

Base Briefs

VICE CC RETIREMENT

Team V is invited to bid a fond farewell to Col. and Mrs. Wayne Louis, 30th Space Wing vice commander, on the occasion of his retirement, at noon Monday at Cocheo Park. Cost is \$7 for E-5 and below, and \$10 for E-6 and above and civilians. Call Tech. Sgt. Scott Astrosky at 606-9308 for tickets. Menu is Tri-tip barbecue.

NEW SICK CALL HOURS

Beginning Jan. 1, active-duty sick call hours are 7:30-8 a.m. Sick call is designed for patients who are unable to wait for an appointment, such as vomiting, diarrhea, severe pain, etc.

For more routine ailments, such as soreness, medication refills and waiver renewal appointments, please continue to make scheduled appointments.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

The 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron's airport shuttle will stand down Monday through Jan. 2. Team Vandenberg personnel on TDY orders needing transportation can call vehicle dispatch at 606-5714.

COMMISSARY HOURS

Holiday hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24, closed Dec. 25-26, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 31, closed Jan. 1.

GIRL SCOUTS

Girls Kindergarten through 12th Grade interested in joining the base girl scouts should call 606-1119. Adult volunteers are also needed.

CHRISTMAS MEAL

Breakers Dining Facility will have a Christmas meal beginning at 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Questions should be directed to 606-3219.

AF AID

The Air Force Aid Society has a new electronic ticketing program to ease costs of emergency travel. Call 605-8551 for details.

BRIDGE OPENING

The El Rancho Missile Transport Bridge is now open. The bridge can be accessed from 13th Street, which turns into El Rancho Road. This reopening will now cut down on the amount of time it takes to go to north base.

CALLING WRITERS

Air Force Public Affairs is supporting a book entitled, "Women Write the War."

The author is looking for women's first person perspectives on the War in Iraq. Submissions can include stories, poems and letters to loved ones.

Those interested in participating should call Staff Sgt. Rebecca Danét at 606-3390.

PASS AND ID

The 30th Security Forces Squadron's pass and registration office is extending hours of operation to be open 8 a.m. to noon Saturday for vehicle decal registration.

Security Forces makes Christmas possible for 23 homeless children

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JUANIKA GLOVER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

What began as a Team Vandenberg member taking a wrong turn and stopping to ask for directions, ended up becoming a brighter Christmas for some of Lompoc's homeless children.

"I got an idea around early November to help out the needy, but I just didn't know where to start," said Senior Airman Zachary Burt, 30th Security Forces Squadron entry controller. "So I drove to Lompoc in search of the Hope Center. I got lost and stopped at Bruce's Prime Cuts, a restaurant in Lompoc, to ask for directions. I explained to the owner what I was trying to do and he suggested I go to Bethany Lutheran Church."

Burt took the advice and headed to the church. He met with Bethany Lutheran volunteer Carolyn Stroble, who told him about Project Help, or the Homeless Education Liaison Project.

Burt said it sounded like the type of charity he wanted to get involved with.

So Burt, along with his wife Janice, Staff Sgt. Robert Soto, Senior Airman Aaron Zavala and many other members of the 30th SFS raised money to provide toys and a meal for the homeless children.

Twenty-three Lompoc children came into the recreation area of the church to a surprise pre-Christmas party Dec. 4.

The children were brought into the recreation area of the church to a room full of wrapped presents. One by one, each child's name was called out to receive their presents.

"It feels really great to know that this is what Christmas is all about," Burt said. "This thing hits us on a personal level and it makes me feel really good about what we do."

The 30th SFS donations enabled Burt to purchase more than 100 gifts for the children from a wish list they had compiled.

"Our squadron turned out in a big way," he said.

Shannon Nguetap, Project Help project coordinator, has been working with the program for four years. She said they've been working a lot with the community and the help they received from the 30th SFS is great.

"This project is more than 10 years old and, up until now, we've only gotten the word out to the locals," Nguetap said. "It's good to get a helping hand from someone else. It just means that we'll be able to provide more for the children. It's a very sad situation, but what these children receive here is all that they get. I can tell they enjoy it very much."

Burt said his commander plans on making this an annual event.

"In the future, the 30th SFS along with the church will try to adopt the children for the holidays and help out each year. This thing is a bond between the community and the base. I just thought it was about time to help," he said.

So, making a wrong turn and stopping to ask for directions has led Burt to some needy children in Lompoc who, if not for the help of Team V, might not have had much of a Christmas.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHUCK WALKER

Senior Airman Erica Rozzi, 30th Security Forces Squadron, helps load presents bound for the Homeless Education Liason Project at Bethany Lutheran Church in Lompoc.

Vandenberg steps up to test new alcohol-based fuel

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JUANIKA GLOVER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

After six months of preparation, Vandenberg's government and contract vehicle gasoline dispensing facility has become one of the first places in California to provide E85, an alcohol-based, environmentally friendly gas.

Due to California's stringent air pollution laws, gas dispensers containing certified vapor recovery systems are required to safely provide E85 to consumers. Obtaining the necessary certifications for the gas pumps take extensive research. So, Vandenberg has stepped up to the plate to act as a test base for the state in certifying the system.

According to the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition, E85 is a clean burning fuel made from fermented agricultural products such as corn. It will play a big role in helping the state reduce harmful, toxic emissions into the atmosphere.

A first in California

E85, an alcohol based, environmentally friendly fuel, will be used by about 130 of 800 government vehicles here.

Ethanol sells for about the same price as unleaded fuel, reduces the incidence of greenhouse gas emissions, is biodegradable and doesn't contaminate water.

"The most important benefit that ethanol has is that it contains far less toxins such as benzene which can slowly eat away at the ozone," said Tony Murphy, technology supervisor for the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District. "Since it contains oxygen, the gas reduces

carbon monoxide and other ozone precursors. This gas will definitely be an improvement and have a good impact on the environment."

Murphy said the project was approved under a research and development trial.

We are all very interested and excited about seeing how the dispenser works and how the project turns out," Murphy said. "This is a good thing for the entire county."

"E85 decreases our dependency on petroleum," said Duane Wolfe, Vandenberg's pollution prevention manager.

The fuel will be used by about 130 of the base's more than 800 government and contractor vehicles, he said.

"This gas is 70 percent more efficient than regular unleaded and there's about a five percent increase in the power of the

See FUEL, Page A4

Tracking station upgrades with new antenna

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

In early 2004, Vandenberg's tracking station kicks off an Air Force-wide 15-year project to replace all two-axis antennas with new three-axis antennas.

The upgrade will enhance Vandenberg's tracking station's ability to provide service to its customers.

Fifteen two-axis antennas will be replaced at Air Force tracking stations around the world, said Capt. Matthew Morand, Det. 1, 22nd Space Operations Squadron operations officer.

The upgrade is to facilitate continuous tracking of satellites in Vandenberg's skies.

"The limited rotation of the current antenna allows for temporary loss of satellite telemetry

while the antenna swings around to catch the satellite's signal," Morand said.

"The ability to rotate on three axes enables the antenna to track a satellite throughout its path over Vandenberg's skies.

"The new antenna should require less maintenance. Plus, finding parts and the frequency of mechanical problems for the older dish would become an issue in the future."

The new 42.5-foot antenna is also compatible with the new core electronics being installed at the tracking station for the new antenna, which will allow the tracking stations to be run remotely from a single site in the future, said VTS Commander Maj. David Pavilaitis.

A radar dome will encapsulate

the new antenna.

The old antenna had a protective cover, but during renovations to the structure, a storm destroyed the dome and a new one wasn't erected because plans for the new antenna were already known.

During construction of the new antenna, the tracking station will set up their mobile antenna unit, which will continue to provide operational support for the tracking station's customers.

Vandenberg Tracking Station provides telemetry for an average of 52 satellite contacts each day.

The two-axis antenna was erected in 1959 when the tracking station was first activated and has been providing support for operations around the world.

This year alone the two

antennas here made nearly 19,000 satellite contacts.

"That antenna is a piece of history," Morand said. "It's fought the Cold War, it's been a part of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and it's been here for Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Because Vandenberg's tracking station is the first to receive the upgraded antenna and electronics, many of the concerns will be worked out here.

