

Base crews rescue four, battle blazes

BY TECH. SGT. LLOYD CONLEY
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Crews from Vandenberg's 76th Helicopter Flight and 30th Civil Engineer Squadron's fire protection flight saved the lives of four people at the Plaskett 2 Fire located 25 miles north of Cambria, Calif.

Members of the 76th HF and fire protection flight emergency medical technicians have stabilized and airlifted three firefighters and one civilian for medical treatment since their arrival at the blaze July 24.

Grey Fryer, a state firefighter, suffered an allergic reaction to bee stings while battling the blaze in a remote area July 26. The area was inaccessible to motor vehicle traffic and there was no place to land the helicopter. The crew hoisted Fryer into the craft for medical evacuation, said Maj. Bruce Hellen, 76th HF director of operations.

John Crotty, a Vandenberg firefighter and helicopter rescue manager, was lowered into the area on a hoist to treat and stabilize the victim and prepare him for medical evacuation, said Dan Ardoin, assistant chief of operations, Vandenberg Fire Protection Flight.

Fryer was treated, released and returned to the site to fight the blaze that has burned more than 5,700 acres in the Las Padres National Forest.

The other victim, a civilian passing near the area, complained of chest pains. The helicopter crew and EMTs responded, assessed the victim's condition and

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B. LETSON, U.S. FOREST SERVICE

A forest service helicopter drops water on the fire line near Highway 1 at the Plaskett 2 Fire to help firefighters battle the blaze. Helicopter crews assigned to the 76th Helicopter Flight flew water drops in addition to medical evacuations.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DAVID LUKAS

Toxic algae beaches sea lions

BY MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Sick California sea lions began beaching themselves along Vandenberg's coastline July 26.

Concerned citizens reported three live sea lions at Wall Beach. Members of the 30th Security Forces Fish and Wildlife section also responded to reports of two dead animals at Surf and Wall beaches, said Nancy Read, Vandenberg's wildlife biologist.

She responded with 30th SFS Fish and Wildlife officers to provide assistance to the sick animals.

"They appear to be victims of algae

problems," she said.

She said members of the 30th Security Forces Squadron Fish and Wildlife section are trained to handle the sick animals and transport them to The Marine Mammal Center in Santa Barbara. To date, none of the sea lions have survived after being moved to the center.

Another sea lion was treated and released at Wall Beach by fish and wildlife officers, said Senior Airman Monique Martinez, a 30th SFS Fish and Wildlife patrolman.

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Force protection is everyone's job

BY EDDIE EDWARDS

30th Space Wing Plans and Program

Traditionally, military installations have relied heavily on the security forces and physical security measures to deter and defend against any possible terrorist attack.

Recent terrorist activities should dispel the mindset of terrorist threats "not happening in the United States." We must be mindful that a terrorist can strike at anytime, anywhere.

How often have we read newspapers, watched television, or surfed the World Wide Web and seen evidence of alert, aware individuals preventing terrorist-type incidents? Conversely, we have also seen the deadly results of people's failure to challenge questionable strangers, vehicles, or packages in their work areas.

That is why it's so important to remember Anti-Terrorism Force Protection awareness concerns all of Team Vandenberg; the more we can instill awareness into day-to-day operations, the stronger the program will be.

The following are frequently asked questions about terrorist threats and the base anti-terrorism force protection program:

Q: Aren't terrorist threats on Vandenberg AFB considered low?

A: Yes. We are fortunate to live in an area where the threat of terrorist activity is considered to be low. Does it mean we are immune from a terrorist attack? Absolutely not! The good news is that the Air Force Office of Special Investigations here have determined that the likelihood of determined terrorists targeting Vandenberg is remote. The bad news is that the Oklahoma City Federal Building and the New York City World Trade Center were once classified as low-threat environments.

Q: Does this mean we are helpless?

A: Absolutely not! We all take measures to protect ourselves and our homes from the "bad guys." We can use the same basic measures to protect ourselves from terrorists. We can educate the community to watch out for anything suspicious or out of place; be very cautious and don't give sensitive information to strangers. Report suspicious activities to security officials immediately.

Q: What's my responsibility? I'm not a trained security specialist so why do I need to get involved?



