

A new Flying Tiger

Looney accepts command of 14th Air Force



STAFF SGT. PAM TAUBMAN

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

■ On the 56th anniversary of D-Day, the 14th Air Force Flying Tigers welcomed a new leader during a change of command ceremony Tuesday in the Western Range Operations Control Center.

Maj. Gen. William Looney III accepted the 14th Air Force colors from Gen. Ralph Eberhart, commander of Air Force Space Command, signifying the transfer of authority to Looney, the new commander of the Flying Tigers. He was most recently the director of operations for Air Force Space Command.

The 14th Air Force encompasses all Air Force space forces. Its operations include global ballistic missile warning, space surveillance, satellite control, space-based navigation and communications, and spacelift generation and range operations. Looney, as commander of the 14th Air Force, is also component commander of U.S. Air Force Space Operations, U.S. Space Command.

Following the change of command ceremony, the 14th Air Force's out-going commander, Maj. Gen. Robert Hinson, was promoted to lieutenant general. Hinson is now the deputy commander in chief, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Earlier, Hinson was awarded the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal.

"The accomplishments of this command under General Hinson are truly amazing," Eberhart said at Tuesday's ceremony. "Fourteenth Air Force has found a way to the heavens and a way to space."

Touching on Looney's selection as the new commander of the Flying Tigers, Eberhart said, "We very carefully selected a new leader who clearly understands aerospace and how it fits into an aerospace force. General Looney will lead the men and women

of 14th Air Force to new heights."

A crowd of about 250 people later heard Hinson in his comments thank family, friends, co-workers and civic leaders for their support and hard work.

"... the numbered Air Force that is going to lead the Air Force into space is the Flying Tigers."

Maj. Gen. William Looney III
14th Air Force Commander

"My hope is we have made 14th Air Force better," Hinson said. "I have only steered this ship; you are the sails that have given it speed. We collectively have done great things for the Air Force."

Looney, the sixth commander of 14th Air Force since September 1993, said the future of the Air Force is in space, the ultimate high ground.

"It's very apparent that today the numbered Air Force that is going to lead the Air Force into space is the Flying Tigers," he said.

Team launches Pegasus here

COMPILED FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ An Orbital Sciences Corporation Pegasus rocket was launched Wednesday at 6:19 a.m. PST. The rocket took off from an L-1011 aircraft carrying the Tri-Service Experiments Mission 5.

The spacelift commander for this mission was Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander. The TSX-5

program is managed by the Space Test Program at the Space and Missile Center's Test and Evaluation section at Kirtland AFB, N.M. It supports two Department of Defense Space Experiments Review Board Experiments: the Space Technology Research Vehicle-2 and the Compact Environmental Anomaly Sensor.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Master Sgt. Richard Czap, chief air traffic controller during Wednesday's Pegasus launch, watches from the tower as the L-1011 aircraft lifts off.

Editorial

In for the full twenty

By SENIOR AIRMAN MICHAEL HALBROOK
690th Combat Support Squadron

KELLY AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — I recently spoke at a Kelly AFB “Right Decision” seminar.

This is a program that reminds first- and second-term airmen who are close to re-enlisting about the benefits they will lose if they decide to leave the service. It is also a forum for senior leaders to let these airmen know how important they are and that they care about their future. As I watched people come through the door, I remembered the feelings I had when I first considered leaving the Air Force. Everyone asked, “Are you sure this is what you want?” and “Think of your benefits.” Like many of the airmen in this seminar, I didn’t want to hear it — I was getting out. I separated from the Air Force in May 1999.

Many asked me why, but I really didn’t have a definite answer. I guess I thought the grass was greener on the other side. I came up with a million excuses back then, but today I see that none of them were really valid. I learned some very hard and valuable lessons last summer. I also found out the job I had in the Air Force wasn’t as bad as I thought.

I started looking for a civilian job eight months before my separation date, but nothing ever panned out. I used every possible means I had, including every online resume Web site on the Internet. So with no job, my wife Stacey and I moved back home to Florida and settled in with my parents. It wasn’t a bad experience, but going back to live with your parents is something you really don’t want to do.

My wife is a travel agent and found a job right away, but it paid only half of what she made during my last Air Force assignment in Colorado. Meanwhile, I continued hitting the pavement in search of the right job. I finally had to

take what I could get, and accepted a sales position at a local radio station. Not a bad job, but if you don’t sell, you don’t get paid.

In July my uncle suggested I go to Georgia to look for a job, so Stacey and I loaded up our car again. Like before, Stacey found something right away that paid excellent money, so we were able to get an apartment. I on the other hand, just about lived at the local labor department — I think they knew me by my first name. In desperation, I started dropping off resumes at local department stores along with any leads I got from the labor office.

When the phone finally rang, it was not the job I had hoped for, but we needed the money, so I went for an interview and was hired on the spot. And that’s how, after four years in the Air Force installing high-tech, complex computer systems for the North American Aerospace Defense Command at Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, I ended stocking shelves at Target. I’m not putting this job down, but I thought I could have found something better. I worked like a dog for four months unloading boxes, helping with inventory, and working late nights and extra hours just to make ends meet.

