

Base Briefs

OUTDOOR RECREATION

All outdoor recreation on Vandenberg is discontinued until further notice. This includes hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, surfing, scuba diving, bird watching, horseback riding, and any other outdoor recreational activities outside of the main cantonment area. Surf Beach is still open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Monday as is the golf course. For more information, call the fish and wildlife section at 606-6804.

STOP LOSS

With Stop Loss in effect beginning May 2, the family support center is continuing mandatory pre-separation briefings and Transition Assistance Program seminars for airmen previously scheduled to separate or retire. By staying up-to-date on these required sessions, airmen can ensure their plans are not held up once Stop Loss is lifted. For more information, call Larry Davis at 605-0134.

GRAB AND GO

Breaker's Dining Facility offers new Chill Blast grab and go items that can be heated in a microwave. They consist of one entree and two side items and are available during all meal periods at the Breakers.

CLINIC CLOSURE

The 30th Medical Group is closed for training the fourth Thursday of each month. Those with emergencies, a threat to life, limb or eyesight, should call 911 or report to the nearest emergency room. For urgent care, call (800) 252-3299 or 606-2273.

EMERGENCY DATA

All active-duty members of Team Vandenberg must complete their virtual record of emergency data online by Sunday. Information on the vRED is used to notify members' next of kin in the event of an emergency. Members can access the Virtual Military Personnel Flight Web site from their home or office computer at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

CORRECTION

The Air Force test program to provide childcare for mildly ill children is run by family member programs and not by family services. For more information, call Ken Ostini, 30th Services Squadron chief of Family Member Programs, at 606-0313.

VENDOR DAY 2003

Various businesses set up promotional display tables from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 17 at the Pacific Coast Club. The displays show what the commercial world has to offer to military members, civil servants, families and contractors. All Vandenberg is invited to attend. Call 606-6439.

SMTHOME DELIVERY

The Space & Missile
See BRIEFS Page A4

U.S. begins Iraqi liberation

By JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Operations to disarm Iraq have begun, President Bush announced during a speech to America Wednesday night.

The president confirmed the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world.

News reports from Baghdad showed anti-aircraft artillery streaming into the sky. Western reporters spoke of hearing bombs drop in the western part of the city — which is home to many government buildings.

"On my orders, coalition forces have begun striking selected targets of military importance to undermine Saddam Hussein's ability to wage war," the president said from the Oval Office at 10:15 p.m. Eastern time. Bush stressed this will be a broad and concerted campaign.

He said the coalition — 35 nations contributing in a variety of ways — is moving to disarm Hussein and put a stop to his murderous rule. "Every nation in this coalition has chosen to bear the duty and share the honor of sharing in our common defense," Bush said.

Bush had direct words to the



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DERRICK GOODE

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- The first of two Air Force F-117 Nighthawks lands in the early morning hours at a forward-deployed air base after a mission Thursday. Nighthawks from the 8th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron out of Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., are deployed supporting all ongoing operations.

more than 250,000 U.S. service members in the area of operations.

"The peace of a troubled world and the hopes of an oppressed people now depend on you," the president said. "That trust is well-placed. The enemies you confront will soon know your skill and bravery. The people you liberate will witness the honorable and

decent spirit of the American military."

He said that once again Saddam Hussein has placed innocent civilians amid military targets. He assured the world that coalition forces will do all they can to minimize Iraqi casualties.

Bush observed the conflict will be dangerous, but U.S. commitment

will not end with victory. He promised America will help feed the population of Iraq and rebuild the infrastructure of the oil-rich land.

But even then, the United States will not stay in the nation one second longer than necessary. "We have no ambition in Iraq except to remove a threat and restore control of that country to

its own people," Bush said.

The president also spoke of the sacrifice made by the relatives of American service members. "I know that the families of our military are now praying that all those who serve will return safely and soon," he said.

"Millions of Americans are praying with you for the safety of your loved ones and for the protection of the innocent. For your sacrifice, you have the gratitude and respect of the American people. And you can know our forces will be coming home as soon as their work is done."

Bush pointed out that now is the time to confront the threat Saddam Hussein has become. Waiting will only make things worse, he said. "We will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder. We will meet that threat now with our Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines, so we will not have to meet it later with armies of firefighters, and police and doctors on the streets of our cities."

He stressed the U.S. military will apply decisive force to ensure a speedy campaign. "I assure you this will not be a campaign of half-measures and we will accept no outcome but victory," he said.

Command cancels GC-03

PETERSON AFB, Colo. - Air Force Space Command announced Tuesday that it canceled Guardian Challenge 2003 because a high operations tempo requires it to focus its resources on day-to-day operations.

The workload associated with training for the competition, slated for May 5-9, along with the efforts

required to actually conduct the competition would increase an already high operations tempo that includes more than 1,000 deployed AFSPC members.

"While Guardian Challenge provides a great opportunity to test our readiness and warfighting capabilities, the nation's space and missile warfighters are fully

tasked," said Gen. Lance Lord, AFSPC commander.

This year's competition would have marked the 36th anniversary of the event, which began in 1967. The competition has been canceled only one other time. That was in 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War.

See GC-03 Page A5



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

The last Atlas IIAS rocket to be launched from Vandenberg arrives aboard a C-5 Galaxy March 12. The rocket is set to launch in June carrying a National Reconnaissance Office payload.

Last Atlas II arrives

By 2ND LT. JENNIFER WHITAKER

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

The last Atlas IIAS ever to be launched from the West Coast arrived here March 12. A gargantuan C-5 Galaxy from Denver, Colo. ferried the historic booster and its Centaur upper stage, landing at Vandenberg's airfield around 10:30 a.m.

Lt. Col. Clinton Crosier, 2nd Space Launch Squadron commander, said the booster and upper stage would spend a week at a processing facility before being conveyed out to Space Launch

Complex-3 for stacking. The Atlas is slated to launch in June.

Crosier said he recognizes the significance of this launch.

"The Atlas was one of the first ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles)," Crosier said. "John Glenn rode an Atlas into orbit in the first manned space program. This launch closes out the Atlas program for Vandenberg."

Capt. Ram Riojas, 2nd SLS, leads a 400-member team in this historic launch.

See ATLAS Page A5

Tigers reunite at heritage ball

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

The Flying Tigers celebrated 60 years of pride and heritage at the 14th Air Force Heritage Ball Saturday at the Pacific Coast Club.

More than a dozen original China Flying Tigers came together with family and friends to celebrate the rich history of the 14th Air Force.

The Flying Tigers got their start in 1941, when Maj. Gen. Clarie Chennault was assigned the task of recruiting pilots for the American Volunteer Group, later known as the famed Flying Tigers. Then in 1943, he took command of the newly formed 14th Air Force, beginning a history of pride and heritage.

"There is a rich legacy of those who have gone before," said retired Gen. Ronald Fogleman, former Air Force chief of staff. "I have admired all those who have served and continue to serve."

Maj. Gen. Michael Hamel, 14th AF commander dedicated a collage of Air Force art and photos honoring the Flying Tigers. The collage covers a wall outside the Pacific Coast Club's Warrior Room.

The general thanked everyone, including Fogleman, former 14th AF commanders and wing commanders, and U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly, for joining him in celebrating 60 years of Flying Tigers history.

"Tonight we're here to honor the people past and present of the 14th Air Force Flying Tigers and what they contributed," Hamel said. Heritage balls throughout 14th AF show support for troops here and abroad, he added.