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMANDA EDWARDS

Anti-terrorism means being aware of your surroundings, like a suspicious looking vehicle parked in an unusual spot close to a building in a high traffic area, as is the case in the photograph.

A: As members of this community, we have the responsibility to make it difficult for a potential terrorist attack on us. Clearly, most of us are not trained in security or counterterrorism. We don't have to be to make Vandenberg as tough a target as possible. Be aware of your surroundings. Be knowledgeable of what to do when you notice something suspicious. It's our responsibility to ensure the base is always mission capable. More importantly, we must maintain safety and protect the welfare of our loved ones, friends and co-workers from acts of terrorism.

Q: Should I report everything that looks or seems suspicious? I don't want people to think I'm paranoid or overly suspicious.

A: My best advice is to use common sense. First, let's talk about what is suspicious. A rental truck parked in base housing might not be suspicious, but the same rental truck parked near a high-priority facility might be. On the other hand, a stranger in your neighborhood watching an individual's every day patterns and activities would be pretty suspicious. An unattended lunch box in the break area may not be suspicious, but an unmarked box in the hallway could be. Certainly, unidentified people

in your workplace, asking questions about your activities and facilities, need to be questioned.

Q: What should a person do if he notices something that may be suspicious?

A: Show a sense of urgency! Ask questions. Be careful. Find out if anyone can vouch for that unattended package if the stranger has a legitimate reason to be there, or if that vehicle belongs where it is. If you think something is suspicious, check it out—but don't touch it! Ask strangers what they are doing or simply let them know you are aware of their presence, but never try to detain or otherwise interfere with them. Leave that to the security professionals.

Q: Are there emergency phone numbers available if I ever encounter a suspicious person, object, vehicle, etc.? What if I need additional information on the AT/FP Program? Who do I call?

A: If you're on base, call 606-3911, off base, 606-3911, 30th Security Forces Squadron Law Enforcement Desk. For additional information on anti-terrorism force protection issues, call 30th SFS anti-terrorism section at 605-2585 or the 30th Space Wing operations security manager at 606-6639.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMANDA EDWARDS

If you notice a suspicious vehicle in a strange spot or parked in a particular space for an unusual amount of time, do not hesitate to question or report the incident to security forces.

SPACE&MISSILETIMES

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Memories of Desert Shield 10 years later

Rival superpower folds as new enemy threatens U.S. ally

By MAJ. JOHN CHERRY

30th Space Wing Public Affairs Director

The first week of August 1990, 10 years ago this week, I was stationed at Minot AFB, N.D. Those of us on active duty now who were on active duty then remember full well the impact of that week's events.

Aug. 2, Iraqi forces of Saddam Hussein invaded the country of Kuwait. They easily crushed Kuwait's defenses and began to brutalize the citizens of Kuwait. Aug. 7, President Bush ordered Operation Desert Shield to begin. The objective: liberate Kuwait and force the invading army to return to Iraq.

Just days before, we sat in our offices basking in the warm glow of our victory in the Cold War. We were talking about how nice the future would be with no Cold War and no superpower to challenge us. We knew there would be a lot of changes in how we were structured, but we had no idea what was to come.

With the invasion of Kuwait and the implementation of Operation Desert Shield came the instant realization that we were going to war. This time we were going to a place most of us knew little about or even cared about.

Over the next 35 days, the U.S. Air



TECH. SGT. G.M. KOBOSHIGAWA

A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft deployed with the 74th Fighter Squadron's Flying Tigers, Pope Air Force Base, N.C., depart Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait. Space-based assets were crucial to the success of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Force deployed a fighter aircraft force that equaled Iraq's number of fighters.

The Air Force deployed more than 55,000 airmen to the theater during Operations Desert Shield and Storm. They were supported by thousands around the world wearing Air Force blue.

We moved 482,000 passengers and 513,000 tons of cargo. By comparison, we duplicated the airlift accomplished during the Berlin Airlift – a 56-week operation – every six weeks.

Space forces were invaluable as well. The Defense Meteorological Support Program, Global Positioning System and Defense Satellite Communications System satellites all demonstrated peerless performance as we fought against Iraqi aggression.

Everyone on active duty at the time knew we were involved in something important. What we did not know was that we were involved in something that would change our Air Force forever.

