

Team Vandenberg braves fire storm

BY MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Smoke darkened the skies over Vandenberg as emergency crews responded to a wildland brush fire southeast of the base's East Housing area at about 2:20 p.m. Wednesday.

Nine hundred civilian and military joined forces under the unified command of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Incident Command Team 12, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, and the 30th Space Wing to battle the Harris Fire through the night.

By 9 p.m., the blaze had charred more than 8,000 acres as it raged through the tinder-dry hills north of Vandenberg Village. Officials estimated the wind-driven fire to be about 40 percent contained by 7 a.m. Thursday.

"This is definitely a unified, team effort by Air Force, state and local agencies," said Col. Duane Lamb, 30th Support Group commander and on-scene commander for the base's disaster control group.

See **FIRE** Page 6



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Traffic was redirected through Lompoc Gate yesterday when the Santa Maria and Utah Gates were closed because of wildland fires that raged in the hills surrounding Vandenberg. The Santa Maria and Utah gates were opened later but the Highway 1 route from main gate to State Highway 135 currently remains closed.

Troops deploy to North Star

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ More than 100 people dressed for combat spent Monday and Tuesday night in a tent city built in the hills of north Vandenberg.

North Star is a simulated deployment area built to train and evaluate the ability of Vandenberg people to survive a real attack in combat zones like Southwest Asia, Korea and Kosovo.

The 30th Space Wing Exercise and Evaluation office held the exercise at North Star.

The deployed troops were evaluated on how they respond to mission oriented protective posture levels, condition coded alarm responses, and multiple scenarios, said Senior Master

See **EXERCISE** Page 6



STAFF SGT. DICKEY FREELAND

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Legnard, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, wires North Star for sound.



SENIOR AIRMAN JEANNETTE COPELAND

Airman 1st Class Stephen Schester and Staff Sgt. Sean Prince, 30th Communications Squadron, dig a defensive fighting position to establish a first-line defense against aggressor forces during this week's Foggy Shores exercise.

Editorial



Col. Steve Lanning
Commander,
30th Space Wing

606-7850

Commander's Action Line

As the wing commander, my primary focus is on the mission and I believe that our mission success will be based on how well we care for our people on and off the job.

The Action Line is your direct link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice your concerns, share constructive ideas or give your fellow base members a pat on the back. The Action Line is not a replacement for using the chain of command.

Callers are asked to leave their name and contact number in case more information is needed.

I want Vandenberg to continue to be the best Air Force base in the world. Working together, it will be.

Handy phone numbers

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Fire, Police, Ambulance..... | 911 | Chaplain (duty hours)..... | 606-5773 |
| Poison Control..... | 800-876-4766 | Chaplain (after hours)..... | 606-9961 |
| Clinic Appointments..... | 606-4077 | Red Cross (duty hours)..... | 606-1855 |
| Healthwise Line..... | 888-252-3299 | Red Cross (after hours)..... | 800-660-4272 |
| TRICARE Services..... | 800-242-6788 | Central Security Control..... | 605-2154 |
| Law Enforcement..... | 606-3300 | EOD (duty hours)..... | 605-1375 |
| Housing Maintenance..... | 734-5586 | EOD (after hours)..... | 606-9961 |
| Space & Missile Times..... | 606-2040 | Base operator..... | 606-1110 |
| Launch Update Line..... | 606-1857 | CE damage control..... | 606-1856 |
| MPF Customer Service..... | 606-7756 | Base information..... | 411 |
| Pest Control..... | 606-1936 | Telephone trouble..... | 611 |
| Visitor Control..... | 606-7662 | Public Tours..... | 606-3595 |



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Vandenberg's newest airmen

The latest graduates from the Vandenberg First-Term Airmen's Center pose with their class mascot, Kernal Cluck. The airmen graduate today and are ready to assume duties in their respective organizations. The graduates are: (first row, left to right) Airmen 1st Class Angela Minnich, Kenneth Bancroft and Nathan Curran, Airman Sung Park and Airman 1st Class Dustin Neighbors. (Back row, left to right) Airmen 1st Class William Rule, Jerelle Faust and Jerman Quesada.

Air Force leaders send birthday greetings

By F. WHITTEN PETERS AND GEN. MICHAEL E. RYAN
Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force chief of staff

With the stroke of a pen 53 years ago, President Harry S. Truman created the United States Air

Force as a separate armed service.

Since then — in war and peace — America's Air Force has maintained a worldwide vigil, responding rapidly with unparalleled reach and power.

The past year has been an eventful one for our Air Force. We've reconstituted our forces following a 78-day air war over Serbia in which air power alone halted a despot's cruel actions against ethnic and religious minorities within his own country.

