

Base Briefs

SANTA VISITS COMMISSARY

Santa Claus visits the Vandenberg Commissary from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Parents and children can come and put in their Christmas wish lists.

OFFICIALS DECLARE DOWN DAYS

Gen. Ed Eberhart, Air Force Space Command commander, has declared Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve as goal days. Additionally, President George Bush has approved a four-day holiday weekend for all federal employees from Saturday to Tuesday. All federal employees are granted federal holidays on both Monday and Tuesday. For military members, the extended weekend from Dec. 29 to Jan. 1 will be four-day regular pass period. Military people not required for mission essential duty may be authorized time off. For civilians, normal rules for requesting and approving leave for Dec. 31 still apply. All supervisors are asked to make this time available for non-mission essential members.

NORAD TRACKS SANTA'S JOURNEY

The North American Aerospace Defense Command continues its 44-year tradition of plotting Santa's journey around the world. To track Santa on-line, go to www.noradsanta.org. The website, carried in six languages, took 200 million hits last year. To call on Christmas Eve, call (719) 474-2111.

TAX OFFICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR TAX SEASON

The 2001/02 tax season is approaching and the legal office staff needs volunteers to participate in this year's tax assistance program. Volunteers receive federal and California State tax preparation training for various tax forms, to include paper and electronic filing. To participate as a Unit Tax Advisor, call Master Sgt. Charles Smith at 605-6207.

BREAKERS CONTINUES FAMILY NIGHT

The 30th Services Squadron staff offers a weekly dinner Thursday at the Breakers Dining Facility from 6 to 7 p.m. The dinner is open to all family members of people deployed in support of an overseas operation. For more information, call 606-5031.

BREAKER DINING FACILITY OFFERS CHRISTMAS MEAL

The Breakers Dining Facility staff holds a Christmas meal for all authorized patrons and immediate family members Christmas day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Senior Airman Jennifer Kottke at 606-3219.

GROUP NEEDS COOKIES FOR WAGON

The 30th Transportation Squadron Ho-Ho Wagon delivers treats to troops Christmas Eve. To make a donation of cookies for the cause, call Tech. Sgt. Philip Nixon at 606-4680.

Happy Holidays Team V

What a year!



Be it rocket launches, protests, critical habitat protection or deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Team V has had a busy year. For a complete recap of the year's highlights, turn to pages 6 and 7.

WHILE THE ENTIRE 30TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON PHOTO STAFF GAVE THE SPACE & MISSILE TIMES GREAT SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, SPECIAL THANKS GO OUT TO: TECH. SGTs. SCOTT WAGERS, JANICE CANNON, STAFF SGTs. LEE OSBERRY JR., PAM TAUBMAN, JENNIFER WALLIS, SENIOR AIRMEN ED BRALY, APRIL MUNIZ, STEVE SCHESTER, AIRMEN 1ST CLASS AMANDA COCHRAN, JONATHAN POMEROY AND JESSICA RAMOS.

Wing commander hails team's many successes

As we take time during this holiday season to reflect on this past year, Team Vandenberg has a great deal for which to be thankful and of which to be proud.

We have successfully executed our critical mission with characteristic excellence, we have deployed and returned hundreds of our people who have served courageously all over the world, we have won countless individual and unit awards to include the Moorman trophy for being the best space wing in Air Force Space Command, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and just recently the AFSPC Installation Excellence Award.

We have stepped up to the challenges of force protection since the Sept. 11th attacks and we earned an "Excellent" rating in the first wing Operational Readiness Inspection ever conducted in Force Protection Condition Charlie.

It has indeed been an exciting and rewarding year. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you and to thank you for taking on these many challenges with the spirit of excellence, commitment and sacrifice for which our Air Force is known and respected. Your continued outstanding service at this time in our nation's history is more critical than ever.

I encourage you, during this season of peace and hope, to reflect on those things that are truly important, our faith, our freedom and our loved ones.

Lori and I wish you and yours a wonderful and blessed holiday season, and a joyous year in 2002!

Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander, 30th Space Wing

Celebrating all we hold dear this special season

Season's Greetings! For many of us, this holiday season is unlike any we have ever experienced. The attack on Sept. 11th created an environment of uncertainty and anxiety this country has seldom if ever experienced.

However, in the midst of this, it is still important to celebrate what we all hold dear during this special season.

Undoubtedly, we will exchange gifts to express our love of family, gratitude to friends, and appreciation for acts of kindness during the year.

But in the excitement of this season of gift giving, we should all realize we've already received the greatest gift of all -- the gift of freedom and the privilege of being an American.

As you celebrate this year, please take time to reflect on the tremendous contribution you make to this great nation.

Without you, and all those like you who serve so proudly, we would not be able to truly enjoy the blessings of freedom and security.

As we all look to a future filled with challenge and uncertainty but coupled with promise and good fortune, Marilyn and I wish you and your families a very happy holiday season and joyous new year!

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

General offers holiday safety reminders

The holiday season is a time for great joy and celebration. For many of us, it includes traveling across the country to be with family and friends. Whether you are driving or staying home, we remind everyone to keep safety a top priority.

Historically, the number of fatalities and injuries from motor vehicle mishaps increases during the holidays.

The most common hazards continue to be excessive speed, fatigue, failure to adjust to winter driving conditions and alcohol. Usually, at least one or more of these factors is present in every incident involving our people.

To minimize these dangers, we ask each of you to ensure holiday cheer does not impair your ability to make the right decisions.

Specifically, please obey the posted speed limits, get plenty of rest before long trips, wear your seatbelt and don't drink and drive. If you are hosting a party, be sure to use designated drivers or coordinate alternative transportation for your guests.

The bottom line is we must continue to maintain our safety awareness -- both on an off duty.

The few seconds it takes to measure the risks and act to reduce potential hazards may be the difference between life and death.

We want everyone to safely enjoy the holidays.

Gen. Ed Eberhart
Commander, Air Force Space Command

This is the last issue of the *Space & Missile Times* for the year. The next issue will run Jan. 11.

This issue of the



Also view the Space & Missile Times at http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news/space_times/index.htm



Have you been looking forward to that nice pay raise? Don't be surprised if it isn't in your mid-January pay. See Page 3.



Mrs. Claus saves the day! Decked out in ornate costumes, local children performed in a Christmas play. See Page 4.

Weekend forecast
Today: Chance of rain showers.
Sunday through Christmas mostly clear.

Low/High
36/66

Driving drunk kills

BY WILLIAM STARK
14th Air Force chief of safety

I'm an expert on 'Impaired Driving.' So are many of you. We're experts because we've done it — drove impaired. Of all the ways we lose Air Force people in traffic mishaps, impaired driving beats out any other category by huge margins. It's no different for the American public.

Hear the term "Impaired driving," and what comes to mind? "Drunk people driving?" There's no dispute that nationwide, DUI is a real, and ongoing, problem. But driving impaired involves much more than alcohol.

Distractions are the single biggest contributor of highway mishap - causing at least 4,000 accidents a day. Imagine a mom driving at freeway speeds while dealing with unruly kids. It caused a fatality in our command earlier this year.

Fatigue was a factor in two recent Vandenberg fatalities.

Emotions, "road rage," incidents are common news items. I've been there, done that.

See anyone you know in these categories? Maybe yourself?

No doubt though, as our laws and society in general view it, drunk driving is the very worst form of driver impairment.

Nightclubbing and partying are popular with our young troops.

Certainly none of them go out intending to get drunk and then drive. But a lot of folks go out without having a plan to get home safely.

When drinking, good judgment fades way before the physical effects of alcohol kick in. By then, it's too late to ponder a way out of the situation.

Then someone, a friend maybe, sees you might have had too much to drink and offers you a ride home. The answer, "No thanks, I'm fine" is an all too

common response.

The following day, they learn you were killed in a terrible crash driving home. Imagine the reaction when your family and co-workers learn of the mishap.

That experience is still fresh in the minds of many people here.

Like others, I enjoy an occasional beer with pizza, or a glass of wine during dinner.

