

Base Briefs

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. today 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.

LAST PAPER FOR 2002

Today 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 Wednesday the week prior to desired publication. The SMT staff cannot guarantee publication of inputs submitted late. Newspaper coverage is planned at least two weeks out so coordinate desired coverage early.

CIVIL ENGINEER AWARDS

Congratulations to the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron for winning the following Headquarters Air Force Space Command 2002 Civil Engineer awards for outstanding commitment, dedication, pride and professionalism. Patrick Maloy, 30th CES Environmental Flight, won the Gen. Thomas D. White Pollution Prevention Award For Excellence. Col. Douglas Tucker, 30th CES commander, won the Society of American Military Engineers Newman Medal. The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron won the Gen. Thomas D. White Cultural Resources Management Award.

TRANSPORTATION AWARDS

Congratulations to the 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron for winning the following Headquarters Air Force Space Command 2001 Transportation awards. Toshiaki Yamamoto is the 2001 Transportation Civilian Employee of the Year. The 30th LRS Vehicle Operations Flight was named Vehicle Operations Unit of the Year. The 30th LRS Traffic Management Office is the 2001 TMO of the Year. The 30th LRS won the 2001 National Defense Transportation Association award.

TAX VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tax volunteers for all units are requested for the upcoming tax season. The Internal Revenue Service and the state of California provide training Jan. 6 - 17. Call Ann Fox, 30th Space Wing Judge Advocate's office, at 605-3668 to volunteer.

See BRIEFS Page A4



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Above: The Girl Scouts and children from Vandenberg AFB sing during the annual base Christmas tree lighting ceremony here Dec. 6. Inset: Col. Wayne Louis, 30th Space Wing vice commander; Carmen Agramonte, 7; and Santa, flip the switch to light the base Christmas tree.

PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MICHELLE MIRANDA

30th SW commander earns first star

■ Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, has been nominated to receive his first star.

The commander was among several officers nominated to the rank of brigadier general Dec. 12 by President George W. Bush. The nomination must be approved by the United States Senate.

"I want to thank you all for the countless well wishes and offers of congratulations on my nomination for promotion to brigadier general," Worley said.



though, I want to recognize those who were key in making this happen. I'm talking about my wife and children who gave me their steadfast support and love. I'm talking about all the bosses I've had who have set the example, mentored me and recognized me. I'm

talking about all the talented and motivated coworkers who let me be part of their team in achieving our mission. And I'm talking about the fantastic people who I have had the honor and privilege to command. People who have been loyal, committed and focused on mission success. I especially want to thank the men and women of the 30th Space Wing. You were especially key in making this happen—it has been an honor to be your commander...the highlight of my career!"

ECAMP visits Vandenberg

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

■ The results of Vandenberg's Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program external audit are in, and the base earned an "exemplary" mark, the first in Air Force Space Command in three years.

The ECAMP audit took place here Dec. 2-10 to assess Vandenberg's environmental compliance posture, identify and track solutions to environmental problems, and to prepare the base

for regulatory inspections. The assessment provides Vandenberg with a good idea of how its environmental programs are faring, said Maj. Peter Dettelis, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight commander.

For nine days, a team of environmental experts from Headquarters Air Force Space Command took a look at how Vandenberg handles air emissions, cultural and natural resources,

See ECAMP Page A4

Complications delay launches

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

■ Vandenberg's space launch attempts this week were foiled due to wild weather and equipment faults.

The launch of a Titan II booster from Space Launch Complex-4 West here was delayed 24-hours Sunday due to bad weather and a concern with the booster payload separation ordnance connector. The launch was rescheduled for Monday, then Tuesday, then Wednesday, but surface level winds prevented liftoff Monday and Tuesday, and a vehicle problem Wednesday

forced postponement of the launch until after the new year.

The scheduled launch of NASA's ICESat and CHIPSat spacecraft aboard a Boeing Delta II Rocket Dec. 19 from Space Launch Complex-2 was postponed due to a review of test data that indicated a problem with the ordnance box. The components within the box send signal instructions to launch devices to unlatch and separate from the payload fairing. The removal, replacement and testing of the components will take approximately two weeks. The launch is rescheduled for early January.

Team V officers earn promotions

■ Congratulations to the following members of Team Vandenberg selected for promotion this month.

- Major**
Larry Opperman, 392nd Training Squadron
James Wakefield, 534th Training Squadron
Jerry Norwood, 30th Space Wing
Elvert Gardner, 14th Air Force
Michael Erdmann, 2nd Space Launch Squadron
Nancy Baldock, 30th Range Squadron
Carlos Dalmau, 2nd Space Launch Squadron
Mark Edens, 30th Operations Support Squadron
Phillip Franklin, 30th RANS
Keith Keana, 2nd SLS
Milo Quesinberry Jr., 30th Mission Support Squadron
Francisco Toledo, 30th Space

- Communication Squadron
Daniel Wetmore, 2nd SLS
Luciano Amutan, 614th Space Operations Squadron
Timothy Henderson, 392nd TRS
Duane Bird, 614th SOPS
Kevin Brooks, 14th AF
Thomas Cluff, 14th AF
Jerry Huffman, 614th SOPS
Robert Jones, 614th SOPS
Alonzo Ketchum, 614th SOPS
Brian Livergood, 14th AF
Stacie Neff, 14th AF
Brian Zane, 14th AF
William Hampshire III, 576th Flight Test Squadron
Leutenant Colonel
John Hardy Jr., 30th Medical Group
Colonel
Robert Miller, 30th Medical Operations Squadron



AIR FORCE FILE PHOTO

Local news crews survey the destruction after the 1977 Honda Canyon fire that took four lives and injured 64.

Department commemorates 1977 landmark wildland fire

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

■ Today, team Vandenberg honors the heroes who fought the worst fire in Vandenberg's history.

A memorial ceremony starts at 1 p.m. at Fire Station No. 2 marking the 25th anniversary of the Honda Canyon fire, which blazed across the base Dec. 20, 1977. The fire scorched 10,000 acres and killed four people, including the base commander.

The fire department holds a memorial of the event every year, however, "this year will be very special in that all of the spouses of the deceased will be in attendance," said Phillip Bennie, assistant fire chief for the

Vandenberg Fire Department. In addition to the base commander Col. Joseph Turner, fire chief Billy Bell, perished in the blaze along with assistant fire chief Eugene Cooper and dozer operator Clarence McCauley.

The tragic events of that day must never be forgotten, Bennie said.

Those events led to vast improvements in the base fire-fighting program.

