shuttle service is provided.

VEHICLE DECAL RENEWAL

It's time to renew 2002 Vandenberg AFB vehicle decals at Pass and Registration. Bring current state registration, driver license, military, civilian or contractor identification, and insurance certificate for the vehicle to building 11777, room C-111.

See BRIEFS Page A4



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MICHELLE MIRANDA

Nearly 200 children from Santa Maria, Lompoc, Guadalupe and the Santa Ynez Valley take buses to Vandenberg for the base's annual children's Christmas party Dec. 7 at the Pacific Coast Club here.

Local children celebrate early with Operation Kids' Christmas party

By 2ND LT. MICHELLE MAYO
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Combine nearly 1,400 toys with six industrial sized rolls of wrapping paper, add in 400 volunteers and a year of planning, then liberally sprinkle in some holiday cheer to taste.

That's the Team V recipe for Operation Kids' Christmas – an annual Christmas party for about 200 underprivileged children from the surrounding communities of Santa Maria, Lompoc, Guadalupe and Santa Ynez.

While not all the 203 children invited were able to attend this year's party Dec. 7 at the Pacific Coast Club, they all received gifts, \$50 in gift certificates, and a food basket filled with enough food for a Christmas dinner.

As the day began, the OKC escorts, dressed in their service dress uniforms, lined the PCC driveway.

The children arrived at the club amidst blaring police car and fire truck sirens.

"I can't even explain the feeling I had

watching the buses pull up and the children getting off, looking up at their escorts, and reaching for their hands," said Capt. Melissa Reidy, chairwoman of the event committee and an instructor at the 392nd Training Squadron here.

Hand-in-hand with their escorts, the children were led past bags full of brightly wrapped presents and into the balloon-filled ballroom.

See OKC Page A4

Base readies final two space launches for last days of 2002

By 2ND LT. JENNIFER WHITAKER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Team Vandenberg has plans for two space launches during December.

The launch of a Titan II carrying the Coriolis satellite with two Department of Defense payloads is scheduled for Dec. 15 from Space Launch Complex-4 west on South Vandenberg. The vehicle carries WindSat, a Naval Research Laboratory satellite that uses advanced sensors to plot the speed and direction of ocean winds. Also on board is an Air Force Research Laboratory Solar Mass Ejection Imager to monitor solar activity with the goal of more accurately predicting geomagnetic disturbances to orbiting satellites.

Lt. Col. Clint Crosier, 2nd Space Launch Squadron commander, said that Coriolis is the largest payload the Titan II has ever carried and requires an oversized payload fairing to protect the satellite during flight.

The 2nd SLS overcame several hurdles to ready this experimental satellite for launch, Crosier said.

"This has been one of the shortest processing cycles in Titan II history," Crosier said. He added that the squadron had to reprioritize its satellite processing in order to meet the launch requirements of the final Titan II in Spring 2003 and final Atlas II in Summer 2003.

The shorter processing cycle and planning period led the 2nd SLS to begin an innovative training program to make sure the launch team was ready for any contingency.

"We built a very aggressive training program using a multi-

layered approach to exercise crews at both the squadron and operations group levels before rehearsing with the entire launch community," said Lt. Col. Dave Thompson, 2nd SLS launch director. "It's unlike anything we've ever done before, and it was so effective in getting the team to such a high level of proficiency so quickly, it is now the model for all of our launch campaigns."

Vandenberg's final space launch for 2002 carries two NASA payloads. Set to launch Dec. 19 at about 4:45 p.m. from Space Launch Complex-2, Boeing launches the Delta II carrying ICESat or Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite. NASA officials say ICESat will help them better understand the earth by measuring ice-sheet mass balance.

"The mission will provide revolutionary insight into changes in ice and the role ice plays in our Earth system, using a spaceborne laser to look at the topography of ice both in the Antarctic and Greenland," said Dr. Ghassem Asrar, NASA's associate administrator for Earth Science. "This information will help scientists determine whether the polar ice sheets are growing or

shrinking, and how the ice masses may change under future climate conditions."

The Delta II's other payload, CHIPS, or Cosmic Hot Interstellar Plasma Spectrometer, is a suitcase-sized satellite designed to study very hot, very low-density gas in the vast spaces between the stars, searching for clues about the formation and evolution of galaxies. CHIPS was built at the University of California, Berkeley.

The Titan II and Delta II make the fourth and fifth space launches for Vandenberg this year.



PHOTO BY THOM ROGERS

Titan II mission G-14 launches from Space Launch Complex-4 West June 24, 2002.

Thirty graduate Airman Leadership School

Monday, the following senior airmen graduated as part of Airman Leadership School Class 03-A. Leadership school is a tool to prepare airmen for the added responsibility of supervising troops.

The graduates are:
Josiah Bird, 61st Air Base Group, Los Angeles AFB
Jason Brown, Space and Missile Systems Center, LAAFB
Erica Sishke, SMC, LAAFB
Harmony Dunning, 30th Security Forces Squadron
Tyrone Eddins, Jr., 576th Flight Test Squadron
Christopher Fields, 30th SFS
Timothy Golden, 576th FLTS
Melody Goode, 614th Space Operations Group
John Gregory, 30th SFS
Vichit Hausman, 30th SFS
Brian Hickey, 576th FLTS
Alethea Keaton, 61st Communications Squadron, LAAFB
Tyler Knox, 576th FLTS, Distinguished Graduate
Edith Montes, 14th Air Force

Kanakaoekai Namauu, 30th Space Communications Squadron
Michael Napolitano, 30th Aeromedical Dental Squadron, John L. Levitow Honor Graduate
Jesus Ortega, III, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron
Wayne Petersen, 30th SCS
Yvonne Ramirez, 30th ADOS
Jeffery Sack, 30th SFS
Stephen Short, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron
Jessica Soto, 30th Medical Support Squadron
Larry Springer, 576th FLTS, Leadership Award
Jaime Stanton, 534th Training Squadron, Distinguished Graduate
Randolph Tolentino, 30th ADOS
Danny Twyman, 30th SFS
Jerilyn Watson, 30th SFS
Michele Williamson, SMC, LAAFB, Academic Award
Laura Willis, 61st Mission Support Squadron, LAAFB
Michael Wilmot, 30th CES

America's Air Force --

No one comes close!

In this issue of the



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



Operation Enduring Freedom provides free medical and dental assistance to Afghans. See Page A5.



Destinations Central Coast goes Christmas shopping in Solvang, Santa Barbara and SLO. See Page B1.

Weekend forecast
 Mostly cloudy. Chance of showers Saturday through Sunday morning.
Low/High
43/64
 For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather

ASBC teaches valuable lessons

By 2nd Lt. BECKY GARLAND
355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Before I went to the Air and Space Basic Course at Maxwell AFB, Ala., I was pumped with all kinds of information that led me to believe the Air Force was wasting talented people for four weeks of their careers.

"It's a waste of time. It's four weeks of partying. The course is a joke," I was told.

"It's a refresher on how to wear a uniform and salute. We went to basic training for that. Why waste four weeks of work where I'm actually learning something to go backwards and be treated like an ignorant child?"

"I went to Reserve Officer Training Course, others went to the Academy, and how insulting to send prior-enlisted folks too. Haven't they been doing this for years now," I thought.

The Air and Space Basic Course was anything but a waste. From now on I'm making my own conclusions about training.

There were 600 lieutenants at Maxwell divided into flights of 13. I learned where each of them work and how their squadrons, groups and wings operate. I couldn't get that kind of information in ROTC or from my public affairs office.

I heard motivational speakers who lit a fire under me to always do the right thing and be a warrior. I met people who had been "there and back again" and lived to tell us their story.

I participated in team challenges. I don't think I had ever before run three miles while trying to memorize my flight mates' names and decipher a written code about Zeus' body parts.

I played three different war games, two of which my flight won and the other we lost due to gameisms, but I feel no bitterness about it.

Through them I learned how to create a force package, who I would want as my joint force air component commander, the

importance of learning Air Force theory and doctrine, how to apply counter-air, counter-land, counter-sea and all the other aspects of warfare, and what a JFACC really is (the acronym has nothing to do with peanut butter like I originally thought).

I listened to information about Sun Tzu's theories, Islam, Judaism and holy wars. I was appalled at a documentary on war crimes, and every guest speaker brought a different perspective.

I listened to a pilot from the Berlin Airlift talk about secretly dropping candy to Berlin children, and then returning to base to find a pile of letters to the "candy bomber" and getting into trouble over it.

My flight competed on the obstacle course and we smoked through it. We placed second overall in our squadron (due to the computer gameisms, but I'm really not bitter), and placed second academically (maybe, no, most likely, if I'd stayed in and studied one extra night, we would

have placed first).

We did earn the Commander's Warrior Spirit Award, which I think is a nice way of saying "Way to go, losers."