The real turning point came when Stacey and I had about \$34 left to last us two weeks. If not for our families, I don’t know what we would have done. I knew then that getting out of the Air Force had been a terrible decision.

I hadn’t looked at the big picture or how this decision would affect my wife.

The next day I called my local recruiter, and that is why I’m telling my story today.

I have three points of advice for anyone thinking of getting out without having have a job lined up: One: Start saving now, just in case you end up like me with nothing to fall back on. Two: Think of your family. Right now they



TECH. SGT. RODNEY JONES

Gradute receives scholarship

Col. Steve Lanning (second from left), 30th Space Wing commander, presents a scholarship check from the African American Association to Calvin Peterson Jr. Capt. Ray Brown (left) is the association president. Master Sgt. Michael Bryant (right) is the association treasurer.

30TH SPACE WING COMMANDER'S CALLS

Monday	Squadron commanders	3:30 p..m.
Tuesday	Top Three	3:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Senior civilians	3 p.m.
Thursday	Spouses	7 p.m.
June 20	Civilian	3 p.m.
June 21	Chiefs and first sergeants	3:30 p.m.
June 22	Contractors	3:30 p.m.

All commander's calls will be held at the Pacific Coast Club

have insurance, and so do you. It gets real expensive on the outside and most of the time, it takes a while before the benefits kick in. Three and most importantly: Get all the education you can and get that degree — it’s the most valuable piece of paper you will ever receive.

I didn’t come back into the Air Force just for the money, but having a job with security is an awesome feeling. I also

missed wearing the Air Force uniform and all the perks that come with it.

This is not a feel-sorry-for-me story. I just want to let others know things are a little different on the outside, and to keep what happened to me and my family from happening to them.

Many people have asked if I am in for good this time. I just smile back and say, “For the full twenty!”

SPACE&MISSILETIMES

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30th Space Wing Commander

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World War II pilot composes tribute to stars and stripes

By DWIGHT BISHOP

453rd Bombardment Group, 2nd Air Division

I'm proud to be a U.S. flag and fly with dignity,
 Because my freedom wasn't won without hostility.
 O, may I plead, come fly with me,
 Look out across the sky,
 And if you will, I promise you,
 That I'll try not to cry.
 My job is flying ev'ry day
 For all the world to see.
 I represent the gallant men
 Who all through history
 Marched out from hallowed pages when
 The trouble did ensue.
 And if you knew them like I did,
 You'd fight the tears back, too.
 For as they sang "We won't be back
 Until it's over there,"
 They planted many memories
 That I would like to share.
 I felt such pride that day at Wake,
 I flew there for a while.
 Was raised against tremendous odds
 On Iwo Jima Isle.
 I've flown half mast at places like
 Corregidor and Bataan.
 Men scaled the cliffs at Normandy
 To bear my colors on.
 Pearl Harbor taught this land of ours
 No liberty is free.
 I wept o'er ev'ry battlefield,
 And know that victory,
 Is bought with sweat and blood and tears,
 Or traded for the slain.
 But I proclaim to all the world,



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

They did not die in vain.
 I flew at ev'ry major front
 To honor Uncle Sam.
 Korea had its heroes, too,
 And so did Vietnam.
 Marines were slain in Lebanon
 To raise involvement fear.
 But if we don't fight over there,
 They'll bring it over here.
 If I could know just what it was
 That reared courageously
 To leave behind heroic deeds
 That carved out history.
 Just what it was inside of them
 That overcame their fear?
 What made them leave the homes they loved
 And families held dear?
 What made these men lay down their lives
 To stem the tide of war?

For now they rest beyond the blue
 Upon that Golden Shore.
 For in the air, on land or sea
 Great courage did prevail.
 But many names, may God forgive,
 Were lost upon the trail.
 It reads "Unknown" upon their cross,
 They rest beneath the sod.
 Tho we may never know their names,
 Their names are known to God.
 I'm very sure that God himself
 Told ev'ry man "well done."
 And comforted each mother's heart
 Who sacrificed a son.
 My vigilance will never end
 Above your hallowed dead,
 Who gave their very best, their lives,
 And then marched on ahead.
 I pray that I can some day fly
 In peace forevermore.
 That I'll be spared the pain, grief and misery of war.
 That someday through the grace of God
 The drums of war will cease.
 And ev'ry place on Earth will dwell
 In everlasting peace.
 For ev'ry soldier I have known,
 May I salute you, sir.
 For I was there the day you fell,
 And know how brace you were.
 And so I fly around the world
 For ev'ry soldier's sake.
 But wonder how much more of this
 My broken heart can take.
 I'm much, much more than just a flag,
 That decorates a pole.
 I am the faith, the hope and love
 Within the G.I. soul.
 And if a flag could really talk,
 Here's what this flag would say
 To ev'ry soldier laid to rest,
 "Come fly with me today."