In 1977, the department was not trained or prepared to handle the blaze. As a result many changes have been made in the way the department fights fires, he said.

One change was the creation of the

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In this issue of the



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



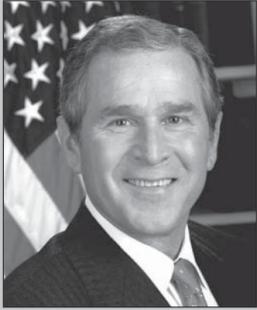
Vandenberg cops keep Camp Oasis safe during Operation Enduring Freedom in Southwest Asia
See Page A3.



Destinations Central Coast visits Lil' Orphan Hammies and Ostrich Land in Solvang.
See Page B1.

Weekend forecast
Mostly cloudy with chance of rain showers Saturday and Sunday.
Low/High
40/60
For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit
www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather

Bush sends holiday wishes



George W. Bush
Commander-in-chief

By GEORGE W. BUSH
President, United States of America

To the Men and Women of the Armed Forces, I send holiday greetings and salute our men and women who wear the uniform of our Armed Forces, serving our country with skill, honor, and dedication.

All of you, our brave men and women who devote your lives to our Armed Forces, help protect the ideals that make our nation strong. You deserve every American's gratitude and

full support.

America's military will continue to receive the best training, equipment, and resources.

I am honored to be your commander-in-chief, and I join all Americans in expressing our gratitude for your sacrifice and service to our nation in this global war against terrorism.

May God bless you and keep your families in his care, and may God continue to bless America.

Wing commander thanks Team Vandenberg for selfless service

By COL. ROBERT M. WORLEY II
Commander, 30th Space Wing

This certainly was a spectacular year for Team Vandenberg! The wing achieved total mission success in our mission of providing combat capabilities through launch, range, and expeditionary operations.

Each of you, whether enlisted, officer, civilian or contractor, played a key role in the remarkable mission success we've achieved.

My holiday message to you this year is one of thanks and encouragement. As your wing commander, I thank you for diligently applying your talents and expertise to do our job better with absolute excellence.

I thank you for the sacrifices you've made, whether it be long work hours, time away from family and friends, or having to work under difficult conditions. You have not only persevered, you have excelled.

This fact is clearly recognized

You have not only persevered, you have excelled.

COL. ROBERT M. WORLEY II,
30TH SPACE WING COMMANDER

by our leadership by our winning the Air Force Space Command Installation Excellence Award. This award recognizes that, no matter what the challenge, whether it be hosting Guardian Challenge 2002 (winning the Schriever trophy—again), fighting an 8,000-acre wildland fire, putting on an awesome air and space show, or improving quality of life for our people, no challenge is too great for the talented men and women of the 30th Space Wing. You should all be proud of what you've accomplished in 2002.

As we look to 2003, many significant challenges lie ahead.

It will take the combined talent and diligent efforts of all Team V to meet these challenges to continue to achieve mission success. I encourage each of you to strive to make 2003 even better than 2002.

During this blessed season of peace, I would also like to encourage each of you to take pause to consider those things that are truly important in life.

For me, this includes my faith, my family, and the freedom that all of us sacrifice to defend.

Take time to relax and enjoy some time off with friends or family. I also ask you to remember our Team V members who are deployed over the holidays and their families. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they endure the sacrifice of separation that often comes with military service.

Lori and I, along with our children, wish each and every one of you a joyful, peaceful, and meaningful holiday season!

AFSPC commander honors airmen's sacrifice

By GEN. LANCE LORD
Commander, Air Force Space Command

As another joyous season comes upon us, families and friends will gather to visit, celebrate their faith and welcome the new year.

Whether you are blessed to be with loved ones this year, or if duty calls you to serve, you can be proud that the work we do every day is one of the main reasons Americans can celebrate.

Our way of life and the freedoms we enjoy are rare in history and the envy of most nations.

This holiday season, just as they do throughout the year, our forces will remain on duty, making sacrifices to bring peace, prosperity and freedom to people around the world. There's no doubt these sacrifices are worth the effort.

I am honored to serve with the men and women of Air Force Space Command.

Your selfless dedication and service, along with all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Department of Defense civilian employees, make a real difference in the lives of people everywhere. I count each of you among my richest blessings.

Wherever circumstances may find you this holiday season, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Beccy and I wish you, our entire Air Force Space Command family, a safe and festive holiday season and all the best in 2003!



Call 606-7850

or

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

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.



Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander

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.

30th Space Wing Mission
To provide combat capabilities through launch, range and expeditionary operations.

Had too much to drink?

Speedy towing service in Lompoc will give you a free, no-questions-asked ride from anywhere in Lompoc to Vandenberg AFB. They'll even tow your car for you.

Call 735-8045 and don't drink and drive.

DON'T DRINK & DRIVE!

If you're drinking alcohol, you need a ride home. Don't hesitate. For a free, no-questions-asked ride home, Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 698-8823 or 698-8822

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES

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

Team Vandenberg shares favorite parts of the holiday season ...

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"I like being able to spend time with family - getting everyone together at Christmas time," said Master Sgt. Cary Rosson, 30th Space Wing Judge Advocate's office.



"I love watching people to see that special look on their faces," said Gloria Eversley, Army and Air Force Exchange Service.



"Everyone takes the time to remember the birth of our Savior," said Capt. Todd Moore, 534th Training Squadron.



"Everyone is so friendly," said Staff Sgt. Michelle Harris, 614th Operations Squadron.



"I like going to a Christmas Eve worship service to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ," said 2nd Lt. Jonathan Whitaker, 392nd Training Squadron.



"I like seeing the kids happy and how people's attitudes change. They seem happier," said Tiffany White, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, with son Jalen.

Air Force leaders send holiday thanks

By GEN. JOHN JUMPER AND DR. JAMES ROCHE

Air Force chief of staff and secretary of the Air Force

In this season of thanksgiving and reverent celebration, we send our warmest wishes to our entire Air Force team of active, Guard, Reserve, civilian, and retired airmen, and to your loved ones and families.

As defenders of America, we salute you for your honor, courage, and commitment - values worthy of our nation's deepest gratitude and profound respect.

For each of you who voluntarily wear the uniform of our nation, this holiday season offers Gen. Jumper and me an opportunity to simply say - thank you.

To those separated from loved ones during this special time of year - whether the result of a deployment or mobilization - we send our heartfelt appreciation for your sacrifice and willingness to bear the burdens of freedom.