After listening to veterans, motivational speakers and my peers, I wanted to figure out how to make an M-16 work, head to the front lines and wreak some havoc on the enemies of America.

The Air University Library was down the street, and while we were there we were allowed to take 10 free books a day. They'll even mail them back home for you, for free. In four weeks, that's close to 250 books for free. That doesn't count the books they gave us every day in our flight rooms.

Before I went to ASBC, my world consisted of my job at Davis-Monthan AFB. Now I see how my job helps the Air Force's various missions.

Now that I'm back, I can continue to learn so if I'm ever acting as a JFACC, I might actually know what I'm doing.

Letter to the Editor: Mom expresses gratitude to Vandenberg Fire Department

Each Wednesday at 10 a.m., a group of loosely associated moms and dads bring their preschool aged children to Cocheo Park for the Vandenberg Family Support Center's Playtime for Tots.

As co-chair for this constantly changing group, I try to come up with fun and interesting activities for the children throughout the year, other than playing at our wonderful Lighthouse Park, as it's been dubbed.

One day a mom asked me if I knew any way to get a tour of the Fire Department. It seems she

had inquired through her contacts and determined that only school groups normally get tours. Being a reservist here, I knew the civil engineers would find a way - and did they ever!

B-Shift Battalion Chief Wayne Seda assigned Staff Sgt. Mike Arzabal to plan the trip. That morning, 35 preschoolers and their parents descended on Fire Station No. 2 in a frenzy of running and laughing.

The children were introduced to the life of firefighting with a tour of the alarm center. Airman 1st Class David Sonsini answered

questions about computers and explained how they send trucks racing out to a fire.

Next, the children moved on to the bunkhouse where Senior Airman Brian Morris and Arzabal detailed life as a firefighter.

The children learned about fire prevention and how to stop, drop and roll if they ever encounter fire on themselves.

Firefighter John Markley treated them to a first-class tour of a rescue truck and all its equipment. Each junior firefighter got to drive the truck - an amazing feat for a three-year-old!

And finally, Sparky the Fire Dog gave them all hugs, helmets and gift bags to take home.

Vandenberg Fire Chief Mark Farias and his team provided those 35 children with an amazingly fun day and something more valuable - an education in fire prevention they won't soon forget.

The Playtime for Tots parents express our thanks to the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters for all they do.

Maj. Carol Cluff
30th Civil Engineer Squadron



Call 606-7850

or

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



Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander

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 action line is a great way to communicate, don't forget to use your chain of command, first sergeants, base services officials and other base professionals first.

Thank you 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.

The 30th Space Wing

Mission:

To provide combat capabilities through launch, range and expeditionary operations.

Vision:

America's finest professionals building the best spaceport and test range in the world.



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30th Space Wing Commander

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

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Space & Missile Times are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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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 Wednesday, nine days prior to publication.

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

For information about the Space & Missile Times, call the staff at (805) 606-2040.

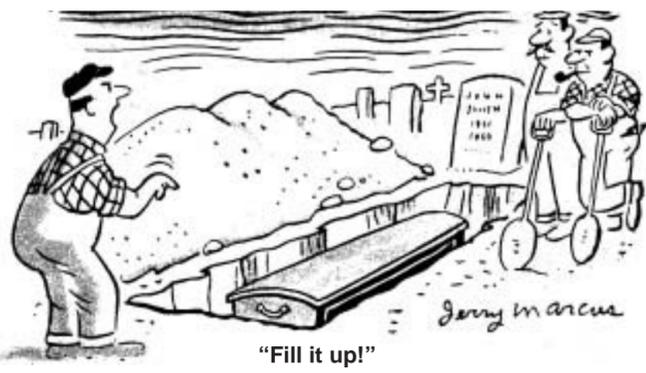
Sad but true ...



"Fill it up!"



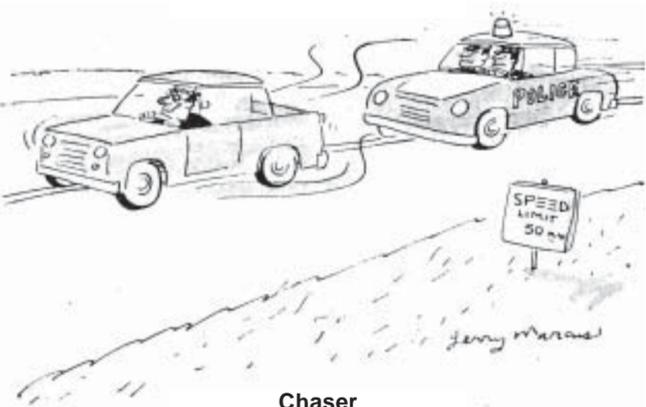
"Fill it up!"



"Fill it up!"



Chaser



Chaser

I'm one drink away from losing it all

By AIRMAN X
90th Space Wing

A 20-year career is coming to a crashing halt. Twenty years of trouble-free fun. Twenty years of permanent damage.

The career I'm talking about is my drinking career.

Three years ago, I was rushed to the hospital one morning as I was coming off of another hard weekend of drinking. I had passed out at home as I was getting ready for work. In the ambulance ride to the emergency room I had a seizure. After four or five days in the hospital and several tests later, I found out I had done damage to my liver and had other health problems as well.

The doctors and counselors said the amount I was drinking (about a fifth a day) and the way my insides were, it looked as though I had the health of a 55-year-old who'd had an extensive drinking career. I'm only 33.

They were amazed at how I has

gotten into this condition so early.

When my supervisors, first sergeant and commander came to visit me in the hospital they were amazed to find out that I drank. I had never been in trouble, had a stellar military career and everything was hunky-dory in my life. They were simply taken back by the amount I was consuming on a regular basis. I was asked if I wanted help to "cure" my problem. I said "sure."

So I entered the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program at life skills. I've enjoyed three years, two 30-day inpatient treatment facilities, one intense outpatient at a Veteran's Administration hospital and hour upon hour of counseling at the base life skills support center.

With all this knowledge of alcohol and with all these programs and counseling, I was able to realize how alcohol can destroy homes, health, families and careers. But I continued to go out and drink.

My family got tired of the drinking and left. And after two Articles 15, one red-lined technical sergeant stripe and a bust down to senior airman, my 15-year military career is hanging on by a thread. The drinking has stopped being fun.

It was only a matter of time before the alcohol turned on me, and it will you if you have a drinking problem. There's no cure for alcoholism and it takes a lot of hard work to stay away from it. If it had not been for the help of the life skills support center, I'd be dead today. I attend regular Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, work with the counselors on base and have a new way of thinking about life. It's not easy trying to stay sober.

In the short and long run, abstinence can be the only way of life for me.

I finally know I'm one drink away from losing my military career and one bottle away from losing my life.

(Courtesy of Air Force Space Command News Service)

ADAPT educates, rehabilitates airmen

By 2ND LT. JENNIFER WHITAKER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

About 18 million Americans have alcohol abuse problems according to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program is the Air Force's program to identify alcohol and drug abusers, educate and rehabilitate them, and prevent future abuse.

"We're concerned with early identification of folks who have issues with alcohol," said Master Sgt. Raymond Vasquez, Vandenberg ADAPT program manager.

He said that ADAPT is more focused on alcohol than drugs because the Air Force has a zero-tolerance policy for drug abuse. "However, if someone were to self-identify a drug problem, we'd certainly help them through the program," Vasquez said.

While the program's goal is to prevent problem behaviors from occurring, ADAPT offers clinical and non-clinical treatments to rehabilitate alcohol and drug abusers.

Vasquez said that Air Force members with substance abuse problems are encouraged to seek assistance from their unit commander, first sergeant, substance abuse counselor, or a military medical professional. If a member of the person's chain of command suspects abuse or if an incident occurs to indicate substance abuse, they must provide incentive for the person to seek treatment without fear of negative consequences.

"Once a person with a problem is referred to ADAPT, we conduct a substance abuse assessment to determine the patient's need for treatment and level of care necessary," Vasquez said. He gives a low-end estimate, for an assessment, administration time, and one day of education, at \$1,320 and 11 hours for the Air Force.

After an assessment, the person is assigned to a treatment team consisting of his or her commander or first sergeant, their immediate supervisor, an ADAPT program manager, a certified substance abuse counselor, medical consultants as needed, and any other individuals deemed necessary for adequate care, Vasquez said.

He added that commander or first sergeant and supervisor involvement in the treatment team is important to the patient's recovery.

"The chain of command should be involved in the treatment

Answers can identify a drinking problem.

- Have you ever tried to cut down on your drinking?
- Have you ever felt annoyed when someone talked to you about your drinking?
- Have you ever felt bad or guilty about your drinking?
- Have you ever used alcohol in the morning to settle yourself down?

One "yes" answer suggests a possible alcohol problem. More than one "yes" answer means it is highly likely that a problem exists.