More than 275 revelers enjoyed the music of the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West.

During the ball, celebrants recognized the Gen. Charles A. Horner Award recipients, Capt. Robert



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JAMES WILLIAMS

Retired Capt. Bill Smith shares stories of the Flying Tigers with Capt. Kevin Brooks, 14th Air Force, at the heritage ball Saturday.

Lyman, 50th Space Communications Squadron commander at Schriever AFB, Colo. and Senior Master Sgt. Steven Callion, superintendent of the 460th Medical Operations Flight at Buckley AFB, Colo.

Tech. Sgt. Roslyn Lee, madame of ceremonies, summed up the evening best with her toast, "To the legendary bravery, contributions and sacrifice of the men and women of our past 14th Air Force Flying Tigers. May we never forget the important role they played in defeating our enemies wherever they were around the globe."

Ten earn senior master sergeant stripe

■ Congratulations to the following Team Vandenberg master sergeants selected for promotion to senior master sergeant.

Daniel Dwight, 14th Air Force
Glen Eckart, 614th Space

Operations Squadron
Rudy Gutierrez, 30th Security Forces Squadron
Jeffrey Hall, 576th Flight Test Squadron

David Malone, 576th FLTS
Alfred Marasse, Detachment 1, 345th Training Squadron

Richard Niner, 30th Space Wing

Sean Reilly, Detachment 9, Space and Missile Systems Center

James Truman, 614th SOPS
Gregory Williams, 576th FLTS

In this issue of the



Also view
The Space & Missile Times at www.vandenberg.af.mil and click the Space & Missile Times button.



Vandenberg Hot Shot Traci Betty shows Team V that you don't have to be a man to be a good firefighter. See Page A3.



Destinations Central Coast heads to the San Luis Obispo Farmer's Market to smell the flowers. See Page B1.

Weekend forecast
Partly cloudy Friday. Patchy morning fog Saturday and Sunday.

Low/High
44/68

For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather

Security Forces give tips to ease force protection condition woes

Tech sergeant explains ways to speed up the slow down

By TECH. SGT. DEREK RABEY
30th Security Forces Squadron

Your security and protection is our business. The Security Forces Squadron has set up barriers and implemented 100 percent identification checks to strengthen the safety and security of Team Vandenberg. Team members are asked to do their part in aiding the effectiveness of this process.

You can speed the entry process by having your identification card out of your wallet and ready to show to the posted sentry prior to actually arriving at the gate.

This will help alleviate some of the congestion during the hours of peak traffic entry to the installation. Delays initiated by

one person not being prepared can affect all those who follow for up to an hour.

If at all possible, avoid entering the base during peak traffic hours 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. If you must enter the base during peak traffic times, it's a good idea to leave home a little early to allow yourself plenty of time to arrive safely.

Please register your vehicle or get a vehicle pass as soon as possible to avoid being redirected to the visitor control center during peak traffic periods. All personnel permanently assigned to Vandenberg are required to register their vehicles. This includes all active-duty, civilian employee, and contract personnel.

All visitors to the installation are required to obtain a visitor's pass in order to enter the installation. These passes are issued at the visitor's center located adjacent to the Santa

"Every airman is a sensor."

GEN. JOHN JUMPER,
AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF

Maria Gate.

When you plan to have guests on base, please help the visitor's center staff by calling them in advance to announce the arrival of your visitors. They can be reached at 606-7662.

The Utah Gate is open on school days from 7 to 8 a.m. and again from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Please leave home early enough to avoid being redirected to enter through the Santa Maria Gate.

The Timberlane Gate is the only entry and exit point for east housing residents, visitors, parents, teachers, and school buses.

Please be especially cautious when driving through east housing because some of the school bus routes have been

changed to accommodate a single entrance point.

The Solvang Gate is closed for repairs to the 13th Street Bridge.

The Lompoc Gate is open from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday - Friday. This gate and the surrounding roadway have been completely redesigned. Please use caution and familiarize yourself with the new traffic flow when using this installation entry point.

Any updates or changes to base security procedures or entry requirements will be posted on Team Vandenberg Network, channel 2 on the base cable system, in the Base Bulletin and via e-mail.

As Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, said, "Every airman is a sensor." That applies to all members of Team Vandenberg as well. Please report any suspicious activity to the 30th Security Forces Squadron Control Center at 606-3911.

The 30th Space Wing Mission: To provide combat capabilities through launch, range and expeditionary



Call 606-7850
or

E-mail your message to
[actionline@
vandenberg.af.mil](mailto: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.

While the action line is a great way to communicate, don't forget to use your chain of command, first sergeants, base services



Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander

officials and other base professionals first.

You help 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.



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

Vandenberg Hot Shot holds her own

Team V salutes local women for Women's History Month.

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

Imagine being flown by helicopter to a remote location and dropped off with only a 50-pound pack of provisions. You spend five long days cutting a firebreak to prevent the spread of a wildland fire. You're covered in dirt, dust, and sweat, and, if you're lucky, you have a sleeping bag to spend the night in. There are no showers or restrooms anywhere nearby.

Vandenberg Hot Shot Traci Betty has been on several such 'Coyote' shifts. And while she grunts and sweats alongside her male counterparts, she knows the pride of being a firefighter, a single mother, and a woman doing something extraordinary. Betty is the only female firefighter on the Vandenberg Hot Shots team.

The 24-year-old Santa Maria native said she knew three years ago that she wanted to become a firefighter after riding along with her firefighter neighbor on a mission.

"I just fell in love with it," Betty said. "And that's when I started taking classes at Allan Hancock (College)."

Betty is pursuing an Associate of Science degree in fire technology. She said the classes that got her started were an emergency medical technician class and the Allan Hancock College Fire Academy.

The academy is an intensive, three-month long training environment consisting of class work and hands-on



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER
Traci Betty, Vandenberg Hot Shots, spends time with her 4-year-old son, Ethan, at the team's crew quarters on south base.

firefighting experiences that can sometimes be overwhelming.

"But, I'm definitely glad I went through it. It gave me a taste of what to expect on the job," she said.

After graduating from the fire academy, Betty's neighbor put her in touch with the Vandenberg Hot Shots. She started working with them in September 2001.

She said the beginning was tough as she adjusted to the physical nature of fighting wildland fires. Used to running two to three miles, she was challenged by the six to eight mile runs and all-day hikes the Hot Shots routinely do for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Traci Betty, Vandenberg Hot Shots, burns a fire break as part of efforts to contain a wildland fire in August 2002. Betty is currently the only female member on the Hot Shots team.

physical training.

"It was so hard when I first came on. My feet were torn up from breaking in the new boots," Betty said. "But, a few guys kept pushing me and sure enough I learned how to do it."

The young firefighter said a good mental attitude is the key to her success in overcoming the intense physical challenges she faces almost daily.

"You have to be in it mentally – you're tired, but you have to keep saying 'I can do this,'" Betty said.

Her co-workers have taken notice of Betty's hard work. "Everybody on the team has a certain job. Traci gives 100

percent at whatever fire we go to – just like anyone else on the team," said Vincent Culliver, Vandenberg Hot Shot.

In addition to the hard labor aspect of her job, Betty says keeping clean on the job can be a real challenge.

Firefighters in the field don't always have the luxury of a shower, as there are toilet facilities only at base camp, and not at the various drop points on Coyote shifts.

"Everybody stinks together," Betty said, "but I take more showers than the guys do!"