Air Force promotion rates increase

Technical and master sergeant selection percentages set record high

■RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force selected 7,536 of 19,269 eligible technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant and 11,449 of 41,414 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant.

This represents an overall 39.1 percent selection rate for the 00E7 cycle and 27.6 percent selection rate for the 00E6 cycle, for an all-time record setting percentage on both



counts. Team Vandenberg selected had 81 out of 184 eligible people for promotion to master sergeant. That represents a 44 percent selection rate for the base. The base also had 111 out of 387 people selected for promotion to technical sergeant. They represent a 28 percent selection rate.

“Year 2000 promotion rates promise more of the same good news we had

in 1999,” said officials at the Air Force Personnel Center. Vacancies within each grade drive those promotions.

“The increased promotion rates seen in the last few years are partly a result of the return to stable force structure and end-strength levels following years of drawdown,” said AFPC officials. “The primary reason for increased promotion rates is our transition to a higher percentage of ‘top

five’ NCOs, previously at 48.5 percent of the enlisted force, now at 52 percent and headed to 56 percent.” Continued retention challenges in the midst of a booming economy and thriving civilian job market are also playing key roles in the greater number of vacancies.

People who tested are expected to receive their score notices in mid-June, allowing them to see just how they stacked up against their counterparts.



The following technical sergeants assigned to Vandenberg AFB were selected for promotion to master sergeant.

Richard A. Brown, 532nd Training Squadron
Cheryl A. Garin, 532nd TRS
Brian St. E. Kennedy, 532nd TRS
Keith R. Smith, 532nd TRS
Gerd Scheller, 534th Training Squadron
Mark A. Ciuffetelli, 345th Training Squadron
Robert K. Clickener, 345th TRS
Stevie B. Holloway, 345th TRS
Pedro Sagisi, 345th TRS
Shellenbarger, 345th TRS
C. Temple, 345th TRS
John E. Goodson, Space and Missile Systems Center, Detachment 9
Edward J. Palacios SSC, Det. 9
Stephen L. Murdock, 30th Range Squadron
Jeff L. Sherrill, 30th Mission Support Squadron
Andrea K. Spencer, 30th MSS
Paul A. Hay, 30th Weather Squadron
Mark J. Brindise, 30th Transportation Squadron
Rodney D. Gray, 30th TRANS
Timothy Hawley, 30th TRANS
Barbara Lee, 30th TRANS
Mark A. Losoya, 30th TRANS
Margaret Waller, 30th TRANS
Alex E. Branch, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron
Dana D. Sikes, 30th CES
Rawmond E. Walker, 30th CES
Lawrence Brown Jr., 30th Security Force Squadron
Thomas H. Calhoun, 30th SFS
Christopher M. Mohr, 30th SFS
Robert P. Vickers, 30th SFS
William B. Clark, 30th Communications Squadron
Bruce M. Dzitko, 30th CS
Robert Hargreaves, 30th CS

Joseph M. Krafchak, 30th CS
Scott J. Stewart, 30th CS
Kevin L. Teele, 30th CS
Brian C. Brian, 30th Space Wing
Lloyd C. Conley, 30th SW
Calvin D. French, 30th SW
Charles D. Gerard, 2nd Space Launch Squadron
Ben J. Rosen, 2nd SLS
Thomas E. Seward, 2nd SLS
Ted Nettleton, 30th Operations Support Squadron
Richard E. Sweezer, 30th OSS
Marisol Gasc Krist, 30th Contracting Squadron
John E. Barnes, 576th Flight Test Squadron
Danny J. Farley, 576th FLTS
Christopher N. Hale, 576th FLTS
Rondo A. Harding, 576th FLTS
Michael J. McNamee, 576th FLTS
Samie L. McPherson, 576th FLTS
Stephan R. Pigg, 576th FLTS
Jeffrey R. Prince, 576th FLTS
Martin L. Reynolds, 576th FLTS
Jonathan E. Rhodus, 576th FLTS
Claude Sirois, 576th FLTS
Richard T. Smitley, 576th FLTS
Melvin Snerling, 576th FLTS
Edward D. Speller, 576th FLTS
Robert W. Terrell, 576th FLTS
Richard J. Thiem, 576th FLTS
Troy A. Weigel, 576th FLTS
Sherman R. Wiggin, 576th FLTS
Dow A. Wirth, 576th FLTS
Stanley W. Hoback, 14th Air Force
Terry D. Stamper, 14th AF
Mark K. Vlahos, 30th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Robert B. Sacrison, 30th Dental Squadron
Francis H. Bitton, 30th SGD
Kip D. Baker, 30th SGD
Lewis D.J. Engstrom, 614th SOPS
Grieg L. Gilbert, 614th SOPS