Other signs of alcoholism:

- Getting drunk on a regular basis
- Lying about the amount of alcohol used
- Believing that alcohol is necessary to have fun
- Feeling run-down, depressed, or suicidal
- Having blackouts—forgetting what happened while drinking

If you or someone you know exhibits signs of alcoholism, seek professional help immediately. It could save a life.

because they have more direct contact with the patient and can better monitor their progress and keep account of their behavior," Vasquez said.

Per Air Force Instruction 44-121, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program, the treatment team determines the level of treatment the patient requires and forms a comprehensive, individualized treatment plan stated in behavioral terms. For less serious abuse problems, patients receive non-clinical services including a minimum of six hours of awareness education. According to Vasquez, the estimated cost to the Air Force for a three-day education seminar is \$1,417 and 27 hours.

Patients requiring more intensive treatment may be admitted to a substance abuse recovery center. Vandenberg ADAPT patients are most often sent to Camp Pendleton and Point Loma in San Diego, Vasquez said.

"We estimate that the cost of treatment for a Master Sgt. with a diagnosis of alcohol dependence requiring intensive treatment would cost approximately \$13,985 for eight months worth of treatment. This includes intensive treatment at Camp Pendleton, and aftercare here at Vandenberg. We also estimate that the treatment would cost the unit a total of 332 lost hours for this one member," Vasquez said.

He added that patients who successfully complete treatment in the ADAPT program are considered in recovery and no longer require program resources. However, regulations stipulate that those who fail the ADAPT program will be considered for administrative separation by their commander.

According to its governing regulation, the goal of the ADAPT program is alcohol awareness to avoid the negative effects of substance abuse on airmen, their families and careers, and the high cost of rehabilitation. The ADAPT staff conducts prevention activities for groups as young as elementary school students.

"Education is one of the most important aspects of the ADAPT program," Vasquez said. "Alcoholism is a disease like any other disease. There is no cure, but by making our people aware of the mental, physical, and emotional damage alcohol abuse causes, we hope to prevent alcoholism before it starts."

For information and referrals to the ADAPT program, call Master Sgt. Raymond Vasquez at 606-8217.

ALCON looks to change mindsets, responsibility

By 2ND LT. KELLY GABEL
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

The Alcohol Condition program, or ALCON, is an initiative designed to combat alcohol abuse brought to light last year when Team Vandenberg suffered two alcohol-related fatalities.

"The (incidents) had our wing commander challenging us to find a solution," said Col. David Thompson, chief of 30th Space Wing Safety.

As a result, the Safety staff here designed ALCON to increase commander, supervisor and individual awareness of inappropriate and deadly alcohol behavior, said Master Sgt. Kurt Gardner, Ground Safety superintendent and Safety's primary ALCON point of contact.

According to its operating instruction, the ALCON program addresses alcohol misuse within the Vandenberg community through intensified instruction and base-wide preventive efforts.

Much like force protection conditions, ALCON levels range from normal to delta. The program describes responsibilities, procedures and criteria used in determining actions taken by each point of contact upon initiation or change in the base ALCON level.

"Driving Under the Influence of alcohol is always the main focus—but it's not the only one," Gardner said. "We also need to work harder at preventing underage drinking among our young airmen and alcohol-related altercations."

"We have a problem," he said.

"People are breaking the law. More importantly, they're dying, which impacts everything—families, friends, co-workers and the mission. Nobody can afford these types of avoidable tragedies," Gardner added.

Safety's job is getting the program up and running, Gardner said. A program of this nature requires support from many organizations and specialties. Safety is the focal point for compiling the task force, garnering the necessary support and most

importantly, getting everyone's buy-in.

"We recognize there needs to be a huge cultural shift," Thompson said. "Several absolutely unacceptable drinking behaviors have been condoned or openly tolerated for so long they've become ingrained in our society."

Many people think it's enough to drink responsibly. "But we have a responsibility for each other," Gardner said.

"At a minimum, you're 50 percent of the issue because you're at least a target," said Thompson. "If you're the driver committing DUI, you're the missile—that's as personal as it gets."

Last year there were more than 17,000 DUI-related deaths, according to Thompson. This makes DUI both a moral and legal issue.

"There is no 'I'm sorry' that covers someone's death at your expense due to DUI," said Thompson who stressed that this is not a temperance program. "We're talking about what happens when an acceptable behavior becomes unacceptable," he said. "I've never talked to anybody who said it's wrong to eliminate DUI. Even a drunk will tell you they don't have the right to DUI."

Gardner said the ALCON program falls under Safety's purview for now. Eventually, he said, it will move to the Integrated Delivery System, which is facilitated by the Family Support Center.

IDS will be the focal point for developing and implementing programs geared toward increasing organizational awareness of substance abuse issues, trends and threats to mission readiness, he said.

Regardless of where the program is managed, the simple fact is it will take people to make it work, Gardner said.

As President Lincoln once said, "With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed." This truth is evident for ALCON as well.

"We can organize, hold meetings and talk until we're blue in the face," Gardner

Vandenberg's murderous tendencies

The following is a recap of some of Team Vandenberg's more unique alcoholic incidents this year. A Blood-alcohol Content above 0.08 is illegal when driving. People must be 21 years old to consume alcoholic beverages in California.

Using her vehicle, a civilian attempted to run over a 30th Security Forces Squadron member who was crossing the street. She'd had a lot to drink as well as taken prescription drugs.

A civilian stopped traffic on a busy road, extended her head out of her vehicle to ask a patrolman for directions to Santa Maria. The patrolman made contact to help this lost individual and noticed the strong smell of an alcoholic beverage. After further investigation, it was determined the individual was Driving Under the Influence with a BRaC of 0.15.

A civilian went to Space Launch Complex-6 one morning to retrieve his paycheck. After being stopped for reckless driving, the individual failed several Field Sobriety Tests and had a BRaC of 0.30.

Two individuals, on separate days, were stopped trying to show off their vehicles. A senior airman spun the tires of his vehicle while at an intersection. The other individual, a captain, decided to demonstrate his vehicle's speed. Neither individual

noticed the San Luis Obispo Police Officer nearby. It was determined alcohol was a contributing factor in both incidents.

A senior airman was instructed by a Santa Barbara Police Officer not to operate a vehicle due to the airman's intoxication. The airman did not comply and was stopped by the same officer who gave the initial order.

A 20-year-old drinker was involved in a hit-and-run vehicle accident. Less than a week later, the same individual was stopped by a Santa Barbara Police Officer for driving on the wrong side of the road.

When their vehicle broke down, two airmen first class stopped at the side of Highway 101 in Goleta. Not going anywhere, the driver got sick on his shirt and passed out. A California Highway Patrolman stopped to check their status and asked where they were going. The reply, "We're going to Lackland AFB," earned the driver the status DUI.

A senior airman entered the main gate after a night of drinking. She was stopped and charged for DUI but she had two sober people in the car with her.

During 2002, 33 members of Team Vandenberg have been referred to the 30th Medical Group for counseling because of underage drinking. (Courtesy of 30th SFS)

ALCON: Normal

A general condition reflecting responsible alcohol use.

DUI totals for the Year: 29

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE
Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving
at 698-8822 or 698-8823.

Days since last DUI: 29
Saves by AADD: 73

BRIEFS:**From Page A1**

Vehicles not registered in California may be required to provide proof of California emissions testing. Call 606-1853 for more information.

SERVICES SURVEY

Headquarters Air Force Services is conducting a customer feedback survey to assess customer satisfaction with Services programs. Members of Team Vandenberg are randomly selected to participate in the survey. Call John Olson at 605-5095 for more information.

FOURTH QUARTER AWARDS SUSPENSE

All company grade officer, enlisted, civilian, and volunteer quarterly awards packages are due by 4:30 p.m. Jan. 3. Hand carry packages addressed to 30th SW/CGO Board Facilitator, 30th SW/Enlisted Board Facilitator, and 30th SW Volunteer Board Facilitator to building 10577, room C-104. Deliver civilian nomination packages to building 11777, room C-216. Rules of engagement and criteria can be found online at http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/awards_promotions/guidance/index.htm or call Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Buskirk at 606-8736 or Master Sgt. Dave Erb at 605-4683.

SCHOOL DISTRICT WINTER RECESS

All traditional-year Lompoc Unified School District schools and Adult Education classes are closed for winter recess Dec. 19 through Jan. 3. Classes resume Jan. 6. District offices are closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 3 and reopen Jan. 6.

TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron is conducting a transportation needs assessment survey through Dec. 22. The survey provides information to help community officials identify transportation needs for the area, develop potential solutions, and bridge the gap between Santa Maria, Vandenberg, and Lompoc.