"We're on the beginning of this 15 year project and it makes our assignment here challenging and interesting so we're looking forward to it," Pavilaitis said.

"It's a little sad to see a bit of history go, but on the other hand, it's challenging to usher in the next stage of remote tracking stations," he continued.



Dec. 26
has been declared a **family day** to allow for a **four-day weekend.**
It's also been declared a **federal holiday** for **civilians.**

The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron conducts convoy training at Northstar field training site. See Page A4



Destinations Central Coast heads for Santa Maria's birthday party capital, Boomer's. See Page B1

Weekend forecast
Rainshowers Friday night. Mostly cloudy Saturday and Sunday.
Low/High
48/65
For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit
www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather

In this issue of the
SPACE & MISSILE TIMES
Also view
The Space & Missile Times at
www.vandenberg.af.mil and click
the Space & Missile Times button



This week in history ...

COMPILED BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JUANIKA GLOVER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

December 14

1799 – George Washington, the American revolutionary leader and first president of the United States, dies of acute laryngitis at his estate in Mount Vernon, Virginia. He was 67 years old.

1927 – Maj. Gen. J.E. Fechet becomes Chief of the Air Corps.

1984 – The X-29 makes its first flight.

December 15

1791 – Following ratification by the state of Virginia, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, known collectively as the Bill of Rights, become the law of the land.

1964 – The first Air Force gunship, the AC-47, enters combat in Vietnam.

December 16

1944 – With the Anglo-Americans closing in on Germany from the west and the Soviets approaching from the east, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler orders a massive attack against the western Allies by three German armies.

1773 – In Boston Harbor, a group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships and dump 342 chests of tea into the harbor. This begins the Boston Tea Party.

December 17

1944 – During World War II, U.S. Major General Henry Pratt issues Public Proclamation No. 21, declaring that, effective January 2, 1945, Japanese American "evacuees" from the West Coast could return to their homes.

Ten weeks after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, U.S. President Franklin

Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the removal of any or all people from military areas "as deemed necessary or desirable." The military in turn defined the entire West Coast, home to the majority of Americans of Japanese ancestry or citizenship, as a military area. More than 110,000 Japanese Americans were relocated to remote internment camps built by the U.S. military in scattered locations around the country.

1903 – Near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville and Wilbur Wright make the first successful flight in history of a self-propelled, heavier-than-air aircraft. Orville piloted the gasoline-powered, propeller-driven biplane, which stayed aloft for 12 seconds and covered 120 feet on its inaugural flight.

December 18

1865 – Following its ratification by the requisite three-quarters of the states earlier in the month, the 13th Amendment is formally adopted into the U.S. Constitution, ensuring that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude... shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

1972 – Following the breakdown of peace talks with North Vietnam just a few days earlier, President Richard Nixon announces the beginning of a massive bombing campaign to break the stalemate. For nearly two weeks, American bombers pounded North Vietnam.

December 19

1958 – President Eisenhower's Christmas message is relayed by orbiting an Air Force satellite.

December 20

1972 – The Apollo lunar-landing

program ends on December 19, 1972, when the last three astronauts to travel to the moon splash down safely in the Pacific Ocean. Apollo 17 had lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, 10 days before.

1998 – After nearly 14 hours of debate, the House of Representatives approves two articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, charging him with lying under oath to a federal grand jury and obstructing justice. Clinton, the second president in American history to be impeached, vowed to finish his term. The president was acquitted on both articles of impeachment. The prosecution needed a two-thirds majority to convict but failed to achieve even a bare majority. Rejecting the first charge of perjury, 45 Democrats and 10 Republicans voted "not guilty," and on the charge of obstruction of justice the Senate was split 50-50. After the trial concluded, President Clinton said he was "profoundly sorry" for the burden his behavior imposed on Congress and the American people.

December 20

1941 – The Air Force Flying Tiger pilots went into action against the Japanese for the first time.

1989 – The United States invades Panama in an attempt to overthrow military dictator Manuel Noriega, who had been indicted in the United States on drug trafficking charges and was accused of suppressing democracy in Panama and endangering U.S. nationals. Noriega's Panamanian Defense Forces were promptly crushed, forcing the dictator to seek asylum with the Vatican in Panama City, where he surrendered on January 3, 1990.

Making house calls



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS

Six-year-old Danielle Dryja and five-month-old Ethan Dryja spend a few moments on Santa's lap after receiving presents from him as a part of the visit from Santa program which began Dec. 8. The program runs through Tuesday. Parents must call 606-7976 to have Santa bring a present to their child.

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES

Editorial Staff

Col. Frank Gallegos
30th Space Wing commander

Maj. Stacey N. Bako
Chief, Public Affairs

Senior Airman Brian Hill
Editor

1st Lt. Michelle Mayo

2nd Lt. Theresa Cunningham

Staff Sgt. Rebecca Danét

Airman 1st Class Bryan Franks

Airman 1st Class Juanika Glover

Tech Sgt. Mark McKinney

Staff Writers

Staff Sgt. Chuck Walker

Photographer/Sports Writer

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

COMMANDER ON CONSOLE

Wishing you a safe, happy holiday

By COL. FRANK GALLEGOS
30th Space Wing Commander

What a year 2003 has been! Team V continues to shine no matter what the challenge.

Our 30th Services Squadron just won the AFSPC Hennessy Trophy for the FOURTH time in a row—outstanding!

The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron also just received word on some AFSPC awards—what a great Christmas present!

I know the awards will just keep streaming in recognizing the outstanding work you are all doing for your Air Force.

By performing above expectations, you have set the standard for a year promising to be better than the last. You should all be proud of every accomplishment you've made throughout this year.

In this festive time when

30th Space Wing vectors
Unleash Human talent
Airmen
Wing mission
Knowledge to command the future
Safety

Quality of life is improving daily from housing, to facilities to services functions, and AEF is normalizing again to make deployment schedules more predictable. Our launch schedule continues to be full, evidence that we are doing our part to provide assured access to space and making sure our ballistic missile force is tested and true.

Whether this means taking more time to spend with your families or finally finishing the degree you've been working on, this is your chance to move forward in your life. We should all strive to improve, whether it's supporting the mission or taking care of our physical and mental well being.

Enjoy your holidays and the time off. Remember to stay safe and healthy by having a plan before you choose to engage in the festivities.

I expect all of you to return to work refreshed and motivated to

take on the challenges to come in the New Year.

We've got an Operational Readiness Inspection coming just around the corner along with a host of launches, Guardian Challenge—the biggest and best EVER, followed almost immediately by an Air & Space Show.

I know that all of these events will be amazing because we have the best Air Force team in the world working hard for success.

Reconstitute, rest, take the time and enjoy your friends and families. Be mindful of our families with loved ones deployed.

Take care of the team and continue to be an Air Force family committed to each other. Along with my wife Julie and daughter Maria, I wish each and every one of you a joyful, peaceful holiday season. Go HAWKS!

Commander's
Action Line

Call 606-7850

or

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



Col. Frank Gallegos
commander

By performing Vandenberg's mission safely and effectively, Team V provides proof of its commitment to do the right thing.

Two-way communication is paramount to continued mission success. The 30th Space Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct link to me.

Through the action line you can congratulate your teammates on a job well done, affect change and express productive points of view.

I want your input and I am personally involved in every response.

The action line is always available and it's an excellent tool, but remember to

use your chain of command. Talk to your supervisors, first sergeants, services officials and other base professionals and give them a chance to solve your problem first.

Working together, we will enrich the 30th SW mission performance and the quality of life of our airmen.

When calling the action line, leave your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

Check out our on-line news at
www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news

Growing up in Air Force just feels right at home

By 1ST LT. MICHELLE MAYO
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

I find myself waxing nostalgic often these days. Maybe it's the holiday season. Maybe it's because of the birth of my baby boy. Or maybe it's just because I'm getting older, and it's what old people do.

I find myself thinking about my life, what I'm doing now and, inevitably, my thoughts drift to my past.

And my past and my childhood are rooted in the Air Force.

As the daughter of an Air Force aircraft mechanic, I grew up moving from base to base, from Washington State to Guam to Okinawa to New Mexico and back to Okinawa again. I went to eight different schools in 13 years.

Answering a simple question like "Where are you from?" has always been difficult for me. I don't

know what it's like to have a hometown.