Steven Rivera, 614th SOPS
Danny R. Carpenter, 30th Supply Flight
Lawrence Cernicky, 614th SOPS
Shawn D. Dahl, 614th SOPS
Robert E. Roper, 76th Helicopter Flight
Raymond M. Orozco, Det 1 Launch Communications Ops.
Steven J. Palmer, Det 1 Launch Communications Ops.
Daniel W. Sedano, Det 1 Launch Communications Ops.
The following staff sergeants assigned to Vandenberg AFB were selected for promotion to technical sergeant
Earli E. Jr. Prince, 392nd Training Squadron
Corey S. Johnson, 532nd Training Squadron
Derrick D. Mann, 532nd TRS
Randall M. Vigil, 532nd TRS
Michelle Sochocki, 381st Training Group
Kenny K. Scott, 533rd Training Squadron
Joseph E. Stratil, 533rd TRS
Ted J. Waller, 533rd TRS
Robert E. Weinmann, 533rd TRS
Todd E. Young, 533rd TRS
Kelton V. Boyd, 534th Training Squadron
Brian A. Burgess, 345th Training Squadron
Fred I. Jr. Dunning, 345th TRS
Timothy C. Hughes, 345th TRS
Scott A. Lewis, 345th TRS
Fabio E. Martinez, 345th TRS
Gregory L. McKenzie, 345th TRS
Troy D. Saunders, 345th TRS
Richard D. Tubbs, 345th TRS
Mark B. Vanloh, 345th TRS
Melissa L. Manaloto, 544th Intelligence Group
Richard D. Grover, Space Systems Center, Detachment 9

Mark R. Perkins, 30th RANS
David Molina, 30th Services Squadron
Diana M. Almodovar, 30th MSS
James P. Betts, 30th MSS
Daniel L. Cook, 30th MSS
Samuel G. Knorr III, 30th MSS
James A. Gies, 30th WS
Robert L. Honadle, 30th WS
Joseph R. Maddox, 30th TRNS
Paul A. Blackburn, 30th CES
David G. Brown, 30th CES
David R. Dewyer, 30th CES
Robert J. Ginck, 30th CES
Charles J. I. Liston, 30th CES
Daniel A. Midyett, 30th CES
Duncan C. Parsons, 30th CES
Pernell W. Rush, 30th CES
Timothy Sandstrom, 30th CES
Edward W. Smith, Jr., 30th CES
Daniel E. Boldon, 30th SFS
Jeffrey S. Hardin, 30th SFS
Brian P. McManus, 30th SFS
Paul T. Perez Jr., 30th SFS
Steven L. Rinehart, 30th SFS
Patrick W. Ross, 30th SFS
Robert J. Scheel, 30th SFS
Andrew J. Tiedge, 30th SFS
John T. Dane, 30th CS
Micael T. Moran, 30th CS
Billy R. Humphrey, 30th CS
Robert D. J. Trawick, 30th CS
Jay T. Bardell, 2nd SLS
Robert S. Bedell, 2nd SLS
Russell E. Granger, 2nd SLS
Michael Linnane, 2nd SLS
Gregory J. Maikrzek, 2nd SLS
Jeffery McConnell, 2nd SLS
William D. Parkin, 2nd SLS
Jeffrey L. Sirk, 2nd SLS
White, Bryan E., 2nd SLS
Bruce A. Gunther, 30th OSS
Brian E. Baumann, 576th FLTS
Jeffrey M. Cerasano, 576th FLTS
Terry S. Cole, 576th FLTS
Michael Geleta, 576th FLTS
Gerald L. Gibbs, 576th FLTS

Johnny W. Goldfuss, 576th FLTS
Gregg E. Haupt, 576th FLTS
Jeff S. Holliday, 576th FLTS
Frank Hudluman, 576th FLTS
Richard L. Jenkins, 576th FLTS
Joseph J. Jisa, 576th FLTS
Christopher Jones, 576th FLTS
Mitchell R. Little, 576th FLTS
Donna M. Lomba, 576th FLTS
Stephen G. McMillan, 576th FLTS
Brian W. Mitchell, 576th FLTS
Les A. Moore, 576th FLTS
Michael T. Savard, 576th FLTS
Kevin S. Schroeder, 576th FLTS
Michael J. Smith, 576th FLTS
Michael E. Tingley, 576th FLTS
Brian L. Wagner, 576th FLTS
Douglas C. J. Walker, 576th FLTS
Brian E. Rosby, 30th Aero Medical Squadron
Jimmy D. Jones, 30th Medical Support Squadron
James E. Snider, 30th MDSS
Raymond E. Ashby Jr., 30th CPTS
Teddy M. Martin, Jr., 30th CPTS
Joanna M. Ogden, 30th CPTS
Jeffery J. Botsford, 614th SOPS
Brian K. Gmys, 614th SOPS
Paul B. Nash, 614th SOPS
Philip H. Subkow, 614th SOPS
Shawne M. Urban, 614th SOPS
Robbie D. Ellis, 614th SOPS
Williams E. Figgins, 614th SOPS
Jaun Castro Jr., 76th Helicopter Flight
Thomas J. Keck, Det 1 Launch Communications Ops.