Drop boxes are located at Breakers dining facility, the Military Personnel Flight, the Pacific Coast Club, the Commissary, and the 381st Training Group. Call Tech. Sgt. Gregory Pocaigue at 606-5255.

PATRIOT VOICES AUDITIONS

Vandenberg's vocal ensemble, Patriot Voices, needs military members of all ranks to audition for this all-volunteer organization. Patriot Voices performs at various functions on base and in the local community. For more information, call Capt. Zack Guza at 606-4725 or Staff Sgt. Tim VanProoyen at 606-8483.

30th Range Squadron knows no boundaries

By JANET NEUBECKER

30th Logistics Readiness Squadron

■ Their territorial range extends west from the California coast to the Marshall Islands, but their range of duties and responsibilities seems to have no bounds.

Commanded by Lt. Col. Jeffrey Follansbee, the 30th Range Squadron here is one of 21 sites nationwide used to test and evaluate Department of Defense and commercial user's missions that require airspace.

According to Follansbee, the 30th RANS, also known as the Western Range, supports Navy air defense exercises, aeronautical tests - including the F-22 fighter jet, Space Shuttle contingency landings, satellite support, and intercontinental ballistic missile test launches, just to name a few.

"Our hottest customer right now is the Missile Defense Agency," Follansbee said.

Due to Vandenberg's ability to fly polar orbit missions over unpopulated areas, and the range's steadfast support, the MDA uses the Western Range to test its ICBMs and intercept capabilities, he said. The agency also relies upon Vandenberg for satellite support.

"The Western Range is fast-becoming the front door to aerospace operations and the development of systems that will protect our nation's borders."

LT. COL. JEFFREY FOLLANSBEE
30TH RANGE SQUADRON COMMANDER

"The Western Range is fast-becoming the front door to aerospace operations and the development of systems that will protect our nation's borders," Follansbee said.

Enhanced by their own range control center and highly technical instrumentation, valued at \$1.5 billion, the range more than meets the needs of all its customers.

Comptroller explains financial helps during deployments, TDY

By TECH. SGT. VINCE PFOSE

30th Comptroller Squadron

■ Deployments are stressful for both military members and their families. Ensuring finances are in order before deploying can reduce some of that stress.

The following are measures that can help members and their families with financial matters:

Before a deployment, make sure all allotments are in order. Finance can help at the last minute; however, it's much easier, if measures are taken ahead of time.

Airmen should ensure their home address on their Leave and Earnings Statement is correct. This ensures the Defense Finance and Accounting Service mails the W-2 to the member's current residence.

Military members can file for an accrual before and during their deployments and periods of temporary duty. An accrual is a payment made during the TDY for some expenses incurred. The TDY must be longer than 45 days to take advantage of the accrual payment. The first accrual cannot be completed until the member has been TDY at least 30 days. They are usually made in 30-day increments.

Accrual expenses include airline tickets and lodging expenses incurred while en-route to the deployed location. Those who use their Government Travel Card to purchase airline tickets, can file an accrual before departing Vandenberg. The members simply fill out an accrual form

at finance and provide a copy of the airline receipt. At the 30-day point of the TDY, the GTC bill is then paid automatically. Airmen can file an accrual for any lodging expenses incurred during their trip once they arrive at the deployed location. The local finance organization will review accrual statements and fax them to Vandenberg for processing. The fax number for sending accrual forms is DSN: 276-8225.

Finance offices are required to protect airmen's information from outside sources. Finance offices will not disclose any information, including to the member's family, without the member's written consent. To ensure family has access to a military member's information, a special power of attorney is needed.

The 30th Space Wing Legal office can help with that. A special power of attorney should not be confused with a regular power of attorney. Special powers of attorney only cover one particular topic. In this case, they are used to grant a family member access to the military member's pay records.

More information is available for the family on the web at: <http://vepd1.vandenberg.af.mil/30swpubs/30va/30swva65-8.pdf>.

The finance office customer service section is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays; and 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays.

LAUNCH:

From Page A1

The surrogate booster is used for the developmental flight test program only and is not intended for further use in the GMD test program or for a future operational GMD system.

According to MDA, two new booster designs are currently in development and will undergo flight testing beginning in the spring. The GMD program will use one or both of the new boosters in all future intercept tests beginning late next year.

Initial post-test analysis indicates that all other GMD program elements successfully completed their test objectives, including radars and other sensors, as well as the battle management, command, control and communication elements that are vital in the GMD development effort, said Lt. Col. Rick Lehner, MDA spokesman.

"In a missile defense research and development program involving a number of different elements such as GMD, the successful integration of system elements is as important as the intercept," Lehner said. "USS Lake Erie, an Aegis cruiser, successfully tracked the target missile after launch, and the Airborne Laser, a modified Boeing 747 aircraft, successfully used an

installed infrared sensor to detect and track the boosting target missile after launch." The developmental Theater High Altitude Area Defense radar located here also performed well, successfully tracking the target missile after launch, he added.

This was the eighth intercept test of the GMD research and development program. The first test, Oct. 3, 1999, resulted in the successful intercept of a ballistic missile target. The second test took place Jan. 19, 2000, and did not achieve an intercept due to a clogged cooling pipe on the EKV, but did successfully test the integrated system of elements. The third test, July 8, 2000, did not result in an intercept due to an unsuccessful separation of the EKV and the booster rocket. The fourth test, July 14, 2001, achieved the successful intercept of a ballistic missile target, as did tests Dec. 3, 2001, and March 15, 2002. A successful test Oct. 14, 2002 included the use of a ship-based SPY-1 radar for the first time to track a long-range target missile. The last four tests used all GMD system elements as part of integrated flight tests. This is the third Vandenberg launch for the agency this year.

Government and industry program officials will conduct an extensive review of the test results to determine why EKV/booster separation did not occur, as well as a thorough analysis of all test-related data.

OKC:

From Page A1

They were treated to lunch, entertainment by dancers from Righetti High School, balloon creations by Pepi the Clown and his rangers, and a visit from Santa Claus.

Dulce Larrea, 10, from Lompoc said she couldn't decide what she liked best about the day, but she knew she liked the colorful dresses on the dancers and her escort, Maj. Patrick Assayag, 9th Space Operations Squadron.

"There's nothing like knowing that someone is going to have a nice Christmas, because of a small gesture you made," Assayag said.

Just ask Master Sgt. Sydney Sheridan of the 17th Test Squadron, Detachment 3.

He's been a volunteer with OKC for 15 years. He was an escort for nine years, on the food service crew for one year and has spent the past five years as a member of the executive planning committee.

"Just a few weeks after arriving on base, my boss suggested I consider escorting

"Depending on the mission, we monitor radar, telemetry, optics and command transmission to ensure a successful mission," said 2nd Lt. Rudi DiAmco, range control officer.

Though mission success is the ultimate goal, safety always comes first - a mindset taken seriously by mission flight control officers.

"The main thing is to protect public safety," said Capt. Raymond Galik, senior mission flight control officer.

Mission flight control officers shoulder immense responsibility overseeing safety issues on each mission. With only 12-seconds on the clock, they may have to make the decision to kill or not kill a billion dollar vehicle.

"There's a real intense year-long training program we have to go through," Galik said. "We don't want any launch to be any more dangerous or risky than the flight of a commercial jet."

Serving as the primary interface to Western Range users concerning safety, technical assistance and operational support, Western Range personnel are dependable, reliable and capable, the commander said.

"This range is always ready and we deliver success," Follansbee said.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MICHELLE MIRANDA

Duty: NCO in charge of Physical Security
Hobbies: SCUBA diving, boulder and rock climbing, writing poetry, street hockey and travel

Supervisor's comments: "Staff Sgt. Moran is a highly dedicated professional and most valued member of the 30th Security Forces Squadron Warriors," said Senior Master Sgt. Gerald Young, 30th SFS Installation Security superintendent. "He's a highly effective leader and a multi-dimensional NCO."

for this special event." Sheridan said. "I enjoyed it and got hooked."

"The extent of giving is far-reaching - from the committee who plan the event throughout the year, the volunteers who are there on the big day and the many private and corporate donors, big and small, who give us the means to make it happen."

The means to make it happen is about \$25,000 per party.

That's quite a bit different from the \$1,800 it took to fund the original party in 1959.

All of the money is raised through corporate and private donations and "fundraising, fundraising, fundraising," said Reidy.

"This year we raised money above and beyond our goal," Reidy said. The committee raised more than \$27,000.

The extra money allowed the OKC committee to support three extra children and to buy extra clothing certificates for all of the children.

"It felt so good to be able to do that," Reidy said.

Don't miss the Operation Kids' Christmas photo spread on Page A10!

Around the Air Force

Electric vehicles help reduce use of petroleum fuels

By STAFF SGT. TODD LOPEZ
Air Force Print News

■ WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Air Force is using less petroleum products in California now thanks to a donation by a major automotive corporation.