With the end of the Cold War, we began to think about drawing down our numbers of forward-deployed forces in Europe and the Pacific. By demonstrating our capabilities to deploy nearly 500,000 people halfway around the globe and fight a war, we proved that we could become an expeditionary Air Force. Desert Shield and Desert Storm proved the Air Force is the premier first-response force for our nation.

Now, we are an expeditionary force. We are a leaner force. We have proven ourselves the nation's premier flying and fighting force.

In September 1990, I PCSed to Clark Air Base, Philippines. I supported the operations in the desert by providing command and control for our deployed F-4s. I too watched CNN as we implemented Operation Desert Storm and began around-the-clock bombing of Saddam's forces. I am proud to say I was part of the historic events 10 years ago this week as we showed the world what we were made of.

I was still in the Philippines as the hostilities in the Persian Gulf drew to a close and Mount Pinatubo erupted and covered Clark Air Base with volcanic debris, but that's another story for another time.

Hometown entertainers rock Vandenberg twice

By TECH. SGT. BUZZ RITCHIE
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ It was Broadway with rockets for a packed house at Vandenberg's theater when Tops In Blue performed twice in three days for a Central Coast crowd of 500.

It was also a homecoming for three of the show's performers who were stationed at Vandenberg when they were selected to join Tops In Blue.

Tops In Blue performed shows Sunday and Tuesday in the base's Minuteman Theater. Tops In Blue brings the best in music, dance and comedy to Air Force men and women, their families, and communities around the nation and across the globe. The troupe performs an average of 120 shows at 100 locations worldwide.

"Our show is high energy," said tour director and keyboardist, Capt. Chris Kniffen. "We put out a variety of music, songs and dances that really move the crowd." The crowd wasn't the only group moving while Tops In Blue was on base. The energy radiating from the performers started long before the curtain was raised for Sunday's first show.

"We have 34,000 pounds of equipment we have to set up and tear down for every show," said Staff Sgt. Ken Myers, one of the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron's own and a saxophonist also in charge of power production, lighting and airlift. "Tops In Blue has done four shows in a row," he said Sunday. For every show, Myers said the performers become technicians, unloading trucks, setting up equipment, checking sound, performing the show, then tearing it down before they grab two or three



AIRMAN JESSICA RAMOS

Staff Sgt. Ken Meyers, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, wails on sax for the home crowd.

hours of sleep and drive on to their next show. It's a long, weary road, but you can't tell from the excitement of the performers.

"Tops In Blue is totally unbelievable, totally amazing," said Airman 1st Class Mindy Kruty, a member of the 30th Security Forces Squadron before she turned vocalist with Tops In Blue. A musical theater major at Kent State University in Ohio before joining the Air Force, Kruty said she's been in choir and community theater all her life.

"The quality of the Air Force people doing these shows is Broadway caliber," she said. Kruty's level of musical experience is not unusual among Tops In Blue performers.

The third member of Team Vandenberg now with the group toured Europe in 1996 as a member of a choir.

"My biggest thrill is performing for people," said Airman 1st Class Monica Leger, an alumni of the 576th Flight Test



AIRMAN JESSICA RAMOS

Senior Airman Fernando Alejandro, 96th Communication Squadron, Eglin AFB, Fla., is flanked by Airman 1st Class Audrey Dawson, 100th Communication Squadron, RAF Mildenhall, England, and Airman 1st Class Monica Leger (right), 576th Flight Test Squadron, here.

Squadron before joining Tops In Blue. With seven years of voice lessons and countless musicals under her belt, Leger is no stranger to hard work. But even she describes Tops In Blue as "very, very, very intense training."

"We were in training for almost two months, working 18 to 20 hour days with no days off," she said. "We'd go home and sleep for two or three hours, and then come back again. But it's worth it."

That work ethic is what sets apart Tops In Blue from other entertainers, said a former member of the group who is now their technical manager.

"The Tops In Blue performance is head and shoulders above any other shows," said Kahlil Walton. As

technical manager, part of his job is to teach performers the work ethic Tops In Blue requires.

"The performance is only 10 percent of the time our people spend getting ready for a show," Walton said.

"Ninety percent of the time is unloading and loading trucks, and setting up the equipment and stage." Walton's experience away from Tops In Blue includes working as a comedian in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and New York. He also did a tour from 1994 to 1995 with the group as a comedian and dancer.