I wonder, "Is that how I want my son to grow up - a military 'brat'?" Not being from any one place?"

And yet, when I remember growing up in the military, the things I remember most vividly are not the moving around.

Instead, I remember the year I turned 10. It was an exciting one for me. That was the year I got my first I.D. card — and my second, and my third. No matter how hard I tried to keep track of it, something would always happen. I'd lose it. I'd leave it my pocket to be washed. Little elves would come in the night and steal it away. The guys in Pass and I.D. — is that what it was called then? — knew Sgt. Mayo's daughter on sight because they'd taken my photo so often.

Although you wouldn't know it by the care I took of it, that little laminated yellow card with my photo in black and white was a big deal to me. It

was a physical, tangible symbol that marked my coming of age. It meant I was a big girl.

There was my sophomore year of high school. I was in a new school yet again. I had always been painfully shy growing up and every time we'd move it took me a while to make friends. The truth is, it took me a very long time to make friends.

Determined not to wait this time, I swallowed my shyness and forced myself to walk up to someone I didn't know and introduce myself. The girl I met that day was my best friend for many years.

It was from that moment on, I realized that I could overcome my shyness instead of letting it overcome me. That was a powerful lesson and one I never would have learned living in the same place.

Then there were the holidays. Holiday celebrations when I grew up were rarely family events, in the sense that family means blood relatives. Our "family" was a hodge-podge of

different people from my father's squadron or friends of my parents, many of whom they'd met at previous stations.

The people I think of as aunts and uncles and cousins are not related to me but were there at Christmas, Thanksgiving, and birthday parties. Years later, many of them helped me celebrate my marriage and the birth of my son.

And in between, my childhood memories are punctuated with the sound of planes roaring overhead and the knowledge that those planes could fly because my daddy fixed them. It made me so proud to be his daughter.

Not being able to claim one hometown has not made me feel like I'm not from anywhere.

Because when the airman at the gate waves me on base, past the fences and the guardshack, no matter where I am, in this country or another, I'm home.

Air Force leadership sends warmest wishes to airmen



Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

By GEN. RICHARD MYERS
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

For generations, U.S. servicemen and women and government civilians have spent the holiday season far from loved ones so that all Americans can celebrate the peace, prosperity and liberty that our Armed Forces have fought to protect.

Today, you continue to keep steadfast watch across the globe, from bases on land, planes overhead, and ships at sea; from distant, remote locations, and within our own borders.

During this holiday season, the United States is asking much of you — and you are responding with a strong sense of duty, a willingness to give up personal comfort for the greater good, and the professionalism that has earned our military services honor and respect throughout the world. It is never easy to be away from home, but especially during the holiday season, the courage, patriotism and unconditional support of families and loved ones mean so very much.

Your service and the sacrifices of your families come at a crucial moment in our nation's history. Your dedicated work is making the world a better, safer, and more peaceful place. I am inspired by your character and courage, and I am extremely proud to serve with you.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff join me in sending to you and your families our very warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

By DR. JAMES ROCHE AND GEN. JOHN JUMPER
Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force Chief of Staff

During this holiday season, Americans have placed their hopes for peace with those who have answered the call to secure



James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force

freedom: the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines of our nation's armed forces.

Indeed, there is no mission more vital and no cause more noble than to be a defender of freedom, particularly when the values we cherish are under attack and when our citizens are going into harm's way.

We know this has been a challenging year, as we remain engaged on several fronts supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Over the past year, we have traveled to many places just to look you in the eye and to offer our thanks for what you're doing for the Air Force and for America. No matter where we go we're always amazed with your talent, dedication and professionalism.

Your service has been stellar. You are why we have the best air and space force the world has ever known.

We are also humbled by the sacrifices made by your families as you work long hours or deploy far from home. Our families are the source of support that enables us to serve with pride and enthusiasm and defend the democratic ideals of our great country. During this special season, our thoughts and prayers will be with them.

Americans are grateful for your selfless service. You have earned their



Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff

trust and support through your courage, bravery and sacrifice. And, simply put, we are honored to serve with you.

It is our hope that you will have a joyous holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

By CHIEF MASTER SGT. GERALD MURRAY
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

To our airmen stationed at home and abroad and their families — Sherry and I send our warmest wishes to you this holiday season. It is an honor for us to serve in our United States Air Force with each of you.

The holidays bring to mind families gathered around tables stuffed with food and children opening gifts while parents look on. We know that deployments will cause many military families to have an empty seat at the table this year.

If you are one of those families, please know that your sacrifice does not go unnoticed. It is because of you and fellow airmen, soldiers, sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen that Americans can gather, worship, and celebrate in freedom.

As we celebrate this holiday season and prepare to usher in a new year, Sherry and I thank you for your continued dedication and commitment. May God richly bless you, your family and our great nation.



Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Murray, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

By GEN. LANCE LORD
Commander, Air Force Space Command

As another year comes to an end, Beccy and I want to wish the men and women of Air Force Space Command a happy holiday season.

This holiday season, take a moment to reflect on the value of the gift of service you bestow to every man, woman and child in America and around



Gen. Lance Lord, Air Force Space Command commander

the world. America thanks you for preserving the precious gift of freedom, both at home and abroad.

Your selfless dedication, courage, commitment and service, along with the soldiers, sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Department of Defense civilians, make a real difference, and I am proud to serve with each and every one of you.

This is an exciting time to be part of Air Force Space Command! We've shown the world, this year more than ever, what space forces bring to the fight. Space is an essential element in the way the United States conducts military operations around the globe.

You, the members of the AFSPC team, are responsible for our successes. You have put in long hours, worked hard to accomplish our assigned tasks, and many of you have deployed. During the height of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, we had nearly 1,200 AFSPC personnel deployed. Today there are still more than 450 people away from home, as well as many others deployed to our missile fields. As the holidays approach, remember your deployed teammates who are bearing the burdens of freedom.

As you look forward to the coming year, remember your dedication and expertise are vital to maintaining our role as the best space and missile force the world has ever seen. Beccy and I appreciate your efforts and wish you and yours a joyous holiday season, and most of all a safe and prosperous 2004!

By MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL HAMEL
Commander, 14th Air Force

The holiday season is an important time to gather together with family and friends, to reflect on our many blessings, and to celebrate and be thankful for each other and what we enjoy.

All of us in the 14th Air Force have much to be thankful for. We live in a country that remains the greatest beacon of hope in the world. We enjoy greater freedoms, security and opportunity than any nation in history.

But as we in uniform know, these blessings have been earned through great sacrifice and dedication of those that have served before us and those that serve today in all the far reaching corners of the globe.

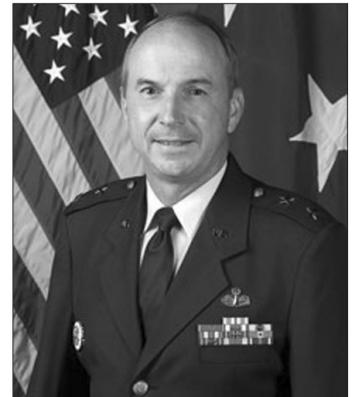
While we enjoy this holiday season, let us remember those that will not be with their family and friends.

I want to extend my personal thanks for all the hard work and dedication of the men and women of 14th Air Force as we approach the end of 2003. It has been an especially challenging year as we helped fight the global war on terrorism, defeat the brutal regime in Iraq, and advance freedom and peace throughout the world.

You have done everything you have been asked to do and have shown unrivaled skill and commitment. I am continuously heartened by the great young men and women that answer the call to duty and serve as airmen in the finest Air Force the world has ever known.

Although we live in uncertain times, I am confident you will continue to answer every challenge — our best days are yet ahead.

Linda and I also deeply appreciate the selfless support and sacrifice of our military families, without which our mission could not succeed — we cannot thank you enough. Please enjoy this time with each other, and be thankful for all that is special and dear to you. To all the Flying Tigers of the 14th Air Force, please have a safe and happy holidays. May God bless you, yours, and the United States of America.



Maj. Gen. Michael Hamel, 14th Air Force commander

Sunday is the shortest day of the year!