The first of 112 electric vehicles donated by Global Electric Motorcars, a subsidiary of DaimlerChrysler, were delivered to four California Air Force installations in October.

The street-legal electric vehicles can be used in situations where a lightweight sedan or pickup truck is normally used, said Lt. Col. William Fisher, chief of the Air Force vehicle policy team here.

"They can be used to shuttle people around the base for administrative duties and are perfect for use by a small civil engineer or maintenance team," Fisher said. "You can put a tool box in one of these vehicles with the bed on them, have a small bench stock available, and roll out there and do repairs."

Many tasks do not require the larger vehicles available in the Air Force vehicle inventory, according to Senior Master Sgt. Rex Curry, superintendent of Air Force vehicle maintenance policy and procedures. In the past, he said, Air Force members had no choice but to use larger vehicles.

"In a lot of places, you have supply and administrative folks who go to the military personnel flight and back to supply or to the base service store to pick up supplies," Curry said. "That does not require a quarter-ton or half-ton pickup. The idea (with the electric vehicle) is that we get accustomed to these electric vehicles and reduce our need to drive larger, petroleum-burning vehicles."

The zero-emission vehicles being used at Vandenberg, Edwards and Los Angeles Air Force bases, as well as for Onizuka Air Force Station, are in line with

the Air Force's efforts to reduce use of petroleum products.

In accordance with the Energy Policy Act and Executive Order 13149, signed by former President Clinton in April 2000, federal agencies are required to acquire alternative-fuel vehicles and reduce the use of petroleum products through the use of alternative fuels.

Fisher said the Air Force is responding to this order by using electric, compressed natural gas, E-85 Flex-Fuel and bio-diesel vehicles.

"The time for alternative fuel use is here," Fisher said. "There is a lot of stuff in industry going on to get us out of petroleum-burning vehicles. In the next 10 to 15 years, you are going to see some significant changes in how we transport ourselves, what platforms we use to transport ourselves in and what engine technology we use to transport ourselves."

The 112 electric vehicles are just a part of the Air Force's overall effort to reduce dependence on petroleum products, Fisher said.

"This helps us to reduce petroleum consumption and helps displace some of our less fuel-efficient vehicles," Fisher said. "In the long run, we will reduce the amount of petroleum use on these bases." (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Group uses satellites to rescue man at sea

■ PATRICK AFB, Fla. - A medical emergency at sea turned into a dramatic humanitarian mission for the 920th Rescue Group here Dec. 8. The emergency also provided the unit its first chance to use a new satellite-based tracking and communications system during a rescue.

Crews from Air Force Reserve Command's 920th RQG was dispatched at 7:15 a.m. on two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and one HC-130P/N aircraft to locate, recover, treat and transport an ailing man on a commercial fishing

vessel approximately 500 miles off Florida's eastern coast.

Mike Swann of Port St. Lucie, Fla., was the ship's captain. He was suffering from complications related to kidney stones. Crews from the 920th RQG reached him at about 11 a.m.

Pararescue specialists jumped from a helicopter into the ocean, swam to Swann's ship and boarded it. They assessed the situation and decided to stabilize Swann, put him on a hoist and lift him up into the helicopter.

"The patient was in extreme distress and ran the risk of infection due to the kidney stones. He needed to be evacuated," said Master Sgt. Doug Kestranek, one of the pararescues who boarded the 75-foot ship.

After Swann was safely aboard the helicopter, he was flown to an area adjacent to Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Fla., and transferred to Brevard County paramedics. They took him to Holmes where he was treated and released later that night.

Swann's wife, Anna Maria, was on the scene when the HH-60 helicopter carrying him landed near Holmes.

"The Air Force really came through for us," she said. "I can't thank them enough. They put so much effort into this, it was like a military operation. I don't think people realize what our Air Force can do for us. It's not just going to war. It's helping citizens in need ... in cases like this with search and rescue."

This was the first rescue conducted anywhere using a new, state-of-the-art system called the Global Personnel Recovery System. This system was installed in 920th RQG helicopters last week. It is a quantum technology leap for combat rescue capabilities and also has applications for other types of military missions, said rescue officials.

Using satellites to transmit data back to command centers where the mission can be visually monitored on a screen, GPRS provides near real-time tracking globally. GPRS also provides two-way instant messaging between people at the home base and the crews flying the mission.

"We can maintain constant communication with our crews and actually watch them operate through every phase of a rescue mission from (the command center)," said Maj. Marc DiPaolo,

Awaiting care



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. STEVE FAULSI

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM - Afghan girls wait to be seen during a Medical Civil Assistance Program visit to their village. MEDCAPs provide free medical and dental care to Afghans. They also provide literature on the dangers of unexploded ordnance and why forces from the United States are in the country.

an HH-60 pilot with the group.

"Being able to watch this mission evolve and communicate instantly with the aircrew from start to finish was the ultimate warm fuzzy," said Col. Tim Tarchick, commander of the 920th RQG. "We're ushering in new technology here at the 920th Rescue Group that will provide a true advantage for our warfighters, as well as enhance our humanitarian and space support operations."

"It's a great feeling to know we helped that gentleman live to see more days with his family," Kestranek said. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Civil Engineers heat things up while deployed

By AIRMAN NICOLE SPENCE
36th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

■ OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM - They work around the clock, seven days a week, in subzero temperatures, with hundreds of people's lives in their hands. Members of the 376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation and air conditioning team at Ganci Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, will call this life for at least the next three months. They are responsible for 350 tent

heaters, shower boilers, kitchen heaters, refrigerators, washers and dryers, plus some hospital and communication equipment.

The 12 servicemembers who deployed here from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and Kadena Air Base, Japan, make up the entire HVAC team here supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The 376th Air Expeditionary Wing provides combat air support and airlift for forces in Afghanistan as well as aerial refueling of coalition aircraft.

"The winter will be tough, but we'll make it; HVAC has some of the most motivated people on base," said Chief Master Sgt. Gary Gentz, 376th ECES superintendent. With the cold weather, there are plenty hardships everyone has to overcome and endure.

"The heaters used for the tents are very temperamental and require a lot of man-hours to maintain," said Master Sgt. Lloyd Owens, noncommissioned officer in charge of the HVAC team. "We go out in the middle of the night fixing heaters to keep people from freezing to death."

When temperatures fall below zero, the heating fuel clogs, causing massive heater failures. With around-the-clock manpower, the problem was fixed leaving the HVAC team as saviors of the base.

"My hat's off to HVAC; they have really worked themselves to the bone," said Brig. Gen. Jared Kennish, 376th AEW commander. "Those HVAC guys are my heroes."

Their skills are so in demand and their mission so critical that they barely have time for a bathroom or dinner break when out on the job, said Staff Sgt. Joe Sutterfield, a HVAC technician.

"HVAC won Wing Team of the Month, but no one was there to pick up the award since they were all out working," said Master Sgt. Dean Toth, 376th ECES first sergeant.

The team may receive up to 100 service calls in a single day, leaving them just enough time to get up, work, eat and go back to bed.

"It makes the time go by quickly with us being so busy," said Sutterfield. "We've all become good friends; no one gets down or stops until the jobs done."

The spare parts they use to repair broken heaters are running slim, and they often have to improvise to do the best fix for the time.

"We'll only be stronger when we get back to Ramstein," said Sutterfield. "There is nothing harder than this place." (Courtesy of U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service)



Incompatible info systems pose security challenge

By GERRY GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

■ WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sorting through and integrating different computer information systems from the 22 agencies slated to comprise the new Department of Homeland Security presents "a challenge," the White House's chief Homeland Security information official said here today.

Agencies selected to merge into the DHS will bring a variety of disparate, separate databases with them, Lee Holcomb, director for information structure in the White House Office of Homeland Security, told a homeland security conference audience here.

Prior to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America, a number of federal agencies had developed technologies and systems to integrate within an agency setting, but in many cases did not address information sharing across multiple agencies, Holcomb said. Such advanced capability, he added, is a mandatory asset for the new DHS, which is slated to start up in March 2003.

Many existing databases operated by DHS-designated agencies, and systems run by other organizations expected to work closely with the Homeland Security Department are currently "not mutually accessible," Holcomb added.

Additionally, he noted that much of the communications equipment now used by civic emergency first responders such as police and fire and rescue workers, is either outdated or incompatible with federal gear.

"In many cases, police officers are operating 1970s analog radios," Holcomb pointed out. Such discrepancies will be solved, he emphasized, by testing and selecting a model emergency-response setup, complete with

modern, interoperable communications equipment.

Under a key initiative called Project Safecom, Holcomb noted, firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians gain the ability to communicate seamlessly and quickly to help preserve life and property during a disaster. *(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)*

Dive detachment removes hazards in Hawaii

By Spc. STEPHANIE CARL
Hawaiian Army Weekly staff

■ SCHOEFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii - Six months of planning came to fruition last week as soldiers from the 7th Engineer Detachment (Heavy Dive) collapsed the last of 23 hazardous finger piers in the Wai'anae Small Boat Harbor.