At the same time, we worked hard to implement the Expeditionary Aerospace Force, and for the first

time deployed eight of our 10 aerospace expeditionary forces. These deployments were the first steps on our journey to a 21st century force structure, and the lessons learned are already being used

*To all who have served before
and to those who now serve,
happy birthday to America's Air
Force: no one comes close!*

F. Whitten Peters and Gen. Michael E. Ryan

to improve the way we will operate the EAF. As advertised, predictability and stability have become more common in the lives of our warfighters and their families.

We "declared war" and met our recruiting goals; and we are hopeful we have turned around the downward retention trends of the last several years. We also invested heavily in our readiness accounts, in an effort to stabilize the readiness of all of our units, and these investments are beginning to bear fruit.

This past year was one in which we worked hard

to rebuild and redirect our Air Force, but it was also one in which we continued operations throughout the globe. From Operations Northern and Southern Watch, to flood relief in Africa, to the fire-ravaged forests of the western United States, America's Air Force stood ready and stood together, nearly three-quarters of a million people strong — active, Reserve, Guard; military and civilian —



to make our own great nation stronger, and to protect its worldwide interests.

To all who have served before and to those who now serve, happy birthday to America's Air Force: no one comes close!

SPACE&MISSILETIMES

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Ceremonies mark sacrifice of POW, MIAs

Families still wait for news of loved ones

By GEN. LESTER LYLES

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

Charles Barden used to live in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He went to college, got his degree, became a captain and a UC-123B aircrew member in our U.S. Air Force.

Ralph Brower lived in Stow, Ohio. He also went to college, got his degree and became an Air Force captain; only he was a crewmember in an HH-3E aircraft.

I didn't personally know either of these gentlemen. I'm not sure if either of them were married, had children or exactly what their lot in life was.

What I do know is both Barden and Brower were shot down over Laos Jan. 31, 1967, and Nov. 9, 1967, respectively.

These warriors are two of more than 2,000 Americans listed as missing in action from the Vietnam War and many thousands others from other American conflicts.

Many Americans made the ultimate sacrifice in those conflicts, and many others were captured and taken as prisoners of war.

These heroes endured torture, suffering and pain simply for being Americans.



Aug. 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, recognizing the POW/MIA flag. The POW/MIA flag is the only other flag besides Old Glory ever to fly over the White House.

Some of them have been scarred for life as a result. Others were fortunate to come home relatively unscathed.

But for the Bardens, Browers, and the thousands of others whose remains have not been returned or are unaccounted for, that was not the case.

Many families are still waiting for news of their loved one's fate – any shred of information. Did they suffer? Was it quick? Could they still be alive?

We'll never know how great the load they bore truly is.

But on Sept. 15, National POW MIA Recognition

Day, we can take time from our busy schedules to show these family members and all former POWs that we remember and are thankful for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made for the cause of freedom. And that we'll not settle for anything less than a full accounting of those souls still unaccounted for.

POW MIA recognition ceremonies will be held throughout the nation and around the world on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools, churches, national veteran and civic organizations as well as police and fire departments. The focus of each will be to make sure that America remembers its responsibility to stand behind those who served our nation so valiantly and do everything possible to account for those who did not return.

I encourage each of you to take time away from that day's business to reflect and honor the sacrifices the Bardens and Browers of the world and all former prisoners of war have made.

It is my hope and prayer that all those still missing will someday be accounted for.

But until that day comes, let's remember...

■ Team Vandenberg is encouraged to attend the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony today at 2 p.m. at the flag poles between the library and the bowling center.

JEFX 2000 improves EAF operations

By SENIOR AIRMAN PAUL GROVE

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Forward thinking is a trademark of Air Force operations, and it's on display through Friday during Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment 2000.

The primary objective of JEFX 2000 is to assess future Air Force operations using theoretical technology and capabilities in a simulated warfighting environment.

The lessons learned from JEFX 2000 will ultimately improve the way the Expeditionary Aerospace Force operates in the 21st century.

"In the 21st Century, the nation has gained an aerospace force—the full integration of strategy, planning and ops execution of our air and space assets within the combined air operations Center for JEFX and future theater operations around the globe is a tribute to the vision of leadership and daily commitment of every airman," said Col. Suzanne Vautrinot, 614th Space Operations Group commander.



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Lt. Col. Eric Mosby, 14th Air Force deputy director of plans and programs, and Maj. Pamela Lincoln, 9th Space Operations Squadron chief of space strategy and tactics, direct space operations from Vandenberg.

More than 3,000 military members from all branches of the armed forces are participating in the two-week experiment in 12 sites across the nation.