Your devoted service underscores all that is great about America. And in an era of grave new challenges to the values of liberty and equality, you represent the strength of this diverse land and symbolize all that is good

about your generation.

Wherever you are stationed or deployed, we urge you to reflect on the abundant blessings and privileges we enjoy as Americans. Indeed, we are richly blessed.

But with such riches come responsibility; the responsibility to preserve and defend freedom-loving people and to ready ourselves for the future battles we must fight for our nation.

In this season of giving and thanks, take a few moments to reflect on the value your gift of service brings to every man, woman, and child in America and around the globe.

Your gift is freedom, and all who live under its protective wings benefit from this great offering of peace and hope.

Whether you live here in the United States, or are stationed in a foreign land, the shelter and security of the Stars and Stripes goes with you.

To all members of the world's greatest Air Force, we offer our most sincere thanks for all that you do for America.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and hope for peace in the New Year. Happy holidays!

Honda Canyon was a controlled burn plan.

The University of California at Santa Barbara studied the area and developed a five-year controlled burn schedule.

"You can point to any spot on a Vandenberg map and we can tell you when it was last burned, the amount of fuel there now, and when it should be burned next," Bennie said.

The burns are done in a mosaic pattern to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildland fires. If a fire breaks out in any location, firefighters know exactly how much fuel is in the area.

One final change after the 1977 fire was that better mutual aid agreements with local fire departments were created. County and state fire departments come to the base's aid in large fires and vice versa.

It's a far cry from the days when the base used untrained "augmentees" to help with fires, the assistant chief said.

Former firefighter remembers ... Honda Canyon

By RON FINK

Retired Vandenberg deputy fire chief

I had the opportunity to visit superintendent Mark Smith and the Vandenberg Hot Shots crew recently. The visit brought back memories of the Honda Canyon fire in 1977.

I was a Vandenberg firefighter during that tragic wildfire more than 25 years ago, which claimed the lives of four men, including the fire chief, assistant fire chief, a dozer operator and base commander.

In 1977, planning, staffing, training and skills maintenance for fighting fires was typically focused on aircraft, conventional fuels and structure fire issues. Wildland fire fighting was addressed as a side issue and at most bases consisted only of minor fires in dry grass.

Additionally, no firm or consistent fire fighting strategy had been developed over the years to cope with a fire of the magnitude of the Honda Canyon fire.

Mutual aid was available, however, there was no common radio frequency between the base and the outside agencies. Coordination of fire fighters, mutual aid units and bulldozers was nearly impossible.

VAFB Fire Chief Billy Bell and his combined military and civil service staff recognized a brush fire training need, but were unable to obtain needed resources to mount an effective program.

A long standing base disaster plan consisted of mobilizing hundreds of untrained and poorly equipped military members to surround a fire and beat it into submission using hand tools and fire flappers.

Neither civil service nor military fire managers had any formal wildland fire, command and control or fire behavior training other than observing televised southern California fires, reading commercial publications or informal "bull sessions" to prepare them for this fire.

Then the worst fire in the history of Vandenberg AFB occurred Dec. 20, 1977.

The morning of the fire, the weather was extremely unsettled. A high-pressure system created a vacuum-like condition which drew warm, dry air from

the desert region across Vandenberg at speeds reaching 50 mph at sea level and hurricane like velocities of 100 mph and greater on Tranquillon Peak.

These conditions sucked the remaining moisture out of the brush and toppled trees and power poles all over the base. The night preceding the fire, crews continually responded to calls of wires arching and automatic fire alarms caused by the wind.

At about 7:20 a.m., a power pole and transformer were blown into a dry brushy draw on south Vandenberg near Honda Ridge Road.

Workers at a communications site reported a small brush fire down in a canyon.

The fire alarm center dispatched the first of several engines to the scene. The 1950s model fire engine and a tanker labored up the steep hill from Fire Station No. 6 several miles away.

Although the engine captain was still reporting only a two- to three-acre fire, he was also reporting that he couldn't get a line around it and the wind was blowing fiercely. Other fire alarms were still occurring on North Vandenberg, which required fire department resources.

Chief Bell recognized the shortfall of resources due to multiple calls and directed the alarm center to request a full brush response. They asked for three brush trucks and a battalion chief from the county and included a special request for their Hot Shots crew.

The county Hot Shots, a highly trained ground fire combat group consisting of 15 people, lived in the immediate area and the county was able to recall most of them quickly.

Chief Bell and I reached the fire location about 8:15 a.m. and he handed me a portable radio.

"Keep me informed Ron. Tell me what the fire is doing while I go meet with the commander," he said in his typically mellow tone.

It was the last time I would see Billy Bell alive.

As I climbed out on the ridge across the canyon overlooking the fire, I was blown about by the wind and blasted by sand, twigs and small rocks. I finally

worked my way to a large fence post and positioned myself so the wind pasted me to the post.

I reported that the fire had not grown significantly and that when it reached the bottom of the draw it was going to blow out of Honda Canyon. This prophecy became reality sooner than any of us expected.

At about 9:15 a.m. the fire leapt out of the canyon like a shotgun at 60 to 75 mph. Belching flame and black smoke, it flew at hurricane force down toward the Pacific Ocean 2.5 miles away. One instant I was communicating with Chief Bell, in another he was no longer responding to radio calls.

As I made my way off the ridge, I saw 30 to 40 deer pushed off of a cliff by the fire onto Honda Ridge Road! This was a very graphic illustration of the situation we were in — backed off of a cliff by a devil fire.

In less than 10 minutes, the fire grew from three to five acres into a monster encompassing hundreds and eventually thousands of acres.

The radio was alive with reports that missile launch complexes were being directly threatened, fire fighters were being injured and positions were being abandoned as crews fled to safety.

Eventually hundreds of fire fighters, scores of fire trucks from southern California and a battalion of Navy Seabees responded to help contain the fire. The wind eventually subsided and a heavy rain early the next morning finally put the fire out. In the end, four were dead and 65 injured from a fire that lasted more than 24 hours.

We were all deeply shocked by the gravity of the situation and were determined to make sure that it didn't happen again.

A task force was formed and it recommended better training and the creation of a base Hot Shots crew.

During the last 25 years, the Vandenberg AFB Hot Shots distinctive Air Force blue crew trucks have been welcomed at large fires throughout southern California. This is a class act and taxpayers should feel confident their money is being well spent and that the lives of four men were not forgotten.