The Earth tilts on an axis as it orbits around the sun. In the Northern Hemisphere, Dec. 21 is the day when the Earth is tilted the furthest away from the sun — thus the sun appears lowest in the sky (about 19 degrees above the horizon at noon for Seattle). That means the sun spends the least amount of time above the horizon that day.



It's exactly opposite in the Southern Hemisphere, where the Earth is tilted closest to the sun, so for them, it's the first day of summer. So while we're bundling up, Australians hit the beach during the holiday season.

It works the opposite for summer on June 21. That's when we're tilted closest to the sun, and get the longest day of the year.

FUEL

From Page A1
vehicle," said Staff Sgt. Ernest Castillo, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron liquid fuels manager. Castillo said Veeder Root Red Jacket, a manufacturer of gas dispensers, donated a new pump for the project.

www.redjacket.com, the submersible turbine pumps are advanced in environmental protection, safety, serviceability and flow.

On Dec. 9, the first GSA vehicles were filled with E85. The process of certifying and testing the gas dispensers has begun. Together the new pumps and gas make an air friendly team and Vandenberg is at the forefront in making California's air safer to breathe.

ALCON: Alpha

A general condition reflecting responsible alcohol use.

Days since last DUI: **14**
DUI totals for the year: **20**
AADD saves: **320**

30th OG	2	30th LG	2
30th MSG	9	14th AF	
30th MDG	1	381st TRG	2
30th SW	1	576th FLTS	2
614th OG	1	Other	

Hometown: Detroit, Michigan
Time in service: 8 years, 8 months

Time on station: 1 year
Role in mission: Food Service Contract quality assurance

How do you contribute to the wing mission? Ensure that contractors abide by the Food Service Contract and deliver quality service to our troops.

How do you fulfill the core values? I try to apply to core values to my daily life and serve my country with those standards in mind.

What do you like best about the Air Force? I enjoy my role in the military and the many benefits it entitles me to.

How would you improve life at Vandenberg? Being in Services, I am always striving to improve the quality of life for our Air Force members. I would love to see greater participation in the varied Services events. There are so many good things going on around base at the different activities, hopefully people are checking their *Trackers* and keeping an eye out for upcoming events in the base bulletin, *Space & Missile Times* and different marketing tools around base.

What's the most exciting experience you've had so far in the Air Force? Being stationed in Europe was a great experience. It enabled me to see many other countries and to learn to work side by side with Air Forces from other countries.



Team Vandenberg Warrior
Staff Sgt.
Bethany Lopez
30th Services Squadron

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHUCK WALKER

Who is your role model and why? My mother and my husband are both role models for me. My mother is prior active-duty Air Force and is retiring from the Air National Guard as a Chief. My husband is the epitome of the core values. He is an amazing role model for me and for the troops he mentors.

Who is your favorite leader in history and why? Eleanor Roosevelt. She played a leading part in women's organizations and was active in encouraging youth movements, in promoting consumer welfare, in working for the civil rights of minorities, and in combating poor housing and unemployment.

Hobbies: I enjoy spending time with my family and traveling.

Show me your war face!



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHUCK WALKER

Airman 1st Class James Vincent Salavarría, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, attempts to set up a defensive position during convoy training at the Northstar field training site Dec. 12.

Crimebeat

COMPILED BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS EDWARD PANAS
30th Security Forces Squadron

Dec. 11
On the Prowl – 8:19 p.m.

A patrolman incarcerated a gray and black striped cat. The cat was jailed for loitering on Sunset Street. The cat's bail was set at \$20.50.

Dec. 12
Spookie Stranger – 1:07 a.m.

A contactor reported a suspicious male walking on the roadway adjacent to building 907 on south base. He attempted to greet the stranger, who inquired if the SLC-4 lights were a town. Based on the fact the stranger's face was wrapped in a blanket, he decided the stranger was possibly an unstable transient and notified Security Forces. Patrolmen searched the area, but could not locate the man.

Off-base Arrest – 5 a.m.
A routine check of local jails revealed an airman was serving time in the San Luis Obispo jail for driving under the influence. His first sergeant and commander were notified.

Dec. 13
I can't drive 65 – 9:28 p.m.

A patrolman stopped a Chevy Camaro on Highway 135 and Graciosa Road for driving 124 mph in a 65 mph zone. The vehicle operator, identified as an airman, indicated he needed to exceed the speed limit due to the fact his car would shake at a lesser speed. He also said he did not feel his passengers also identified as airmen were in any

risk. The airman was apprehended for Reckless Driving and released to his first sergeant.

Dec. 14
The Party's Over – 3:27 a.m.

An anonymous caller reported a loud party on Camphor Street. Patrolmen had no problem determining where the party was. An airman at the home was directed to terminate the festivities and he complied.

Slippery when Wet – 9:10 a.m.

Patrolmen responded to a major vehicle accident on Highway-1 north of Santa Lucia Canyon Road. A non-base affiliated civilian's Oldsmobile left the roadway due to rainy conditions. She was transported to Lompoc Hospital Emergency Room for injuries.

Dec. 15
911 Call – 12:37 a.m.

The Santa Barbara County Dispatch Center reported receiving a 911 call from a vehicle operator on Highway-1 complaining of breathing difficulty. Patrolmen located the non-base affiliated driver and he was transported to the Lompoc Hospital Emergency room.

"Quick" thought

In the past 30 days, patrolmen cited 22 vehicle operators for speeding. Twelve of the violators, including four airmen were traveling in excess of 80 mph. Speed is a major contributor to accidents involving loss of property and loss of life. Don't become a statistic. Drive safely!!!

****Editor's note:** Although the *Space & Missile Times* may make light of some blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.

Legal office announces Article 15 action for Oct., Nov.

COMPILED BY STAFF SGT. CARTER SCHRAGE
30th Legal Office

■ 21 Vandenberg airmen received punishment in October and November, under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

An airman from the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron violated Article 111 of the UCMJ, drunken or reckless operation of a vehicle. The airman received a reduction in rank to airman basic, forfeiture of \$575 per month for two months, 45 days restriction to base, and 45 days extra duty.

An airman from the 30th CES violated Article 111 of the UCMJ, drunken or reckless operation of a vehicle. The airman received a reduction in rank to airman basic, forfeiture of \$575 per month for two months, one month suspended, 45 days restriction to base, and 45 days extra duty.

A senior airman from the 30th CES violated Article 111 of the UCMJ, drunken or reckless operation of a vehicle. The senior airman received a reduction to airman first class and a suspended forfeiture of \$764 per month for two months.

An airman first class from the 30th CES violated Article 92, 111 and 134, of the UCMJ, underage drinking, drunken or reckless operation of a vehicle and

possession of an open container. The airman first class received a reduction to airman, suspended forfeiture of \$645 per month for two months, 45 days restriction to base, and 45 days extra duty.

An airman first class from the 30th CES violated Articles 92 and 108 of the UCMJ, dereliction of duty and destroying a government vehicle. The airman first class received a suspended reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$100 per month for two months, and 30 days extra duty.

A staff sergeant from the 30th Comptroller Squadron violated Articles 92 and 107 of the UCMJ, dereliction of duty, failure to obey lawful order and false official statement. The staff sergeant received a suspended reduction to senior airman and 45 days extra duty.

An airman first class from the 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron violated Articles 92 and 95, of the UCMJ underage drinking and resisting apprehension. The airman first class received a suspended reduction to airman and forfeiture of \$200 per month for two months.

An airman from the 532nd Training Squadron violated Article 92 of the UCMJ, training phase violations. The airman received a reduction to airman basic,

suspended forfeiture of \$300, 10 days restriction to VAFB and 10 days extra duty.

A senior airman from the 381st TRS violated Article 86 of the UCMJ, failure to go. The senior airman received a suspended reduction to airman first class and 14 days extra duty.

A senior airman from the 30th CES violated Article 86 of the UCMJ, failure to go. The senior airman received a reduction to airman first class.

An airman first class from the 30th Security Forces Squadron violated Article 121 of the UCMJ, larceny of military property \$500 or less, Article 107, signing a false official statement and Article 134, for unlawful entry. The airman received a reduction in rank to airman, forfeiture of \$575 per month for two months, restriction to base for 45 days, 45 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

A senior airman from the 30th SFS violated Article 108 of the UCMJ, loss, damage, destruction, or wrongful disposition of military property, Article 107, making a false official statement and Article 134, obstruction of justice. The airman received a reduction to airman first class, suspended forfeiture of \$500 per month for two months and 30 days extra duty.