Twenty years ago, alcohol and me had a much different relationship. We called it "partying" back then. Today, it goes by the more accurate term of "binge drinking."

My friends and I drank for the buzz. At the time, it seemed like innocent fun. I drove home a few times after a night of drinking. Like many others, I was never arrested, never got in an accident.

A very sobering, skin-of-my-teeth-nanoseconds-from-a-sure-death experience shined a glaring light on the errors of my ways.

This is not the best way to learn a lesson. I've known Air Force people that made similar mistakes and crashed their cars, or were arrested for DUI. Some were killed, or worse yet, killed someone else. To call these results "career-enders" is an understatement, yet the whole situation is so easy to avoid.

Does the evening's agenda include drinking? Is there a highway separating you and your dorm or home after the party?

You better have a solid "get home" plan before you leave — and stick to it!

The response, "No thanks, I'm fine" to someone offering you a ride home, is wrong!

Take the ride. It beats the broken bodies, mega-fines, and jail time of your DUI conviction.

Ask anyone that has gone through it. Every one of them regrets not having a 'get home' plan.

THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK!



Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander,
30th Space Wing

Commander's Action line

Mission success is our top priority, and the talented men and women of Team Vandenberg get it done with excellence. Key to the effectiveness of any great team is good communication. The 30th Space Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct communication link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice your concerns, share constructive ideas, or give your Vandenberg teammates a pat on the back. I appreciate your input, and I am personally involved in every response.

EMERGENCY.....911
Poison control.....800-876-4766
Clinic appointments.....606-2273

Call or e-mail the
action line at
606-7850
or
actionline@
vandenberg.af.mil

Editor's note: The reservist who's name is featured in this article has been changed for operational security reasons.

By TECH. SGT. SCOTT WAGERS
30th Communications Squadron

Christmas came early for one of Team Vandenberg's deployed reservists thanks to the Arroyo Grande Rotary Club.

The Rotarians wanted to show their appreciation for Central Coast Reservists who have been called to active duty and deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Two months ago, my wife Kendra, a newly inducted Arroyo Grande Rotarian, came home from one of her weekly meetings with a determined look on her face and marching orders for me.

My mission was to search out these "Central Coast Reservists who have not only been called to active duty but who have also deployed to the Middle East leaving behind families and civilian jobs."

My task wasn't easy. As an active duty NCO, I've rarely crossed paths with my reservist brethren and was, therefore,

puzzled about where my search should begin.

The Family Support Center seemed like a logical place to start. They referred me to Senior Master Sgt. David Fuentes, base individual mobilization augmentee administrator for Vandenberg and Los Angeles Air Force Bases.

Fuentes, a full-time reservist, was keenly familiar with Vandenberg's reservist community and informed me that only a few individuals actually fit the criteria outlined by the civilian organization.

"The unique mission of the 14th Air Force enables most of our activated reservists to provide close support to deployed warfighters while sitting in front of a computer console here at Vandenberg," Fuentes said.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. SCOTT WAGERS

Amanda Smith with her 13-year-old son Sean.

was enough to keep me determined.

Fuentes directed me to Master Sgt. Troy Castillo, 30th Security Forces Squadron training supervisor.

Castillo listened to my sales pitch and told me, "I've got your man: Tech. Sgt. David Smith."

Smith, an Air Force Reservist who served on active duty until July 2000, is now a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's intern who lives in Santa Maria with his wife Amanda and 13-yr-old son Sean.

"This prevents the need for deployment." Furthermore, Fuentes explained that the few existing deployed reservists are either single or have families located out-of-state.

As my prospect list continued to disappear before my eyes, my wife's marching orders echoed in my head. The thought of sleeping on the couch and being denied pumpkin pie

After volunteering for a short notice deployment, Smith left for an undisclosed location with six other 30th SFS members.

His 90-day deployment was extended to 139 days.

Smith's absence has been hard on Amanda. This is the first time they've been separated since they were married Dec. 17, 1992.

I happily reported Smith's name and situation to my wife Kendra, who in turn, relayed this information to her board of directors.

The Rotary organization, traditionally known to raise money for children's activities and education, was so moved by Smith's selfless dedication that the 50 members donated \$1,000 to give the family.

That night, Kendra returned from her Rotary meeting with the check and she invited me to accompany her for the formal presentation to Amanda.

When Amanda opened the envelope, the look on her face made my two weeks of detective work worth it and reminded me of a valuable lesson.

It truly is better to give than to receive.

Now, it's really beginning to feel like Christmas.



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Questions regarding the paper can be directed to the Space & Missile Times staff at (805) 606-2040.

2002 military pay, allowance explained

By STAFF SGT. AMY PARR

Air Force Print News

■ **WASHINGTON** — In the event the fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act is not approved by the end of the year, officials said people should not worry; guidelines are in place.

Effective Jan. 1, military pay and allowances will be based on previous statute authority, unless Congress approves the act and the president signs it into law before then.

People need to be aware of what changes will be made and pay close attention to January and February 2002 leave and earning statements,

said Maj. Shannon Averill, Air Force pay and allowance entitlement policy chief.

Without a signed NDAA on Jan. 1, basic pay will increase at 4.6 percent across the board. Averill said this number is based on the fiscal 2000 authorization for military raises to be set at the Employment Cost Index plus .5 percent.

If approved, there will be a minimum 5-percent raise across the board. Targeted ranks will see a 6- to 10-percent raise.

"These two scenarios are not cumulative," Averill said. "We will only have one pay raise, either the

4.6 percent or the targeted. If the legislative language permits, the fiscal 2002 NDAA rates will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2002."

Averill said it is important for people to keep in mind that because the NDAA status for 2002 is unknown, finance officials anticipate late notification to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

"Members may not see the new pay rates in their mid-month (January 2002) pay," she said. "But, they will receive all required pay and allowances as soon as possible."

Because fiscal 2002 basic allow-

ances on fiscal 2001 authorization, new rates will take effect regardless of fiscal 2002 NDAA status. They will be based on an 11.3 percent out-of-pocket cost for the National Median Housing Cost.

Averill said out-of-pocket costs will be reduced to zero by 2005. Housing costs are calculated based on median rent plus average utilities and insurance in each local area for rank and dependency stats.

The goal of reducing out-of-pocket costs is so people can afford the same level of home, regardless of assignment location, she said.

"If a particular BAH rate doesn't increase, it's because the local BAH is already set at or below the dollar amount out-of-pocket expense for that grade and dependency status for the same level of housing," Averill said.

Housing costs are based on fair-market rentals and not mortgage prices.

The separate BAH rate determined by the Secretary of Defense for transition from overseas locations and for reserve component members on periods of active duty less than 139 days will increase

4.6 percent. BAH-differential will also increase 4.6 percent.

Like BAH rates, fiscal 2002 basic allowance for subsistence rates are also based on last year's NDAA. On Jan. 1, enlisted people who have graduated basic military training will see an increase in their BAS, raising it to \$241.81 a month. In circumstances where a prorated amount must be paid for a partial month, the daily rate will be \$7.95.

Officer BAS will increase to \$166.48 per month. Prorated amounts for partial months will be \$5.47 per day.

People who currently receive the rations in kind not available may see a decrease in their BAS. RIKNA will terminate Dec. 31 unless the fiscal 2002 NDAA allows it to continue. If approved, the amount will remain \$262.50 per month.

Averill said overseas and continental U.S. cost-of-living allowances will be adjusted Jan. 1. New rates will be available on the per diem Web site.

Also based on the fiscal 2001 NDAA is the family subsistence supplemental allowance.

"Beginning Feb. 1, 2002, all FSAA payments need to be recertified using new 2002 pay and allowance tables," Averill said. "To ensure there aren't pay gaps in payments, recertifications can be made between Jan. 2 and March 2, 2002."

Tables for 2002 military pay and allowances should be posted on the Internet by the end of the year. Questions should be directed to local finance offices.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

VFCU employees safe after bioterrorism scare

By STAFF SGT.