Betty's other challenge is that of being a single mom. She has a four-year-

old son, Ethan. She said being away from him for long periods of time is tough on both of them.

"Doing the job I'm doing is hard. It's harder for him at first, but then he'll be fine with it after awhile, and that makes it harder for me!" she said.

She added that the last fire season – which runs from May to December – was a very busy one for her.

"I was gone constantly. But, I'm lucky to have parents who take care of my son," she said. "Whenever you ask him (Ethan) what he wants to be, he wants to be a firefighter."

Betty is currently taking classes toward her degree at Allan Hancock College. She said she plans to take a full load during the next off-season and her degree should be finished in a couple of years.

"This is something I want to do," she said of her coursework. "This should help me down the road and give me an edge when it comes to getting the job."

"Get yourself physically ready," is Betty's advice to women wanting to pursue a physically demanding career like firefighting.

She added that getting training through coursework and programs like the fire academy will put them at an advantage.

"The more knowledge you have, the better your edge," she said.

Her last piece of advice to those wanting a firefighting career is to volunteer with the local fire department to "get a taste of what it's like."

Betty has proven herself as a Vandenberg Hot Shot and continues to meet all of life's challenges with the same mental attitude: "You can do it. It's all in your head."

Two earn aircraft assist awards

BY MASTER SGT. RICHARD SWEETZER
30th Operations Support Squadron

Two 30th Operations Support Squadron Airfield Operations Flight NCOs earned Air Force Aircraft Assist Awards Feb. 14 for their decisive actions.

The Air Force Flight Standards Agency awards these honors for actions, which result in the safe recovery of imperiled aircraft or assist endangered aircraft on the ground.

Master Sgt. Richard Czap, control tower chief controller, and Staff Sgt. Tonya Jones, chief of airfield management training, kept cool and quickly averted disaster in two separate incidents here last year.

Jones made history becoming the first-ever Airfield Management recipient of an Aircraft Assist Award.

As a C-21 departed Vandenberg Sept. 11, 2002, the aircraft experienced a main landing gear malfunction. Lacking the radio patch capability that the crew requested, Jones initiated a telephone relay between the endangered aircraft and their home station at Scott AFB.

For nine minutes Jones was the critical link in a highly technical conversation relaying emergency checklist procedures between a distressed crew and their home unit, said Capt. Michael Horowitz, 30th OSS Airfield Operations.

"Vandenberg Airfield Management maintains no procedures for this situation," said Tech. Sgt. Darryl Revier, deputy chief of airfield management. "It's far removed from our job description."

The aircraft's commander, 1st Lt. Jim Colbert, 458th Airlift Squadron, said Jones' efforts prevented the declaration of an in-flight emergency and an attempted gear-up landing.

Her actions prevented the loss of a \$2.8 million aircraft and the irreplaceable lives of its crew.

"I'm happy I was able to help," Jones



PHOTO BY CAPT. MICHAEL HOROWITZ
Master Sgt. Richard Czap, 30th Operations Support Squadron Control Tower chief controller, coordinates the arrival and landing of thousands of aircraft each year.

said. "It feels like I'm making history," she said of her status as the first airfield manager to earn such an award.

Two months later, on Nov. 1, Czap was controlling heavy traffic during the 2002 Air and Space Show practice session when he cleared an E-8 JSTARS aircraft for landing.

Just as the 336,000-pound jet touched down, Czap spotted six deer entering the runway, directly in the path of the aircraft.

Without hesitation, he directed the aircraft to pull up and abort the landing to avoid the deer – a difficult maneuver for an aircraft of its size, Horowitz said. The pilot estimated that he missed the deer by fewer than 100 feet, Horowitz added.

"If Master Sergeant Czap had not

spotted the deer and instructed the aircraft to pull up, I believe it would have impacted the deer," said Master Sgt. Tedd Nettleton, chief of air traffic control training and standardization.

"This was a total team effort," Czap said. "It's an honor to be recognized for doing your job and making a difference."

"Outstanding leaders like Master Sergeant Czap and Staff Sergeant Jones form the foundation of our winning team and make me proud to be their commander," said Lt. Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 30th OSS commander.

"It's obvious why Vandenberg is home to Air Force Space Command's 2002 Airfield Management and Air Traffic Control facilities of the year,"

Team Vandenberg Warrior



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

Duty: NCO in charge of human relations incidents
Hometown: Orangeburg, S.C.
Time in service: 7.5 years
Time on Vandenberg: 1 year
Hobbies: reading and skating
Favorite part of the job: The best part of my job is reaching out to all segments of the base populace and educating everyone on the importance of the equal opportunity and treatment program.
Supervisor's comments: "Staff Sergeant Peacock is a team player who personifies the core value, 'Excellence in all we do,'" said Tech. Sgt. Michael Brown, 30th SW MEO superintendent. "She is an intelligent troop who's sensitive to the people and responsive to Team Vandenberg's mission."

ALCON: Bravo Days since last DUI: **4**
A DUI or alcohol-related incident has occurred without injuries. **DUI totals for the Year: 8**
Saves by AADD this year: 63

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

STEPpin' up



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

Master Sgt. Frank Barbosa, 14th Air Force, stretches before a run at the fitness center here. Maj. Gen. Michael Hamel, 14th Air Force commander, promoted Barbosa Feb. 28 through the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program.

Crimebeat ...

COMPILED BY MASTER SGT. WESLEY ASLESON
30th Security Forces Squadron

Mar. 14
Suspicious activity – 5:48 a.m.

A military member reported an unknown person knocked on the door at his residence and drove away. Patrolmen discovered the vehicle later in the Vandenberg Commissary parking lot. The owner was a civilian employee and stated he knocked on the wrong quarters.

Stolen decal – 2:45 p.m.

A civilian employee reported the base decal was stolen off his private vehicle.

Domestic assault – 7 p.m.

A military member reported striking and pushing her fiancé during a domestic argument at her on-base quarters. The military member was charged with assault. She was released to a unit representative.

Mar. 15
Domestic assault – 1:07 a.m.

The wife of a military member reported her spouse choked and threw her during a domestic argument at their on-base quarters.

The military member was apprehended for assault and released to a unit representative.

Stranded motorist – 8 p.m.

The Vandenberg Main Gate sentry reported drivers alerted him to a suspicious

person in the roadway on Highway 1 at Firefighter Road. A patrolman responded and investigation revealed a non-base affiliated civilian was stopping traffic in an attempt to solicit gas for his empty vehicle. He obtained gas and departed.

Theft of property – 9:20 p.m.

A military member reported unknown persons removed his all-terrain vehicle from its trailer in the parking lot of Building 13122, Matador Dormitory.

Investigation revealed the ATV was moved from the trailer and placed in front of the owner's private vehicle. The ATV key and safety flag were also discovered missing.

Mar. 16

Concerned neighbor – 1:20 a.m.

A military member's wife residing on Sumac Street reported observing an unknown male enter her neighbors' home while the residents were on leave. Patrolmen responded finding the quarters all in order. The unknown person was possibly a caretaker for the residence. The matter is being investigated.

Shoplifting – 2:25 p.m.

BX security reported a shoplifting at the main exchange.

Investigation revealed a military member's daughter left the store with unpaid merchandise. She was cited and released to her mother.

Communicating a threat – 3:45 p.m.

A military member reported his wife communicated a threat to him and damaged property in his quarters on Noble Drive. The

member provided witnesses to the incident.

Mar. 17
Mutual assault – 1:08 a.m.