"The pride that goes into Tops In Blue is what sets it apart from shows I've seen in New York, Vegas and Los Angeles."

Tricare offers members debt collection assistance

New DoD program eases Tricare credit problems

■ The Department of Defense announced a new debt collection assistance officer program to help servicemembers, retirees and their eligible family members with TRICARE-related debt problems. For the first time, an assistance officer located at each military treatment facility and TRICARE lead agent office, will be the single point of contact when a TRICARE beneficiary needs help with these kinds of problems.

"We do not want our servicemembers to have the burden of resolving individual claims," said Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Bernard Rostker.

The new program will begin within 30 days.

Incorrect billing to servicemembers for outstanding medical bills was a key issue at the first Military Family Forum at the Pentagon on May 31.

Once contacted by a TRICARE-eligible beneficiary, the debt collection assistance officer will intercede with all agencies involved, including military personnel offices, the MTFs, lead agents, network and non-network providers, TRICARE Management Activity, managed care contractors, and even debt collection agencies when appropriate, to resolve a collection issue arising from a TRICARE claim.

The debt collection assistance officer will research the TRICARE claims history and notify the beneficiary of the resolution. If appropriate, written documentation will be provided for use with national credit reporting companies to remove adverse credit information related

to TRICARE claims.

Servicemembers in remote locations may contact any convenient debt collection officer.

"Our servicemembers deserve assistance and relief from unwarranted collection actions resulting from unpaid medical claims," said Rostker.

Immediate help with questions regarding medical bills remains the TRICARE beneficiary's best defense against credit problems, according to Rostker. Assistance is available at local TRICARE service centers and military treatment facilities. Beneficiaries can call claims processors at 1-800-242-6788. The point of contact at the 30th Medical Group at Vandenberg is Bonnie Robles at 606-6785. Additional information can be found on the Military Health System/TRICARE Web site at: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>. Information courtesy of the 30th Medical Group.

NEWS**BRIEFS****FIRE PROTECTION FLIGHT CONDUCTS TRAINING IN FAMILY HOUSING**

The Fire Protection Flight has scheduled live fire training Aug. 16 through Sept. 5 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The fire training will be conducted at buildings 609, 612, 614, 615, and 617 located on Elm Street in the military family housing area. Smoke will be visible for several miles but should dissipate after the buildings have burned to the ground. For questions or additional information regarding the live fire training, call Phillip Bennie, fire protection flight training and safety officer, at 605-2816.

TOP THREE OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP TO ACTIVE DUTY ENLISTED

The Vandenberg Top Three will award two \$300 scholarships during the Aug. 17 general membership meeting at the Pacific Coast Club.

The annual scholarships are targeted for the base's active-duty enlisted members. Candidates must submit a two- to three-page essay featuring an important aspect of enlisted military history. The deadline for this year's scholarship is Thursday. For more information, call Master Sgt. Richard Niner at 606-3120 or Senior Master Sgt. Fred Miller at 606-3077.

VANDENBERG HONOR GUARD NEEDS MEMBERS, BUGLERS

The Vandenberg Honor Guard is looking for individuals to go above and beyond the call to duty. Additionally, buglers are needed. Anyone with experience and who wants to become a member of Vandenberg's finest, should call Staff Sgt. Daliha Shelton at 606-3654.

AMERICABLE ADDS UPN CHANNEL TO NETWORK LINEUP

Americable will add United Paramount Network to its lineup Sept. 1. The UPN channel will be shown on cable channel 60. Also, channel 21, currently CMT, will move to channel 45. The present channel 45, currently ESPN II, will move to channel 21. The change was based on viewers' requests. To offer questions or comments, call the Americable office at 734-5578.

VANDENBERG UNIT VOTING COUNSELORS TRAIN FOR ELECTION

Initial and refresher training for all unit voting counselors is Tuesday at 9 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. in the Vandenberg Center. Unit voting counselors should bring a current appointment letter to the training. Voting counselors will also receive the Armed Forces Voting Week briefing. Only one voting counselor per unit is required to attend the training. For information, call 1st Lt. Willie Rudd and 606-3654, or Maj. William Prenot at 605-1966.