NEWS**BRIEFS****NEW PHONE LINES IN AT EDUCATION OFFICE**

The base's education office has new phone numbers: main line, 605-5900; formal and civilian training, 605-5912; base training, 605-5911; military awards and decorations, 606-8738.

TEMPORARY SUMMER JOBS AVAILABLE

The civilian personnel flight is seeking applicants for temporary employment. Some available jobs are office clerk, engineering technician, recreation aid, lifeguard and laborer. Applicants may apply by preparing a resume using the "resume writer" at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afjobs. For more information, call the recruitment call center at (800)699-4473 or the civilian personnel flight at 606-3641.

30TH MISSION SUPPORT CHANGES COMMAND

Lt. Col Michael Brice will relinquish command of the 30th Mission Support Squadron to Maj. Lee Shick on June 16 at 10 a.m. All base members are welcome to attend the event located at the Pacific Coast Club. For more information, call Ruth Clark at 606-6200.

614TH SOPS CHANGES COMMAND

The members of the 614th Space Operations Squadron will hold a change of command ceremony June 22 at 3 p.m. at the 14th Air Force Headquarters flag pole. Lt. Col. Teresa Djuric, will relinquish command to Lt Col. Cary Chun. Chun is the former operations officer of the 76th Space Operations Group, Peterson AFB. Djuric will attend the Army War College.

532ND TRS HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND

The 532nd Training Squadron change of command ceremony is scheduled for June 30 at 10 a.m. in building 8250, air launch cruise missile training highbay. Lt. Col. Steven Wagner will relinquish command to Lt. Col. John Anderson. Call Capt. Timothy Lincoln at 606-2724 for more information.

AFSA NEEDS FLOWER FESTIVAL WORKERS

The Air Force Sergeants Association is seeking volunteers to help with its food booth at the Lompoc Flower Festival, June 21 through 25. All shifts are available. For information, call Staff Sgt. Glenn McAlister at 606-6621 or Tech. Sgt. Troy Weigel at 606-0285.

RESIDENTS GET WRITE-UPS FOR UNMOWED GRASS

Housing grounds inspectors periodically inspect the appearance of military family housing areas. Grass mowing should be accomplished as necessary to maintain a neat appearance. Considerations for things like wet weather are allowed. Discrepancy notices will be issued to occupants not meeting standards. For more information, call the housing office at 606-1936.

PHASE ONE OF MFH GETS NEW SOD

Miranda Landscaping will remove dead trees, plant new trees, modify the irrigation system and sod the parkway areas in phase one of military housing. The parkway area is the area between the curb and the sidewalk in front of the home. The following streets will be affected: Hillside, Countrywood, Parkside, Willowbrook, Bridgeport, Blueridge, Rolling Hill, Cobblestone, Twilight, Creekside and Flagstone. All plants, grass, and bark will be removed. No tree removal will take place in yards. For information, call Mark Smith at 734-4670.

OFFICIALS BAN CELL PHONES AT GAS PUMPS

Customers may not use cellular phones at the base service station because of the hazard from a potential explosion. This restriction also applies to people conducting business at the fuels storage area (tank farm) located on Airfield Drive. For information, call Don Hornick at 606-9065.

OFFICE NEEDS PEOPLE FOR HERITAGE MONTH

The military equal opportunity office needs volunteers for Native American History Month in November. Call Staff Sgt. Carolyn Brown at 606-0370 or for more information.

Vandenberg fire department best in Space Command

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

■ The 30th Civil Engineers Squadron Fire Protection Flight has been named the best in Air Force Space Command for 1999.

The previous year was a busy one for Vandenberg's firefighters. Department members responded to more than 900 structural, hazardous material, medical and wild fire incidents during that period.

"I think we were recognized as best in Space Command because we are the best," said Ralph Barone, battalion chief, 30th CES fire protection flight. "I feel we are absolutely the best fire department in the Air Force."

This is a busy department, Barone added, "more or less as busy as a small city."

The Vandenberg fire department does more than any other Air Force fire department of comparative size and scope of responsibility in terms of progressive programs.

Barone said no other Air Force fire department has a Hot Shots firefighting team.

Launch support activities include containing brush fires from numerous military and civilian rocket and missile operations. Similar support is provided at Cape Canaveral, but that's a contract operation, added Barone.

Last year, the 20-man Hot Shots firefighting team fought more than 19 wildland fires involving more than 200,000 acres throughout California. The Hot Shots team is the only one of its kind in the Air Force, said Mark Smith, Hot Shot Superintendent and Space Command civilian firefighter of



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Members of Vandenberg's award-winning fire department pause for the cause at the base parade ground during the burn relay Wednesday.

the year.

Notable response incidents Vandenberg firefighters have handled include saving a \$21.8 million new facility under construction at that time from total destruction when slag from a contractor's torch ignited combustibles. The team also rescued a family from their burning quarters in military family housing.