A military member's wife reported a domestic disturbance at her quarters. Investigation revealed a mutual assault occurred between the wife and military member. The member was apprehended for assault and released to a unit representative. The wife was cited for assault and released.

Bar stabbing – 5 a.m.

The Lompoc Police Department notified the security forces control center that a military member received a stab wound to the stomach. The injury occurred during a bar fight in Lompoc. The member received emergency medical treatment.

DID YOU KNOW: In accordance with base pet control instructions, Vandenberg pet owners and custodians must keep their pets from biting or scratching any person or another pet, creating a public nuisance or disturbance, and destroying property. Pets must be controlled by a suitable leash, harness or by physically holding them, keeping them in kennels, cages, a house, an enclosed yard or on a chain in good repair. The chain must be short enough to prevent contact with anyone walking on sidewalks. Pets may be kept in a vehicle for temporary restraint also, however, due to heat concerns they may not be left unattended (parked) vehicles.

Chapel workshop aids marriages

Couples spend a Saturday learning about each other and falling in love all over again

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

Vandenberg's Chapel sponsored a marriage workshop Saturday giving couples a chance to spend time together and enhance their relationships.

I generally spend Saturdays chasing my two girls around the house and playing "hide and go seek," but not this morning. My wife, Carla, and I had signed up for a marriage workshop.

Now, my reasoning behind going to the seminar was not the same as my wife's. Carla thought a marriage workshop was exactly what we needed. I thought the Santa Maria Barbecue being served for lunch sounded good.

So, with the thought of improving our relationship on my wife's mind and barbecue on mine, we drove to the Chapel 1 Annex.

When we arrived, I began looking around to see if I knew any of the other participants, but all I saw were happy wives and half asleep husbands. It made me feel better about coming for the barbecue.

The program, which was televised live from Branson, Mo., began with a very funny comedian named Dennis Swanberg, otherwise known as "The Swan." He spent the first 30 minutes of the program performing different character imitations and telling stories.

After he had almost everyone holding their sides from laughing, Swanberg introduced Gary Chapman, senior associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem N.C. Chapman talked about the five languages of love – words of

affirmation, gifts, acts of service, quality time and physical touch.

He had each couple list individually which languages were important to them.

Carla and I listed our languages of love. Carla was a quality time kind of gal and I was the physical touch kind of guy.

Chapman explained that the "falling in love" feeling generally lasts only two years.

But couples can keep that feeling strong by learning each other's love language.

I realized exactly what he meant! I had already given Carla quality time for the week by coming to the workshop so now it was her turn. I quickly turned and informed her of my revelation, but of course she said it didn't count officially until the class was over.

Foiled once again by Carla's quick thinking, I sat back to listen to the next speaker.

Michael Smalley, president of Today's Family International, focused on personal responsibility. Many relationships fail because individuals do not take responsibility for their actions, Smalley said.

Thinking about my own relationship, I realized he was right. It's always Carla's fault and I don't do anything wrong.

Smalley continued by saying couples must learn to be servants

to one another. They have to realize that they are each responsible for themselves and that their mates can only be the best person they can be. Wives around the room were nodding their heads in agreement with what Smalley had to say while the men were begging for the next speaker.

The next segment was entitled, *The Fear Dance*. In the fear dance, couples go around in circles pressing each others buttons or fears trying to gain an advantage over one another, said

Gary Smalley, founder of the Smalley Relationship Center.

Couples attack each other's buttons just to get a response, generally causing hurt feelings, he said. Then in response to their hurt feelings, they attack their spouse. In order for couples to thrive, they must avoid behavior like this, Gary said.

At last it was time for lunch! The mouth-watering tri-tip and chicken barbecue was delicious.

After lunch, everyone lumbered to their chairs ready for the second half of the seminar. While waiting for the workshop to begin, I spoke with Senior Airman Timothy Collins, 614th Space Operations Squadron.

"I think we could have used this a long time ago," he said, "not just my wife and I, but military wide. I think too many times, particularly on a military installation, you focus on the specific mission, be it peace time or combat, and you forget the smaller things, like what the

spouses have to deal with being married to a military member. If you take all that into consideration and add it to the day-to-day problems and trials a married couple has, I think a lot of times you lose sight of just how important little things are," Collins said.

"Learn to forgive," said Beth Moore, leader of the next segment of the conference. "Forgiving is a very powerful tool. It shows that you are willing to give someone a second chance and that you are committed to the relationship," she said.

Dennis Rainey, co-founder of FamilyLife, concluded the workshop. He spoke about marriage and how divorce doesn't have to be the answer for couples who don't get along. Working through the problem is the best way to resolve an issue and make a marriage stronger, he said.

Rainey ended the conference by having all the couples stand and repeat their wedding vows.

As I looked around the room, I saw husbands and wives holding each other, gazing into each other's eyes and some even crying. The moment seemed to touch everyone in the room, including me.

It turns out lunch wasn't the best part of the day. It was an important step in growing closer with my wife.

"I think the program has been excellent," said Chaplain (1st Lt.) Phillip Griffin, 30th Space Wing chapel. "The five major topics that they covered are relevant to any marital relationship. It's given me fresh and insightful information I can use when individuals come to me for help."

Vandenberg is the first Air Force base to have this program and it won't be the last, Griffin said. "Strong families are important for a base to fulfill its mission."

"I think we could have used this a long time ago. Not just my wife and I, but military wide."

SENIOR AIRMAN TIMOTHY COLLINS,
614TH SPACE
OPERATIONS SQUADRON

Cookie time



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

Gabrielle Dupree, local Girl Scouts troop leader, sells Senior Airman Angie Kim, 30th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, cookies at the commissary March 9. The Scouts are selling cookies throughout the month in front of the base exchange and commissary. Patrons can purchase cookies for themselves or on behalf of deployed troops. The cookies go to base personnel overseas in care packages sent out by the Vandenberg Family Support Center.

BRIEFS:

From Page A1
Times should arrive at every on-base residence by 6 p.m. each Friday. Anyone not receiving home delivery should call the Lompoc Record at 736-2313.

BULK TRASH PICKUP

Scheduled pick-ups for bulk trash are the second and fourth Monday of each month or Tuesday if the second or fourth Monday is a federal holiday. Housing residents should place trash items at the curb before 7 a.m. on pick-up days. Residents who are moving out can take bulk trash to the landfill with a copy of their orders. For more information, consult the housing brochure or call 606-2330.

ELECTRONIC WASTE

Televisions and computer monitors are electronic waste and can't be dis-

posed of in the trash or the landfill. Military housing residents should bring such waste to the collection accumulation point, building 6830, for recycling. Call 606-8438.

VAFB CHIEF'S GROUP

The Vandenberg Chief's Group is looking for all local retired chief master sergeants to become members. Meetings are at 7 a.m. the first Tuesday of each month at Breaker's Dining Facility. For more information, call Chief Master Sgts. John Gunther at 605-0750, or Philip Cope at 606-9567.

AADD PHONE NUMBERS

Airman Against Drunk Driving can now be reached through the command post at 605-AADD (2233). This number is in addition to the two others already in use. Call Senior Airman Christopher Doyle at 606-6224.

**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, 698-8822 or 605-AADD (2233)**

WW II Flying Tiger shares memories

Local 14th Air Force veteran leaves his legacy through personal war stories

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

During much of the 1930s, in the days before the United States entered World War II, Nazi Germany had swept across much of Europe and Japan had been expanding its empire throughout Southeast Asia.