While the experiment operates

throughout the country, the SPACEAF Aerospace Operations Center here, the Air Force space component to U.S. Space Command, is playing an integral role in the experiment by demonstrating

various command and control relationships while employing tomorrow's weapons systems, according to Vandenberg's Maj. Pamela Lincoln, 9th Space Operations Squadron chief of space strategy and tactics.

The job of integrating space assets becomes even more noteworthy with the Sept. 8 announcement by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan that Air Operations Centers are official weapons systems.

Planners of the experiment also stress the difference between an experiment and an exercise, noting the main point is to learn, not to train.

"The SPACEAF staff and AOC crews have put tremendous effort into planning and executing JEFX," said Lincoln. "This experiment gives us the opportunity to integrate air and space operations as well as see where we can improve the way we do business. We're looking forward to using the lessons learned in JEFX to make us more effective."

Twelve trespassers plead not guilty

By MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Twelve people charged with trespassing on Vandenberg during a missile launch pleaded not guilty in Federal Magistrate Court here Sept. 8.

The defendants, most of whom were affiliated with Greenpeace protest activities, were apprehended by 30th Security Forces Squadron personnel during the hours leading up to the July 7 Minuteman II launch.

According to Capt. Antony Kolenc, special assistant U.S. attorney, each of the trespassers received a Class B misdemeanor citation for their actions.

The maximum penalty is six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Kolenc represented the federal government. Judge Willard McEwen Jr. presided over the session.

During pretrial proceedings, the lawyer for the trespassers said the unarmed and peaceful protestors are willing to pay fines and take responsibility for their act of civil disobedience.

"I am hesitant to send any of these folks to jail," Katya Komisaruk said. "We'd rather put their energy back into the community doing community service, rather than sitting someplace taking up tax dollars."

Several federal and local law enforcement agencies joined the base's efforts to not only detect but also capture and detain the trespassers.



30TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON VIDEO

Security forces detain an alleged Greenpeace activist for trespassing July 7 on Vandenberg.

"The base is assessing the significant resource cost to combat the trespassers' unsuccessful attempts to disrupt the July 7 National Missile Defense (test) launch," Kolenc said.

"The government will eventually provide that data (for) the court to consider during the sentencing of the defendants," he added.

While it is impossible to fully quantify the costs associated with their acts, the assessment will offer a conservative cost estimate of manpower and resources used to track down and capture the trespassers, he said.

Ultimately taxpayers had to foot the bill, Kolenc said.

The next hearing has been set for Oct. 12 with the trial following in November or December.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Sept. 13, 1985- The first intercept test of the anti-satellite system was launched from an F-15 aircraft over the Western Range. The target vehicle was the P-78-1 satellite launched from Vandenberg in 1979.

Sept. 14, 1910- Gen. Bernard Schriever, chief architect of the Air Force missile program and first commander of Air Force Systems Command, was born on this day in Bremen, Germany.

Sept. 15, 1966- The first launch of a Thor/Burner II from Vandenberg took place on this date.

Sept. 15, 1993- The 30th Social Actions Flight was realigned from the 30th Mission Support Squadron to the 30th Space Wing.

Sept. 18, 1947- The U.S. Air Force gained its independence under the Department of the Air Force, headed by Secretary of the Air Force, Stuart Symington. Gen. Carl Spatz was named the first Air Force Chief of Staff.

Sept. 18, 1992- Construction of the new Child Development Center here was completed. The CDC opened its doors to the first group of children on Dec. 7, 1992.

NEWS**BRIEFS****PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEEDS ESCORTS FOR AEROSPACE SHOW**

Public affairs needs volunteers for escorts of disadvantaged adults and children meeting the Air Force Thunderbirds during the Aerospace Show 2000 special needs day Oct. 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. To volunteer, call public affairs at 606-3595 or 606-5814. A meeting for all escorts will be held Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. in the Vandenberg Center.

VANDENBERG TOP THREE HOLDS SNCO DEVELOPMENT COURSE

There will be a Senior NCO Professional Development Seminar Sept. 25 through 29 in the Vandenberg Center. To sign up, call the 30th Space Wing Command Section at 605-2855. For further information, call Senior Master Sgt. Don Savella at 606-2786 or Master Sgt. James Storch at 606-8836.

AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL GRADUATES CLASS 00-F SEPT. 26

The graduation banquet for Airman Leadership School Class 00-F will be Sept. 26 in the Pacific Coast Club. Social hour starts at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. The attire is mess dress or semi-formal.

For more information or to make reservations, call the ALS staff at 606-5595.