A senior airman from the 30th SFS violated Article 113 of the UCMJ, misbehavior of sentinel, sleeping on post. The airman received a suspended reduction to airman first class.

An airman first class from the 30th SFS violated Article 134 of the UCMJ, for unlawful entry. The airman received a reduction to airman, suspended forfeiture of \$250 pay, and restriction to base for 15 days.

A senior airman from the 30th Security Forces Squadron violated Article 92 of the UCMJ, dereliction of duty, horseplay on post. The airman received a reduction to airman first class, suspended forfeiture of \$250 per month for two months, and 24 days extra duty.

An airman first class from the 30th SFS violated Article 92 of the UCMJ, dereliction of duty, by allowing an unlawful entry working on personal matters at the entry control point. The airman received a suspended reduction to airman, suspended forfeiture of \$250 and 12 days extra duty.

A senior airman from the 30th SFS violated Article 92 of the UCMJ, dereliction of duty, horseplay on post. The airman received a reduction to airman first class, suspended forfeiture of \$250 per month for

two months and 18 days extra duty.

A second lieutenant from the 76th Helicopter Flight violated Article 111 of the UCMJ, drunken driving. The airman received a forfeiture of \$500 per month for two months.

A staff sergeant from the 576th Flight Test Squadron violated Article 107 of the UCMJ, intent to deceive, by making a false official statement and Article 134, Failure to pay, a debt. The airman received a suspended reduction to senior airman and 14 days extra duty.

A senior airman from the 576th FLTS violated Article 92 of the UCMJ, dereliction of duty, for failure to have vehicle registration and insurance. The airman received a reduction to airman first class, suspended forfeiture of \$764 per month for two months, restriction to base for 15 days and 15 days extra duty.

A staff sergeant from the 576th FLTS violated Article 86 of the UCMJ, absence without leave, fail to go, Article 107, false official statement, with the intent to deceive, and Article 134, failure to pay debt. The airman received a suspended reduction to senior airman, suspended forfeiture of \$912 for two months, and 15 days extra duty.

Around the Air Force

Assignment listing available

■ **RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** — The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for people returning from overseas May through July will be available Jan. 13.

Individuals should contact their military personnel flights to update their preferences by Jan. 30, said officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here. Airmen will be notified of their selection by mid-February.

EQUAL advertises upcoming assignment requirements by Air Force specialty code and rank. Airmen should review, prioritize and update their assignment preferences based on the EQUAL list, officials said.

People can view the lists from the AFPC home page at <https://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/amsweb/master.cfm>, or at their MPFs. Those on temporary duty during the advertising period can contact the nearest personnel office for assistance. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Leaders reflect on 100 years of flight

■ **WASHINGTON** — The following is a joint message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:

"It was the most significant 12 seconds of the last 100 years.

"On Dec. 17, 1903, two bicycle builders from Ohio, Orville and Wilbur Wright, launched the world on a path to the heavens when their rudimentary airplane of wire, wood and canvas wings lifted off a windy, grassy hill at Kitty Hawk (N.C.).

"Since their marvelous achievement, aviation has enabled our expansion, enhanced our commerce and expanded our communication.

"The centennial of flight is as much about our future as it is about our past. We commend you for all that you do every day to promote this heritage and provide our nation with the finest air and space force in the world.

We're proud to serve along side you as we continue to discover ways to slip the surly bonds and deliver peace and freedom for our nation."

Civilians will see increase in pay

By MAJ. JOHN THOMAS

Air Force Personnel Center PA

■ **RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** — While a civil service pay bill awaits congressional action, Air Force civilian employees should see an average two percent increase in their January paychecks.

Air Force Personnel Center officials here said a two percent increase for general schedule employees will go into effect automatically and that they are ready to process an expected total 4.1-percent pay increase if and when it passes Congress.

The additional 2.1-percent average pay increase would be retroactive to the effective date, which should be Jan. 11, officials said.

Officials here plan to work quickly to ensure individual personnel records are updated as soon as possible, they said.

"If the proposed increase in pay goes through, we're prepared to facilitate the change as soon as we get the go-ahead from DoD," said Charles Huerta, director of civilian personnel operations at the center. After that he said he expects people will see the increase, as well as any back pay, within two paychecks after the change is processed.

"This is not the first time this has happened, so we're confident we know how to update records accurately and fairly quickly,"

Huerta said.

Answers about individual civilian personnel records are available by calling (800) 616-3775 weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST. Hearing-impaired employees may call the TDD line at (800) 382-0893, or commercial 565-2276 within San Antonio.

Overseas employees will first dial the AT&T toll-free direct access number for the country that they are in, and then (800) 997-2378.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Hoaxes affect government cards

By STAFF SGT. MELANIE STREETER

Air Force Print News

■ **WASHINGTON** — A recent e-mail hoax targeted government purchasing cardholders in an attempt to gain vital account information.

The e-mail message linked users to a Web-based form, which fraudulently requested key information such as Social Security number, credit card account numbers and expiration dates.

"This is really uncommon," said Josephine Davis, Air Force banking officer.

"What you see most frequently is some organization trying to pick up a slogan or relationship to (General Services Administration) because GSA administers the government purchasing contract."

Though there were only a couple of e-mail hoaxes this year, Davis said there are a variety of methods used to get government travel or purchasing card information.

"It's not because they're travel or purchasing cards, but because they are credit cards," she said.

Once a card is lost or stolen, or any other type of fraud is detected, the customer should immediately call the credit card issuer, according to the FTC Web site.

"By law, once you report the

Flag of hope



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRANDI BRANCH

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM — (Clockwise from left) Staff Sgt. C.D. Schmeid, Airman 1st Class Dustin Sharpmack, 1st Lt. Trace Dotson and Capt. Troy Panon display an 86-by-76-inch handmade American flag. The one-of-a-kind flag was designed and created by Iowa school students as part of the "Hand on America" project.

loss or theft, you have no further responsibility for unauthorized charges," according to the site. "In any event, your maximum liability under federal law is \$50 per card."

Problems aside, the government travel and purchasing card programs are still a good thing, Davis said.

"The government charge card, though sometimes cumbersome, has been an effective program," she said. "It has saved time and money, and if used and safe guarded appropriately, is a good procurement tool."

Judge delays proceedings

■ **SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill.** — The military judge appointed to preside over the court-martial case involving an Air Force translator has delayed the proceedings.

The initial session of Senior Airman Ahmad I. Al Halabi's court-martial was scheduled for Dec. 15. It has been postponed until Jan. 13 to allow resolution of questions

raised by defense counsel related to the ongoing investigation involving Al Halabi.

The military judge, Col. Barbara Brand of the Central Circuit Judiciary at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, is expected to arraign Al Halabi and hear motions at the session on Jan. 13. The date of the proceedings before the court members remains tentatively set for April 20.

Regis, Kelly visit airmen

By DONNA MILES

American Forces Press Service

■ **WASHINGTON** — Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa, hosts of the morning talk show, "Live with Regis and Kelly," will feature televised holiday greetings from deployed U.S. servicemembers to their loved ones at home throughout Christmas week.

Footage of troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Korea and Bosnia, all shot by crews from the Armed Forces Network-Iraq and

the Army and Air Force Hometown News Service, will begin airing Dec. 22, said Michael Gelman, the show's executive producer.

The series will launch with a three- to four-minute montage of holiday greetings from many of the deployed servicemembers, he said.

Additional troop messages will air between other segments featured on the program during the following days, Gelman said.

Philbin said he sees the messages as a way to express thanks to U.S. servicemembers who will be separated from their families during the holidays.

"These young men and women are making a huge sacrifice for their country by being away from home during the holidays," he said. "Giving them the chance to connect with their families through our show is one small gift we can give back to them."

(These articles are courtesy of Air Force Print News. To view the full stories go to the Air Force Web site at www.af.mil)

Team V member awarded for contributions to electro-optics

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

A Team Vandenberg member received an award Nov. 19 for his contributions to the advancement of time, space and position information and electro-optics for range customers at the annual International Test and Evaluation Association conference in Hawaii.