In the months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, more than 300 American men and women secretly trained in the jungles of Southeast Asia. Their training was in preparation for combat with the Japanese Air Force over the skies of Burma

and China.

The American Volunteer Group, later known as the Flying Tigers, fought against overwhelming odds to help stem the tide of the Japanese military onslaught then.

Although they did not stop Japanese forces from taking Burma, their commander then, Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault said, "They and the British Royal Air Force kept the port of Rangoon and the Burma Road open for two and a half precious months while supplies trickled into China and helped save the nation from final collapse."

The AVG was disbanded nearly a year after its inception as the personnel and equipment were absorbed by a U.S. military expanding for war.

But the mission of supplying the troops with the necessities to carry out a war was still a vital role in the global conflict. Japanese forces had pushed further into Burma cutting off overland supply routes.

Local Vandenberg Village resident retired Army Air Corps Capt. Richard Bailin, a twin-engine pilot, was one of hundreds of pilots who went to the Pacific Theater to reinforce the Allied foothold in Asia after the AVG was disbanded and absorbed in 1942.

"Initially, I was supposed to be assigned to a heavy bombing group in Sumatra, Malaysia," Bailin said. "But they got shot up so bad before I left the states that they couldn't sustain operations in the area, so I was put in a unit that later became the air transport group."

Stationed in a town called Chauba, India, Bailin arrived in the theater in 1942. From there, he carried out supply missions, "Flying the Hump," said the 88-year-old former World War II pilot.

"Flying the Hump" is what World War II transport pilots considered the most treacherous air route in the world. The mission involved thousands of flights from 1942 to 1945 over the highest mountain range in the world, the Himalayas, to provide more than a million tons of cargo



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vandenberg Village resident retired Army Air Corps Capt. Richard Bailin conducts a public relations recruiting tour in Indianapolis for the Army Air Corps aviation cadets following a tour in India during World War II.

and relief supplies to friendly forces operating in China and Southeast Asia.

"Initially, I flew support missions to help cover Gen. (Joseph) Stilwell's retreat from Burma as Japanese forces over ran the country," Bailin said. Stilwell was the American forces commander in the China-Burma-India Theater at the time.

"Prior to that, we had taken survivors out of Rangoon," he said. "As a matter of fact, I flew the next to last plane out of Rangoon. We were flying DC-3s then."

"They (the enemy) were within 50 yards of the runway when I

took off," Bailin said. Bailin said the planes had the capacity of about 80 people with the seats and benches out, but the last plane out carried more than 200.

"Soldiers were locked in hand-to-hand combat when (Maj. Jake) Sartz took off," he added.

Bailin said the aircraft he flew, the C-47, B-24 and the B-25, didn't have pressurized cabins and the headgear he wore was made primarily of leather.

His tenure in Asia ended in 1943. After flying more than 100 sorties over enemy held territory, sometimes with no weapons, he had successfully delivered much needed supplies.

Bailin developed an ear ailment called barotitis media because of the high-altitude flights and he was shipped back to the states in the fall of that year.

For his service, Bailin was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star and the Allied Service Medal.

"After I came back from overseas, part of my time was spent doing public relations for recruiting aviation cadets for the Army Air Corps," he said.

He continued to fly planes for the Army Air Corps in the United States and on some supply runs across the Atlantic in support of the Pacific Theater.

14th AF Flying Tigers earn annual awards

■ Congratulations to the following 2002 14th Air Force annual award winners.

Those eligible go on to compete at Air Force Space Command for 12 Outstanding Airmen and First Sergeant of the Year.

"Congratulations to the winners on their selection," said Maj. Gen. Michael Hamel, 14th AF commander. "The competition was keen and all nomination packages reflected the dedication and outstanding performance which sets Fourteenth Air Force apart from the rest."

Company Grade Officer: Capt. Paul Quigley, Jr., 30th Space Wing
Senior NCO: Senior Master Sgt. Robert McManus, 21st Space Wing

NCO: Tech. Sgt. James Coffey III, 50th Space Wing
Airman: Senior Airman Steven Duaiame, 30th SW
First Sergeant: Senior Master Sgt. David Ballain, 50th SW

Civilian, category I: Jacqueline Leonard, 30th SW

Civilian, category II: David Barnett, 50th SW

ATLAS:

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"The excitement will just grow now that the Atlas is actually here," Riojas said. "We have many people working long hours to prepare this rocket for launch." He added that since the booster's inception at Vandenberg, the base has seen some 283 Atlas II launches.

There are eight variants of the Atlas booster, and the Atlas V will continue to be used at Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., Riojas said.

Crosier said he has complete confidence in the team in place for this launch.

"The people we need for this Atlas mission are right here in the squadron today," he said. "We've identified the right people and we have all the right experience in place. The contractor (Lockheed-Martin) is doing a good job. I'm quite satisfied."

In 1988, the Air Force contracted with General Dynamics, now Lockheed-Martin, to build the Atlas II booster for the primary mission of launching Defense

Satellite Communications System payloads and commercial satellites. This Atlas carries a classified payload to be used by the National Reconnaissance Office for national security.

"We are playing a direct role in ensuring the freedoms and liberties of the United States," Crosier said. I tell people every day not to lose sight of how important this mission is for us because it does have national security implications."

The impressive size of this projectile belies its weak outer skin.

"The rocket is all stainless steel about the thickness of a dime," Riojas said. "We have to keep it pressurized with an inert gas like nitrogen. Otherwise, it would just collapse on itself." He added that the booster is kept light to maximize the size of payload the Atlas IIAS can carry.

Crosier said the final Atlas launch from Vandenberg is truly historic, as the Atlas program has served the Air Force well over the years.

"As we fly this last one out, it really is kind of bittersweet."

GC-03:

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"This is a difficult decision to make because of the great legacy of this competition," Gen. Lord said. "We discover new tactics, techniques and procedures every year at Guardian Challenge, and it's a huge motivational event for our people.

"But the situation at our units demands we place our primary focus on our day-to-day missions. Canceling this year's competition was the right thing to do."

Guardian Challenge is the only space warfighter competition in the Air Force. The annual competition pits the best-of-the-best against each other, determining the top space wing teams.

"The cancellation is definitely disappointing for all of the people who have already worked so hard to get GC off the ground," said Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander. "But with world events being what they are, this is definitely the best decision for everyone involved."

"We need to commit the full power of our resources to fighting the war on terror and against those who would threaten freedom."

Vandenberg's Guardian Programs Office has already started to go to minimum manning.

"All of the hard work that went into this year's event will not go to waste," said Lt. Col. Elizabeth Borelli, 30th Weather Squadron commander and Vandenberg Competition Association president.

Many VCA fundraisers, the proceeds of which go to 30th SW competition teams, were canceled but will be rescheduled including the popular VCA Golf Tournament and the Model Rocket Launch Competition, she said.

"We still want to do something for the team and all of the people who have already put so much work into GC," Borelli said.

Plans are in the works to hold a "summertime bash" for Vandenberg's teams, she added.

The competition will resume in May 2004. (2nd Lt. Michelle Mayo contributed to this story. Courtesy of Air Force Space Command News Service)



Former CMSAF Barnes dies at 72

■ WASHINGTON, D.C. — Former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Thomas Barnes died from cancer in Sherman, Texas, Monday. He was 72.

Barnes was the fourth CMSAF and the first black selected to the highest enlisted post in any of the military services. He served in that position from 1973 to 1977.