MEO SEEKS CHAIRPERSON FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February has been designated as a time for raising awareness and education about the accomplishments of African-Americans. The 30th Space Wing Military Equal Opportunity office is looking for a motivated person with the rank of captain or above or staff sergeant through chief master sergeant to serve as chairperson for Black History Month. Volunteers should contact the military equal opportunity office at 606-0370 as soon as possible.

VANDENBERG HONOR GUARD NEEDS NEW MEMBERS

The Vandenberg Honor Guard needs volunteers. Additionally, the honor guard needs buglers. Anyone interested in becoming a member of Vandenberg's honor guard should call Staff Sgt. Dalhia Shelton at 606-3654.

MINI-COMM EXTENDS OPERATING HOURS

The operating hours at the mini-commissary are scheduled to change Oct. 1. The new schedule can accommodate early bird and late-night shoppers. The new schedule will be:

- ◆ Monday, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 to 9:30 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday, 6 to 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Saturday, no change.
- ◆ Sunday, no change.

ENLISTED ACTION TEAM COLLECTS FOOD PANTRY SUPPLIES

The Vandenberg Enlisted Action Team is sponsoring a food drive Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the commissary. Donations can be brought from home or purchased in the commissary.

The next VEAT meeting is scheduled for Monday at 3 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Pacific Coast Club. Topics include electing officers for 2001 and the VEAT aerospace show booth. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Dan Loper at 606-7069.

AIR FORCE MEMBERS MAY RECEIVE REFUNDS FROM TWA INSURANCE

In the article on Page 6 of the Sept. 8 issue of *Space & Missile Times* titled, "Insurance fraud results in refunds," the article reads that a refund will be provided. Pending the success of government litigation against Trans World Assurance, people holding TWA policies may be entitled to receive a refund for some portion of their premiums. Call Capt. Dennis Kaw, 30th Space Wing Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, at 605-6207.

VANDENBERG LATINO ASSOCIATION HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING

The Vandenberg Latino Association meets the last Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Services Center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Eldio Mercado at 606-8736.

VANDENBERG TOP THREE HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING

The Vandenberg Top Three general membership meeting is scheduled for noon Thursday at the Pacific Coast Club. Items to be discussed will be the Senior NCO Induction Banquet, Aerospace Show 2000, Old Town Market fundraisers, the Senior NCO Indoctrination Course and the NCO Enhancement Course. VAFB Top Three membership is open to all master sergeant selectees through chief master sergeants stationed here. Call Master Sgt. Mike Fox at 605-6468 for more information.

TIMBER LANE TRAFFIC LIGHT CONSTRUCTION BEGINS SEPT. 25

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' contractor, Valenzuela Engineering, will begin installing traffic lights at the intersection of U.S. Highway 1 and Timber Lane.

Work will begin Sept. 25 to install the three poles with standard green, yellow and red light fixtures.

Flashing yellow warning lights will be installed 300 feet before the intersection in each direction. Drivers are cautioned to obey the directions of flagmen during lane closures.

Traffic cones, warning signs and notices will be posted throughout the construction period. The work is scheduled to be complete in November.

EXERCISE From Page 1

Sgt. Ray Dumas, chief of the exercise and evaluations flight.

MOPP levels allow commanders to authorize various standard options for wearing the ground crew ensemble, better known as chemical warfare gear, depending on the threat, heat stress, and mission urgency. Condition coded alarms inform troops of the current attack threat and status, also set by the commander.

The exercise was similar to the one Vandenberg's men and women participated in during the operational readiness inspection in April. During the ORI, Team Vandenberg received a marginal grade for this portion of the inspection.

"This exercise will hopefully close out a few of the write-ups we received during the ORI," Dumas said.

The deployed troops need to be able to function as a single independent team. The troops reacted to battlefield scenarios like a chemical attack from the air.

The inspectors watched how the unit sets up security to protect the camp and resources, Dumas said.

"The exercise evaluation team observed items such as defensive fighting position locations and operations like communications, entry control points and the ability to survive and operate in a high threat environment," Dumas said.

FIRE From Page 1

In addition to firefighters from across the state, more than 50 fire engines, seven bulldozers, four water tenders, three helicopters, six fixed wing aircraft and 18 ground crews deployed to fight the 150-foot tall flames as it spread eight mile long by one mile wide path.

There are also about 100 people assigned to Vandenberg providing meals, shelter and power to the crews working to contain the blaze.

Remaining focused on safety of base residents, wing leadership carefully considered an East Housing evacuation plan, said Lt. Col. Paul Wuebold, disaster control group on-scene commander.

Driven by southeasterly winds, the fire jumped U.S. Highway 1 about a half mile east of San Antonio Road East, reducing visibility to zero, said Lt. Col. Michael Prucey, 30th Security Forces Squadron commander.