ANDREW LEONHARD

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ The test results are negative for Anthrax on a suspicious substance found here Dec. 11.

The results came in Dec. 14 after further testing in Los Angeles.

Twenty-five Vandenberg Federal Credit Union employees were quarantined at work Dec. 11 after a suspicious substance was found in a roll of dimes.

Base emergency response and disaster preparedness crews responded after an on-scene 30th Security Forces Squadron patrolman confirmed its suspicion.

Field test results, taken at the scene by base hazardous materials team, were negative. The substance was then sent to Santa Barbara to validate the field results. The lab in Santa Barbara was unable to rule out Anthrax so the substance was then sent to Los Angeles for more complete testing where test confirmed it was not Anthrax.

Here comes Mrs. Claus



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Los Padres Elementary School presented a musical production of "Christmas on Candy Cane Lane" Dec. 13. Students in the first through fourth grades performed in the play about green vs. red candy canes. Here, a toy soldier, played by Sam Moran (right front) escorts Mrs. Claus, played by Lydia Husfelt (front left).

Many cultures celebrate holiday season

By 2ND LT. MICHAEL DUNCAN
381ST Training Group student

The holiday season may seem to be dominated by songs about Santa, Christmas trees and the nativity, but the truth is, this time of year is a celebration for many people of varying cultures.

Two holidays Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, accentuate the fact that this season invites festivities for people of different backgrounds.

Hanukkah, a Jewish celebration, begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month Kislev and lasts eight days through the 2nd day of Tevet. This year Hanukkah is from sundown Dec. 9 through Dec. 17. It is often referred to as "The Festival of Lights."

Its origins go back to around

165 B.C. when the Maccabees successfully revolted against the Hellenistic Syrians.

The victory, considered a miracle by the Jewish, has been a cause for celebration ever since.

The ceremonial candleholder or "menorah" also has its roots around this era. When the Maccabees reclaimed the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, they had to rededicate the temple in order to sanctify it.

The legend is that only one jar of sacramental oil was found, enough to burn for one day. However, it lasted for eight straight days. Thus, the menorah has eight candles, plus the middle candle, the "shamash", to symbolize the number of days the

temple oil burned.

As with all holidays, Hanukkah comes steeped in traditions, including eating foods cooked in oil, playing the "dreidel" game with a four-sided top and giving gifts or money to children.

Kwanzaa, on the other hand, is a holiday without a religious background.

Its name, when translated in the African language Kiswahili, means, "first fruits of the harvest." It is celebrated for seven days from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, each day in observance of one of the Nguzo Saba, or seven guiding principles.

Founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa was primarily established to keep African-Americans in touch with

traditional African values.

Observed by more than 18 million people around the globe, it has become a celebration of great importance.

The seven guiding principles of Kwanzaa are unity, self-determination, collective work, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

Traditions surrounding Kwanzaa include the Karamu, a feast held on Dec. 31. Homes are also decorated with a Kinara, or candleholder set with seven traditionally African-colored candles — one black, three red and three green.

People of all backgrounds share in the joy of the holiday season, celebrating in their own unique ways.

Christmas plants have pagan roots

By 2ND LT. MICHAEL DUNCAN
381ST Training Group student

Have you ever tried to get to the root of why so many people bring green plants such as holly, mistletoe and evergreens into their home at Christmas?

The answer lies in varied traditions that go back many hundreds of years.

Perhaps the most popular of Christmas traditions involves the decorating of a live evergreen with lights and colorful ornaments. It is believed that this custom started long before the Christian religion that is associated with Christmas. In ancient days, plants that didn't lose their leaves and stayed green all year round were brought into the house during the especially cold and dreary days of winter.

After the winter solstice, Dec. 21 or 22, many ancient cultures brought evergreen boughs into the home to celebrate the fact that their sun god was finally starting to get better from the sickness of winter.

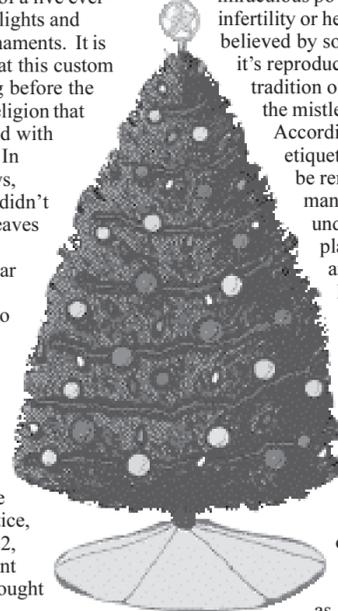
In a tradition dating back to

the 700s, it is the Germans who are historically known for bringing small live evergreen trees into the home during the winter. Pennsylvanian German immigrants are accredited with bringing the custom to U.S. shores.

Mistletoe, another green Christmas tradition, also has an interesting past. First century Druids in Britain believed the red-berried plant to have miraculous powers to overcome infertility or heal diseases. It is believed by some that due to its reproductive powers, the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe came about.

According to proper etiquette, one berry is to be removed when a man kisses a woman under the magical plant. When there are no more berries left, sorry, no more kisses.

Lastly, why is there holly hung all about? Due to the idolatrous history of mistletoe, Christian churches forbade the use of it by their members. Holly was suggested as an equal substitute. Its sharp leaves are supposed to represent the thorns of Jesus' crown and the red berries are symbols of drops of blood.



**America's Air Force
No One Comes Close**



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. PAM TAUBMAN

30th Space Wing Commander Robert M. Worley II and 8-year-old Leticia Castro judge the annual Christmas card winning entry.

Range Rat card wins contest

By 2nd Lt. CARLOS DIAZ
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

When Santa Claus comes by Vandenberg this year he'll see some of the most creative Christmas cards he has ever seen.

Paint, glue and creativity went into making the base's third annual Christmas Card Decoration Contest a success.

The charitable event aimed at raising monies to lower the price of the 30th Space Wing Holiday Party for base airmen, NCOs and lieutenants. The rest of the proceeds went to help Operation Kids' Christmas, according to event organizer Master Sgt. Adrian De Silva, 30th Transportation Squadron.

This year's judges were: 30th Space Wing Commander Col. Robert M. Worley, 30th Space Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Morey, and three eight year olds who recently benefited from Operation Kids Christmas, Leticia Castro, Amanda Herville and Gilberto Corona.

With several organizations, including base contractors, participating, the 22 entries tripled last year's numbers.

It was especially nice that more civilian contractors have put some time aside to bring their cards, De Silva said.

The 30th Range Squadron claimed victory for the third time with their "Range Rat Card." They received a plaque at the

wing holiday party and a \$200 check for donation to Operation Kids' Christmas.

The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron and the 30th Medical Group received an honorable mention for their cards.

Other entrants were: Vandenberg Federal Credit Union, Raytheon Harris, BD Systems, ITT, 30th Weather Squadron, First Sergeants Council, 30th Comptroller Squadron, 30th Security Forces Squadron, 30th Mission Support Squadron, 30th Communication Squadron, 30th TRANS, 2nd Space Launch Squadron, 9th Space Operations Squadron, American Star, base chapel, base safety, 14th Air Force, 381st Training Group, and Detachment 9.

Janitor sets example

Editor's note: Here is the second part of Col. James Moschgat's story. Last week, he learned that the quiet janitor was a Medal of Honor winner.

By COL. JAMES MOSCHGAT
12th Operations Group

Those who had before left a mess for the "janitor" to clean up started taking it upon themselves to put things in order.

Most cadets routinely stopped to talk to Bill throughout the day and we even began inviting him to our formal squadron functions. He'd show up dressed in a conservative dark suit and quietly talk to those who approached him, the only sign of his heroics being a simple blue, star-spangled lapel pin.

Almost overnight, Bill went from being a simple fixture in our squadron to one of our teammates.

Mr. Crawford changed too, but you had to look closely to notice the difference.

After that fall day in 1976, he seemed to move with more purpose, his shoulders didn't seem to be as stooped, he met our greetings with a direct gaze and a stronger "good morning" in return, and he flashed his crooked smile more often.