Barnes was born in Chester, Pa., in 1930 and entered the Air Force in 1949. He attended aircraft engine and hydraulics specialist school at the Chanute Technical Training Center, Chanute Air Force Base, Ill. He served as a hydraulics specialist from 1950 to 1952 at McChord AFB, Wash. He supported the Korean War while serving at Ashiya and Tachikawa, Japan. Shortly after arriving in Japan, he completed on-the-job training as a flight engineer, and because of low manning, performed as both a flight engineer and hydraulics specialist.

From 1952 to 1965, the chief served in a variety of positions as a crew chief, flight engineer, and senior controller on various aircraft including the B-25 Mitchell bomber, T-11, C-45, C-47 Skytrain and B-52 Stratofortress.

In October 1966, Barnes entered F-4 Phantom field training and in December 1966 went to Southeast Asia, where he served with the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing until December 1967. From there he went to Laughlin AFB, Texas, where in 1969 he was promoted to chief master sergeant. In 1971, he was selected as the Air Training Command senior enlisted adviser, and in 1973, as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

During his tenure as CMSAF, the chief worked for equal opportunities for minorities, including blacks and women, and also worked to solidify the enlisted professional military education system.

After retirement, Barnes remained active in Air Force life and was a sought-after speaker at military functions. He competed in the rodeo sport of team roping and lived in Bonham, Texas, on a sprawling ranch he shared with his wife, Marie.

In an interview, Barnes was once asked how he would like to be remembered.

"I'd like to be remembered as a role model for people who believe they can't get there," he said. "It was an honor to have been chosen (as the CMSAF) on the

basis of my qualifications, as opposed to my race or my gender."

Information for this article was taken from an interview by Master Sgt. Trish Freeland.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

E-8 promotion rates up

■ WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 1,612 master sergeants picked for promotion this year were selected using the chronic critical skills program for the first time.

The selectees were named Wednesday. The program applies higher selection rates to certain career fields. This year is the first it is being applied to the E-8 and E-9 promotion cycles.

Under the program, officials identified 25 career fields to be classified as "critical" skills for the E-8 promotion cycle. The overall selection rate for this cycle, 10.18 percent, is the highest since 1987. The move pushed average selection percentages, depending on the multiplier applied, up to 30.88 percent.

"We're now including E-8s and E-9s because of critical senior noncommissioned officer shortages in these (Air Force specialties) that are seriously impacting mission readiness," said Chief Master Sgt. Carol Dockery, chief of enlisted promotions and evaluation at the Pentagon.

The effort to expand the chronic critical skills program to the two highest enlisted ranks began during the central evaluation board and final approval came only days ago, said officials.

To get there, those competing for promotion in designated Air Force specialty codes are assigned a higher selection rate, 1.2 times the Air Force average, Dockery said.

For example, an AFSC with a 15 percent selection rate would receive an 18 percent promotion rate when placed on the critical skills list.

"Now, more than ever, it's absolutely essential that we balance our enlisted force structure to meet our expeditionary force requirements," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray.

Senior NCOs in Air Force specialties manned at or below 70 percent with less than 25 people eligible for promotion received a multiplier of 3.0; those manned at or below 70 percent with more than 25 people eligible for promotion received a

multiplier of 1.4; and those manned above 70 percent but less than 90 percent received a multiplier of 1.2.

Future chronic critical skills will be announced before the central evaluation board for each promotion cycle.

The senior master sergeant evaluation board met Jan. 22 to Feb. 7.

The average total score of selectees during the cycle was 669.10 points. Average selectee score breakdowns are:

- ◆ 36 points, time in grade
- ◆ 21.01 points, time in service
- ◆ 135 points, performance reports
- ◆ 20.08 points for decorations
- ◆ 68.83 points for U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination
- ◆ 388.17 points for evaluation board score

The average selectee has 5.04 years time in grade and 19.99 years time in service.

Those selected for promotion to senior master sergeant automatically receive a school quota for the Senior NCO Academy. And 357 of those not selected are scheduled to attend with a list of 720 alternates, officials said.

Senior master sergeant selectees will be promoted beginning in April. The complete list of promotion and Senior NCO Academy selections will be posted on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site by Saturday at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom>.

(Information compiled by Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker, Air Force Print News, and Staff Sgt. Matt Miller, AFPC Public Affairs)

Contact Center moves to 24-hour ops

■ RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Airmen everywhere can now talk with customer service agents about personnel issues 24 hours a day thanks to the recently expanded hours of the Air Force Contact Center here.

People with questions about assignments, benefits, pay and more can speak to a customer service representative toll-free at (866) 229-7074 or DSN 665-5000. Online services, which include a chat feature, can be found at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil by clicking the Contact Center button.

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

Medical care for airmen affected by Stop-Loss

By MAJ. JOHN THOMAS
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

■ RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — A previously overlooked provision of law allows up to four months of Tricare transitional health care benefits for airmen separating from the service after having been retained under Stop Loss.

The benefits will apply to any airman separating after the current and any future

Need a lift?



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN HILL

Team Vandenberg member Airman 1st Class Karol Beatty is assigned to the 384th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron in Southwest Asia. "I'm happy to contribute my time and efforts toward the war to provide safety for the men and women in the United States," Beatty said.

Stop-Loss actions, according to officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Because of an administrative oversight, more than 5,000 airmen retained on active duty under the October 2001 to August 2002 Stop Loss did not get word of the benefit, officials said. The benefit was part of the 2002 Defense Authorization Act.

Letters sent to those former airmen tell them they can file for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred during the 60- to 120-day period after they left the service. But they will not be reimbursed for insurance premiums they may have paid, said Judith Warner, chief of the career assistance and relocation office at the center here.

According to the law, benefits begin on an individual's official date of separation and cannot be adjusted. Individuals who served more than six years on active-duty are entitled to 120 days of coverage. Those with fewer than six years are entitled to 60 days of coverage.

"It's only for a short time but this is a nice benefit, when you look at it," said Lt. Gen. Richard Brown, deputy chief of staff for personnel at the Pentagon.

"It'll make it easier for individuals to transition after they've made that extra sacrifice (of being affected by Stop Loss)," the general said.

Air Force officials learned of the law's provision when a concerned former major called to ask if airmen affected by Stop Loss were covered, said Warner.

"We asked for a legal opinion by the AFPC and air staff legal (officials) and received an interpretation from both that the law covered everyone impacted by Stop Loss," she said.

Information was then sent to Air Force transition offices in early November to explain the situation and how to extend those benefits to airmen who had not yet separated, she said.

Analysts then began to identify and notify each affected person.

People eligible for coverage who have paid for health care expenses out of their pocket may submit a claim form (Department of Defense Form 2642) to TriCare with a copy of the bill to be reimbursed, officials said.

The law does not affect retiring airmen who were held over as result of Stop Loss because they already retain a continuing entitlement to retiree health care benefits.

Assistance is available from a benefits counselor at military treatment facilities and from TriCare regional offices. The worldwide TriCare Information Center toll free number is (888) 363-2273.

Claims information and forms are available at <https://tricare.osd.mil> by clicking on "TRICARE Map" on the left-hand side of the home page and by using the "search" feature.

People can call the AFPC's family matters operations branch at (800) 581-9437 for assistance.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Hoops



Left: Brandon Wengert, 30th Mission Support Squadron, calls for a time out as David Mercier, 30th Security Forces Squadron, plays close defense during an intramural basketball game Wednesday evening. The final score of the game was 64 to 55 in favor of the 30th MSS, a still-undefeated team.
 Below: Darren Savella, 30th MSS, tries to avert the defensive tactics of No. 25 Jason Korgenay and No. 12 David Mercier, 30th SFS, during Wednesday's playoff game.

PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER



**“The Spirit of America”
 Vandenberg Spouses Club
 annual charity auction**

6 p.m. Mar 29.
 at
The Pacific Coast Club

Items up for bid during previous auctions included Disneyland tickets and a wine tasting limousine tour. The money raised provides funds to local charitable organizations in need. The event is free and open to all but reservations must be made by Tuesday. Call Karen Rife at 734-0397 or Troi Reppart at 734-1202.

FSC continues separation planning

The Vandenberg Family Support Center continues to offer a **mandatory pre-separation briefing** 60 to 90 days prior to leaving the service and a three-day **transition assistance program seminar** designed to help people separating or retiring make a smooth transition into the civilian world. People affected by Stop-Loss should attend the classes as usual to avoid a rush when Stop-Loss is lifted. For more information, call Larry Davis at 605-0134.

**Intramural Basketball
 2003 Championship game**

6 p.m. Friday
 at the
Vandenberg Fitness Center

Come check out the action as the best Vandenberg Intramural Basketball teams battle it out for the title of Intramural Champions!
 For more information, call the fitness center at 606-3832.

SPACE & MISSILE

FEATURES

Destinations Central Coast @ SLO's Farmer's Market

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

The smell of fresh barbecue wafted through the open windows of our car as my husband, Svein, and I drove through a crowded Marsh Street in San Luis Obispo. Cars lined both sides of the road and pedestrians filled the crosswalks, causing traffic to move forward in slow starts and stops.

On a regular day, SLO is not usually this crowded, but it was Thursday night.

And although Thursday night is not usually a big night out in

most towns, it is in SLO — because Thursday night is the weekly Farmer's Market on Higuera Street.

On an average night, 10,000 people gather at the market. Street vendors peddle their wares, while the music of amateur bands echoes throughout the street.

Two weeks ago, Svein and I meandered through the stalls and enjoyed the scene. Fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables were for sale, along with hand-crafted jewelry, clothes and art.

"The produce is better there than at the grocery store," said my friend Andy Edwards, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, as he bought a bundle of asparagus. "And grocery store asparagus always looks so bad."

Personally, I think asparagus always looks bad. But let me get back to the market.

If you're not in the mood to shop, but are in need of a little relaxation, try getting a street-side massage. It costs about \$10 and feels great. At first, it might not seem too relaxing — a massage in the midst of the hustle and bustle of a busy marketplace. But if you just close your eyes and focus on the soothing hands and fingers, then the music and the revelry simply fade into background noise.

Another farmer's market favorite is to have your portrait



PHOTOS BY 2ND LT. MICHELLE MAYO

Roses, tulips and carnations abound at the farmer's market along with fresh fruits and vegetables.

drawn. Well, not really a portrait, more of a caricature. One man draws the distorted cartoons for less than \$20. I decided to pass. I figure I've been the subject of enough photos in which my features look a bit distorted. I can't imagine paying someone money to deliberately contort them for a keepsake.

But you definitely don't want to pass up the barbecue. Various restaurants in the area set up outdoor grills for the market. A kabob costs \$2.50, a plate of ribs is about \$5, while a steak sandwich will run you about \$6.

There is nowhere to sit, so you have to eat standing up. It requires dexterity and if you're not careful, it can be a little messy.

For those interested in politics or religion, SLO offers plenty of opportunities to learn more about the different parties in our political system.

Booths for different religious and political beliefs are interspersed among the food and retail booths. I saw a booth for the Republican Party and then a few booths down, there was another booth for the Green



Sage Finch throws clay at the farmer's market to raise money for the Denise W. Scholarship Fund for art majors.

Party.

The farmer's market is a great place to people-watch. For me, that is by far the most fun. While I was there, I saw a man waving a religious placard and singing songs, while people dressed up in Mardi Gras garb and masks casually passed him by.

On most nights, the early evening crowd is mainly made up of families and people there to do a little shopping. However, it's not the place for people to walk their dogs. Dogs aren't allowed in the marketplace.

As the sun goes down, the

Driving directions to San Luis Obispo's Farmer's Market

The market takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursdays along six blocks of Higuera Street from Nipomo to Osos streets.

To get there, take Highway 101 North to San Luis Obispo. Get off at the Marsh Street exit.

Street parking is hard to find during the farmer's market, but several parking garages are available.



Luca Zovich, 2, hugs a giant teddy bear at the San Luis Obispo Farmer's Market.

Community Calendar

21 FRI **CCAF finishing requirements online** — Students pursuing their Community College of the Air Force degrees can take advantage of Distance Learning opportunities provided through the CCAF Web site by participating accredited institutions. Students now have access to applicable courses that have been reviewed and approved by CCAF via the Web site http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/ccaf/ge_init/

GI Java seeks musicians — GI Java is looking for local musicians to play at the coffee house during business hours. Solo performers and bands are welcome. Call Chaplain (1st Lt.) Mike Martin at 606-5778 for an audition.

Gift of Groceries program — The Defense Commissary Agency offers a gift certificate program that allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates, which can be donated to military families through charitable organizations or given directly to military friends and family to use at local commissaries. Gift certificates can be purchased online at www.commissaries.com.

21 FRI **Allan Hancock College foreign film series** — Fridays in March at the Santa Maria campus. A film is also scheduled to play Saturday at the Lompoc

21 FRI **Allan Hancock College computer classes** — AHC offers short-term computer classes in Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Ynez as part of its Fast Track schedule of classes. All computer courses are structured to offer students hands-on training. Self-paced classes are also available at the Santa Maria campus and the Lompoc Valley Center.

CAL-VET home loan class — 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. today at the family support center. Call 606-0801.

Vandenberg Spouses' Club college scholarship — applications are available for qualifying applicants through their high school counselors and all first sergeants, at the Vandenberg Thrift Shop and the education office. All applications should be sent to **VSC Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 5514, VAFB, Ca. 93437 by March 28**. For more information, call Kari Rossen at 734-1028.

21 FRI **Closed captioning project** — Allan Hancock College needs volunteers who are competent typists, have a command of the English language and are good spellers. The Learning Assistance Program project is to caption a library of

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

Girl Scout cookie sales — Girl Scouts are at the base exchange and commissary each weekend in March with cookies for sale. Call 606-1119.

22 SAT **Allan Hancock College Concert Band pops concert** — 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church of Santa Maria, 2970 Santa Maria Way. Tickets cost \$5 to \$8. Call (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3252.

23 SUN **Oscar Night at GI Java** — 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday at GI Java in the Delta Dormitory. The 30th Mission Support Group spouses provide free food, drinks, and an Academy Awards ballot contest. Winner receives a \$50 gift basket.

24 MON **Office closure** — The family support center is closed for staff training every Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Those requiring emergency Air Force Aid will be assisted. Call 606-0801.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) — 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at the Vandenberg Health and Wellness Center. Call the HAWC at 606-2221.

Relaxation room — 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at the HAWC. Call 606-2221.

Allan Hancock College photo exhibit — 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in the art gallery at the Santa Maria campus. This free exhibit runs through

March 31, and features black and white photos of Latino farm workers on the Central Coast. Call (805) 922-6966.

Sponsorship training — 3 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday at the family support center. Call 606-0801.