FURNITURE DRIVE BENEFITS VANDENBERG'S AIRMEN'S ATTIC

The Vandenberg Enlisted Action Team is sponsoring a dish and furniture drive on behalf of the Airman's Attic.

The drive will be held Monday through Saturday. Items needed are pots and pans, dressers, entertainment centers, casserole dishes, tables, chairs and appliances. Items should be in good working order. Donations are tax deductible. Items requiring bulk pick-up, Friday and Saturday only, can be coordinated with Tech. Sgt. John Corwin at 606-2427 or Tech. Sgt. Juno Brown at 606-4439. Items can be dropped off at the Airman's Attic on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call Staff Sgt. Dan Loper at 606-7069 for more information.

RECRUITER TEAMS ARRIVE HERE LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED AIRMEN

The Recruit-the-Recruiter Team will visit Vandenberg Aug. 31. The team will give a one-hour briefing at 9 a.m. in the PME Center, building 11025. Staff sergeants through master sergeants with less than 16 years total active federal military service are eligible to apply. Senior airmen with three to six years of total active federal military service are also eligible. Spouses are encouraged to attend this briefing.

People who apply for recruiter duty after the briefing should expect to spend the rest of the day processing their application. Those who qualify will be selected on the spot. For more information, call Master Sgt. Jeanette O'Keefe at 605-0289 or 605-4678.

PATRIOT VOICES LOOKING FOR NEW ENLISTED MEMBERS

Patriot Voices, formerly known as the Vandenberg Quartet, is looking for enlisted members to audition for the team. The group performs the national anthem at retirements, change-of-commands, dinners and community events. People who can sing and would like to be part of a growing tradition should call Senior Airman Tim Van Prooyen at 606-8483 for more information. Enlisted men and women are invited to join.

MASSACHUSETTS ANG NEEDS AIRCRAFT MAINTAINERS

The Massachusetts Air National Guard is looking for people in the aircraft maintenance career fields. Positions available are 2W151, 2A656, 2A353J, 2A651A, 2A653, 2A654, 2A751, 2A753, 2A754. Non-flying career fields like 2S031, 2T031, 3P051, 3P051B, 3S251 and others are also available. College benefits and cross-training are available. Contact the recruiting office at DSN 636-9567 or (800) 247-9151.

VANDENBERG MEMBERS MUST REGISTER PRIVATE VEHICLES

People assigned to and working on Vandenberg are classified as permanent party members and need to register their private vehicles within three days after initial entry onto the base. All vehicles model years 1974 through 1996, regardless of state registration, need a California smog test every two years, or when selling or transferring ownership. Call the 30th Security Forces Squadron Pass and Registration section at 606-1853 for more information.



PAT ELLIOT, U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Unidentified California fire crews move out to the next fire zone to contain the Manter fire in the Sequoia National Forest. The Vandenberg Hotshots are participating with more than 1,700 people fighting the fire that has burned more than 67,000 acres.

FIRE from Page 1

flew the unidentified man to Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton, Calif. Currently, he is still hospitalized, Crotty said.

Crotty added that another rescue occurred Sunday. The victim suffered heat exhaustion and was semi-conscious. He was also hoisted into a 76th helicopter and flown to a nearby hospital where he was treated and released.

The fourth save was a firefighter rescued Monday when he suffered heat stress and cramps while fighting the fire, Crotty said. He was flown back to the base camp where he was treated by paramedics and returned to his crew.

In addition to medical evacuation, the helicopter crews also performed water drops to help the firefighters combat the blaze, said Maj. Karen Cox, 76th HF commander.

The 76th HF crewmembers who returned Saturday are Capt. Derrick Stamos, pilot; 1st Lt. Ryan Campbell, co-pilot; Staff Sgt. Don Cruz, flight engineer; and Kevin Tuftee, maintenance technician.

"We turned out to be a big help," Stamos said. "There are a limited number of helicopters available because of the number of wild fires raging throughout the southwest now.

"We were originally there to provide medical evacuation support," Stamos added, "but we

were also qualified to perform water drops."

As a result, "Our crew was the only one of six helicopter crews fighting the blaze qualified to perform, medical evacuations and water drops," Stamos said.

Stamos' crew was replaced by another 76th HF crew Saturday, which performed the last two medical evacuations, Cox said.