FIRE:

From Page A1

Vandenberg Hot Shots. The Hot Shots are a team of firefighters who specialize in fighting wildland fires. At the time of the Honda Canyon fire, the crew was given little to no training in wildland firefighting. Most of the training at the time focused on aircraft, conventional fuels and structural fire issues.

In 1977, the department was using antiquated fire trucks, some from the 1950's. Today, the fire department has state-of-the-art, high-tech equipment with which to fight fires.

"Take the sudden fire this past summer, for example," Bennie said. "We controlled the fire; the fire didn't control us — because we have the best training and the best equipment."

Another development that came of

Vandenberg security forces patrol OEF Camp Oasis

By SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN HILL

384th Air Expeditionary Wing PA

Members of Vandenberg's 30th Security Forces Squadron are working to guard and protect Air Force and Marine Corps interests at the 384th Air Expeditionary Wing's classified location in Southwest Asia.

The tent city here, called Camp Oasis, is home to a war-fighting team made up of Air Force Reserve, Guard, and active-duty individuals, as well as civilians from more than 70 Air Force installations around the world — serving alongside members of the U.S. Marine Corps to provide air-refueling support for all operations in the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility.

Security forces members here conduct vehicle searches, give escort to third country nationals, provide camp and flight line security and work force protection issues.

60 cops and three military working dogs from Vandenberg make up four 13-man squads, three K-9 teams and one full-time TCN escort here.

Senior Airman Elizabeth Roberts is the Tactical Automated Security System administrator for the 384th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

"TASS is the first line of defense around the base," she said. "This base is kind of new. We're setting up the program, out there moving dirt and setting up sensors."

Those sensors use infrared beams to detect movement and body heat.

"The beams are set up so that if someone passes through them, they go off," she added.

Cops here work a three-days-on, one-day-off cycle. Finding ways to pass the time when not at work is a bit of a challenge, but Roberts has found watching movies and playing video games at the recreation center here, called the K-Span, fills her off-duty hours.

"It kills the time when I'm not working," Roberts also enjoys the ability to communicate with her family in Atlanta.

"I talk to them all the time," she said. "They were worried about me at first, but not anymore."

This month makes three years Roberts has been stationed at Vandenberg, and she says she looks forward to returning.

"I like the people. I have some good friends at the (30th Security Forces) squadron." She has some friends at the 30th Space Wing as well, who recently sent her a care package.

"It was very nice and very much appreciated," she said. "I got it my second week here." Included in the package were cookies and candy, stationary, and hygiene items, Roberts said.

While Roberts works to build up the TASS program during the day, Senior Airman Christopher Newman is trying to get some rest in his tent. He works the mid-shift,

patrolling and protecting Camp Oasis while it sleeps.

Newman, an M-60 machine gunner, loads his gear into the back of a humvee each night and rides around patrolling his sector. He is part of a four-man fire team.

"We patrol sectors and do an over-watch on the main gate in case someone tries to run it," Newman said.

The firepower these teams provide would be effective, if need be, at stopping a potential threat, but Newman is thankful if nothing happens and it's a quiet night.

Patrolling here is a little different from patrolling the streets of Vandenberg, but it's also especially unique in that there's no Status of Forces Agreement between the host country and the United States.

"It makes the job more difficult because there's more restrictions on what we can do," he added. "It's not as clear-cut."

Problems with the job aside, Newman fills his free hours with visits to the gym and the movie theaters here.

"I work out a lot here: weights a little bit, but I do cardio a lot," he said. "I also read lots of books from the library. I'm on my ninth book in three weeks!"

Newman is married and when asked what he'll miss while being over here for the holidays, his answer was immediate: he misses his wife.

He also misses having a



Team Vandenberg Warriors Staff Sgt. Jen Vasquez and Duuk 384th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN HILL

bathroom nearby his tent — something folks back home may take for granted.

"I miss having a bathroom less than a quarter of a mile down the road from my bed," said Newman, who sleeps in the row of tents furthest from the latrines. "You get

used to living conditions where ever you go though."

Newman's been serving as a security forces troop for about 2.5 years and was deployed to Kuwait in 2001. He adds the conditions here are better, but that the job is pretty much the same: patrolling for

bad guys.

Vandenberg's deployed cops are doing many things throughout the day (and night) to keep the rest of our deployed folks safe and secure. Here, and at home, they train and wait for their skills to be called into action.

Comptroller warns of Government Travel Card misuse

By 2ND LT. JOANNE FINAN
30th Comptroller Squadron

■ It's Christmas. Staff Sgt. Happy Holidays is short on cash and really wants to get Johnny a new Game Boy and Susie a new DVD player. He has his Government Travel Card in his wallet. He pulls it out and uses it. He plans to pay it off in January. He doesn't think anyone will ever know or that any harm is being done. He's made the wrong choice.

The Government Travel Card is only authorized for use to aid with travel costs while on official government orders.

The only authorized purchases are things that could be claimed on a travel voucher such as travel, lodging, meals, and rental cars. The local finance office can help when people are not sure if purchases are authorized.

The GTC should be viewed the same way a security forces troop uses a patrol car...for official business only.

This year, according to Staff Sgt. Keith Egelston, 30th Space Wing Judge Advocate's office, 7 percent of all non-judicial punishment on Vandenberg was the result of improper use of the GTC.

To reduce or eliminate travel card problems, members should:

- ◆ Pay the balance on time
- ◆ File their travel vouchers within five days of returning from temporary duty
- ◆ Use the split disbursement option

A split disbursement allows the member to tell the local finance office how much of their settlement they want to be applied to their travel card account. Finance is then authorized to send the designated amount directly to Bank of America. The remainder of the settlement is then paid to the member's account. If a balance is still owed

on the card after the split disbursement is made, it's the member's responsibility to pay that balance.

Commanders are briefed every month on the status of their unit's travel cards. They know who is using a card and they know what each card is being used for.

Everyone is responsible to ensure they're using their Government Travel Card appropriately.

Correction: The finance customer service desk is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

VANDENBERG HAWKS



No
one
comes close!

Commander calls troops together

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

■ Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, held his final commander's call of the year Dec. 12 for the 30th Space Wing.

First on the agenda was the announcement of promotions; Col. Worley's selection for brigadier general; selection to chief master sergeant for Michael Tierney, 30th Space Wing, and Joseph Buskirk, 30th Medical Group. Several officers earned seats at senior and intermediate service schools.

Worley announced the Anthrax Vaccine Implementation Program has resumed. Worley said stock levels of the Anthrax vaccine need to be built up. Until then, only Priority I-IV personnel will receive the vaccine.