The squadron gleamed as always, but everyone now seemed to notice it more. Bill even got to know most of us by our first names, something that didn't happen often at the Academy. While no one ever formally acknowledged the change, I think we became Bill's cadets and his squadron. As often happens in life, events sweep us away from those in our past. The last time I saw Bill was on graduation day in June 1977.

As I walked out of the squadron for the last time, he shook my hand and simply said, "Good luck, young man."

With that, I embarked on a career that has been truly lucky and blessed. Mr. Crawford continued to work at the Academy and eventually retired in his native Colorado where he resides today, one of four Medal of Honor winners living in a small town.

A wise person once said, "It's not life that's important, but those you meet along the way that

make the difference." Bill was one who made a difference for me. While I haven't seen Mr. Crawford in over twenty years, he'd probably be surprised to know I think of him often. Bill Crawford, our janitor, taught me many valuable, unforgettable leadership lessons. Here are ten I'd like to share with you:

Be Cautious of Labels. Labels you place on people may define your relationship to them and bound their potential. Sadly, and for a longtime, we labeled Bill as just a janitor, but he was so much more. Therefore, be cautious of a leader who callously says, "Hey, he's just an Airman. Likewise, don't tolerate the O-1, who says, "I can't do that, I'm just lieutenant."

Everyone Deserves Respect. Because we hung the "janitor" label on Mr. Crawford, we often wrongly treated him with less respect than others around us. He deserved much more, and not just because he was a Medal of Honor winner. Bill deserved respect because he was a janitor, walked among us, and was a part of our team.

Courtesy Makes a Difference. Be courteous of all around you, regardless of rank or position. Military customs, as well as common courtesies, help bond a team. When our daily words to Mr. Crawford turned from perfunctory "hellos" to heartfelt greetings, his demeanor and personality outwardly changed. It made a difference for all of us.

Take Time to Know Your People. Life in the military is hectic, but that's no excuse for not knowing the people you work for and with. For years a hero walked among us at the Academy and we never knew it. Who are the heroes that walk in your midst?

Anyone Can Be a Hero. Mr. Crawford certainly didn't fit anyone's standard definition of a hero. Moreover, he was just a private on the day he won his Medal. Don't sell your people short, for any one of them may be the hero who rises to the occasion when duty calls. On the other hand, it's easy to turn to your proven performers when the chips are down, but don't ignore the rest of the team. Today's rookie could and should be tomorrow's superstar.

Leaders Should Be Humble.

Most modern day heroes and some leaders are anything but humble, especially if you calibrate your "hero meter" on today's athletic fields. End zone celebrations and self-aggrandizement are what we've come to expect from sports greats. Not Mr. Crawford—he was too busy working to celebrate his past heroics. Leaders would be well-served to do the same.

Life Won't Always Hand You What You Think You Deserve. We in the military work hard and, dang it, we deserve recognition, right? However, sometimes you just have to persevere, even when accolades don't come your way. Perhaps you weren't nominated for junior officer or airman of the quarter as you thought you should—don't let that stop you. Don't pursue glory; pursue excellence. Private Bill Crawford didn't pursue glory; he did his duty and then swept floors for a living.

No Job is Beneath a Leader. If Bill Crawford, a Medal of Honor winner, could clean latrines and smile, is there a job beneath your dignity? Think about it.

Pursue Excellence. No matter what task life hands you, do it well. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "If life makes you a street sweeper, be the best street sweeper you can be." Mr. Crawford modeled that philosophy and helped make our dormitory area a home.

Life is a Leadership Laboratory. All too often we look to some school or PME class to teach us about leadership when, in fact, life is a leadership laboratory.

Those you meet everyday will teach you enduring lessons if you just take time to stop, look and listen. I spent four years at the Air Force Academy, took dozens of classes, read hundreds of books, and met thousands of great people. I gleaned leadership skills from all of them, but one of the people I remember most is Mr. Bill Crawford and the lessons he unknowingly taught.

Don't miss your opportunity to learn. Bill Crawford was a janitor. However, he was also a teacher, friend, role model and one great American hero.

Thanks, Mr. Crawford, for some valuable leadership lessons.

Ho Ho Ho

Santa, also known as Capt. Daniel Weak, 30th Operations Support Squadron, greets first grader Ashley Barrett. Crestview Elementary School principal, Sally Prentiss, looks on. Every year, the 30th OSS, with the support of the 76th Helicopter Flight, fly Santa Claus to all three Vandenberg schools to deliver candy canes.

PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JONATHAN POMEROY

2001: A look back at Team V's busy year



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

Team Vandenberg members gathers around the Curtiss P-40 April 17 after its dedication ceremony. The P-40 was flown by the Flying Tiger pilots in World War II.

JANUARY

TEAM VANDENBERG PLANNED to launch a Titan II rocket, deploying a Defense Meteorological Satellite Program satellite, from Space Launch Complex-4 West Jan. 19. The launch never took off due to technical problems.

WORKERS CONTINUED TO INSTALL traffic lights at the intersection of U.S. Highway 1 and Timber Lane. Because Vandenberg agreed to foot the \$243,000 bill for the project, the California Department of Transportation agreed to issue the necessary permit. The traffic light was up and running in March.

AFTER A NEARLY 19-MONTH closure, the newly renovated Breakers Dining Facility opened.

A 30TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON technical sergeant with more than 18 years of service was court-martialed here Jan. 25 because of drug use. Tech. Sgt. Glenn Thompson pleaded guilty to use and possession of methamphetamines and to making a false official statement.

FEBRUARY

TEAM VANDENBERG HONED their emergency response skills and tested their mettle the first week of February during the first Foggy Shores exercise of the year. The primary purpose of the exercise helped the wing prepare for emergencies and allowed base members to prepare for future inspections. Vandenberg went on to have two more Foggy Shore exercises in preparation of the October Operational Readiness Inspection.

THE NEW \$1.5 MILLION auto hobby shop opened Feb. 6. The new shop has 10 stalls, one with a wheel alignment station, and five with carlifts.

TEAM VANDENBERG SUCCESSFULLY launched an unarmed Minuteman III missile Feb. 7.

THE BASE LOST E-MAIL service for 14 hours after a virus, disguised as an electronic photo of tennis star Anna Kournikova, infected computers.

MORE THAN 20 PEOPLE were caught surfing unauthorized Internet web sites. The majority of the sites visited were sexually explicit. Other sites included joke and hate sites. "There really is no justification for accessing obscene or offensive sites on a government system whether on or off duty," said Lt. Col. Michael Fleming, 30TH Space Wing judge advocate.

MARCH

ACCESS TO VANDENBERG'S BEACHES was closed for snowy plover nesting. Vandenberg environmental management officials initiated consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for an alternative plan for recreational beach access. USFWS officials rejected a previously submitted plan that called for twice the amount of recreational access. The alternative, which called for recreational access to one-half mile of Surf Beach, one-quarter mile of Wall Beach and one-half mile of Minuteman Beach, was later approved.

THE 30TH SPACE WING BEGAN THE COUNTDOWN to Guardian Challenge 2001 with a spirited kick-off rally Feb. 22. "This is the best team we've

ever fielded," said Lt. Col. Joe Hogler, Guardian Challenge 2001 project officer. "Given the teams that we put together for the last two years, that is a huge statement!"

TEAM VANDENBERG RECOGNIZED their "best" during the annual awards banquet Feb. 21. More than 400 people were on hand to congratulate winners from the 30TH Space Wing and associate units.

TEAM VANDENBERG WEATHERED A STORM that dropped more than three inches of rain, causing minor flooding and mudslides in some areas of Vandenberg. The base went to Flood Condition Red One due to the high probability of major flooding on base.

NINE VANDENBERG MASTER SERGEANTS found out March 7 that they made senior master sergeant.

VANDENBERG'S THREE SPACELIFT maintenance competitors prepared for Guardian Challenge 2001. Experienced trainers, including one who wrote the first script for the spacelift maintenance competition, prepared the rookie team by developing hundreds of possible scenarios for them to undergo.