The crew at the Plaskett-two fire now is Capt. John Morales, pilot; 1st Lt. Chris Brady, copilot; Tech. Sgt. Bob Roper, flight engineer; and Paul Cook, maintenance technician.

The two Vandenberg firefighters, John Crotty, helicopter manager; and Tom Gooch medical aid; have been there since their initial deployment July 24, Ardoin said.

Additional members of Team Vandenberg are fighting fires in other areas of the state, said Mark Faris, Vandenberg assistant fire chief.

Twenty-one members of Vandenberg's Hotshot firefighters were deployed to the Manter fire located at the Sequoia National Forest northeast of Bakersfield, Calif.

The Mantera blaze is the second largest blaze currently burning in the country..

Six Vandenberg firefighters were deployed, with bulldozers, to combat California's newest wildfire the Cachuma Fire at Lake Cachuma, north of Santa Barbara, Calif.



TECH. SGT. RODNEY JONES

Members of Vandenberg's 30th Security Forces Squadron Fish and Wildlife section load an ailing sea lion on a trailer.

LIONS from Page 1

The number of beached sea lions on Vandenberg's shore is growing daily, Read said. At least two are located in the closed area at Surf Beach.

Describing the 200- to 300-pound animals' symptoms, Read said, "They are partially paralyzed but can usually keep their heads up and stay up on their front flippers."

She added that the paralysis seems to be limited to one side, impairing the animal's mobility. They also have uncontrollable seizures.

In the spring of 1998, The Marine Mammal Center in San Luis Obispo, Calif., admitted 70 California sea lions exhibiting similar symptoms. Those animals were eventually diagnosed with domoic acid poisoning from a toxic bloom of *Pseudo-nitzschia australis* algae, according to The Marine Mammal Center's web site.

"The algae are consumed by plankton, the plankton are consumed by fish and the fish are consumed by the sea lions," Read said.

According to The Marine Mammal Center's web site, nearly 100 sea lions have been affected by the toxic bloom along the Central Coast since

mid-June. The 1998 episode was the first known case of algal toxicosis in marine mammals on the West Coast.

The levels of domoic acid increase at the higher end of the food chain. California sea lions, in particular, appear to be susceptible to the toxic accumulation, Read said.

While they may appear lethargic, she urged people to keep their distance from the sea lions.

"They're very alert. They seem to know what's going on, but they just can't move," she said.

"People try to pet these animals, but they are extremely dangerous," Read warned. "There is nothing wrong with their teeth."

The presence of people further stresses the sick animal's system, she said.

"If people find a seal, sea lion or other animal that appears ill or impaired, do not approach it or attempt to chase it back into the water," she said. "Stay 50 yards away."

Call the 30th SFS Fish and Wildlife at 606-6804 to report animals that appear to be ill. After duty hours, report them to the law enforcement desk at 606-3911.

Air Force exceeds year 2000 recruiting goals

■ WASHINGTON—The Air Force said today that it is winning its “war on recruiting” by reaching this year’s goal with the recent signing of the 34,000th enlistment contract in Mt. Vernon, Ill.

With 26,070 new airmen sent to basic training since the beginning of the fiscal year, the Air Force has enough contracts with new recruits to enter basic training by Sept. 30 to meet its annual goal.

“This is a great accomplishment for not only our recruiters, but for the entire United States Air Force,” said Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters. “We made recruiting a top priority this year and are pleased to see the initial fruits of our labor. However, we won’t let up; we will continue to work hard to reach both our future recruiting and retention goals.”

Last year, the Air Force missed its recruiting goal for the first time in 20 years. An increase in the number of recruiters, targeted enlistment bonuses in hard-to-fill areas and months, and a first-ever paid television advertising campaign contributed to this year’s success.

In addition to increasing its overall manning, the Air Force deployed 100 recruiters from headquarters and staff positions for 90 days, recalled 170 former recruiters to serve 120 days on temporary duty status and deferred assignments for nearly 100 recruiters. This boosted its number of “on the street” recruiters from fewer than 900 last fall to approximately 1,300 current recruiters.

“Our front-line recruiters and the entire Air Force recruiting team are doing excellent work,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan.

“They’ve responded to the challenge and we are extremely pleased with the quantity and quality of our new recruits. We will continue to make recruiting and retention a top priority.”