Priority I personnel are people in special mission units, vaccine manufacturing, and Department of Defense research personnel. Priority II personnel are those deploying to a high threat area, primarily southwest Asia. Priority III personnel are early deployers, and for Priority IV personnel, the high threat areas expand to include Korea.

"Your health and safety are our number one concerns. The anthrax vaccine is safe and effective and offers a layer of protection in addition to antibiotics and other measures to protect you," Worley said.

The next order of business was to highlight the good things

happening at Vandenberg. The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron has been hard at work on improvement projects around the base. Cocheo Park got new restrooms and landscaping. Worley said Team V will continue to see improvements on the park. "We're going to continue to improve the park as we get funding to create a nice area for the community," Worley said.

CE is also putting lights in the basketball courts in the housing area. The Services Center and base track are getting new landscaping. A new pathway connecting the dorms to the Base Exchange is almost complete, and plans for a new First Term Airmen Center are in the works.

Civil Engineers have also been hard at work improving the Chapel entry, landscaping, and doing road repairs on Utah and Wyoming Avenues.

Since the last commander's call, Vandenberg had several big events, the commander said.

There have been five successful launches, including two Missile Defense Agency launches. The 30th Space Wing reorganized into a combat wing structure in October, and the beginning of Air Expeditionary Force 7 deployments took place in November. The finance office had a successful fiscal year closeout in September, several general officers visited Vandenberg for the Air Force Operations Conference in October, and the Vandenberg Air & Space

Show treated Team V and the local community to two days of flying, education, and fun in November. Operation Kids' Christmas and the Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program audit took place in December.

Worley lauded the success of two recent missile tests, dubbed Blue Velvet, as "a tremendous Team Vandenberg effort." Blue Velvet's mission was to launch two foreign-made Scud missiles in support of MDA and a foreign customer to collect data and flight characteristics.

The final program discussed was total force development. Total force development is an initiative of Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, designed to change the way we train, educate, promote and assign our Total Force. The program starts with the active-duty officer corps, but will eventually include enlisted, civilian, and reserve components. The program's goal is to develop professional airmen who instinctively leverage their respective strengths together and eliminate the square filling mentality.

Upcoming events for the 30th Space Wing are the launch of a Taurus Lite Jan. 29, 30th Space Wing Mentoring Day Feb. 7, and Guardian Challenge 2003 May 4 through 9. Worley called for a "Schriever trophy three-peat" at GC 2003.

chemical, or explosive materials into the mail system from unknown sources.

Alternatives include contributing to military relief societies and web-based military support sites and visiting Veterans hospitals.

VEHICLE DECAL RENEWAL

It's time to renew 2002 Vandenberg vehicle decals. Bring current state registration, driver license, military, civilian or contractor identification, and insurance certificate for the vehicle to Pass and Registration. Vehicles not registered in California may be required to provide proof of California emissions testing. Call 606-1853 for more information.

ALCON: Alpha

A general threat of possible alcohol abuse or possible DUI activity exists. Unit leadership will make contact with unit personnel and pass out alcohol awareness information.

Days since last
DUI **36**

DUI totals for the
Year **29**

Saves by AADD
this year: **84**

Don't drink and drive. Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 698-8823 or 698-8822.

30th OG	0	14th AF	0
30th MXG	3	381st TRG	3
30th MSG	10	576th FLTS	3
30th MDG	0	Det. 9	1
30th SW Staff	1	Others	8

ECAMP:

From Page A1

hazardous waste, pesticides, petroleum oil and lubricants, storage tanks, solid waste, toxic substances, water, wastewater, and other environmental programs.

Dettelis said the environmental flight worked hard and put in extra hours to ready its records and Team V for this inspection.

The inspection team identified 16 positive findings and praised the Cultural Resources program with an "exemplary" mark.

Cultural resources include archeological sites, Native American traditional sites, cold war sites, and national historic landmarks like Space Launch Complex-10.

Two members of Team V were singled out for their outstanding work in the water protocol program, Aubrey Baure, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight, and Staff Sgt. Michael Spear, 30th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Flight.

"We obviously have a lot of good people who are doing their jobs well," Dettelis said.

The ECAMP team gave the outbrief Dec. 10, and they shared their assessment findings with Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander. According to the outbrief, an external ECAMP audit is successful if the installation commander knows where to focus energy and resources, the

personnel have a better understanding of the program requirements as a result of their work with the ECAMP team, and the installation is better prepared to withstand a regulatory agency inspection in each of the environmental program areas.

Vandenberg's ECAMP assessment was successful, though not all of the findings were positive.

"Given the large size of Vandenberg and its location in Santa Barbara county, one of the most regulated areas in the U.S., there were a large number of major and minor findings," Dettelis said. Many of the findings, surface issues like environmental labeling, dumpster waste, and records, will be closed before the final report is filed.

"The good news is there were no significant findings and there are no areas that were designated as requiring immediate attention," Dettelis said.

He said that unlike an operational readiness inspection, no final rating is given, since this is an in-house AFSPC assessment.

"The real test is in the number of Notices of Violation received from federal, state, and county environmental agencies. To its testament, Vandenberg has only received one NOV in the last 5 years - quite an accomplishment considering Vandenberg receives more than 75 environmental inspections per year, whereas most bases receive only five or six."

The bulk of the negative findings came in areas not under direct control of the 30th Space Wing. "This tells us that our internal programs are good, but our external interfaces, external programs, and contractual vehicles are areas where we will benefit most by dedicating our resources. We have a lot of work to do in those areas and are up to the challenge," Dettelis said.

The ECAMP team chief, Maj. Mike Lesinski, Air Force Space Command Environmental Flight, said Vandenberg has one of the largest and most capable environmental flights in the Air Force.

"That's not surprising, considering Vandenberg is the third largest Air Force base with 99,099 acres, 42 miles of pristine California coastline, 9,000 acres of undisturbed sand dunes, 5,000 acres of precious wetlands, 166 miles of rivers and streams, 13 threatened or endangered species, and 2,817 cultural resources," Dettelis said.

Overall, Dettelis said the ECAMP audit was a good shakeout for the base. "... I've noticed a high level of competence from our dedicated program engineers who take great pride in their work here at Vandenberg. They are truly experts in their fields and form the nation's foremost environmental team, supporting American space and air power by protecting and enhancing the environment."