The project, which is known as innovative readiness training, allowed the detachment to fulfill part of its mission-essential task list that has been nearly impossible in the past, unit leaders said, while benefiting the Wai'anae community.

"This project falls under port construction and demolition using non-explosive means," said Master Sgt. Rodney Heikkinen, the master diver and first sergeant for the dive detachment.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time a project like this has ever come up for our unit," he said.

Heikkinen added that the project helped soldiers to brush up on skills that are imperative during real-world deployments.

"Each finger pier weighs approximately five and a half tons," he said. "The guys are going to sink the piers, then raise them, move them to another location and re-sink them. This is going to teach them weight-handling."

Each pier is secured with two thick ropes. Using a chipper and sledgehammer, the divers chop away at the concrete the pier is

Ready, Aim, Fire!



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JASON WEBB

OKINAWA, Japan - A round explodes from the muzzle of an M-198 155mm Medium Howitzer during a battery live-fire exercise at the North Fuji Maneuver Area. Marines of K Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division are currently deployed to Okinawa for six months under the Unit Deployment Program. Artillery units assigned to Okinawa typically redeploy to mainland Japan for further training.

made of, exposing the long metal rods that give it support.

According to William Aila, a Wai'anae native and the harbormaster, many of the supports have either broken or bowed, creating long cracks in the outer surface of the piers.

"Some of the piers collapsed into the water on their own, others are at risk to fall at any time," Aila explained.

Once the piers collapsed, the divers attached flotation bags to the piers and towed them to the opposite side of the harbor. A civilian contractor hauled them out to sea and re-sunk them as part of an artificial reef program.

"We don't have any crane

support for completing this mission," Heikkinen said. "When we deploy we won't have it, so we need to be able to do this without logistical support. We're not always going to have that support, so this project teaches everyone to think outside the box."

The project gave soldiers of the dive detachment an opportunity to interact with the Wai'anae community.

"Many people didn't even know the Army had divers," Heikkinen said. "But now that they know, everyone seems glad we're here."

"In fact," he said, "we were invited to a fishing tournament that is coming up, and many of the fishermen brought us some of the

fish they caught and taught us how to cook it."

Spc. Rob Bibbie, a diver with the detachment, said the unit doesn't usually get this kind of training.

"We're working on techniques to partially demolish and recover a pier, both tasks that are common on real-world missions," he said. "Not only that, but it's great that we're helping out the community and training at the same time."

Heikkinen knows first-hand how beneficial it is to have the Army so actively involved in this project.

"The Army has saved the state of Hawaii tens of thousands of dollars by coming out and removing these piers," said Steve Thompson, Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources Oahu district manager. "All the piers that were removed were stressed and unstable; they needed to be replaced. Now, the money the Army saved can be used toward another part of the project, building a new dock." *(Courtesy of Army News Service)*

Ships Return From UNITAS Deployment

■ NORFOLK, Va. - The more than 300 sailors assigned to Little Creek, Va.-based dock-landing ship USS Portland returned to their home port Dec. 6 after a four-month deployment in support of the multinational naval exercise UNITAS.

Overcoming the challenges posed by integrating 12 surface combatants, two submarines, and several helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft from six different nations was the hallmark of UNITAS. But the cooperative spirit of the participants meant the challenges were met.

"I think a lot of the South American navies have adapted a lot of our procedures and tactics, as well as customs, and we've adopted some of theirs," said Cmdr. Larry Creevy, Portland commanding officer.

Hosted by the Brazilian Navy, naval forces from Argentina, Spain, Uruguay, Venezuela and the United States engaged in exercises designed to improve interoperability and foster understanding among the naval

forces of the participant nations.

Rear Adm. Vinson E. Smith, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command commander, directs the UNITAS task force and is in charge of all U.S. naval forces participating in the three phases of the annual exercise.

Portland, along with the embarked 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, took part in the amphibious phase, which was conducted with several South American nations during the ship's four-month deployment.

Two additional surface fleet Atlantic ships, Pascagoula, Miss.-based guided-missile cruiser USS Thomas S. Gates, and Mayport, Fla.-based guided-missile frigate USS Simpson, represented the United States.

Other Navy units included P-3C aircraft from Patrol Squadrons 92 and 61, two SH-60B helicopter detachments, a Fleet Maritime Patrol Mobile Operations Control Center, a detachment from Fleet Composite Squadron 6 and a communications assistance team.

Under the operational command of Capt. James L. Martin, Destroyer Squadron 6 commander, the U.S. task group engaged in training and operations in a wide range of war-fighting disciplines with their South American counterparts.

"The operations covered in the UNITAS Atlantic phase presented a great opportunity for participants to operate and train in a multi-ship environment," Martin said. "It's not just the surface portion, but also submarine and air exercises to keep the crews focused on warfighting skills not normally exercised in this area of the world."

More than 60 operational events were completed during UNITAS Atlantic Phase. Each event was designed by naval experts from all nations involved to resemble to real-world situations.

"This phase of UNITAS was extremely beneficial for the defense cooperation among all the participating countries," Martin said.

After 59 years of existence, UNITAS, the premier naval exercise in the region, continues to be a uniting force, bringing nations together to enhance the region defense and military interoperability. *(Courtesy of Navy News Service)*

Vandenberg Hawks gear up for showtime

By COACH MCKINNEY

30th Space Wing Command Section

Run and gun, high-octane offensive basketball. In the early '80's, the Los Angeles Lakers did it with "showtime" at the professional level. In the late '80's, the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Running Rebels did it at the college level. Here at Vandenberg the varsity men's basketball team is replicating a proven formula.

Coach Calvin Tucker may not have Ervin "Magic" Johnson running the point with James Worthy on the wing, or Stacey Augmon gunning long fast-break outlet passes to Larry Johnson, but he has a group of players who believe in his system.

"When I put a team together to play for the Hawks and represent Vandenberg, I let the guys know what my simple philosophy is right from the jump," said the long-time coach. "I stand before them in a Lakers fishnet hat, with the words back-to-back on it. That's a candid reference to "showtime" and the Lakers back-to-back championship teams. Run and gun, aggressive, up-tempo ball is what we want to play."

By the looks of the current Hawks, the players have bought in to the philosophy and are looking to showcase it this weekend in their annual basketball tournament at the base Fitness Center. The tournament showcases teams from Miramar Naval Air Station, Fort Irwin and Air Force Base teams from Nellis, Los Angeles, Travis and Edwards. One other

team expected to come ready to run is a Bay-area team known simply as a Tribe Called Sweat. The base Fitness Center has all the details on game times.

"The Tribe Called Sweat is a team of all-star type players who spend their time playing ball," Tucker said. "Our guys, and most base varsity teams have to fit practice and tournaments into their schedules. We have to fit it around our military jobs and commitments. TCS has the luxury of showing up to play having had plenty of practice ... but we got them last time and we'll see what happens this year. Last year we beat them in two overtimes."

The Hawks are a team with limited varsity basketball experience, led by a coach with an extensive background coaching varsity-level ball. The combination has worked to the tune of a 10-0 mark in the current season.

"I've coached varsity basketball at Travis and Edwards, along with what I've done here at Vandenberg," the coach said. "I enjoy coaching and have coached at several different levels to include youth football, over-30 and intramural basketball at Edwards. At Travis, I coached the varsity basketball team there and we did pretty well."

Tucker's resume of his 33-year coaching career shows he has done a little better than "pretty well."

As any good coach will do, Tucker is more interested in discussing his players, as opposed to detailing his past successes.

"We don't have a team full of all-

stars, but we do have some guys who have a desire to play well and get the job done," he said. "Our team is made up of guys who can get us some points, others who distribute for points, and yet others who can pull down some rebounds. Everyone has a role on the team and everyone is expected to fulfill that role. That is one thing I must insist on. We have to push the ball up court and run the other team into the ground. At the other end, we pack it in to a tight zone and dare our opponents to hit the three. If they start hitting it, then we adjust ... we're flexible when it's called for."

Coach Tucker showed his experience when speaking about his charges. "We've had teams come in here to play us as recently at mid and late November, but we haven't received a lot of coverage and these guys deserve the coverage," insisted the coach. "We play an up-tempo, fan-friendly type game. Hopefully we can demonstrate that this weekend."

"If we want to do well, we'll have to do that because there are some good teams coming in. Aside from TCS, the team from Edwards always comes to play. I know their coach. The Fitness Center director and I were part of that base for a good while. I think all of those factors play into the intensity of those contests," Tucker said.

Noting that it takes good players, willing to fulfill their roles, Tucker was excited to highlight his players.