This led officials to close Highway 1 between Vandenberg's main gate and the junction at State Highway 135, he added. The closure led to a hectic traffic situation at the main gate with 30th SFS members augmenting California Highway Patrol and Santa Barbara County Sheriffs to control the traffic snarl.

Meanwhile, some residents of Casmalia evacuated while firefighters lit backfires to destroy the dry brush surrounding the community. The backfires successfully abated the fire approach to the town.

A second fire sparked west of El Rancho Road at about 4 p.m.

The Peacekeeper Fire blazed northward from San Antonio Creek threatening several buildings. "Hueys" from the 76th Helicopter Flight dumped water around the buildings while ground crews battled



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Work hard, play hard

Col. Alan Newton, 30th Medical Group commander, attends the 30th Operations Group combat dining-in as Hawkeye Pierce, a character from the popular television show "M.A.S.H."

the blaze. Firefighting efforts successfully contained the 200-acre fire, preventing damage and destruction to the mission-essential facilities, said Tim Johnston, base fire inspector.

Officials estimate the Harris Fire may take as many as four to five days to control.

The cause of both fires is under investigation.



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Melissa Herard (left) gets nutritional counselling from Beverly Calderon at the Vandenberg Health and Wellness Center.

Dietician makes health easy to swallow

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

Helping people zero in on information that will help them stay healthy is what Vandenberg's new dietician is all about.

Beverly Calderon is a registered dietician bringing together the best available health resources and information for active-duty people, family members and retirees at Vandenberg. Working from the Health and Wellness Center, Calderon said she wants to "educate people about nutrition for general health and medical nutrition therapy." The wife and mother of two children came to the 30th Aeromedical Dental Squadron's HAWC June 19 from a job in diabetic education at a local hospital.

Calderon doesn't sugar coat her advice to make it easier to swallow. Her suggestion for the people at Vandenberg is to "plan more balanced meals that emphasize fruits and vegetables." The classes she offers show how to eat healthy foods. One class teaches students how to make a brown bag lunch appealing. Held at the commissary today from 1 to 3 p.m., Calderon provides

healthy ideas for brown bag lunches, as well as give-aways from the commissary.

There are also weekly classes on nutrition. Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m., Calderon covers topics that include cholesterol and meal planning, and eating for good blood sugar. Her monthly healthy cooking classes include "Hearty Healthy Fall Cuisine," Sept. 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and "Tofu for Health," Oct. 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Nutrition and exercise are the foundations on which to build good overall health," Calderon said. Building on that belief, she offers the Sensible Weigh program. The four-week course focuses on maintaining optimum weight and fitness. The next class begins Oct. 26 and ends Nov. 16. An evening class session runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Other class times are Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 8 to 9 a.m.

There's no longer a need to wonder about the ABCs of good nutrition. Visit Calderon at the Health and Wellness Center to learn the fundamentals of a healthy, nutritious lifestyle.

Hispanics contribute to America's defense

By MASTER SGT. ELADIO MERCADO JR.
President of the Latino Association

The military and civilian contributions of Hispanic Americans reflect a deep commitment to the principles of freedom and democracy, which is the strength of the United States.

The Hispanic community has given us generals, admirals, philosophers, statesmen, musicians, athletes, and Nobel Prize-winning scientists.

Hispanic Americans have contributed to the defense of this great nation, and 38 have received the highest military decoration our country can bestow—the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Here are some of the contributions Hispanic military and civilians have made in defense of this great country.

The Honorable Edward Hidalgo attained the position of Secretary of the Navy and is the highest ranking Hispanic civilian to serve in the Department of Defense.

Soldiers, sailors, and explorers of Spanish origin were among the first Europeans to set foot in the New World. Much of the exploration and settlement of North and South America which followed the period of discovery in the late 15th century was conducted by the Spanish military—the Conquistadors.

In 1781, French and American forces were about to abandon their siege of Yorktown for lack of funds. Women in Havana, Cuba, however, took up a collection and were able to raise a substantial sum of money. By delivering their gift to the French Expeditionary Force, they were able to ensure that the siege would continue.

Loretta Janet Velasquez was a Cuban-born woman who masqueraded as a male

confederate soldier.

She enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1860, without her soldier-husband's knowledge. She fought at Bull Run, Ball's Bluff and Fort Donelson, but was detected while in New Orleans and discharged. Undeterred, she re-enlisted and fought at Shiloh until unmasked once more. She then took duty as a spy, working in both male and female guise.

More than 53,000 Puerto Ricans served in World War II from 1940 to 1946.

Nine Hispanics received the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in the Korean Conflict.

The Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment was the only all-Hispanic unit to serve in Korea. The 65th saw extensive service in Korea when it arrived in Pusan on Sept. 20, 1950. Over the next three years, it participated in nine major campaigns, earning a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations. The members of the unit were awarded four Distinguished Service Crosses and 124 Silver Stars. They were also credited with capturing 2,086 enemy soldiers.

Admiral Horacio Rivero is the first Hispanic four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Gen. Richard Cavazos is the first Hispanic four-star general in the U.S. Army.

During the Vietnam War, Lt. j.g. Everett Alvarez was the first American and first Hispanic pilot to become a prisoner of war. He remained a prisoner of war for almost nine years, the longest confirmed POW in the nation's history.

Hispanics have served in the Armed Forces since the beginning of this nation, and will continue to be an integral part of our national defense.



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Living it up

Julian Daugherty glances at his folks as he "mows" the front lawn, while his sister Claudia helps by "raking." Capt. Donald and Rita Daugherty enjoy a cool drink and reap the benefits in their yard of the month for August in east housing. Master Sgt. Kevin Burke and his wife, Jacquie, were the runners-up in east housing.

COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

15 FRI A **Hispanic heritage luncheon** is scheduled for today at 11 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. Santa Maria

Mayor pro-tem Joe Centeno will be the keynote speaker. The menu is chicken fricassee with potatoes, white rice, black beans and fried plantains. The luncheon is \$8.50 for club members and \$11.50 for non-members. Call Capt. Patricia Teran-Dick for tickets at 606-5601.

The family support center is offering a **Step-Parenting Class** today at 2 p.m. The class is designed to help couples address the unique issues of building a marriage and blending a family. Call Linda Bastine at 606-9958 for details

16 SAT The **grand opening of Toy Land** is scheduled for Saturday at 9 a.m. in the AAFES Four Seasons center.

A clown will give away animal balloons from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Face painting will be done between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and Winnie the Pooh and Tigger are scheduled to make an appearance from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be two jumping castles for the children in and door prizes.

17 SUN Santa Maria's third annual **Las Fiestas Patrias 2000** celebration is Sunday from 11

a.m. to 5:50 p.m. at the Santa Maria Civic Center on the corner of McClelland and Cook streets. Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with live music, pinatas, balloons, free activities for children and ethnic food. Admission is free to event.

19 TUE The Officer's Spouses Club has scheduled a **"Round-the-House Bingo"** Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. An American classic buffet will be served for \$12 per person. People should make reservations by Tuesday. People with last names A-K should call Dana Babb at 734-5567. People with last names L-Z should call Beki Melone at 734-2668.

20 WED The family support center staff has scheduled a **Survivor Benefit Plan for Spouses class** Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the family support center. Spouses can learn this one-time election option. The class is geared for spouses whose sponsor retires within the next few years. Call Sonny Park at 605-0134 to registration.

Sign-ups for **Cub Scouts** will take place Wednesday at all elementary schools in the Lompoc Unified School District. Registration is \$31 for a parent and son, which includes a magazine subscription. For more information, call Greg Ogletree at 734-3732.

CC from Page 10

21 **THU** Military retirees, their spouses, and surviving

spouses of retirees are invited to Vandenberg's **Retiree Activities Office** Thursday at noon for a potluck luncheon.

Capt. Grete Yanke of the Health and Wellness Center is the guest speaker. Yanke will offer the attendees tips on how to bring youthful vigor back to aging bodies. The RAO is located in building 10364. Call the RAO at 606-5474 from 10 a.m. to 2p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

22 **FRI** The Hispanic Heritage Planning

Committee wants Hispanic appetizer recipes. The committee has scheduled a free show for Sept. 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Services Center featuring Team Vandenberg's finest appetizers. The group is also looking for any artifacts to place on display during the exposition. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kitty Noles at 606-0366.



At the Movies

Tonight
Scary Movie

(R) 7:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday
Nutty

Professor II
'The Klumps'

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

Sept. 22
Coyote Ugly

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

Sept. 23
Dinosaur

(PG) 3 p.m.

Space
Cowboys

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

Sept. 24
Space
Cowboys

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

AEROSPACE SHOW 2000

Oct. 14 and 15. Gates open at 8:30 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.
The event is free and open to the public.



Captains train for Air Force Marathon

BY MASTER SGT. JANET NEUBECKER
30th Transportation Squadron

■ Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, will hold the fourth annual Air Force Marathon Sept. 16.

The race is open to the public. The only requirement is a strong desire to finish. In the past, people from around the world ranging from 18 to 78 years old participated in the marathon. This year is no different.

According to a spokeswoman for the marathon race, nearly 2,921 worldwide competitors have already registered.

Included in this number are two captains from Team Vandenberg: Stacy Huser and Brian Holbein.