TEAM VANDENBERG WELCOMED ITS NEWEST UNIT March 23 in a combined squadron activation and change-of-command ceremony at the tracking station. The Califor-

nia Air National Guard's 148TH Space Operations Squadron came on board to operate the Milstar satellite communications system, the most advanced military communications system to date.

THE 30TH SPACE WING'S OVERALL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM was recognized for Best in Air Force Space Command.

IN AN EFFORT TO PREPARE LAUNCH TEAMS for Guardian Challenge 2001, trainers meticulously wrote scripts packed with as many anomalies and obstacles as possible in a 60- to 90-minute training ride. The training

marksanship at the shooting range.

MORE THAN 200 people attended the dedication ceremony of a Curtiss P-40 replica mounted on the east lawn of the 14TH Air Force headquarters building. The display honors the proud heritage of the Flying Tigers.

A 30TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON airman was found guilty during court-martial proceedings April 9. Senior Airman Christopher Sentance was sentenced to 15 months confinement, forfeiture of all pay, a reduction to airman basic and a bad conduct discharge. He was charged with rape, sodomy, indecent assault and simple assault.

TEAM VANDENBERG'S 76TH HELICOPTER FLIGHT took to the skies during April in preparation of Guardian Challenge 2001. The helo crews worked on their navigation, hover and maintenance reconfiguration skills, which also benefited their operational readiness.

VANDENBERG WELCOMED a new commander for Detachment 7 of the 544TH Information Operations Group during a ceremony April 24. Maj. Connie Meskill assumed command for the 10-person team that provides full-service information warfare support to the 14TH Air Force commander in his role as the commander of U.S. Space Command Air Forces.

MORE THAN 200 SPECIAL OLYMPIANS from throughout Santa Barbara County came to strut their stuff April 21 during the 2001 Special Olympics Harry Wood Area Games.

MAY

A MOTION MEDIA PRODUCER and director with the 30TH Communications Squadron was awarded the Telly Award for a production on the dangers and consequences of taking the drug Ecstasy. In his first production for 30TH CS, James Jones

APRIL

MORE THAN 800 CENTRAL COAST BOY SCOUTS converged on Vandenberg March 30 to April 1 for a jamboree. It was the first jamboree held here in 15 years.

A 381ST TRAINING GROUP TRANSITION STUDENT attended a five-day wilderness survival-training course in Northern California. "I learned skills, but more importantly I learned awareness and respect for nature," said 2ND Lt. Kelly Glaus.

APOLLO ASTRONAUT EDWIN "BUZZ" ALDRIN visited Team V for the Air Force Association banquet. The astronaut shared stories of his adventures on earth and on the moon.

AN EDUCATION EXPO held April 5 drew more than 40 educators from as far away as Bakersfield. It was an eye-opening event for the high school teachers, said Master Sgt. John Kincaid, a recruiter with the 369TH Recruiting Squadron here.

SECURITY FORCES MEMBERS geared up to compete in Guardian Challenge 2001. To prepare, team members ran two to five miles daily, lifted weights and worked on their

team wrote more than 900 pages of action-packed scripts designed to throw the competitors into white-knuckled launch sequences.

ROUTINE EXAMS by 30TH Medical Group doctors saved the lives of two Team Vandenberg spouses.

THE HAWKS SOARED ABOVE the rest of Air Force Space Command during Guardian Challenge 2001 as Team Vandenberg won the Schriever Trophy for the Best Spacelift Operations Wing. Nearly 1,000 competitors and supporters attended the score posting and awards banquet at the. Team V also snared the best helicopter crew, the best spacelift maintenance team and the best space lift operational team.

BASE OFFICIALS AND THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE announced 1.25 miles of Vandenberg's beaches will open to recreational use starting Memorial Day weekend. The beaches were closed March 1 at the start of the nesting season for the Western Snowy Plover.

THE 30TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM was crowned base champion. The cops captured the championship over the 576TH Flight Test Squadron with a 54-50 score. They closed out the season with a per-



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JANETTE COPELAND

Base firemen bow their heads in a moment of silence during the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance at the base chapel Sept. 14. More than 700 people packed into the chapel to pay tribute to the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

fect 24-0 record

THE 30TH SPACE WING WON THE MOORMAN TROPHY as best overall space wing in Air Force Space Command. Praising the men and women of the wing, Col. Steve Lanning, former 30TH Space Wing commander said, "Excellence in all we do is not just a catch phrase, it's a way of life."

VANDENBERG CELEBRATED ARMED FORCES DAY by teaming with more than 20 civilian agencies in anticipation of a protest at the main gate. More than 200 protestors covered at the gate to express their concerns about national policies and programs. The 30TH Security Forces Squadron arrested 23 people who entered the base illegally.

THE 30TH SERVICES SQUADRON KICKED OFF Around the World in Ninety Days. The goal of ATWIND was to increase the awareness and participation in programs, services and activities.

BASE MEMBERS JOINED IN THE WAR AGAINST CANCER during the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life held May 19 and 20 at the Lompoc High School's Huyck Stadium. More than \$115,000 was raised during the annual 24-hour event.

MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE who've retired or are planning to separate attended a job fair here. People met and networked with potential employers, explored a variety of job opportunities, marketed their training and experience and circulated their resumes with more than 40 companies.

JUNE

TEAM VANDENBERG WELCOMED COL. ROBERT M. WORLEY II as the new 30TH Space Wing commander during a change-of-command ceremony at the base parade grounds. Worley was the former chief of the Space Superiority Division, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs,

Washington D.C.

A FORMER PATRICK AFB, FLA., master sergeant was killed in a single-car accident near Lake Havasu, Ariz. Traveling to her new assignment at Vandenberg Master Sgt. Elizabeth Bolin died from injuries sustained in the accident.

THE MILITARY HOUSING OFFICE and the unaccompanied housing flight joined forces to open 75 four-bedroom apartments in the East Housing area for single NCOs and junior officers.

THE BASE HAD 60 TECHNICAL and 110 staff sergeants selected for promotion on to the next grade.

MEMBERS OF THE 30TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON fire protection flight conducted training fires throughout Vandenberg in preparation for the current fire season, which lasted from May through December. The fires are used train crews and to replicate the natural process of wildland fires under controlled conditions.

ceptional performance during 17 successful launches and its planning and implementation of Guardian Challenge for 2000.

OFFICIALS REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE of the Air Force presented diplomas to 75 people during a commencement ceremony help at the Pacific Coast Club.

THE 30TH SPACE WING COMMAND CHIEF traded in this 99,000-acre spread for a modest five-acre plot in Texas. Chief Master Sgt. Paul Krim retired after 27 years of service to his country.

CHIEF MASTER SGT. MIKE MOREY stepped into the wing's top enlisted position. Morey came to Vandenberg from Malmstrom AFB, Mont., where he was a first sergeant

THE 30TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON took the top honors as the command's Best Small Unit Communications Squadron. In addition, the squadron won seven command-level annual communications and information fields awards.

MEMBERS OF THE 576TH FLIGHT TEST SQUADRON rode 100 miles during a charity bike ride to raise money for Operation Kids' Christmas and Project Good Neighbor. More than \$1,200 was raised during the 23RD annual bike ride.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN of Team Vandenberg were recognized with the 2000 Air Force Space Command awards. More than 40 individuals and teams were recognized as top performers in AFSPC.

JULY

TWO STAFF SERGEANTS FROM THE 576TH FLIGHT TEST SQUADRON were injured in a single-vehicle accident on El Rancho Road. The NCOs were driving a transport erector from a training mission when it overturned into a ditch on North Vandenberg. Damages to the vehicle and the training missile totaled \$2.3 million. An investigation board determined speed and insufficient experience led to the accident. The speed limit in that area was lowered to 15 mph for tractor-trailers and larger vehicles.

CAPT. KENNETH BOLE, 533RD TRAINING SQUADRON, became the first VAFB graduate of Cal Poly's Distance Learning Program. Bole is applying for the astronaut program.