BRIEFS:

From Page A1

30TH MSS HOLIDAY HOURS

The 30th Mission Support Squadron Customer Service office is open Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 from 8 a.m. to noon. The office is closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

ANY SERVICE MEMBER MAIL SUSPENSION

The Operation Dear Abby and Any Service Member mail programs were suspended due to force protection concerns. Both programs create an avenue to introduce biological,



Volunteer spirit!
Annie Arrigo, 14th Air Force family member, has taken over as the new Vandenberg Food Pantry volunteer. When former volunteer Darlene Hornes retired, the pantry was forced to close. Thanks to Arrigo's volunteerism and a \$3,000 donation from the Vandenberg Thrift Shop, the food pantry is back open and ready for business just in time for the holidays. Non-perishable food donations are always needed and welcomed.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. LEE OSBERRY

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From the staff and family at the



Look for your next issue of the Space & Missile Times Jan. 10, 2003!

SPACE & MISSILE

FEATURES

Destinations *Central Coast @ Solvang safari*

By MAJ. STACEE N. BAKO
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

My 2-year-old son loves all animals from anteaters to zebras. Every day on the way to work, I hear the cry of "cow!" from the backseat as he points out the window and chatters on excitedly.

Wanting to foster his interest in animals and to get out of the house while the weather was still nice, we took a drive to Solvang a couple of weekends ago.

Just outside of Buellton (on the right side of the road), there's an interesting attraction that's not an everyday occurrence. Dubbed "Ostrich Land," these few acres encircle roaming ostriches and emus. A green building houses the gift shop and fresh fruit stand for all-in-one shopping.

The ostriches are raised for their meat, much like cattle. Ostrich farming has gained popularity in the United States recently with farmers raising the birds for everything from an attraction to using the birds for feathers, meat, oil and ostrich leather products. Ostrich burgers and steaks are available for purchase if you're interested. I took a chance and got some ostrich patties and found they tasted like beef—very lean beef.

But if you'd rather feed them than eat them, ostrich and emu food is available for purchase at a minimal price. We chose to feed the emus because they were a little less intimidating to my son.

These large, flightless birds look surprisingly similar to the Velociraptors from Jurassic Park but are just not as vicious. The only thing you have to look out for is the force at which they peck the food from the bowl. If you're not holding it right they'll knock it right out of your hand.

Also, if you stand too close they may take a peck at your hands thinking there is food in them. Otherwise it was pure entertainment. The emu food costs a quarter for a handful, but I recommend using the bowls.

As we continued on our "Solvang Safari," I headed out past Solvang to Alamo Pintado Road. A few miles up the road is Quicksilver Ranch. Its claim to fame is that it is one of the largest miniature horse ranches on the West Coast. These miniature horses barely come up to your waist and must not be

taller than 34 inches from the base of the mane to the floor to claim the title "miniature." They are not ponies or dwarf varieties, but rather have been bred down for more than 300 years from horses chosen for their small size and refined features according to the handout they give you.

These miniatures are sold as pets because they are good-natured and intelligent and they have a temperament suited for young children.

We just decided to take a look around. There were about 20 fuzzy miniatures around the day we went. Their winter coats make them look a bit fatter than they really are, but they are charming and approachable.

You can walk the entire ranch area and look at all the horses. A couple are even put in a pen close to the main stables so you can have an up close look.

My son went bonkers here, running from pen to pen, yelling "horsie!" at the top of his lungs. It's a great place to

just take a look around and some of the stable hands will answer any questions you may have. The hours are a bit limited, open daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., except holidays, but they welcome groups for guided tours, with advance reservations. Call (805) 686-4002 for more information.

The third and final stop on our safari was to Li'l Orphan Hammies, a refuge for abandoned and abused Vietnamese potbellied pigs. My son did his part and pointed at every animal in the yard yelling "cow!"

I carefully explained they were pigs and pointed out the difference between cows and pigs. He just smiled and chased the geese around the yard, stopping only occasionally to yell "cow!" at a pig that was near the fence.

Started in the early '90s, this small shelter just outside of Solvang is home to nearly 160 pigs. The project was the brainchild of a woman who owned her first pig about 12 years ago. She fell in love with her pet and heard about a

breeder who was trying to get rid of about eight other pigs, so she took them on. Then gradually, her reputation spread. If there was a potbellied pig collected by animal control, they would call Sue and she would take them, once taking a group of 24 abused pigs all at one time. Throughout the years little houses and shelters were built up to house the animals.

The shelter runs mostly on donations of time and money from sponsors, but has also earned a couple of grants for the care and feeding of the large animals. Both individuals and groups can "sponsor" pigs. For their donations, they get a personalized t-shirt with the sponsored pig's picture on it. And it's all for a good cause.

Sue explained that the potbellied pigs were "Yuppie puppies." Most new owners of the precious little porkers



Miniature horses graze in the green pastures at Quicksilver Ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley.

however did not think they would grow beyond 13 inches in length because of their slow growth to adulthood. It can take from two to four years for a potbellied pig to reach its full height and weight. And when they do, the average pig weighs between 75 and 100 pounds.

Several of the pigs were roaming the grounds while the majority of the 160 were penned in various shelters around the couple of acres that house the orphanage.

While the owner is willing to give "tours," she said what the orphanage really needs is volunteers. A few people to help feed, stuff houses with straw and care for the little porkers would be nice. So if you're interested in more than animal safaris, this may be the answer for you.

The shelter tries to re-home as many pigs as possible and where it's not possible, due to the pig's temperament or because they were so badly abused, they will live their eight to 15 year lives out at the shelter.

All the pigs are spayed or neutered so no babies are born on the property unless they pick up a pregnant mother pig. There was one mother there with eight piglets. The piglets will stay with their mother about eight weeks before they can be adopted.

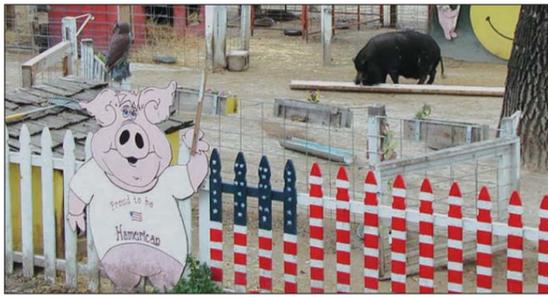
Visits are by appointment only. Volunteers are welcomed anytime. Call (805) 693-9953 for more information.

As we drove down Highway 246 toward home, a cry of "pig!" came from the back seat and I knew my son had gained another word for his ever-expanding vocabulary.



A rescued Vietnamese potbellied pig gave birth to her piglets at Li'l Orphan Hammies in Solvang. The refuge houses nearly 160 abandoned and abused pigs.