Dennis Fisher, 30th Space Communications Squadron, won the TSPI/E-O Award and also received an engraved crystal trophy and a check for \$1,000 from the association.

TSPI tracks missiles and launch vehicles launched from Vandenberg. Real-time photo-optical systems use the information to track and photograph vehicles during flight.

Fisher has been active in the field for more than 20 years. He founded and set up many committees to improve and modernize not only Vandenberg's TSPI/E-O systems, but also all Department of Defense ranges.

He helped establish many range

optics projects, including the \$6 million Distant Object Altitude Measurement System. The DOAMS system is telescopes that work together to provide sharp pictures of launches and tests for the range, said Maj. Paula Lane, 30th Space Wing.

Fisher started in photography in 1966 as a Marine Corps combat photographer. Following his service he learned underwater photography as part of a treasure hunting company.

A few months later Fisher went to work for an engineering company where he provided engineer photography for some of the current solid rocket systems.

Fisher said he completed his degree when he realized he needed it to advance in his company. But when he finished college he went to work for the Air Force instead.

Since beginning his AF career in 1976, Fisher has been instrumental in seeking out technologies that improve engineering and documentary photography.

He coordinates the base's optical

imaging equipment during tests of various launch and flight systems. The optical imaging equipment can focus on objects such as the space shuttles, aircraft and missiles. As the Chairman for the Optical Systems Group of the Range Commanders Council, Fisher also sets the future for all DoD range optic systems, Lane said.

In addition to providing the groundwork for the future of optics, Fisher has worked to equip each range with the best equipment at the lowest cost, Lane said.

He has saved the government millions of dollars by shifting optics systems between ranges that needed them, rather than purchasing all new equipment, she added.

"For years he's been going way beyond the call of duty and basically not been recognized for all his hard work," Lane said. "This award allows him to be recognized by his peers."

"I enjoy what I do," Fisher said. "In this field you either like it or you don't. There's no middle ground."



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS

Dennis Fisher, 30th Space Communications Squadron, received the TSPI/E-O award. The award is given annually to people who make contributions to the field of electro-optics.

Jews celebrate Hanukkah to honor rededication of temple

By CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) DAVID MORROW
30th Chapel Office

This year, the eight days of Hanukkah begin at sundown tonight. Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem to Jewish worship after reclaiming it from the Syrian Greeks.

Part of the story begins with the death of Alexander the Great. His generals and their descendents fought over parts of Alexander's empire. Both the Ptolemies of Egypt and the Seleucids of Syria claimed and battled over Judea. Finally Antiochus IV, a Seleucid, won.

Seeking to unify his empire, which included Syria and Judea, Antiochus decreed that all his subjects were to worship Greek gods. The Temple in Jerusalem was turned into a Greek temple. Vital Jewish practices were forbidden under pain of death. There was no way for Jews to "just get along" and still remain Jews.

Rebellion started in the village of Modin. Under the leadership of Judah the Maccabee, his father Mattathias the priest and Judah's four brothers, a volunteer army managed to drive Antiochus' troops out of Jerusalem after three years.

After cleaning up the unholy mess in the Temple, they rededicated it to the worship of God on the 25th day of Kislev, 165 BCE. An eight-day festival was established to celebrate the dedication.

A few years later Judah's family, the Hasmonians, established an independent state that lasted until the Roman conquest. Maccabees I and II in the Apocrypha contain this first recorded account of a successful fight for religious liberty.

For centuries Jews celebrated Hanukkah by lighting festival lamps (candles came later) and reciting special prayers. There

are many stories and no universal agreement about the origin of the Hanukkah lights. The favorite is that they could find only a tiny flask of the specially prepared oil used to light the great Menorah in the temple. The oil miraculously burned for eight days, enough time to prepare more.

The Menorah has become the symbol not only of Hanukkah, but also of light and truth and liberty. The dreidel, a four-sided top, is associated with Hanukkah because in that era, although it was illegal to study the Torah, people continued to study secretly and by heart while

pretending to play the dreidel "game". Hanukkah gelt (coins) is derived from the coins the Maccabees struck to show they were a free people. Some of these ancient coins of Israel still exist.

It is traditional for the whole family to light a menorah that holds candles or tiny lamps, adding a light for each day of the holiday. Children typically received some coins for treats and played games with a dreidel. Foods prepared in oil were popular. Latkes (pancakes) made from cheese were one of the first Hanukkah dishes. Now most people make latkes from potatoes. Israelis generally eat jelly donuts

and fritters. In recent decades Hanukkah gifts and cards have become common in the United States.

Israel's successful fight for independence has given Hanukkah much more importance in the 20th and 21st centuries than it had previously.

(Locally, most Jews will celebrate Hanukkah at home. There will be community celebrations in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Santa Ynez. The Vandenberg-Lompoc Jewish Congregation will hold a celebration for all ages Dec. 26, the last night of Hanukkah, at Chapel 1.)



The shop is located next to the skills development center in Bldg. 11180. They always need volunteers.

The Vandenberg Thrift Shop is open
Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Call 606-3128 to find out more.



CLIP AND SAVE!

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Call Airmen Against
Drunk Driving

For a free and confidential ride home, call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 606-AADD or 605-AADD (2233).

30th SFS No. 1 beat 30th SFS No. 2 by 17 points

By STAFF SGT. CHUCK WALKER
30th Space Communications Squadron

Even though they are one of the top intramural softball teams in the Winter League, the 30th Security Forces team No. 1 has had one area of weakness – pitching.

No more. SFS No. 1 exploded for 14 runs in the fourth inning to break things open as they whipped SFS No.2 18-1.

The key though was pitcher Angel Garcia, who was able to pitch strikes and let his defense do the work.

“Our big thing today was we finally had a pitcher,” SFS No.1 player-coach Fernando Mora said. “We finally got someone who is able to put it over the plate.”

Poor pitching has hurt Cops No. 1 all season. Even though it has only resulted in two losses, the pitching was the difference in being a good team and being a great team. Mora said finding a good pitcher is very important.

“When your pitcher is throwing balls, no one swings and then you start walking people and getting in trouble,” Mora said.

“Your defense then falls asleep. If you have a pitcher who can get it over the plate that forces the other team to swing their bats and our defense can do the rest. That’s how we were able to hold (Cops No. 2) to one run.”

Leading 4-0 going into the bottom of the third inning, Cops #1 went to work.

The Cops pounded out 17 hits in the inning, including a three-run home run by Frank Mamea and a two-run blast by Malcom Walton.

Walton and Jason Camacho each went 3-for-3 to lead the Cops offensively.

“I think we’ve got a real



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHUCK WALKER

After a season of weak pitching, the 30th Security Forces Squadron No. 1 makes a comeback at the winter intramural softball league game Tuesday. Above, (Coach) Staff Sgt. Fernando Mora 30th SFS plays to win with a hit for his team.

strong nucleus of guys who come to play every night,” Walton said. “Our biggest obstacle is just having 10 come out and play every game. We feel we can beat anybody on base. We hope to finish strong.”

Walton said pitch selection was the key to his success.

“It was just a matter of stepping into the box and concentrating on what I had to do,” Walton said.

“Just a matter of picking the right pitch to hit.”

Mamea said the Cops knew

their offense would eventually start up. It was only a matter of time.

“It was kind of hard, we knew we could put some hits together,” Mamea said. “Then in the fourth inning our bats woke up. Our defense is what kept them out of the game. We had a couple of 1-2-3 innings that shut them down.”

For Cops No.2 it was a matter of not being able to get offense on-track.

Cops No.2 coach Steven Gonzalez said his team just didn’t have it.

“They brought their bats tonight and we didn’t,” Gonzalez said. “We weren’t being patient at the plate and waiting for our pitch. We’ll be back for the playoffs.”

Gonzalez said Cops No.2, which has a 7-4 record, will work on its game over the Christmas break to try and be ready for the playoffs.

“During the break, we’re going to come out and practice and come

out to play hard,” Gonzalez said. “(Cops No.1) has a good team. We think we can put up good numbers too. We hope to be able to prove that in the playoffs.”

Now that they have found the missing ingredient, Mora thinks he can smell a championship for Cops No.1.

“Like I said before, all we need is to have our 10 players show up,” Mora said. “Right now, I think we’re unbeatable. If the 10 players we had today show up for the rest of the season, everything else will take care of itself.”