25 TUE **Pre-separation briefing** — 8 a.m. Tuesdays in the family support center. The briefing is required 90 days prior to leaving the service. Call 606-0801.

Single Parents' Support Group — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Vandenberg Services Center. Call 606-9958.

Joint Retiree Activities Center — Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday - Friday in building 10346 in the Vandenberg Base Exchange shopping center. Call 606-5474.

26 WED **Women's History Month meetings** — noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday in March at the Pacific Coast Club. Call 606-3284.

27 THU **Depression management group** — 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays at the Vandenberg Life Skills Support Center. New groups begin every 6-8 weeks. The group is open to active-duty members and their dependents. It's appropriate for adults or mature adolescents experiencing depression. Call Capt. Arlin Hatch or the LSSC staff at 606-8217.

Women, Infants and Children — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month in the family support center. Call 605-8557 or the Lompoc WIC office

at 737-6470 for an appointment.

28 FRI **Kids on the Move workshop** — 3 to 4:30 p.m. Friday at the family support center. Class is for children ages six to 11 arriving or departing Vandenberg. Call 606-0801.

Little Shop of Horrors — Lompoc High School presents this musical at 7:30 p.m. March 28 - 29 and April 4 - 5 in the Lompoc Civic Auditorium. Tickets cost \$5 to \$8. Call 735-5606, Ext. 413.

29 SAT **Vandenberg Spouses' Club auction** — 6 p.m. Mar. 29 at the Pacific Coast Club. Bid numbers cost \$2. The event is open to all but reservations are necessary. Call Karen Rife at 734-0397.

APR 2 WED **Yellowstone National Park lodging** — Military members, civil servants and their families visiting Yellowstone National Park can rent six-person trailers at reduced rates. Trailers are available at Flagg Ranch and Lionshead Resort at the park. Phone-in reservations begin April 2 for May and June bookings, May 1 for July, and June 3 for August and September. Call (208) 828-6333 for reservations.

11 FRI **Allan Hancock College pottery sale** — noon to 4 p.m. April 11 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 12 in the Student Center conference room on the Santa Maria campus. Call (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3252.

Chapel Services & Events

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

♦ **GI Java** — This free coffee house is open 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for dorm residents. Sunday night is Oscar Night with food, games, prizes and fun.

♦ **Daily prayer fellowship**—Every morning from 7:15 to 7:25 a.m. in Chapel 1. All Vandenberg is invited to pray for our nation.

♦ **Catholic Lenten fellowship**—Every Friday during Lent a soup and bread meal is served at 5 p.m. in the 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

Annex. The Stations of the Cross follow the meal at 6 p.m. in Chapel 1.

♦ **Protestant Lenten event** — A meal of soup and bread is served each Wednesday during Lent at 11:30 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club.

♦ **Torah study** — 7 p.m. Sundays in Lompoc. Call 605-7564 or 736-5822 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

♦ **Praise Kids** - 5:30 p.m. Sundays in the religious education building for children 4 years - 5th grade.

At the Movies

Today

About Schmidt
A story about a man who is set adrift following retirement and the sudden death of his wife. Uncertain about his future as well as his past, he sets out to attend his daughter's wedding. Rated R

Saturday
Shanghai Knights
When a Chinese rebel murders Chon's estranged father and escapes to

England, Chon and Roy make their way to London with revenge on their mind. Rated PG-13

Sunday
The Recruit
A young CIA trainee suspects his instructor and others of being a double agent for the Chinese government. Rated R

All movies start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. A minimum of 15 people must be present for movies to run.

30th Services News

FOOD SERVICE

COMING SOON! The Quarterly Birthday Meal!

Hosted by the
30th Services Squadron



The quarterly meal for January, February and March birthdays is held at Breakers Dining Facility on Wednesday. Doors open at 5 p.m., meal served at 5:30 p.m. All enlisted personnel on BAS or meal card may attend the birthday meal with one guest. Call Food Services at 606-3219 or see the first sergeant to sign up!

V.I.T.T

Glory of Easter

at the
Crystal Cathedral!



April 5 • \$80 per person

Transportation and excellent seating!
Call 606-7976 for more information.

LEISURE TRAVEL

TRAVEL FAIRE Spring 2003

March 28 • 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

FREE at the Serices Center!
Snacks, Drinks & Door Prizes

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING
for 5-night stay at the Aston
Waikiki Beach Hotel

Come and meet our travel vendors!

Call 606-1675 for more information.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CTR

Ice Cream Social!

2:30 to 4:30 p.m. today
at the

Child Development Center

Parents are invited to come enjoy this special treat with their child as a greeting to spring! This will give parents time to socialize with their child and the parents of other children. Please let caregivers know if attending.

For more information, call the Vandenberg Child Development Center at 606-1555.

YOUTH SPORTS

VAFB YOUTH SOFTBALL PROGRAM

is currently looking for young ladies, age 11-14 to fill league teams. Registration continues only until teams are full, so don't miss out! Register today at the Youth Center between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. For more information call 606-2152.

VAFB YOUTHSPORTS

is holding a sports advisory board meeting 6 p.m. Monday at the Youth Sports Office, building 16156. For more information, please call Kristi at 606-9374.

SWIMMING POOL

SWIMMING POOL

is now open after being refurbished. Come on over and swim a few laps!
Call 606-3581 for more information.

PACIFIC COAST CLUB

MARCH MADNESS

is coming!



Catch the
'SWEET SIXTEEN'
games at the
Pacific Coast Club's
E-Lounge & O-Lounge
every day during
regular business
hours!



Visit us on the web at www.30svs.com

Saturday! MUG NIGHT, 9p.m. to 2 a.m. in the E-Lounge

FOOD
&
DRINK
SPECIALS

DAILY
MANAGER'S
SPECIALS

ROOT FOR
YOUR
FAVORITE
TEAMS!

FAMILY CHILD CARE

MILDLY ILL CHILD CARE PROGRAM (MIFCC)

The Vandenberg Family Child Care (FCC) office is excited to announce the implementation of a new program. Effective immediately, parents can take advantage of the program by registering their child with the FCC. The Mildly Ill Family Child Care Program is an Air Force initiative that allows parents to leave their 'mildly ill' children with a certified caregiver so they don't have to take time off from work.

Vandenberg Air Force Base was selected as one of 20 test bases for the Air Force. We hope you take advantage of this program by enrolling your child.

For additional information, call Gwen Jones, Family Child Care Coordinator, at 606-4639 or 606-3255.



OUTDOOR RECREATION



Sailing at Santa Barbara with Steve Renz

Sailing & Whale-Watching

SUNDAY

10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

\$4600 per person

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

12 p.m.

3:30 to 4 p.m.

4:30 p.m.

Depart Outdoor Rec, building 10250

Briefing with Steve on safety/rules

Boat leaves harbor

Return to harbor

Depart for Vandenberg; arrive at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, or to make reservations, call Outdoor Rec at 606-5908.

FITNESS CENTER

TUESDAY

Yoga Fitness, 6 to 7 p.m., at the Services Center.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Women volunteers and basketball players are needed to form teams to scrimmage against the Air Force Women's Basketball Camp players.

Coach Darren Savella is the POC for the Fitness Center, 606-3832.

FOOTBALL FIELD CLOSURE

The football field is closed for maintenance until the end of April.

For more information, call 606-3832.

SLAM DUNK Contest

5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY!
at the Fitness Center

6 p.m.

Basketball ALL-STARS