PHOTOS BY MAJ. STACEE BAKO



Above: A pig roots for food in the yard at Li'l Orphan Hammies. Right: Zachary Bako, 2, runs to feed the emus at Ostrich Land near Buellton.



Community Calendar

20 FRI **Air Force Spouse's Scholarships** - Annual \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to spouses of Air Force active-duty, reserve, and Air National Guard members. Applications are available at the base Education Center in building 14001. Jan. 31 is the last day to apply. Call the Education Center at 605-5904.

American Military University - offers free undergraduate tuition to spouses of active duty members who attend the college as undergraduate students through the Spouse Schoolmates Scholarship program. Call AMU at (703) 330-5398.

20 FRI **Host families needed** The Cultural Homestay Institute is looking for families to sponsor junior-high and high-school age Japanese students March 26 through April 3. Call Diana Gellentien at 735-9168 or 735-2771, Ext. 238 by Feb. 21 to

20 FRI sponsor a student. **Airmen's Attic** - needs donations of items necessary to set up a household. The program is open to military personnel, E-5 and below, with an Air Force form 552 from their First Sergeant. Call 606-5484.

AAIA nominations - The Vandenberg chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics is accepting nominations for National Engineers Week 2002. Nominations for Engineer of the Year and Engineering Project of the Year are open to companies operating at Vandenberg AFB and in the surrounding communities. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 31. Call John Morris at (805) 733-1856 for a nomination package and judging criteria.

20 FRI **Cal Poly handmade book sale** - Now through Jan. 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday

through Friday in the Kennedy Library at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Call Catherine Trujillo at (805) 756-2305.

20 FRI **Dads to new dads program** - mentorship program offers support to new dads. Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338 for more information.

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. AHC Santa Maria campus, walk-through registration is by appointment Jan. 13 and 14, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Open registration is Jan.

15, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call (805) 922-6966.

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

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.

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

Harbor and boat cruises at Adventure Marina in Morro Bay. Call (805) 772-9463.

20 FRI **Santa Barbara trolley tours** - 90 minute tours are at 10 and 11:30 a.m., 1, 2:30 and 4 p.m.

20 FRI Call (805) 965-0353. **Twilight beach horseback rides** - at Pacific Dunes Ranch in Oceano. Beginners are welcome. Call (805) 489-8100.

Food Pantry - The Family Support Center provides emergency food assistance and distributes food via the USDA Food Program. Donations are always needed. Call 606-2960 or 606-0039.

Yoga Fitness classes 9 a.m. Fridays, 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Services Center.

23 MON **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.

23 MON **Jiu-Jitsu self-defense classes** - 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Unified Center for Martial Arts in Santa Maria. Call (805) 934-2158.

24 TUE **Joint retiree activities center** - Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Call 606-5474.

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.

JAN 6 MON **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.

Chapel Services & Events

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

- **Chapel community caroling** - 5:15 p.m. Dec. 22 in Chapel 1.
- **Children's Christmas mass** - 5 p.m. Dec. 24 in Chapel 1.
- **Christmas Day mass** - 10 a.m. Dec. 25 in Chapel 1.
- **Protestant Christmas Day service** - 11:30 a.m. Dec. 25 in Chapel 1.
- **Midnight mass** - midnight Dec. 25 Chapel 1.
- **Watch Night service & fellowship** - 10 p.m. Dec. 31 in Chapel 1.

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

- **New Year's Vigil mass** - 5 p.m. Dec. 31 in Chapel 2.
- **G.I. Java** - 5 to 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday for dorm residents. Volunteers and cookies needed. Call Senior Airman Mary Straub at 606-5773.
- **Bible study groups** - 7 p.m. Mondays or Thursdays in the religious education building. Call 734-4202.

For all holiday and other activities at the chapel, call 606-5773 for information.

At the Movies

Today Closed
Saturday
The Ring
A female journalist discovers a disturbing videotape with a bizarre history... everyone who's seen its contents has died within seven days. Is she next? Rated R
Sunday
I Spy
A top U.S. spy is teamed up with a cocky civilian, on

a dangerous top secret espionage mission. Rated PG-13
Dec. 27
8 Mile Rated R
3 p.m. Dec. 28
Santa Clause 2 Rated G
7 p.m. Dec. 28
8 Mile Rated R
3 p.m. Dec. 29
My Big Fat Greek Wedding Rated PG
All movies start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Bay Area team takes All-American Shootout trophy

By COACH MCKINNEY
30th Space Wing Command Section
superintendent

You ever have those days when it seems like no matter how hard you work at it, you just can't quite get over the proverbial hump? Vandenberg's varsity men's basketball team must have felt that way this past weekend as they finished third in their own All-American Shootout basketball tournament at the base Fitness Center.

The tournament showcased teams from Miramar Naval Air Station and Fort Irwin, as well as Air Force teams from Nellis, Los Angeles, Travis, and Edwards AFBs. Only one other team came ready to "do business" from the Bay Area, a team known quite simply as a Tribe Called Sweat.

Vandenberg started off the tourney playing game one against Fort Irwin. Although the contest was not as close as the final 85-82 score would indicate, it was a four-signal alert of what was to come.

"We had as much as a 17-point lead," proclaimed Hawks coach Calvin Tucker. "We had the chance to close them out early, but we didn't finish them. That's something we have to do when we have the opportunity."

The Hawks didn't quite get their coach's message. Although their record was now extended to 11-0 and soon to be 12-0, the season was about to take a drastic change. Next, Coach Tucker and team squeaked out an overtime two-point win against Travis AFB.

In the game, the locals seemed to have command of the game early on when everything seemed to go right. The host team took an early 15-4 lead with a balanced scoring attack. Then they turned up the pressure on defense and pushed the lead to 21-5. Although the next three minutes were never dull, the play went through a sloppy segment.

A ball of fiery passion, Coach Tucker worked the sidelines with intense determination, trying to coax his players into giving him more and more as the half wore on. By the end of the first half, the score was an uneasy 30-18 in favor of the Vandenberg Hawks. A mixing, switching defense kept Travis at bay ... for now!

At the outset of the second stanza, Travis' Andre Lloyd caught fire. With some key offensive and defensive plays, he helped Travis move to within nine points and a 44-35 score. That was not the end of the comeback, however. Vandenberg lost the services of playmaker Montae McFarland with a lower leg injury. The tone of the contest took a subtle turn for the worse.

When Vandenberg looked up, the score was suddenly in the favor of Travis on the strength of two Grand Berry shots, 51-52.