Sports Briefs

SKATE COMPETITION

A family skate competition open to all begins 10 a.m. Saturday at the Skate Park.

BODY FAT TAPING

The Health and Wellness Center conducts body fat taping every day from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays.

HOLIDAY FAMILY WALK

The Holiday Family Walk is offered to those wishing to walk off extra holiday pounds. For a map of the course stop by the fitness center. Moms 2 be Exercise The exercising during pregnancy class is offered at the HAWC and gives expectant Moms the guidelines for staying fit while pregnant. The class is offered quarterly. Call the HAWC at 606-2221 for more information.

RUNNER SAFETY NOTICE

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:10 to 7:40 a.m. 120 members of the

30th Civil Engineer Squadron practice a 1.5-mile run that involves crossing Washington Ave between South Dakota Ave and Alaska Way. This course also involves running along the sides of these streets. For safety precautions, road guards and traffic cones are used to direct traffic away from runners. Please look out for the runners, road guards and use caution.

LAP SWIMMING

Lap swimming is offered at the base pool from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday,

WATER AEROBICS

This class is offered from 1 to 1:45 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Services Center.

WINTER OPEN

Sign up for the 2004 Winter Open at Marshallia Ranch Golf Course. The open is scheduled for Jan. 3 and 4. Sign up at the Pro Shop. The entry fee is \$20.

POOL OPENED

The maintenance work has been completed and the pool has resumed regular hours.

BODY CONDITIONING

A total body conditioning class is held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Services Center.

YOUTH GOLF LESSONS

Marshallia Ranch Golf course holds youth golf lessons at 1:30 p.m. Saturdays for youth ages eight and up. The price is \$5 per session including the use of a rental club set and range balls.

AF WRESTLING CAMP

The Air Force wrestling camp is scheduled for Saturday. Entries for the next training camp will be taken at Mountain Home AFB, CO.

This camp runs from Feb. 12 through April 11. Call the Fitness Center for more information.

CGO COURSE RUN

The Company Grade Officer Course run is at 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the obstacle course. Call 2nd Lt. Korinne Houston at 605- 0782 for more information.

Intramural Sports

Winter Softball

Team	Wins	Losses	Team	Wins	Losses	Team	Wins	Losses
SFS No. 1	8	2	NRO	4	5	WS	6	5
SFS No. 2	7	4	14AF	0	5	533RD	3	8
CES No. 1	7	2	HAWKS	5	3	576TH	4	7
CES No. 2	5	5	1ASTS	10	0	392ND	3	7

Boomers provides family enjoyment for all

By 2ND LT. THERESA CUNNINGHAM
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

We were invited to a birthday party at Boomers. My daughter Kyla's classmate turned six. What a great excuse to play.

Apparently Boomers is a popular birthday attraction. Our server Dulce, seemed to handle what I would consider way too many kids like a pro. She guided us through popcorn, pizza, singing, cake and presents then we were off to the races. Literally. My daughters and I became open targets for the enthusiastic efforts of trigger-happy, water shooting bumper boat drivers.

Thank God Kyla went in her own boat since after being sprayed once, she was on a mission. For the most part I was able to circle the outskirts of () and keep little Hannah and myself from being victims of a wet t-shirt contest. Wet, but laughing, we moved on to the Rookie Race Track.

Don't let the name fool you, this is serious stuff for a four to seven year old. Hitting that gas and steering at the same time, is a complicated and heady under-taking for a young driver.

Kyla and the birthday girl, Avery Alexander, came away with smiles, new confidence and to me, a scary taste for being in the driver's seat.

Not all were so lucky. With the ride attendant's help, Hannah abandoned her race car early in the race, confused and slightly terrified by the controls, or her lack of control over them.

Oh well, onwards to mini-golf. Here is a game where children have the upper hand. They have no adult hang-ups about rules and no teammates or coaches to please. The girls attacked with fervor. As long as the area within swinging reach of the club was clear, it was basically a free-for-all.



Kyla Cunningham, 6, blasts strangers with her water cannon. Hannah Cunningham, 4, gets in her dance moves at the Boomer's arcade. Avery Alexander, 6, contemplates her wish at her 6th birthday party.

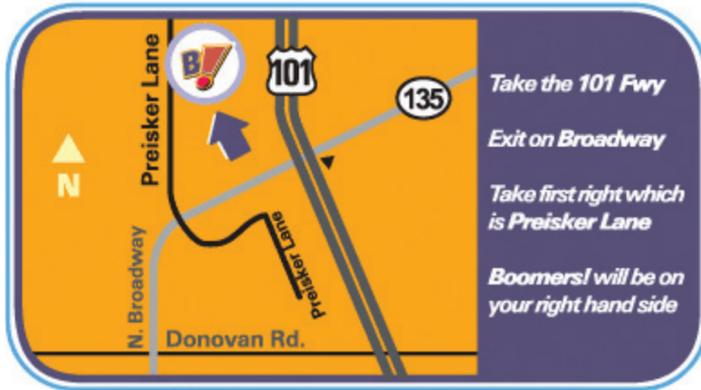


Why hit that little ball when you can scoot it with you club, kick it or just plain pick it up and put it close to the hole?

Luckily, the staff must have seen this type of behavior before.

They smiled indulgently as my girls peaked into the course's houses and windmills trying to figure out where to throw the golf ball so it would come out in the good spot.

After slurppies at the snack bar and envious looks at the big-kid race track and batting cages, my daughters clutched the toys they had won at the arcade, took my hands and asked when we could come back. Soon I hope.



MAP PROVIDED BY WWW.BOOMERSPARKS.COM



Destinations Central Coast WANTS YOU!

Have you visited a Central Coast destination lately? Share it with the rest of Team V! Send in a 400 - 600 word rough draft about your adventure! Send submissions to: space&missiletimes@vandenberg.af.mil

Community Calendar

19 FRI **Pharmacy Automated System** – A new pharmacy automated system is

being implemented at the Vandenberg clinic. Patients may experience an increase in waiting times for the next three to six months. Call 606-7440.

Grant program – General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program awards \$1,500 college education grants to eligible candidates. Visit the Air Force Aid office at the family support center or the Society's Web site www.afas.org for information and application for this grant.

Youth Basketball scholarships – Applications are located at the youth center and base library.

Cell phone collection – Family Advocacy is collecting used cell

phones and accessories to be recycled for people involved in domestic violence.

Collection boxes are located at the commissary, base exchange and medical clinic. Call 606-8217.

19 FRI **Low walk-up fares** – American Airlines expanded its military fares to next fall. The fares include no advance-purchase requirements and no change fees. Call (800) 433-7300.

Hunters Against Hunger – donate wild game to the needy. Call 606-6804.

Hebrew, Bar Mitzvah – classes are available. Call 734-3311.

Free car seats – to E-4 and below. Call 606-5338.

The Vandenberg 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.

19 FRI **G.I. Java seeks musicians** – G.I. Java wants local musicians to play at the coffeehouse during business hours. Solo performers and bands are welcome. Call the Chapel at 606-5773 for an audition.

Gift of Groceries program – The Defense Commissary Agency offers a gift certificate program that allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates to donate to military families through charitable organizations or give directly to military friends and family. Gift certificates are available online at www.commissaries.com.

19 FRI **Marriage enrichment counseling** – offered on a one-on-one basis for married and unmarried couples. Call 606-9958.

Dads-to-New Dads and Moms-to-New Moms programs – These mentorship programs offer support to new moms and dads. Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338.

20 SAT **Global Hearts' Holiday Workshop** – 7 to 12 p.m. Saturday at the Education Center.

This is for the children of deployed members so mom or dad can take care of the holiday preparations. For more information, call 737-4814.

22 MON **Relaxation room** – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Vandenberg

Health and Wellness Center. Call 606-2221 for an appointment.

23 TUE **Vandenberg Retiree Activities Center** – Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday in building 10346 in the base exchange shopping center. Call 606-5474 for more information.

Youth sign language classes – 3 to 3:50 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the education center room E-4. The class is for children in third through fifth grades. Call (805) 734-0452.

Baby Meet – 9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the religious education center, building 16140.

Baby Meet offers discussion and socialization for expectant parents and those with newborn babies through two years old. For more information, call 734-1461.