When you consider the firefighting and prevention services Vandenberg fire fighters provide in addition to wild land fire support, "it definitely puts us in an advantage of being ahead of most of the competition," Barone said.

"When you look at everything about our department," it's clear that "it was a total team effort" that made this award possible, said Barone.

"Our folks, both military and civilian, are just top notch, the best of the best," said Barone. "We have a great mix of veterans and civilians, NCOs

and airmen, who work together side by side everyday. They just provide outstanding support to this base and they are the reason we won the award," Barone added.

Vandenberg fire fighters can not and will not rest on their laurels though. The fire season started at the beginning of this month, "in line with the California fire season," Barone said.

The goal is to make it through the season safely with no one getting hurt, keeping property damage to a minimum and keeping all fires that occur contained. It will be another successful year if these goals are realized, Barone added.

Vandenberg's fire department was selected as runner-up for best in the Air Force behind Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Vandenberg was the top competitor among all the other Air Force fire departments in the continental United States.

Det. 9 vice commander retires after almost 20 years at Vandenberg

COMPILED FROM REPORTS

■Lt. Col. Pete Moeller, Vice Commander of Detachment 9, Space and Missile Systems Center, marked the end of a rather unique career in his retirement ceremony June 2.

Moeller spent two thirds of his nearly 33 years of active duty service at Vandenberg. Arriving at Vandenberg in 1978, Moeller served as an instructor with the 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron.

In 1982, he was selected for a three-year tour in the TOP HAND Program with the 1st Strategic Aerospace Division.

He returned to Vandenberg in January, 1986 after a 12-month remote tour at Comiso, Sicily, and has remained here for the last 14 years.

According to Moeller, remarkable changes and improvements have taken place at Vandenberg in the past decades to include the basic mission of training, testing and space launch.

He noted that virtually every military organization attached to Vandenberg has changed its

name as well as its parent command. In the 1970s and 80s, Strategic Air Command was the host command and units assigned to the Air Force Systems Command were the major tenants.

SAC units were responsible for Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile training and flight-testing. The Western Space and Missile Center operated the Western Test Range and conducted space launches.

Today, the 30th Space Wing is now the host unit. The wing operates the Western Range and conducts most space launches. Tenant units from Air Education and Training Command conduct an expanded training mission. The Space Warfare Center and Air Force Materiel Command units conduct ICBM test flights.

Without question, the most significant changes have occurred with the base facilities, said Moeller. The World War II-era wooden structures that abounded throughout the base have virtually disappeared.

According to Moeller,



STAFF SGT. TRAVIS ASTON

Lt. Col. Pete Moeller (right) displays his retirement shadow box at his ceremony Friday. Also pictured is Detachment 9 commander, Col. John Wagner.

Vandenberg has become a showcase for military bases noting the hundreds of new family housing units and completely remodeled office buildings and dormitories.

"It starts at the new visitor's center and attractive gate entrances," he said. "And it continues down to the state-of-the-art space launch facilities on South Vandenberg."

When asked what he likes best about Vandenberg, Moeller quickly responded,

"Its location on the Central Coast, and the weather!" Moeller is an avid cyclist who has ridden virtually every back road in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. "This is ideal biking country on a year-round basis."

What will he miss most about Vandenberg after retiring? "Certainly all of the wonderful people who live and work on base. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with and making many friends from

among the military, civilians and contractors. We all have an exciting mission."

"Probably the most significant event that I recall was during the early to mid-1980s when there were nearly 20,000 people living and working at Vandenberg," he said.

According to Moeller, it was the hay-days of shuttle and Peacekeeper facilities construction. Traffic at the front gate in the mornings was backed up for miles and standing in line for lunch at one of the clubs for only a half-hour was a good day!

"What a shame to see the shuttle program die at Vandenberg following the Challenger accident."

While Moeller is looking forward to retirement, the one thing he says he won't miss is "cycling the mile-long hill from the Lompoc Gate on Pine Canyon Road in the mornings!"



Exceptional performer

Col. Charles Phillips, 30th Space Wing vice commander, presents Nancy Read, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight wildlife biologist, with the 1999 Air Force Gen. Thomas D. White Natural Resources award for individual excellence. Read received the honorable mention award May 16 as runner-up at Air Force level.

AAFES suspends DPP calling card

Contract ends, officials search for new provider

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

■The Army and Air Force Exchange Service suspended in April the recently introduced calling card enhancement to the Deferred Payment Plan.

Since April 14, AAFES customers attempting to make calls using their DPP cards have been directed to an operator and informed that the service is no longer available, according to a memorandum dated April 20 from Maj. Gen. Barry Bates, AAFES commander.

Callers will be credited the full amount for all calls made since the program's inception Dec. 9 through April 14.

The contract between

AAFES and MCI has been terminated, said Steve Reisbeck, Vandenberg's AAFES manager. He said AAFES is in the process of getting a new telecommunications contract with another provider. That contract should be in place this summer, Reisbeck added.