LT. COL. CLINTON CROSIER TOOK COMMAND of the 2ND Space Launch Squadron July 9 in a change-of-command ceremony. Crosier came to VAFB from the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force where he was a member of the SECAF's action group.

TEAM VANDENBERG SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED a modified Minuteman II ICBM July 14 in support of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Segment. About 20 minutes after the launch from Vandenberg, a prototype interceptor missile carrying an exoatmospheric kill vehicle launched from the Marshall Islands about 4,800 miles away. Meanwhile, four Greenpeace activists approached Minuteman beach in a Zodiac watercraft and swam ashore in an attempt to delay the launch. Two of the men suffered from hypothermia and all four were arrested for trespassing. Eventually 17 were arrested their court dates are set for January.

VANDENBERG LAUNCHED an unarmed Peacekeeper missile launch July 26. The Peacekeeper missile, randomly selected from operational missiles at F.E. Warren was part of a routine Follow-on Operational Test and Evaluation program used to verify the accuracy and reliability of the Peacekeeper force. The launch was unsuccessful.

MORE THAN 260 eligible Vandenberg senior airmen were selected for promotion to staff sergeant in July. In June, 110 staff sergeants and 60 technical sergeants were selected for promotion.

ALTHOUGH UNDERWATER EGRESS skills are ones the men of the 76TH Helicopter Flight hope to never have to use, they honed those skills during their annual training. They participated in a variety of grueling activities, including having to find their way out of "dunkers" in the frigid waters off



PHOTO BY THOM ROGERS

An Atlas IIAS takes to the sky with a NRO satellite Sept. 8.

of Vandenberg's coast.

THE 30th SPACE WING WELCOMED its new command chief master sergeant, Mike Morey. The chief, who hails from Illinois, said, "It's all about each of you and what we're doing for this great country and the best Air Force in the world." He said he's committed to his family, his Air Force and his country.

ONE OF VANDENBERG'S OWN, Senior Airman Michael Hosman, performed in a Tops in Blue concert July 21. The Tops in Blue 2001 troupe took center stage and performed a 90-minute show, guiding the audience through a journey of yesterday and today's Broadway, pop, and dance music, spiced with a combination of love songs and a heartfelt finale of "God Bless America."

AUGUST

TEAM V SIMULATED A RESPONSE to an earthquake disaster during an exercise July 30. Members also responded to the "release" of hazardous contaminants in some areas causing the evacuation of buildings. Major roads and bridges "suffered" debilitating damage, limiting access to some parts of the base.

THE HEALTH AND AWARENESS CENTER kicked off its "A New You by the New Year" fitness program. The 16-week program was designed to increase participant's stamina and strength by the beginning of 2002.

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE in Los Angeles issued grand jury indictments Aug. 3 against the 17 Greenpeace members who attempted to prevent the July 14 Minuteman II launch. All 17 defendants were indicted for conspiracy, and 14 of them were charged with violating a launch zone. The four people who swam ashore and violated the snowy plover's nesting area were a part of this group.

VANDENBERG 2nd LT. ROBERT ESTEP III commissioned his wife in a touching ceremony at the 30th Medical Group. He and his wife, Kristisa, began their journey to become officers as airman basics in 1994. They supported each other in their drive to become officers in the medical field.

THE 76th HELICOPTER FLIGHT RESCUED a stranded hunter Aug. 12 on the first day of deer hunting season. It was their third rescue of the year, but not the last.

MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE ATTENDED Vandenberg's National Night Out Aug. 7. The event, which is devoted to teaching parents and children about preventing crime and drug use, was held on Vandenberg for the first time in two years.

VANDENBERG COMMANDERS TOOK NOTICE of Air Force drug abuse statistics, which indicated increased drug use among in airmen. Locally, commanders implemented measures such as drug education briefings at commanders calls, unit-wide urinalysis sweeps and random urine testing for all active-duty members entering the base.

AIR FORCE GOLFERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD converged on Vandenberg's Marshallia Ranch Golf Course for the 2001 Air Force Golf Championships. The top three players from each division went on to represent the Air Force in the 2001 Armed Forces Golf Championships.

A TWO-CAR ACCIDENT at Vandenberg's main gate left one person injured Aug. 20 at 4:45 p.m. Master Sgt. Greg Cain, 30th Operations Support Squadron, later thanked emergency responders for the care he was given.

AIR FORCE OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED that the Serviceman's Group Life Insurance would be expanded to cover family members.

TWO MORE PEOPLE PLEADED GUILTY Aug. 17 for trespassing here May 19. Seventeen of the 23 arrested had pleaded guilty. The trespassers were part of a group of more than 225 people who gathered to protest the "weaponization of space."

TEAM V LEARNED that a 532nd Training Squadron NCO carries the title of Freestyle Unlimited World Champion Archer in the adult male category. Tech. Sgt. Steve Carmean had traveled to South Africa to compete in the event.

A 30th SPACE WING NCO was selected to attend the 2001 Air Force Men's Soccer Camp. Senior Airman Danny Hidalgo eventually went on to compete on the Air Force Soccer Team. The team finished second.

A 2nd SPACE LAUNCH SQUADRON officer became the sixth active-duty member to capture the Vandenberg and Marshallia Ranch Golf cham-

year placed a National Reconnaissance Office payload into orbit.

WHEN TERRORISTS HIJACKED West Coast-bound aircraft and crashed them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the nation and Team Vandenberg were stunned. In an unprecedented move, force protection condition levels rose to FPCON Delta and 24-hour operations began.

THE SEPT. 11 ATTACKS led officials to postpone the launches of two Minuteman III unarmed intercontinental ballistic missiles. The purpose of the launches was to test the reliability and accuracy of the ICBM weapon system.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Danny Hidalgo, 30th Space Wing, competed on the Air Force Soccer team. The team finished second in the Armed Forces Soccer tournament.

ionships. Maj. Dave Salm's 54-hole total of 231 edged out his closest competitor by two strokes.

AN AIRMAN FROM THE 532nd TRAINING SQUADRON was sentenced to four months confinement and a bad conduct discharge during a special court-martial Aug. 30. Airman Basic Jacob Velner pleaded guilty to two charges of larceny, one charge of breaking restriction and one charge of absencing himself from his unit.

SEPTEMBER

TEAM VANDENBERG LAUNCH a prototype booster in support of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization's Ground-based Midcourse Defense Segment Sept. 1. The successful launch opened the door to additional tests on the booster system.

THE COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN kicked off. Vandenberg raised \$121,310.

Vandenberg officials closed Surf Beach after eight people were found in the beach's closed areas. Six violations were recorded at Wall Beach. Surf remained closed until the end of the Western Snowy Plover's nesting season Sept. 30.

THE VANDENBERG OFFICERS' SPOUSES' CLUB opened its membership to enlisted members' spouses and changed the group's name to the Vandenberg Spouses' Club. This move bolstered the membership and the group's ability to perform its charitable mission.

USING NIGHT VISION TECHNOLOGY, the 76th Helicopter Flight rescued a missing hiker in Death Valley Sept. 5. In their fifth rescue of the year, the hiker was found in the Panamint Mountains, north of China Lake Naval Air Station, Calif.

AN ATLAS IIAS LAUNCHED Sept. 8 from Space Launch Complex-3. Previously slated for an Aug. 25 launch, Team V's fifth launch of the

TEAM VANDENBERG JOINED IN A NATIONAL DAY of Prayer and Remembrance Sept. 14. More than 700 people packed into the base chapel to pay tribute to the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

A 30th TRANSPORTATION SQUADRON MEMBER became the first civilian in Air Force Space Command to deploy in support of a contingency. Toshiaki Yamamoto deployed to Osan Air Base in support of Ulchi Focus Lens, an exercise to show American force near the demilitarized zone of the Korean peninsula.

A TAURUS ROCKET carrying two satellites failed shortly after launch Sept. 21.