24 WED **Christmas Eve Children Mass** – 5 p.m. Wednesday at Chapel 1.

Protestant Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Chapel 1.

Playtime for Tots – 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Cocheo Park. The playgroup children ages two through five. Call 734-2098.

Christmas Day Mass – 10 a.m. Thursday at Chapel 1.

25 THU **Christmas Day Protestant Worship** – 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Chapel 1.

Protestant Watchnight Service – 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31 at Chapel 1.

26 FRI **Hanukkah Service, Dinner** – 6 p.m. Dec. 26 at Chapel 1. Call 605-5773.



Hi-Way Drive-in
Santa Maria Ph. 937-3515
GEN. ADM. \$5 KIDS 4-11 \$1

THE HAUNTED MANSION PG 7:00 p.m.
ELF PG
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN PG
STUCK ON YOU PG-13
(Starts Wednesday)

Parks Plaza Buellton
Buellton Ph. 688-7434

SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE PG-13
DAILY 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
SAT-SUN 11:30
LAST SAMURAI
DAILY 4:00-7:15 SAT-SUN 1:00
STUCK ON YOU PG-13
DAILY 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
SAT-SUN 11:30 (Ends Wednesday)

MONA LISA'S SMILE PG-13
DAILY 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
SAT-SUN 11:30
LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING PG-13
DAILY 3:00-7:15 SAT-SUN 11:30
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN PG
(Begins Wednesday)

Movies Gemini
Lompoc Ph. 736-1306

THE HAUNTED MANSION PG
DAILY 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30 SAT-SUN 11:30
(Ends Wednesday)
LOVE DON'T COST A THING PG-13
DAILY 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30 SAT-SUN 11:30
(Ends Wednesday)
PAYCHECK PG-13
(Begins Thursday)
PETER PAN PG
(Begins Thursday)

Movies Lompoc
Lompoc Ph. 736-1558

LAST SAMURAI
DAILY 4:00-7:15 SAT-SUN 1:00
STUCK ON YOU PG-13
DAILY 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30 SAT-SUN 11:30
(Ends Wednesday)
MONA LISA'S SMILE PG-13
DAILY 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30 SAT-SUN 11:30
LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING PG-13
DAILY 3:00-7:30 SAT-SUN 11:00
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN PG
(Begins Thursday)

General Admission \$7 kids and seniors
\$5 All shows before 5:30 p.m. \$5. Movies and times subject to change

Call Edwards Santa Maria 10 for movie listings (800) 326-3264

The Vandenberg Food Pantry Needs food donations Items needed are:

sugar, Bisquick, pasta sauce, pancake mix, Hamburger Helper, evaporated milk, Chicken Helper, baby wipes, crackers, soups, complete meals, cheese, brown sugar, canned macaroni & sugar, canned vegetables, rice, flour, pasta, peanuts, mixed nuts, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, diapers; sizes 3, 4, 5, juice boxes, cake mixes, frosting, canned fruit and vegetables



The food pantry is located behind the family support center. For more information on hours of operation, call 606-2960.

30th Services News

SERVICES CENTER



Massage Therapy & Day Spa

Time is running out!
Holiday Gift Certificates & Gift Baskets are available now!
 Get your gifts today!

- GIFT CERTIFICATES for massages,
 - GIFT BASKETS of all types and sizes are also available!
- Call or come by today...

Located in the Services Center • 605-4748

GOLF COURSE

Saturday - Christmas Turkey Shoot

Holiday hours of operation

Mon.	course open
Wed.	holiday hours*
Thu.	course closed
Dec. 26	course open
Dec. 31	holiday hours*
Jan 1, 2004	course closed

*Holiday hours schedule:

- No rental equipment after noon.
- Driving range closes at 3 p.m.
- Snack bar closes at 4 p.m.
- Pro Shop and clubhouse close at 5 p.m.

Call for more information, 606-0606.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

ATTENTION:

Family Child Care Parents



Family Child Care Subsidy Program

1. A new initiative has been implemented in Air Force Family Child Care (FCC) programs. The FCC Subsidy Program will assist working parents in finding quality, affordable childcare in FCC homes by sharing the cost of their childcare fees. Beginning (Dec 1, 2003), parents of designated age groups will pay FCC fees according to their Total Family Income (TFI). This is the same method used to establish fees in the base Child Development Center.

2. Initially, parent fees for full-time care of children 0-2 years of age, children with special needs, and children needing care at night due to swing or midnight shifts will be subsidized. These situations are our greatest demand AF-wide at the present time. As funds become available, the subsidy may be extended to other age groups or circumstances.

3. It is necessary to complete a DD Form 2652 and provide documentation of your TFI in order to register for this program and set your fees in one of six (6) income categories. Documentation includes the most recent Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) or civilian equivalent for all employment of both parents. If one parent is a full-time student, proof from the academic institution indicating full-time student status is needed.

4. Parents can register for this program at the Family Child Care office Bldg. 7420. Please call Gwendolyn Jones, FCC Coordinator for your appointment at 606-4639 or 606-3255.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

HOLIDAY HOURS

Skills Development, Bldg. 11193

Wed.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thu.	closed
Dec. 26	closed
Dec. 31	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Jan. 1, 2004	closed

Call for more information, 606-6438.

VETERINARY CLINIC

Holiday Hours

Dec. 22, 23, 24	8 a.m. to noon
Dec. 29, 30, 31	8 a.m. to noon
Jan. 1, 2, 2004	Closed

Find the Missing Reindeer & Win Big!

Congratulations to Tech. Sgt Steve Valentine for catching Blitzen!



Tech. Sgt Valentine is now entered into our grand prize drawing for a family vacation package to **DISNEYLAND CALIFORNIA** sponsored by WALMART of Santa Maria (2-adults, 2-children, and hotel stay)

Listen to 106.7 My 80s My 90s My Music with Jennifer Grant **TODAY, between 9 and 10 a.m.** to hear who will win the **Disneyland Trip GRAND PRIZE!**



No Federal Endorsement Intended.

SERVICES NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

New Year's PARTIES

Bring in the New Year with Services!

SURF LANES

Fun starts at 9 p.m. at Surf Lanes
Cost: \$25 (18-yrs. and older)

- Thunder Alley
- Breakfast after Midnight
- Bottle of nonalcoholic champagne

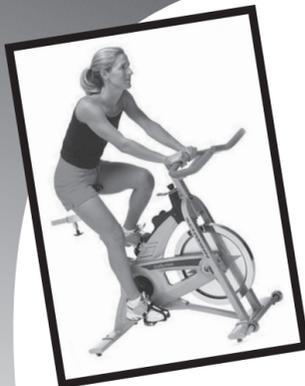
Preregister by Monday.

PACIFIC COAST CLUB

Fun starts at 9 p.m. in both lounges at the Pacific Coast Club
Members \$5 • Nonmembers \$10 with party favors and breakfast at 12:30 a.m.
 Tickets sold at the door. No advance ticket sales.

FITNESS CENTER

Spin on a Schwinn and Win!



Today is the **LAST CHANCE** to demo the Schwinn Bike to be given away **SATURDAY 12 Noon** at the Fitness Center

The Fitness Center's demonstration of a new stationary bike from Schwinn ends today! It's your final opportunity try it out and possibly take it home! Just ride for 10-minutes and fill out a quick survey... it's that easy and you could win it just in time for Christmas!

(One entry per person. Need not be present to win)



Call the Fitness Center for more information, 606-3834.

No Federal Endorsement Intended.



Reindeer Race FUN RUN • 5K/10K

Today at the Fitness Center, noon.

Fitness Center closed Thursday, Christmas Day.

YOUTH CENTER

Breakfast With Santa Prize Winners!



Winner of **GIRL'S BIKE**
Jennie Martinez
 TSgt Daniel Martinez
 30 MSS/
 Outbound Assignments



Winner of **LIVE DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREE**
Lt Stephen Taft
 9 SOPS

Winner of **BOY'S BIKE**
Jimmie Durant IV
 Maj James Durant III
 14AF/JA



Many Thanks to our Sponsors!

Vandenberg Thrift Shop • Vandenberg Spouses Club
 Armed Forces Bank • Wal-Mart of Santa Maria
 NCOA • Top 3

NO FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT INTENDED