The contract with MCI was terminated because of "unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances," explained AAFES' commander.

"Providing quality telecommunication services is a challenge that AAFES will continue to meet head-on to best serve the military customer," Bates said in his memorandum.

Vandenberg's AAFES manager said the suspension of the calling card enhancement to DPP would not affect the military exchange prepaid calling cards sold at the BX.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Proud American

Airman 1st Class Edith Vazquez Ruiz shows off her American Citizenship certificate. Vazquez Ruiz, originally from Guadalajara, Mexico, was sworn in as an American citizen June 2 in Los Angeles with 6,000 other new citizens.

9

FRI

The Hispanic Heritage Month planning

committee is meeting today at 3 p.m. upstairs in the services center. Anyone interested in joining should call 1st Lt. Patricia Teran-Dick at 606-5603.

12

MON

A stress management class is scheduled for Monday at

the family support center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday in the health and wellness center from 8 to 11 a.m. Students learn to identify and manage stress. Call Linda Bastine at 606-9958 for information.

13

TUE

The 30th Security Forces Squadron will participate in

the Santa Barbara County **Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run** Tuesday at 3 p.m. All Vandenberg members are invited to the Missile V for a brief ceremony as the torch comes through the base. For more information call 605-0784.

Celebrate Flag Day with the Boy Scouts Wednesday. A

14

WED

flag retirement ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. Col. Steve Lanning,

30th Space Wing commander, is the guest speaker. A chicken and tri-tip barbecue follows. Tickets cost \$5 and will be sold until today. For information, call 2nd Lt. Lee Sanderson at 606-3072.

Astep-parenting class is scheduled for Wednesday and will meet 2 to 4 p.m. for four weeks at the Family Support Center. The class is designed to enrich the unique blended family life. Call Linda Bastine at 606-9958 for information.

15

THU

Learn to make the next PCS the easiest move ever at the

Manage Your Move class Thursday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Call Bob Brown or Sally Galligan at 606-0801 for information.

The **Vandenberg Retiree Activities Office** will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at 1 p.m. in building 10364, next to the exchange complex. Military retirees and surviving spouses are encouraged to attend. The meeting will

feature a presentation on space-available travel by retired Col. Charles Georgi. Call 606-5474 for more information.

Father's Day brunch with

18

SUN

the Lompoc Pops Orchestra is June 18 in the Pacific

Coast Club. The orchestra will play a musical tribute. There are shows at 11 a.m.

See **CALENDAR** on Page 12

Chapel services

CATHOLIC

- ♦ Sunday Morning Mass 9:45 a.m., Chapel 1
- ♦ Saturday Evening Mass 5 p.m., Chapel 2
- ♦ Daily Mass 11:30 a.m., Chapel 2
- ♦ Confessions Saturday 4:15 to 4:45 p.m., Chapel 2

PROTESTANT

- ♦ Contemporary Worship Service 8:30 a.m., Chapel 2
 - ♦ Traditional Worship Service 11:15 a.m., Chapel 1
 - ♦ Inspirational Worship Service 11:30 a.m., Chapel 2
- For information call the Chapel Office at 606-5773.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Green thumbs

Tech. Sgt. Michael Dobbs, 30th Transportation Squadron, and his wife, Melinda portray, "American Gothic" in front of their house. The Dobbs' yard was chosen as the East housing yard of the month for April. Dobbs was quick to say that his wife is the gardener in the family.

CALENDAR from Page 11

and 12:15 p.m. Tickets cost \$15.95 for adults and \$6.95 for children ages 4 to 11. Children under 4 attend free. Call 734-4375 for reservations.

Starting June 18, **Burger King** will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Call Steve Reisbeck, general manager at 724-5521 with questions.

19 MON **Allan Hancock College** classes begin June 19.

Students can register by appointment for credit classes Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lompoc Valley Center, Vandenberg Center, or the Sports Pavilion on the Santa Maria campus. Registration is available without appointment Wednesday from 2 to 7 p.m. at all locations. For non-credit classes, students can register by mailing back the registration form in the summer Spectrum schedule. Call (800)338-8731 extension 3209 for information. Military members and their families should call the Vandenberg center at 734-3500, 606-7821 or 606-6874 for information. For information on credit

classes, call 922-6966 extension 3248.

21 WED **The 48th Annual Lompoc Flower Festival** is

June 21 - 25 at Ryon Park. The theme this year is, "Mardi Gras into the Millennium." There will be a parade, food booths, carnival, commercial center, and an arts and crafts show. Admission and entertainment are free. Visit the web site at www.flowerfestival.org

23 FRI Members of the **Asian-Pacific American Association**

will hold a banquet June 23 at 6 p.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. Susan Oki Mollway will be the guest speaker. She is the first Asian woman appointed as a federal judge in the United States. Call 1st Lt. Deedee Vasquez at 606-0875 for more information.