Even with 34,000 sign-ups in hand, recruiters are still hard at work recruiting additional

candidates in anticipation of possible cancellations and to begin filling an expected 34,600 new jobs for next year.

“We really don’t yet have the time to stop and celebrate,” said Brig. Gen. (select) Duane Deal, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. “This is an indicator of how hard our recruiters are working, but we still have a daunting challenge ahead of us.”

Recruits cite the opportunity to further their education as the top reason for joining the Air Force, according to a recent survey. All new recruits are automatically enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force, the only accredited junior college among the armed services.

“When our great recruiters talk to young people today, they recognize that joining the Air Force equals enrolling in college. It’s automatic on their enlistment, and new trainees earn between 15 and 72 college hours when they complete training, depending on their skill areas. Added to that, they are gaining a skill, immediate responsibility and being part of the world’s greatest aerospace team,” Deal said.

With an ever-increasing emphasis placed on high-tech operations and weapon systems, the Air Force is recruiting the best of America’s youth. Young people entering today’s Air Force can qualify for more than 200 skills. The Air Force is currently placing special emphasis on recruiting qualified high school graduates and college students interested in electronic and mechanical fields.

For more information on the recruiting program, contact Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas at (210) 652-5993, or via e-mail at afrrshqpa@rs.af.mil.

For more information about Air Force career opportunities, visit the Air Force Recruiting Service Web site at <http://www.airforce.com>



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Partnership

David Cross, Santa Maria Military Affairs Committee chairman, takes a peek at a UH-1 Huey from the 76th Helicopter Flight during Community Partners Day July 27. Community leaders throughout the Central Coast spent the day learning more about Team Vandenberg's mission.

4

FRI

A **dress, interview, resume, etiquette and consultation training class** sponsored by the family support center will be held today at 9 a.m. for people entering or re-entering the job market. Improve job hunting, resume writing, interviewing, goal setting and business etiquette. The class is open to active duty, military spouses, Department of Defense members, and retirees. Call Tinisha Agramonte at 605-8557 to register.

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SAT

The **San Luis Obispo Obon Festival** is Saturday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the San Luis Obispo Veterans Hall. View bonsai exhibits from throughout California. There will be a bonsai demonstration at 3 p.m. The Veterans Hall is located on the corner of Grand Avenue and Monterey Street.

6

SUN

The **Gents-In-A-Chord Barbershop Chorus** will present their third annual Cookies and Cream show Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall located at 925 N. F St. in Lompoc. Tickets cost \$6 at the door. Cookies and ice cream will be provided at the intermission. Part of the proceeds from this event will provide funds to Heartspring. The International Service Project school specializes in helping children between the ages of 5 and 21 who have multiple disabilities, including physical, mental and behavioral.

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WED

A **Sensible Weigh Class** is scheduled for every Wednesday in August from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The program can help people learn about health and meal planning to reach their desired weight, sensibly. Phone Beverly Calderon at 606-2221 to sign up.

Family advocacy is holding an **Adults Molested As Children** group. The group will be limited to eight people to effectively allow survivors enough time to talk and at the same time keep a safe environment. The first support group for AMACs will begin Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the mental health clinic. Call 606-5338 for more information.

10

THU

Family advocacy has scheduled a self-esteem workshop Thursday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The workshop can help you gain appreciation for yourself by improving your self-confidence and self-assurance. Call 606-5338 for information.

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14 MON A stress management class is scheduled for Aug. 14 and 15. The class offers a variety of tools to manage stress. It's open to active-duty, military spouses, Department of Defense civilians, and retirees. Telephone Linda Bastine at 606-9958 for details or to register.

20 SUN Lompoc's ninth annual **Brushes and Blues** event is scheduled for Aug. 20 at the La Purisima Mission. The event will feature theater, music, artist demonstrations, wine tasting, story telling, face painting, a barbecue, and the Lompoc Pops Orchestra. Price of admission is \$7. Tickets are available at the Lompoc Chamber of Commerce. Call 734-4567 for information.

25 FRI A **monthly cooking class** is scheduled at the Health and Wellness Center Aug. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join the HAWC and learn to prepare vegetarian cuisine as a healthy addition to your life. Call Beverly Calderon at 606-2221 for more information.