Coach Tucker and team put together one last push in overtime to pull out the hard fought victory in what may have been the most exciting game of the entire tournament. Coach Larry Williams of Travis was visibly disappointed in the outcome, but had nothing but good

words for his charges.

"My guys have only been together for about a month and I'm definitely proud of their progress to this point," gushed the coach. "They've had excellent leadership from Grand Berry and Andre Lloyd. The way they came back from that 20-point deficit and took them (Vandenberg) to overtime was impressive. Vandenberg has a good team though, and they wanted it."

Although Vandenberg played against Travis in a game that rewarded all of the fans who showed up to support the event, the team from the Bay Area, Tribe Called Sweat, quietly walked away with the title. Led by a swift point guard known only as Powell and player-coach Hodge, TCS played like the all-star compilation of players they are.

Coach Hodge recognized the level of talent in the tourney field.

"There are some talented players here this weekend," admired the TCS coach. "Our guys play together all the time and I think that makes a huge difference. Last year we came in here and weren't ready for the level of talent this tourney attracts, but this year we came ready to get it done."

TCS won the title without a championship tip-off because Travis lost several players in their semifinal victory rematch with Vandenberg and had to concede the victory.

A tournament titled All-American Shootout has a tough billing to live up to, and that it did, with fireworks worthy of an Independence Day celebration.

Intramural softball Winter league standings

Call the Fitness Center at 606-3832 or 606-6962 for more information on Team Vandenberg's intramural sports leagues.

American League

Team	Wins	Losses	Standings
Security Forces # 1	2	5	3
Logistics Readiness Squadron	7	0	1
381st Training Group	1	6	4
30th Operations Group	6	2	2
NRO Vandenberg	2	5	3

National League

Team	Wins	Losses	Standings
Security Forces # 2	4	3	2
76th Helicopter Flight	2	3	4
614th Space Operations Group	3	2	3
30th Mission Support Squadron	0	7	5
30th Civil Engineer Squadron	3	3	3
Detachment 9	6	0	1

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

Firefighters to do battle on ESPN 2

By TECH. SGT. MICHAEL WARD
Air Force Civil Engineer Support
Agency Public Affairs

■ **TYNDALL AFB, Fla.** — Firefighting may not be a sport, but it certainly requires athleticism. Add the element of competition and it becomes "the fastest two minutes in sports," also known as the Firefighter Combat Challenge World Championships.

Nine Air Force teams participated in the challenge, which was taped by ESPN and will be broadcast this month and in January.

The Travis AFB, Calif., team took third in the Survivor Relay tournament behind two teams from Canada and took second overall in the finals, losing out to a Canadian team by one second. Staff Sgt. Michael Melton, a Travis team member, finished third in the individual category.

More than 640 civilian and

military firefighters from around the world participated in the championship Oct. 29 to Nov. 2 in Deerfield Beach, Fla. Competitors, dressed in full firefighting gear, rushed through a series of physically demanding firefighting scenarios for a timed score.

About 56 Air Force firefighters participated. Other Air Force teams came from Altus and Vance AFBs in Okalahoma; Edwards AFB, Calif.; Little Rock AFB, Ark.; Ramstein and Spangdahlem ABs in Germany; RAF Mildenhall, England, and the Department of Defense Fire Academy at Goodfellow AFB, Texas.

ESPN 2 is scheduled to broadcast the Survivor Relay tournament Dec. 21 and again Jan. 6. The Firefighter Combat Challenge final is scheduled to air Jan. 11 and 24. Check local listings for times. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

LEAGUE STANDING SHEET

Results for Week No. 13 of 30 12/16/2002

INTRAMURAL LEAGUE - Vandenberg Bowling Center

Sanction No.: 125550
League President: Patrick Terek
League Secretary: Tracey Gowins
Lane 11
Phone: (805)-735-7714
Phone: (805)-734-1961

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost	Pct	-----Handicap-----			
						TotPins	Ave	Gm	Ser
1	1	576 FLTS #1	74.0	30.0	71.2	31270	801	891	2657
2	14	30 SPACE COMM	72.0	32.0	69.2	31148	798	911	2622
3	7	30 SFS	70.0	34.0	67.3	30976	794	882	2554
4	4	576 FLTS AMMO	70.0	34.0	67.3	30424	780	875	2453
5	11	AAFES	68.0	36.0	65.4	31095	797	933	2552
6	12	576 FLTS MEC	62.0	42.0	59.6	30489	781	890	2492
7	9	30 CES	58.0	46.0	55.8	30730	787	890	2547
8	10	30 LRS	53.0	51.0	51.0	29656	760	886	2484
9	16	30 CONS	48.0	56.0	46.2	29068	745	841	2436
10	8	381 TRG	46.0	58.0	44.2	29946	767	891	2539
11	18	30 OG	46.0	58.0	44.2	29710	761	893	2453
12	17	30 MDG	46.0	58.0	44.2	29454	755	847	2421
13	15	14 AF/614 SOPS	44.0	60.0	42.3	30385	779	909	2563
14	13	595 SG	41.0	63.0	39.4	29480	755	864	2375
15	5	576 FLTS MMT	40.0	64.0	38.5	30561	783	914	2645
16	2	30 SVS	36.0	68.0	34.6	27644	767	875	2520
17	6	NRO	34.0	70.0	32.7	29496	756	883	2498
18	3	BYE TEAM	10.0	14.0	41.7	4477	746	788	2239

12/23/2002 Christmas Break
12/30/2002 Christmas Break



America's Air Force -
No one comes close!

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Help your deployed active duty members!

The Family Support Center is collecting donations to be included in care packages for our deployed and remote Team Vandenberg members. For more information, call Master Sgt. Jaime Lopez or Tech. Sgt. Todd Lefebvre at 606-0039.

Suggested donations are:

- ◆ *Playing Cards*
- ◆ *Activity books*
- ◆ *Stationery or writing pads*
- ◆ *Envelopes*
- ◆ *Pens and pencils*
- ◆ *Stamps*
- ◆ *Small games*
- ◆ *Dental floss*
- ◆ *Lip balm*
- ◆ *Hand soap*
- ◆ *Disposable razors*
- ◆ *Small packets of tissues*
- ◆ *Wrapped hard candy*
- ◆ *Assorted nuts*
- ◆ *Power bars*
- ◆ *Store packaged jerky*
- ◆ *Sunflower seeds*

Drop off donations at:
Family Support Center
723 Nebraska Ave.
Bldg 10525

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