The 28-year-old captains are global positioning system instructors with the 534th Training Squadron. They have been training together for this marathon since January.

Although both said they feel well prepared, there are some apprehensions in the air. This will be Huser's third Air Force marathon, and she is eager to beat her best time of 3 hours, 34 minutes and 35 seconds. However, she said, "I'm not



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Stacy Huser and Brian Holbein, 534th Training Squadron, get a few miles in while training for the Air Force Marathon.

sure if it's going to happen this year.

"I'm very competitive when it comes to this sport," she added. "I think that's why I'm a bit worried."

In contrast, Holbein, a marathon novice, said, "I'm nervous. I just want to finish."

Huser and Holbein agreed that training together has been a definite plus.

"If one of us is having a sluggish training day," Holbein said, "the other usually pulls him or her out of it. We make a great team."

Since January, they have dedicated nearly all their spare time to preparing for the marathon.

Huser said a typical training week goes from the simple to the complex. "Our normal training week begins with three days of a slow-paced 4-mile run, followed by one day of running eight miles at a medium pace, another day of an 8-mile speed run, and ending with a long run (15 miles or more) on the weekend," she said.

There is no money to be won, and no nationwide media coverage of the event. Still, Huser and Holbein have

given all they have from one training day to the next.

"This training has been a very positive ordeal for me," Holbein said. "I haven't felt this good in many years, and I like it. You can't put a price on fitness."

Huser agreed. "Crossing the finish line of a 26.2-mile marathon race is reward enough for me," she said.

Since day one, they have overcome blisters, sore muscles and aching backs. A bit embarrassed, Huser said she ran into a fire hydrant (she thought she was running around it), causing her quadriceps muscle to swell and bleed. Amazingly, she continued training despite the painful injury. "I couldn't just quit," she said.

Holbein agreed. "No matter how much my muscles hurt, I couldn't give up," he said.

With only 10 days to go before the actual race, Huser and Holbein said they are confident they will both finish. Still, they are hanging on to the dream of achieving the ultimate, a personal best.



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

End around

Eric Evans of the Vandenberg Village Titans football team turns the corner on a Santa Ynez defender during action Saturday at the football jamboree in Nipomo. The league plays Saturday at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. in Vandenberg Village.

WOMEN'S VARSITY BASKETBALL NEEDS COACH

The fitness center staff needs a women's varsity basketball coach. If interested, call the fitness center staff at 606-3832.

FITNESS CENTER HOLDS BIKE RACE

The base fitness center staff will hold an 18-mile bike race Saturday. The race will start at 9 a.m. at the fitness center. Call the fitness center staff at 606-3832 to sign up.

2000 WOMEN'S SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Women's softball playoffs are scheduled to start Wednesday in a double-elimination tournament. The 30th Communications Squadron plays 30th Mission Support Squadron on field one at 5:30 p.m. The winner will advance to face the 30th Security Forces Squadron at 6:30 p.m. also on field one. On field two at 5:30 p.m., 30th Transportation Squadron will face the 576th Flight Test Squadron.

Thursday at 5:30 p.m., the two undefeated teams from Wednesday will play on field two, while the losers battle it out on field one. The finals are scheduled, for Friday at 6:30 p.m. on field one.

2000 SOCCER STANDINGS

| American League | | | | | National League | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|--------|------------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| | W | L | T | Points | | W | L | T | Points |
| 30 th SFS | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 30 th OG | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 30 th CE | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 30 th MDG | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 30 th CS | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 576 th FLTS | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 381 st TRG | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 392 nd TRS | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 533 th TRS | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 614 th SOP | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>As of Tuesday</i> | | | | | <i>As of Tuesday</i> | | | | |

S 30th Services

NEWS

ATTENTION!

THE 30th SERVICES SQUADRON will conduct a Menu Planning meeting at the AETC Dining Facility on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in the dining room. All unit representatives need to attend. Both 30th Space Wing and 381st Training Group personnel are welcome to attend. Call Tech Sgt. Steven Grim at 606-3219 or Deborah Myjak at 606-1219.

ATTENTION!

THE 30th SERVICES SQUADRON will once again host the Quarterly Birthday Meal on Thursday at the AETC Dining Facility. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Meal starts at 7 p.m. Those celebrants having birthdays in July, Aug., or Sept. need to see their first sergeants for all the details. Call Tech. Sgt. Steven Grim at 606-3219 or Deborah Myjak at 606-1219.



GOLF

Marshallia Masters Tournament
Friday to Sunday
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Al Walker Tournament
Sept. 23 at 10 a.m.

Highway Patrol Shotgun
Sept. 24 at 12:30 p.m.