MORE THAN 200 TEAM V people turned out to honor the nation's POW/MIAs during a moving tribute Sept. 21. Organized by the local Air Force Sergeants Association chapter, the event included a UH-1N flyover and a simulated firefight.

ABOUT 200 PEOPLE GATHERED for a 381st Training Group retreat to honor the nation's POW/MIAs Sept. 21. On hand as guest speaker, Retired Chief Master Sgt. James Gough, a Vietnam-era POW.

BETWEEN SEPT. 21 AND 28, more than 20 people deployed from Vandenberg in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

A 381st TRAINING GROUP NCO reeled in a granddaddy of a fish during a base fishing tournament Sept. 29. Master Sgt. Greg Dyslin caught a 10-pound 4-ounce bass at Pine Canyon Lakes. With 40 years of fishing under his hat, Dyslin was mum about where he snagged the monster.

A FLURRY OF END-OF-YEAR SPENDING placed several new projects on Team V's scope. Topping the list were a skateboard park, an in-line skating sports arena, a dorm coffeehouse and a new outdoor

recreation checkout building.

OCTOBER

RETIREMENT OPTIONS OPENED UP for active-duty Air Force members when officials announced the open season for the Thrift Savings Plan. The season, running through January, allows people to contribute pre-tax pay toward a retirement and investment plan.

VANDENBERG'S BEACHES OPENED after the Western Snowy Plover's nesting season ended Sept. 31. Preliminary data on plover nest hatch success rates indicated an increase over previous year's data. Security patrols issued 45 violation notices during the season, in comparison to 196 violations in 2000.

NINETEEN TEAM V CAPTAINS turned over a new leaf when they found out they made the major's list. Vandenberg's selection rate of 73.5 percent compared well with the command's 76 percent.

SRS TECHNOLOGIES' TESTING of harbor seals proved Vandenberg's launch mission doesn't harm the marine mammals' hearing or disturb their reproduction. Using high-tech equipment, the team defined new wildlife hearing standards, saved Team V big bucks in seal monitoring costs and spotlighted the base's solid environmental record.

A TITAN IV-B carrying a national security payload blasted off from Space Launch Complex-4 East Oct. 5. Once deployed, the satellite immediately began paying dividends in America's war on terrorism.

A 532nd TRAINING SQUADRON NCO risked his life to save an injured truck driver. Staff Sgt. Chris Labine was traveling north on Interstate 5 when he and his family witnessed a serious accident. Labine rushed to the injured driver's aid and administered first aid. His actions earned him a nomination for the Airmen's Medal.

THE 30th SERVICES SQUADRON kicked off its Thursday Family Night Out program Oct. 11. The program was started to reduce the added burdens to family members of those who are deployed. It allows the families to dine at the Breakers Dining Facility for a nominal fee.

A HIGHLY-PROMOTED INTERNATIONAL DAY of protest against the militarization of space backfired for about 50 anti-military protestors Oct. 13. Countering their message and flying the Red, White and Blue, 60 pro-military people gathered to drown out the protestors' message and defuse the media opportunity.

GEN. ED EBERHART, AFSPC commander, visited Vandenberg Oct. 15. During his visit, the general said, "As we look at how we can use our technology in combating terrorism, Vandenberg will play a key role." More than 700 people crammed into the Pacific Coast Club to hear the general speak.

IN AN EFFORT TO AID FAMILIES and people who were affected by the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon, base officials kicked off Project Noble Support. Team V and local community groups joined the fundraising campaign by doing everything from washing cars and playing softball to making and selling quilts. The project netted \$11,870.

ANSWERING A CHALLENGE from President George Bush, about 1,900 Team Vandenberg schoolchildren joined with nearly 52 million other students in a "Pledge Across America."

A DELTA II ROCKET carrying the QuickBird satellite successfully launched from Space Launch Complex 2 Oct. 18. Quickbird is a high-resolution commercial imaging satellite.

WITH THE INSTALLATION of the Galaxy 2000 Tower Display radar system, Vandenberg became the first air force base to use this reliable off-the-shelf technology. The system increased the radar coverage area from 60 to 800 nautical miles.

AFTER A FIVE-DAY OCEAN JOURNEY from Washington, the 650-ton launch table for the Boeing Delta IV rocket arrived here Oct. 17. The

table was moved to Space Launch Complex-6 where it will be used to launch the evolved expandable launch vehicles beginning in 2003.

A 30th COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON AIRMAN was tragically killed in a single-vehicle accident south of Lompoc. As a videographer, Airman 1st Class Cassandra Willoughby had covered the California Highway Patrol's "Every 15 Minutes" anti-drunk driving campaign. Ironically, alcohol use contributed to her death.

VANDENBERG'S TOP THREE ASSOCIATION welcomed Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force No. 5 Bob Gaylor as their guest speaker for their annual induction ceremony. Gaylor visited with hundreds of Team V people, shared his anecdotes and enlightened the enlisted force on mentorship. Gaylor welcomed 50 new master sergeants into the top three during the Oct. 26 ceremony.

THE AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND INSPECTOR GENERAL TEAM arrived Oct. 29 for Vandenberg's Operational Readiness Inspection. Given the heightened security levels on base, inspectors curbed many of the items they would have checked out. In the end, Team V was rated "Excellent" by the IG.

NOVEMBER

IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE HARDSHIPS that families of deployed members experience, Team V established Global Hearts. The all-volunteer program aids the families by providing free lawn care, transportation assistance, meal preparation and more.

A 30th SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON AIRMAN was sentenced to four months confinement, reduction in grade to airman basic and a bad conduct discharge during a special court-martial here Oct. 3. Airman Jerald Boykin's marijuana use ended his Air Force career.

TEAM V LAUNCHED A MINUTEMAN III toward Kwajalein Missile Range

raised about \$500 for Project Noble Support.

THE 30th MEDICAL GROUP'S intramural soccer team beat the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron team for the base championship. The final score was 3-0.

THE LOMPOC POPS ORCHESTRA held a concert here to cap off Project Noble Support. During the event, they performed several patriotic songs and audience members bid on quilts to raise additional funds.

THE VANDENBERG SPOUSES' CLUB teamed up with the First Sergeants Council to bag 9,600 cookies for the base's dorm dwellers. More than 730 bags, some decorated by local students, were filled with a dozen cookies each and delivered to the grateful airmen.

VANDENBERG BEGAN EXPLORING the feasibility of building wind farms as an alternate means of energy generation. The move came on the heels of California's energy crisis and the rising costs of the state's deregulated utility rates.

A 350-POUND EXPLOSIVE charge turned a two-and-a-half ton truck into shrapnel here Nov. 27. The blast was part of the FBI post-blast seminar. The course, involving law enforcement officers from around the country, is held here annually.

DECEMBER

TEAM V WELCOMED 181 CENTRAL COAST CHILDREN for Operation Kids' Christmas. In its 42nd year, the event had grown from an \$1,800 budget when Mike Petlansky started it to more than \$25,000 this year. Children left with gift bags and their families received holiday food baskets.

VANDENBERG TRAGICALLY LOST another team member in a single-vehicle accident Dec. 2. Justin "JT" Thomas was the assistant manager of the Pacific Coast Club and a retired technical sergeant. Later investigations revealed alcohol was a contributing factor.

AN UNARMED MINUTEMAN II



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JEANETTE COPELAND

Members of the 30th Communications Squadron tear down the old GPN-12 radar in October.

Nov. 7. The missiles unarmed re-entry vehicles hit their marks 4,800 miles away. The mission was to validate the weapon system's viability.

SIX SENIOR MASTER SERGEANTS received word that they'd achieved the highest enlisted grade. Vandenberg's selection rate to chief master sergeant was 26 percent, topping the command's rate of 25 percent.

THE 392nd TRAINING SQUADRON turned up the heat for their annual Texas Blowout. The Operation Kids' Christmas fundraiser put more than \$1,000 in OKC's kitty.

ABOUT 700 RETIREES and their spouses attended Retiree Appreciation Day here Nov. 16. The event is organized every November to give Central Coast retirees an opportunity to interact with various on- and off-base service agencies.

