



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
30TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)



MEMORANDUM FOR ALL PERSONNEL ON VANDENBERG AFB

17 DEC 17

FROM: 30 SW/CC

SUBJECT: Photography Authorization Directive

1. Photography is not allowed on Vandenberg AFB restricted or controlled areas without permission. IAW AFI 35-102, *Security and Policy Review Process*, I hereby delegate to the 30 SW Public Affairs Office the authority to review and approve all photographic requests. The term “photography” throughout this document refers to, but is not limited to; still photography, video acquisition, digital imaging, sketching, modeling, electronic spectrum information gathering and any other equipment able to reproduce, in whole or part, any portion of Vandenberg AFB restricted or controlled areas (to include Pillar Point AFS) that have photography restrictions. The following guidelines apply:

a. It is a crime under 18 U.S.C § 795 to photograph defense installations without first obtaining the permission of the commanding officer of the military installation. It is also a crime under 18 U.S.C § 797 to reproduce, publish, sell or give away any photograph, picture or graphic representation of a defense installation without first obtaining the permission of the commanding officer of the military installation. Finally, 18 U.S.C § 1382 makes it a crime to enter a military installation for any purpose prohibited by law or lawful regulation.

b. Security is everyone’s responsibility, and compliance with this order is mandatory. Violations of this order are punishable under 18 U.S.C., The Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 92, and AFI 36-704, *Civilian Personnel. Discipline and Adverse Actions*, as appropriate. In addition, certain violations may be punishable under 18 U.S.C. §§ 793-794. Violations could result in removal of base access, administrative action, nonjudicial punishment, court-martial, and criminal conviction in federal court.

2. This mandate includes all restricted or controlled areas of Vandenberg AFB and its annexes, including areas with an established temporary use lease by other organizations, such as United Launch Alliance, SpaceX, the National Reconnaissance Office, Missile Defense Agency, NASA, 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force, Joint Functional Component Command for Space and other entities. (Official photography in these areas is permitted at all times with prior coordination.)

a. Photography of areas and activities controlled by these other agencies requires permission from the agency’s releasing authority. Prior coordination with 30 SW/PA is required.

- b. In addition to approving requests to photograph NRO resources, activities and areas, NRO reviews all photographs for classification. NRO Vandenberg Photography OI, 02-02, lists coordination requirements and includes coordination with 30 SW/PA.
  - c. Photography of the flightline and within 300 feet of the flightline area is prohibited and will be coordinated by 30 SW/PA in coordination with airfield operations.
  - d. Aerial photography of base property will be coordinated by 30 SW/PA in coordination with 2 ROPS/DOUN, 30 OSS/OSK, 30 SW/IP, 30 CES/CENM (GIS) and any temporary use lease agencies associated with the area.
3. Government agencies or contractors and other entities/individuals with access to Vandenberg AFB seeking permission to use photography equipment on Vandenberg AFB property must submit a formal request to 30SW/PA. The request must provide names, nationality, organizational affiliation for each person and social security numbers. Also include a short description outlining use of imagery, specific locations for acquisition, and dates and times of acquisition.
4. All photography will be completed under the following caveats:
  - a. Photography for internal use by the requesting agency is coordinated with 30 SW/PA.
  - b. Photography is limited to areas listed in the 30 SW/PA issued permission letter.
  - c. Only individuals listed in the permission letter are authorized to conduct photography.
  - d. A copy of the permission letter must be on the photographer's person at all times photography is conducted and photography products will be reviewed by the 30 SW/PA before released.
5. Any photography acquired by non-governmental personnel may be seized by 30 SFS and then reviewed by 30 SW/PA. The acquiring equipment may also be seized. Photography seized in violation of this Directive will be destroyed.
6. News media of any type, to include newspapers, magazines, bloggers, social media representatives and television stations will not be allowed on Vandenberg AFB unless accompanied by 30 SW/PA. If the requested location to conduct photography is controlled by another entity, 30 SW/PA will escort the media personnel onto and off Vandenberg.
7. 30 SW/PA will notify media or visitors of any restrictions with regard to what can and cannot be filmed in a given area or activity.
8. If media requests imagery from a restricted/sensitive area, 30 SW/PA may use PA personnel to acquire imagery and request approval for release.

9. 30 SW/PA will immediately notify security forces of suspected photography of classified material by media or visitors. Subject matter experts, 30 SFS and 30 SW/PA will ensure the photography will be deleted, erased, or destroyed from the individual's photographic equipment (e.g., camera, cell phone, video recorder, etc.) and 30 SFS will return camera or other device (without images) to the media or visitor.

10. If it appears there was intent to deliberately obtain coverage of classified or unauthorized information or areas for purposes of profit, espionage or to have any other significant adverse impact on national security, or Vandenberg AFB, officials should immediately report the actions through command channels as well as to 30 SW/PA.

11. For questions please contact Ms. Robin Ghormley, Chief of Public Affairs, at 606-3595.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Hough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "H".

MICHAEL S. HOUGH, Colonel, USAF  
Commander