YOUTH

Favorite Athlete Week!
Monday to Sept. 23

Scavenger Hunt
Monday at 6:30 p.m.
(dress up like your favorite athlete)

Arts & Crafts, 5 to 6 p.m.

Cooking Workshop, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Soccer Workshop, 6 to 7 p.m.

Skate Night, 7 to 9 p.m.

BOWLING

Thunder Alley now starts at 10 p.m.

With the winter bowling league starting up, Thunder Alley will be running from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Fridays.

9-Pin No-Tap
Sept. 30, sign up at 6 p.m.,
bowl at 6:30 p.m.
\$10 per person

V.I.T.T.

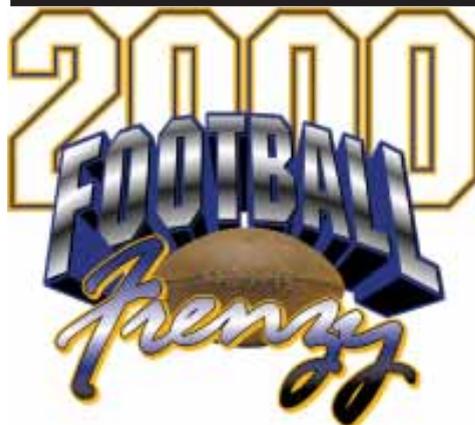
Catalina Island!

Sunday to Wednesday \$210 per person sharing. Includes bus & ferry transportation, three nights at St. Lauren hotel plus two tours.

Las Vegas!

Sept. 24 to 27 \$210 per person Includes transportation by luxury motorcoach, plus three nights at the Four Queens Hotel/Casino.

SEPTEMBER REMINDERS!



EVERY MONDAY AT THE CLUB

PROJECT

Good Neighbors

Tournament

Sept. 22
Marshgallia Ranch
Golf Course
606-6262
734-1333

Call for tee times & more up-coming tournaments.



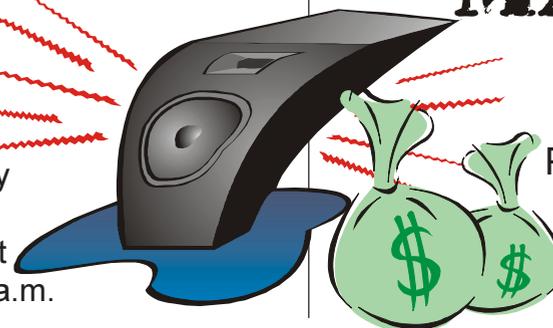
ALL NIGHTER!

THIS SATURDAY!

With DJ Guy
in the
Hawks Nest
9 p.m. to 4a.m.

BINGO MANIA

Returns
Oct. 1 at the
Pacific Coast
Club!



**Air Force Community Centers present the
Neil Buckley Performing Arts Series**



Recent guidelines received by the base Services office have announced the requirements for the "2000 Air Force Family Talent Program." This program allows dependents, ages 3-18 years, and other family members (adult family members) to be recognized as the most talented groups or individuals, Air Force-wide, and to be featured with the AF entertainment group "Tops in Blue" when they perform here next year.

Vandenberg services officials have announced their intention to conduct a Family Talent Contest here Oct. 12,. "This is a terrific opportunity for our teens and families to strut their stuff, and get a chance to perform with those world-class professionals, "Tops in Blue," said Lynn Warner, Vandenberg's head of Services Center.

Winners from several different categories will have a video tape forwarded to Headquarters, AF Entertainment to be judged. AF officials will announce the world-wide winners by Jan, 15, 2001.

Categories to be judged include the following:

PARENT AND YOUTH TEAM: Must consist of one parent and one youth.

HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM: Must consist of one eligible member and one spouse.

CHILDREN (ages 3-8 inclusive): This act may be a solo or group act.

PRETEEN (ages 9-12 inclusive): This act may be a solo or group act.

TEEN (ages 13-18 inclusive): This act may be a solo or group act.

FAMILY: This group must consist of:

(1) A husband and wife, with a minimum of one child (both adults may be active duty),

OR

(2) A single parent with a minimum of two children.

AND

Members of the same immediate family.

Anyone interested in performing or working on the Family Talent Program should attend a meeting Thursday, at the Youth Center at 6 p.m. Or, contact Lynn Warner at the Services Center, 605-8974, or Curt Dunster at the Youth Center, 606-2152 for more information.

Located in the Services Center.

30 minute session \$25
60 minute session \$40
90 minute session \$65

To make an appointment call 605-4748 or 717-9088.



MILLER COMICS RETURNS TO THE PACIFIC COAST CLUB IN OCTOBER!