SEPT. 22 FRI The **Hispanic Heritage Planning Committee** wants Hispanic appetizer recipes. They are planning a show tentatively for Sept. 22 featuring Team Vandenberg's finest appetizers. They are also looking for any artifacts to place on display during the exposition. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kitty Noles at 606-0366.

28 THU **Family Advocacy** and the Family Violence Prevention and Intervention Partnership are sponsoring a conference on family violence called "Building Bridges to Peaceful Families." The conference is designed to provide up-to-date information on family violence issues as they relate to practitioners, law enforcement, medical professionals and attorneys in the field of family violence. The one-day conference is scheduled for Sept. 28 at the Marriott in Buellton from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Costs are \$65 prior to Sept. 15, and \$75 after the Sept. 15, and includes continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, call Teri Zuniga at 347-9994 or Valerie Trewren at 606-5338.

Two new immunizations are required for students entering kindergarten, Hepatitis B series and a second dose of measles vaccine. Students entering seventh grade are required to be current in their Hepatitis B series. Students whose immunization records have not been verified by a school nurse will not be enrolled or admitted for the 2000-2001 school year until their immunization records are in compliance.

SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS

Lompoc Valley Middle School registration for new students is Aug. 14 to 22 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at the counseling office located at 234, S. N St. The first day of school is Aug. 23 beginning at 8:20 a.m.

Vandenberg Middle School registration for new students is Aug. 14 to 18 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. by appointment only. Call 734-4391 for an appointment. Classes begin Aug 23 at 8:40 a.m. and dismiss at 3:15 p.m.

Cabrillo High School's new students may pick up registration materials starting Thursday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Parents need to enroll their students as soon as possible after Thursday. Classes begin Aug. 23 at 7:45 a.m.

Lompoc High School registration begins Aug. 11 in the counseling center located at 515 W. College Ave. Call 736-2371 extension 417 between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. after Monday to make an appointment. Classes begin Aug. 23 at 8:45 a.m.

Maple High School registration for new students starts Aug. 18 at 9 a.m. and new opportunity student registration begins at 10:30 a.m. Classes start Aug. 23 at 8:45 a.m.

*At the Movies*

Tonight
The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle

(PG) 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Boys and Girls
Starring Freddie Prinze Jr. and Clair Forlani

(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Sunday
Boys and Girls

(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 11
Fantasia 2000

(G) 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 12
Me, Myself and Irene
Starring Jim Carry and Rennee Zellwger

(R) 7:30 p.m.



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Dayshawn Grant, 30th Security Forces Squadron, works with coach Don Green on punching combinations at the Vandenberg Boxing Center.

Members are fighting to stay fit

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Some people on Vandenberg have found a way to fight their way to physical fitness.

The 30th Services Squadron offers a boxing class Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. on the corner of Utah Road and Wyoming Avenue across from the commissary.

"People come in here and learn proper stance and punching techniques to box and also get into shape," said Staff Sgt. Ron Stecher, 30th Contracting Squadron Information management craftsman.



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Betsy Ann Kelly Bell from 392nd Training Squadron works on the double-ended bag.

"Most just want to get into shape, but a few do want to compete," added Stecher.

For the 10 to 15 members who attend each workout, the evening starts with a one- to three-mile run or time on a stationary bike or treadmill. That's followed with 15 minutes of calisthenics. Next boxers rotate through stations for three, three-minute rounds using the heavy bag, double-end bags, shadow boxing and jump rope. Each person also gets a few minutes of work with a coach throwing punch combinations in the ring. The workouts last about two hours.

Boxing coach Don Green, Air Force veteran and retired civil service employee, put the gym together in February 1999. Most of the equipment is Green's or has been retrieved from the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.

Green, who has more than 40 years of experience in boxing as a coach and competitor, is also a certified official, coach and trainer for the United States Amateur Boxing Association.

Green recently took a Southern California boxing team out to the East Coast to compete in the Mayor Cup Invitational Tournament in Washington, D.C. There he learned about the differences between East and West Coast boxing styles.

"While at the invitational, I learned a little about how boxing tournaments are organized and operated," said Green. "I'm hoping to have a Blue-and-Gold or Golden Glove tournament here at Vandenberg in the future."