The **Vandenberg library** received a large order of new books, videos and reference materials. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.



At the Movies

Tonight
Love and Basketball
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
U-571
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Sunday
U-571
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

June 16
Frequency
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

June 17
The Flintstones
(PG) 3 p.m.
Frequency
(PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

Minuteman Theater will be closed on Thursday due to lack of business.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Cruisin'

Team Tailwinds and the Vandenberg Competition Association held the 2000 Senior State Road Race Championships June 3 and 4 here. During the event, they held a public children's bike race. This young girl participated in the six- and seven-year-old category.

YOUTH WATER POLO

Fundamentals and conditioning of water polo will be offered to boys and girls ages 8-14. Session one will be held Monday to June 30, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Cost is \$18 for active duty dependents and \$24 for all others. For information, call the Aquatics Center at 606-3581.

SPORTS

BRIEFS

FATHER/SON BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The base fitness center will hold a father/son basketball tournament on June 17 at 9 a.m. The registration deadline is Wednesday. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jessyca Castillo at 606-3832.

ALL-STAR VOLLEYBALL GAMES

The base fitness center will hold an all-star volleyball game June 23 with the following schedule:

6 p.m. – National League All-Stars vs. American League All-Stars

7 p.m. – Chiefs/Eagles vs. Commanders/First Sergeants

8 p.m. – All-Star winners vs. Lady Hawks varsity volleyball team

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jessyca Castillo at 606-3832.

MOUNTAINEERING ADVENTURE

Outdoor adventure is sponsoring a six-day trip to the American River and Mount. Shasta. The trip starts with two days at the American River whitewater rafting, then to Mount. Shasta for a two-day climb. The first and last days are travel days. Cost is \$250, which includes transportation, rafting cost, permits, 12 meals, mountain gear rental and camping fees. Eight people are required to run the trip. Call 606-2724 for more information.

WHITEWATER RAFTING

Outdoor adventure is offering two-day American River whitewater rafting trips. Trips include transportation, six meals, snacks on the road and rafting costs. Cost is \$115, which does not include wetsuit rental or meals while traveling to and from the river. Trip dates are scheduled for June 23 to 25, July 7-9 (concurrent with Mount. Shasta climb) and July 28 to 30. Call outdoor recreation at 606-5908 for more information.



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER WALLIS

Turning two

Jeff Lynn, 576th Flight Test Squadron Team One, attempts a double play while Rick Wells, 30th Communications Squadron, slides into second base to break up the play. The 576th won the softball game, 16-9, June 6.

FIRST SHIRTS HOLD GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Vandenberg first sergeants have scheduled a golf tournament June 23 at 12:30 p.m. The tournament is a four-person

SPORTS

scramble with a shotgun start the Marshallia Ranch. The entry fee is \$5 per player plus green fees. Call Master Sgt.

BRIEFS

Mark Webb or Staff Sgt. William Brown at 606-7358 or 606-5601 to signup.

CHIEFS SCHEDULE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Vandenberg's Chiefs Group will hold a Red, White and Blue best-ball golf tournament June 30 at 12:30 p.m. at Marshallia Ranch. The cost is \$10 plus green fees. There will be a putting contest at 11 a.m. for a \$5 fee. Deadline to signup is June 21. Call Chief Master Sgt. Louis DeMonte at 605-0750 or Master Sgt. Mark Garcia at 606-3226 to sign-up.

2000 INTRAMURAL VOLLEYBALL

National League				American League			
	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
576 th FLTS	14	1	.933	Det. 9	13	1	.928
392 nd TRS	13	2	.866	2 nd SLS	12	2	.857
381 st TRG	13	3	.812	30 th MSS	9	4	.692
30 th SFS	9	6	.600	533 rd TRS	7	6	.538
30 th CES No.1	6	9	.400	30 th WS	5	9	.357
30 th CS	5	10	.333	30 th CES No.2	4	9	.266
30 th SVS	5	11	.312	614 th SOPS	3	11	.214
30 th TRANS	3	11	.214	30 th MDG	2	12	.142
30 th LG	0	15	.000				

As of Wednesday

2000 INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL

National League				American League			
	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
30 th SFS	3	0	1.000	533 rd TRS	4	0	1.000
576 th FLTS No.1	3	0	1.000	NRO	3	1	.750
392 nd TRS	3	0	1.000	30 th CES No.2	3	1	.750
2 nd SLS	2	1	.666	614 th SOPS	3	1	.750
381 st TRG No.1	2	2	.500	381 st TRG No.2	2	2	.500
30 th CS	1	2	.333	576 th FLTS No.2	2	2	.500
30 th CES No.1	0	2	.000	30 th MSS	1	2	.333
30 th TRANS	0	3	.000	30 th MDG	1	3	.250
576 th FLTS No.3	0	3	.000	576 th FLTS No.4	0	3	.000
30 th CONS/LG	0	3	.000	Det. 9	0	4	.000

As of Tuesday