THE 576th FLIGHT TEST SQUADRON turned out in force to welcome their new commander Nov. 13. Lt. Col. Mike Fortney came to Vandenberg from U.S. Strategic Command in Offutt AFB, Neb. He said, "For a career ICBM guy like myself... what could be better than to command this squadron."

CENTRAL COAST BUSINESSES, students and teachers teamed with Vandenberg Spouses' Club to put together and mail about 200 care packages to deployed Team V members.

VANDENBERG'S CHIEFS BRUISED the base's colonels in the annual Chiefs vs. Eagles softball game Nov. 16. The good-spirited game ended with a 21-15 victory for the chiefs. More importantly, the event

ICBM launched from north base Dec. 3. to test the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization's Ground-based Midcourse Defense System. About 20 minutes after Team V's launch, an exoatmospheric kill vehicle streaked skyward from Kwajalein. The kill vehicle successfully intercepted the target.

EIGHTY-THREE NEW HOMES neared completion as part of the Phase Seven housing project. Ranging from 1,350 to 1,450 square feet, the homes are slated for the base's senior NCOs.

THIRTY TEAM VANDENBERG LIEUTENANTS learned their single silver bar would soon have company when the Air Force announced the results of the 01C Captain Central Selection Board.

A PROTOTYPE BOOSTER splashed into the Pacific Ocean after approximately 30 seconds of flight during a booster verification test. The system was intended for future use with the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization's Ground-based Midcourse Defense System.

TWENTY-FIVE VANDENBERG CREDIT UNION EMPLOYEES were quarantined after a suspicious substance was found in a roll of coins. A field test came up negative for biological toxins, but a sample was sent to Santa Barbara to validate the test. Later, officials sent the sample to Los Angeles where Anthrax was ruled out.

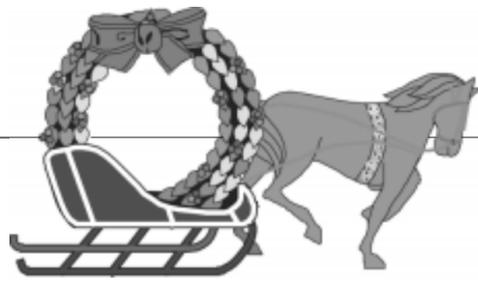
THE VANDENBERG VILLAGE TITANS YOUTH FOOTBALL team finished third in the Coast Valley Youth Football League. The 7- to 10-years olds finished the year at 6-3.



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

Staff Sgt. Randy Levander, 30th Security Forces Squadron, low crawls under barbed wire in the obstacle course in preparation for Guardia Challenge. The cops bested Patrick AFB, Fla., in the obstacle course to help Team V to victory.

S 30th Services



NEWS

You're Invited...

Meet **Edwina B. Williams, CTC**
formerly of N&N Travel

Refreshments
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

USAF
Information
Tickets
& Travel



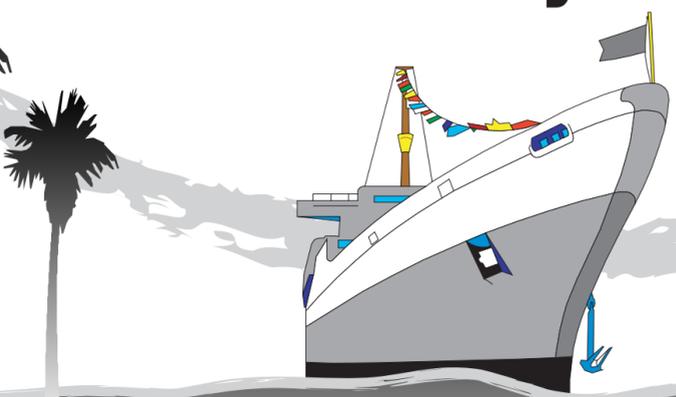
GRAND OPENING

of Leisure Travel

A Brand New Travel Office!

January 4th

- NOW BOOK FLIGHTS HERE!**
- Air Tickets
 - Tours
 - Cruises
 - Rail
 - Hotels
 - Cars



- Register during Grand Opening for our GIVE-AWAYS!
- 2-Round Trip Tickets on US Air
 - 2 Eurail Passes

Information, Tickets & Travel
in the Services Center • Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon-Fri
Telephone: 606-1675

YOUTH SPORTS

YOUTH BASEBALL OPEN BOARD MEETING
All interested volunteers will meet Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. in the Youth Sports office, Bldg 16156. For more information, call 606-2152.

YOUTH SOFTBALL BOARD MEETING
All interested volunteers will meet Jan. 8, at 5 p.m. in the Youth Sports office, Bldg 16156. For more information, call 606-2152.

VAFB YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM
is still taking registrations for boys, grades 6th-8th, to fill the Senior Boys Basketball Division. Registrations will be taken Mon-Fri, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Youth Center until Jan. 11. Call 606-2152 for more information.

V.I.T.T.

Vandenberg Leisure

LAKE TAHOE



HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Feb. 16 to 19
\$145 per person, sharing
\$225 single
\$105 per person, triple
Discount lift tickets available:
Heavenly Valley, Sierra at Tahoe,
Kirkwood and Northstar.
Luxury restroom-equipped
motorcoach transportation.
THREE NIGHTS, Holiday Lodge,
located one block from casino area and
Heavenly Valley ski lift.
For more information call 606-7976.

BOWLING

JAN. 12 - 9 Pin No-Tap Tournament
Check in at 5:30 p.m., bowl at 6 p.m. '300' game pot and two divisions if enough bowlers participate between both sexes.

GOLF

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SALE!
The golf course pro shop is having a Christmas sale - 10 percent off any item over \$10, not already on sale (excluding club sets) through Sunday. Come in and do your Christmas shopping for those special people in your life.

SATURDAY - Christmas Turkey Shoot Tournament

WEDNESDAY - Ladies Priority, 8:32 to 9:04 a.m.

FITNESS

Dec. 28 - Dodgeball Tournament
6 p.m. at the Fitness Center.

Jan. 4 - Big Bang! 3-Point Shootout
Noon at the Fitness Center.

Jan. 7, 14, 28 - A.M. Abs
7:05 to 7:20 a.m.
Location: Basketball Court

Jan. 18 - Free-Throw Contest
Noon at the Fitness Center.

For more information on these programs, call Brian Owens at 606-3834.

Pacific Coast Club
DEC. 29

ALL NIGHTER
in the HAWK'S NEST
9pm-4am
Live DJ!
Lounge opens at 8pm

Get Your Tickets NOW for the...

PACIFIC COAST CLUB

New Year's Celebration

December 31 • 8 p.m.

\$30 per person
Heavy hors d'oeuvres
8 to 10 p.m.

Champagne or sparkling cider
toast at midnight
Breakfast from 12:15 to 1 a.m.

Live entertainment 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
featuring 'Great American Dance Party'

Come and celebrate the New Year in New York-style!

Get your tickets at the club. Call 606-3330 for more information.

Did You Know?

The Family Child Care Program has implemented a wonderful program that is not being utilized.

EXTENDED DAY CARE PROGRAM

The program is available to all military and DoD personnel who are required to work extended duty hours, Monday-Friday, or weekends, beyond the standard 10-hour child care day or 5 day work week or have emergency child care needs. The extended child care may also be used by guard or reserve members called to active duty, or when they are in training status. All patrons must be enrolled within the flight programs: Child Development Center, Youth Center or if presently in a FCC home, you are eligible to use this great program. For the latter, extended duty care may be used for a few days until the parent or parents can make permanent arrangements. All extended care hours will be provided at a certified FCC provider's home. For more information on the program, please contact FCC Coordinator Gwendolyn Jones at 606-4639/3255.

Happy Holidays!

from your
30th Services Squadron!

All Services' facilities (except Lodging and Breakers Dining Facility) will be closed Christmas Day, December 25. Hours of operation will vary for each facility through the holiday period. Call the facility, or Services Marketing at 606-0276 for information regarding closures and hours of operation.