"Jason Kornegay and Montae McFarland are a couple of guys that

carry a big part of the scoring load," Tucker said. "Jason averages 16.7 points per game and Montae scores 16.8 a game. Montae also chips in six rebounds per game. We've got a good assist man at the point in Malik Salim (7 per game) and Desi Bryant does a good job on the boards with 7 per game."

All is not perfect in Hawk-land however.

"One real disappointment for me is the loss of a couple players who added a lot to our team," the coach lamented. "Brian Morris is injured and that's 13 points, 2 blocks, and 2 assists per game. John Salausa stopped playing for us and he delivered 14 points, 3 blocks, and 2 assists night in and night out. That one hurts a lot!"

But help is on the way, and none too soon.

"We do get BJ (William Ziemann) back and that's a big boost," said coach Tucker. "The return of the big man is a welcome addition to our lineup."

"Look, here's the deal, if we get good spot play from Tyrone (Eddins), Keith (Byrd), DeMarco (Poole), Anthony (Rogers), Zachary (Taylor), and Ronnie (Glover), we'll continue to do well. You can't play the type of run and gun that we try to play without a full compliment of players working for each other ... period!" Tucker said.

Tucker has the experience and his players have the desire, and now all they need is a raucous, screaming crowd ... a gym full of fans yelling for a little "showtime!"

Virginia Tech faces Air Force in bowl

■ U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Virginia Tech has been selected as the Big East Conference representative for the 2002 Diamond Walnut San Francisco Bowl Dec. 31. The 18th-ranked Hokies take on Air Force at 7:30 p.m. PST on New Year's Eve in Pacific Bell Park.

Virginia Tech and Air Force will meet for the first time since Air Force defeated the Hokies, 23-7, in the 1984 Independence Bowl.

"We feel we have one of the best match-ups in the 2002-03 bowl lineup," said Gary Cavalli, executive director of the bowl. "We have two of the premier programs in the country and two of the top coaches in the nation."

Virginia Tech finished the regular season 9-4 overall and 3-4 in the Big East. Air Force ended its regular season with an 8-4 overall mark and a 4-3 record in the Mountain West Conference.

"I have all the respect in the world for Virginia Tech and the job Frank Beamer has done there," said Air Force coach Fisher DeBerry. "We're very excited about the opportunity to play such a nationally-respected program."

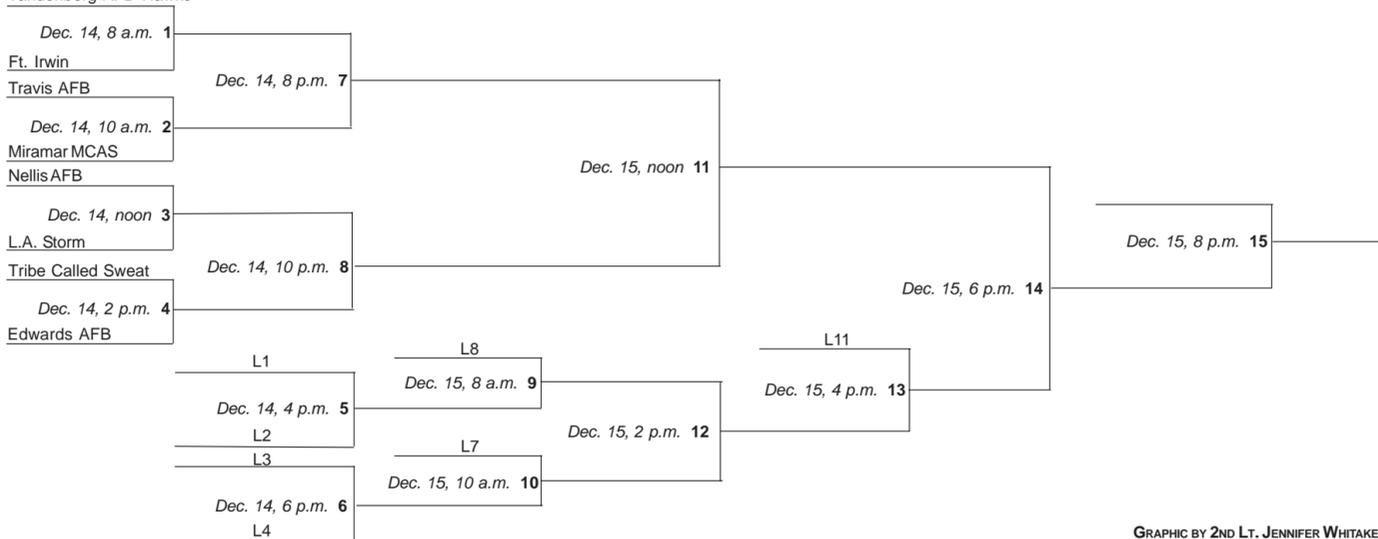
The game features two of the premier special team's units in the country. Virginia Tech and Air Force rank first and second, respectively, since 1990 in blocked kicks. The Hokies have blocked 85 while Air Force has 79.

The game also features the third and fourth longest tenured coaches in the nation. DeBerry has been at Air Force for 19 years while Beamer has been at Virginia Tech 16 years. Only Penn State's Joe Paterno (37) and Bobby Bowden (27) of Florida State have been at their school's longer.

The bowl game is the 17th in Air Force history and 12th in the DeBerry era. Air Force is 8-7-1 all-time in bowl games. DeBerry has led the Falcons to a 6-5 bowl record. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

All American Shoot-Out tournament field

Vandenberg AFB Hawks



No One Comes Close!

Want to see more sports in your



Tell us what your team's up to!
Submit stories and ideas to:

space&missiletimes@vandenberg.af.mil

Operation Kids' Christmas 2002

PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MICHELLE MIRANDA



Jorge Moreno gives Santa his Christmas wish list during Operation Kids' Christmas held here Dec. 7 at the Pacific Coast Club.



Singers from the Righetti High School Folklorica Band fill the hall with holiday songs.



Santa makes a grand entrance as the faces of children young and old light up. Later, the jolly old elf gave each child a large bag of gifts.



The Righetti High School Folklorica Band plays a festive mix of Christmas carols and traditional Hispanic songs to entertain the revellers at Operation Kids' Christmas.



Maria Limon and Airman 1st Class Juan Vicente Recendiz, 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron, enjoy the festivities. Recendiz was one of 200 escorts who brought smiles to the faces of children from the local community. An additional 200 volunteers did everything from setup and tear down to food packing to wrapping some 1,400 toys.



Dancers from the Righetti High School Folklorica Band and Dancers perform for the children at Operation Kids' Christmas. Their costumes and spirited dances created a festive atmosphere.



Kassandra Zarate hugs Santa and 2nd Lt. Herman Guzman, 2nd Space Launch Squadron, her escort for the day.



Santa and Mrs. Claus share Christmas spirit with Jovani Santana of the Santa Ynez Valley. Santana is one of 203 children from the local area who participated in Operation Kids' Christmas. He received toys, gift certificates, a food basket, and plenty of hugs, smiles, and Christmas joy while at Vandenberg Dec. 7.

SPACE & MISSILE

FEATURES

Destinations Central Coast @ the Christmas shops

By 2ND LT. JENNIFER WHITAKER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

‘Tis the season to go shopping. What could be better than an after-Thanksgiving holiday shopping destination? How about a swim in shark-infested waters with sardines strapped to your legs?

Just a short drive from Vandenberg, novice shoppers and shopaholics alike can surrender their paychecks in stores sure to suit their holiday needs.

For the mall shopper, a quick hour-long drive south to Santa Barbara may be just the thing. At the Paseo Nuevo mall on State St., you'll find Macy's, Nordstrom, The Gap, and all your other favorite mall stores, situated around a charming courtyard with a small-town atmosphere. In the spirit of the season, musical ensembles in the courtyard play holiday favorites and good old-fashioned Christmas carols.

My husband, Jonathan, and I spent a Sunday afternoon in Santa Barbara. He hates shopping, so fortunately, we crossed off everyone on our shopping list in just a few hours.

If you don't find everything you're looking for in Santa Barbara or you have only a few hours to devote to Christmas shopping, you can find a similar selection of mall stores at the Town Center Mall in Santa Maria. The mall is located on Broadway between Miller and Main streets, a short 25-minute drive from the base.

A trip to the Crossroads shopping center in Santa Maria offers the Home Depot, Best Buy, Linens N' Things, and TJ Maxx, as well as PetsMart for the pet who's been nothing but nice. It's easy

to convince a man with a shopping aversion to go to the Crossroads. Jonathan can spend hours drooling over the power tools at the Home Depot and playing video games at Best Buy while I pore over Egyptian cotton sheets at Linens N' Things.

For the ultimate theme park feel while you shop, you'll need to make the 45-minute drive east to the Danish capital of America, Solvang. Just 10 minutes from Buellton, authentic Danish costumes,



A colorful assortment of chocolates and pastries entices shoppers at Mortensen's Danish Bakery in Solvang.

well-manicured gardens, and old-fashioned Danish architecture invite shoppers into a world long past.

The quaint little town offers specialty shops, fudge, bakeries, chocolates, restaurants, more fudge and chocolates, gifts, gourmet foods, and a few trendy brand-name shops. There's even a shop devoted to year-round Christmas décor. And did I mention they have great chocolates?

Whether shopping is your hobby or, like Jonathan, you'd rather stick a hot poker in your eye than waste a day shopping, the Central Coast has something to meet your Christmastime needs.

So dig out the checkbook, warm up the credit cards, and get ready to spend, spend, spend. After all, Christmas is only once a year, right?



A shopper takes a break to enjoy the beautiful sidewalk gardens in the Danish capital of America, Solvang.



Cuckoo clocks fill the walls at Pebble People, one of the many specialty shops in Solvang.

By 2ND LT. HEATHER NEULEIB
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

It's Christmas time again and I, like so many others, have waited until the last two weeks to do my holiday shopping. Having been at Vandenberg for less than a month, I was unsure of where the best shopping would be.

After talking it over with a few friends, I decided on San Luis Obispo. It was disappointing to find that I had to travel so far to find some of my favorite

brand name stores, but once we arrived I found it was well worth the drive.

It was a gorgeous day on the coast. Along the way the terrain was absolutely beautiful with the vineyards and mountains sprinkled with livestock and other wildlife. Also, unlike traveling to Santa Barbara, there are many towns and cities along the highway, which made the drive seem relatively short. Finally, I arrived in San Luis Obispo or SLO as the locals call it.

The Space & Missile Times wants YOUR Destinations Central Coast

Send in a 400 - 600 word rough draft about your adventure on the Central Coast!
Send submissions to: space&missiletimes@vandenberg.af.mil

Community Calendar

13 FRI Christmas donations

The Central Coast Rescue Mission is taking donations of 20-gallon tubs filled with various necessity items for men, women, and children the mission serves. Call (805) 614-0220.

Moms to new moms program - mentorship program offers support to new moms. Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338 for more information.

Allan Hancock College spring credit classes - Fast Track and semester-length credit courses are available at the AHC Vandenberg AFB Center. Classes begin the week of Jan. 21. For tuition assistance information, call 605-5904. For information on spring registration, call 734-3500, Ext. 3248.

13 FRI Henry H. Arnold Educational Grant - Applications are available at the Family Support Center and online at www.afas.org. Call 605-8551.

Military care packages - The Family Support Center staff is

13 FRI

accepting donations to support deployed troops. Call 605-8553.

Food Pantry - The Family Support Center provides emergency food assistance and distributes food via the USDA Food Program. Call 606-2960.

Free car seats - available for single-income families E-4 and below. Call 606-5338.

One-on-one marriage enrichment counseling - at the Family Support Center. Call 606-9958.

Santa Barbara trolley tours - 90 minute tours are at 10 and 11:30 a.m., 1, 2:30 and 4 p.m. Call (805) 965-0353.

Twilight beach horseback rides - at Pacific Dunes Ranch in Oceano. Beginners are welcome. Call (805) 489-8100.

Relaxation Room - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at the Health and Wellness Center. Call 606-2221.

Give parents a break 6 to 10 p.m. today. Call 605-8551

Bundles for Babies - 2 to 4 p.m. today at the

13 FRI

Family Support Center. Learn parenting skills, meet other expectant parents, and receive a free gift. Class is open to all ranks. Advanced registration is required. Call 605-8551.

All-American Shoot-out - 8 p.m. today through Sunday at the Fitness Center.

Allan Hancock College winter vocal recitals - 8 p.m. today at the Valley of the Flowers United Church of Christ in Vandenberg Village. Tickets are \$5. Call (805) 922-6966.

Allan Hancock Youth Ballet - presents *The Nutcracker*, 7 p.m. today, 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday at Ethel Pope Auditorium in Santa Maria. Tickets are \$6 to \$12. For tickets, call (805) 922-8313.

Pictures with Santa - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Commissary.

Breakfast with Santa - 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the Youth Center. The free breakfast includes arts and crafts, bingo, a bounce castle and photo

14 SAT

15 SUN

with Santa. Make reservations at 606-2152.

Free Lompoc Pops holiday concert - 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday in Chapel 1. Call 606-5773 for more information.

Lompoc Pops holiday concert - 4 p.m. Sunday at Trinity Church of the Nazarene, 500 E. North Ave., Lompoc.

Full exchange student scholarships - High School students study in Germany for '03-'04 academic year. Monday is the last day to apply. Call (800) 727-4540, Ext. 543.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at the Health and Wellness Center. For more information call the HAWC at 606-2221.

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

Jiu-Jitsu self-defense classes - 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the

17 TUE

Unified Center for Martial Arts in Santa Maria. Call (805) 934-2158.

Thrift Shop hours - 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays.

Pre-separation Briefing - 8 a.m. Tuesdays in the family support center. Required 90 days prior to leaving the service. Call 606-0801.

Women, Infants, and Children - A satellite office is at the Family Support Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday for Vandenberg personnel who meet program requirements. Call Teresa Orozco at 605-8557 or the Lompoc WIC office at 737-6470 for an appointment.

Thrift Savings Plan - 11 a.m. to noon Thursday at the Family Support Center. Call Jimmy Camacho at 606-4491 or visit www.tsp.gov.

Beef give-away - Guess the weight of a beef round for a chance to win a prime rib, all day Thursday at the

19 THU

Commissary.

Allan Hancock College Jazz Ensemble concert - 7 p.m. Thursday at the Santa Maria Town Center. The concert is free.

Retirement Barbecue - Noon Dec. 20 in building 10721. This retirement barbecue honors Barbara Garbisio for 32 years of Federal service. Tickets are \$6 and must be purchased by Dec. 15. Call Lana Davenport at 606-2330 for tickets and information.

Central Coast Rescue Mission Christmas celebration - 3 to 6 p.m. Dec. 24 at the Elwin Mussell Center in Santa Maria. All are welcome. Call (805) 614-0220.

19 THU

Intramural Basketball - Letter of intent to play is due at the Fitness Center by Jan. 6. The coaches meeting is at 9 a.m. Jan. 7 at the Services Center. Tentative start date is Jan. 13. A point of contact is needed as soon as possible. Call Tech. Sgt. Robert Schultz at 606-5595.

19 THU

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JAN 6 MON

JAN 6 MON Retirement Barbecue - Noon Dec. 20 in building 10721. This retirement barbecue honors Barbara Garbisio for 32 years of Federal service. Tickets are \$6 and must be purchased by Dec. 15. Call Lana Davenport at 606-2330 for tickets and information.

Chapel Events

For other denomination worship services and events, call the chapel at 606-5773.

- **Gospel Christmas Concert** - 7 p.m. Sunday in Chapel 2. Call Chaplain (1st Lt.) Phillip Griffin at 606-5773.
 - **Lompoc Pops Holiday Concert** - 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 15 in Chapel 1. The concert is free.
 - **G.I. Java** - 5 to 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday for dorm residents. Volunteers and cookies are needed. Call 606-5773 for information.
- Catholic Notes:**
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word** during Sunday Masses.

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sunday
8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship, Chapel 2
10 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 1
11:30 a.m. Traditional Protestant, Chapel 1
11:30 a.m. Gospel, Chapel 2

Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2

Saturday
5 p.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2

- **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** 12:30 p.m. Sunday in the religious education administration building. Call 734-1437.
- **Confirmation** - 12:30 p.m. Sundays

in Bldg. 16130. Call 734-0474.

• **Catholic Women of the Chapel** - meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Chapel 1 Annex. Call 606-5773.

Protestant Notes:

- **PWOC Beginner Quilting Class** - 10 a.m. Thursdays in the Chapel I Annex. Call 734-2630.
- **Chapel Community Night** - 5:30 p.m. Sundays at the religious education complex. Call 606-5773.
- **Men's weekly Bible study** - 6 p.m. Wednesdays in the Breakers Dining Facility. Call 606-5773.
- **Women's Weekly Bible Study** - 9:30 a.m. Fridays at the religious education complex. Childcare provided. Call 734-0683.

At the Movies

Today Ghost Ship

In a remote region of the Bering Sea, a boat salvage crew discovers the eerie remains of a grand passenger liner thought lost for more than 40 years. Rated R.

Saturday 3:00 p.m. Tuck Everlasting

The story of a teenage girl who longs for a life outside the control of her mother. When lost in the woods near her home, she must

decide whether to return to her life or stay with the strange boy she met by a spring. Rated PG

Sunday Formula 51

An American master chemist heads to England to set up his last big deal, the introduction of a new designer drug to the European underworld. Rated R.

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