

Base Briefs

TIP OF THE WEEK

Members are prohibited from attaching, affixing, or displaying objects, articles, jewelry, or ornamentation to or through the ear, nose, tongue, or any exposed body part including being visible through clothing. Exception: Piercing of earlobes by women is allowed but should not be extreme or excessive.

NEW LAUNCH GROUP

The 30th Launch Group recognition ceremony begins at 10 a.m. today at the Pacific Coast Club. The 30th Launch Group will activate as well the 4th Space Launch Squadron and the 1st Air and Space Test Squadron and realign the 2nd SLS into the group.

Everyone is invited to attend. Call Capt. William Heuck at 605-8486 for details.

VICE CC RETIREMENT

Team V is invited to bid a fond farewell to Col. and Mrs. Wayne Louis, 30th Space Wing vice commander, on the occasion of his retirement, Dec. 22, at noon, Cocheo Park. Cost is \$7 for E-5 and below, and \$10 for E-6 and above and civilians. Call Tech. Sgt. Scott Astrosky at 606-9308 for tickets. Menu is Tri-tip barbecue.

CLINIC CLOSURE

Vandenberg's clinic is closed Dec. 18. Call Capt. Teresa Starks at 606-3308 for details.

AFES RIBBON

Effective Oct. 1, 1999, members who have completed contingency deployments of 45 consecutive or 90 days non-consecutive may be eligible to receive the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon. Members should report to their unit CSS with deployment orders and travel voucher to check eligibility.

Once eligibility is verified, the CSS will complete the AF Form 104 authorizing the ribbon. Members should expect to see the ribbon updated to their electronic records on or around March 2004 and the ribbon should be available for purchase at clothing sales on or around Jan. 2004. Questions can be directed to unit orderly room personnel or awards and decorations at 606-7828.

ASCM RIBBON

Effective March 24, 1999 members who provided direct support for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days to one of the below listed operations, at home station or from outside of the geographic area of combat, may qualify for

See BRIEFS Page A4

Lighting up the night sky

Team V watches final Atlas IIAS launch

Successful NRO payload separation

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

With a rumble under foot, a growl through the air and a streak across the sky, an era in Vandenberg's space launch history ended.

The West Coast's last Atlas IIAS rocket successfully launched from Space Launch Complex-3 East at 2:04 a.m. Tuesday.

The launch vehicle carried a national security payload for the National Reconnaissance Office.

The Atlas IIAS, built by Lockheed-Martin, evolved from the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile program. The first Atlas II was launched Feb. 10, 1992 at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

The Atlas booster stands at 159 feet, carries 380,000 pounds of fuel and can generate 494,500 pounds of thrust. It's designed to put payloads into low-earth orbits.

The current Atlas II family has delivered more than 50 satellites into orbit in the past eight years.

The successful launch ended a journey that began in March.

The 2nd Space Launch Squadron's Atlas launch team began stacking the Atlas IIAS in March, said 2nd Lt. Brian Love, 2nd SLS booster operations controller.

At the customer's request, the

launch was delayed, which left the booster in a storage phase until late August when a new launch date was established. The unit then began prepping for the new launch window by attaching and testing the payload and fueling the launch vehicle.

Although it's been two years since the last Atlas IIAS launch here, the 2nd SLS has been keeping busy preparing for this day to come.

The 2nd SLS has performed launch rehearsals during the two-year window, said Capt. Lorne Serpa, mission planner.

The unit has completed seven launch rehearsals specifically for this mission.

During these mock missions the crews reacted to a host of problems including simulated fueling, radio, tracking and relay problems.

The long hours of preparation paid off with the successful launch, but the 2nd SLS didn't bask in the glory too much.

Maj. Tom Steele, 2nd SLS director of operations and a member of the last Atlas E team said there's not really a lot of sadness over the last Atlas IIAS because the follow on Atlas V program has already begun.



Spectators watched the launch from a viewing area at the rod and gun club here.



The Atlas IIAS launched from South Vandenberg at 2:04 a.m. Tuesday.

From then to now

Launching Vandenberg's milestone rockets

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

No one likes being last usually, but when it comes to space launches, being last can be a milestone. And Maj. Tom Steele, 2nd Space Launch Squadron, is on his second milestone.

He made his 'last' debut as a launch controller during the final Atlas E launch in 1995, and after an assignment to Air Force Space Command at Peterson AFB, Colo., he returned as launch director for Vandenberg's final Atlas IIAS launch Tuesday. Returning to Vandenberg was like coming home for Steele.

"It kind of weird going down to south base and looking where your launch pad use to be and it's just a piece of concrete," Steele said. "It was beautiful when we were here last time, we would take pictures of it at nighttime with the lights on it." Not only has that Atlas E pad changed, but so have Air Force launch procedures.

"The biggest change as far as the launches go is the amount of work that is put in to a launch now," Steele said. "The launch rehearsals are so robust. When I got here the first time, it was a new mission area for space command and a lot of the disciplines were rooted in engineering and acquisition. Now the discipline is operation - with that the mission training changed also."

He added the Atlas V program begins now that the Atlas IIAS has successfully lifted off.

Although Steele doesn't know if he will play a role in the Atlas V program, he said he would welcome the opportunity.

"I don't know what the future holds for me," Steele said. "It's been crazy since I graduated from college and joined the Air Force. Every kid dreams about being an astronaut. I won't ever be that but I'm about as close as you can get at least being involved in something like this is great."



Maj. Tom Steele, 2nd Space Launch Squadron

"I grew up on a small farm in Illinois, I never dreamed, in my wildest dreams, I would be involved in the space program," Steele said. "Getting here can only happen in America, I'm convinced of that."

He remembers being woken by his parents late at night to watch the first men walking on the moon from the family room on their black and white television.

He left the small farm in Dorsey, Illinois and entered school at Southern Illinois University. He ended up joining the Air Force to help pay for his education.

Steele began his career as a missileer in the 319th Missile Squadron at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo. He went on to cross over to the space launch side, spending time here at Vandenberg as well as Peterson.

"I never dreamed I would be sitting here this many years later, let alone the country giving me the opportunity to launch rockets," Steele said. "That's the thing I'm proudest of: that a kid can come from that background and be given this opportunity."

Team V voters vital

By 2ND LT. VALERIE SOLIS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

With the New Year quickly approaching and elections right around the corner, Federal Voting Assistance Program officials began preparations for their area representatives Thursday during a Voting Assistance Officer workshop.

"The FVAP mission is to inform and educate U.S. citizens worldwide of the right to vote, to foster voting participation, and to protect the integrity of, and enhance, the electoral process," said Maj. Mark Edens, 30th Space Wing voting assistance officer.

"2004 is an important year for voting because we'll be voting on the President and Vice President, 34 Senators, 435 Representatives, and 13 state governors and state referenda," Edens said. "Right now the Air Force has 76 percent voting participation, that needs to improve."

Heading the workshop is the Pentagon's FVAP program analyst, Betty Collins, and deputy director, Scott Widemann.

The Air Force's voting action officer, Lt. Col. Lee Shick, says "the goal of these workshops is to provide training to installation voting officers and unit voting counselors who ultimately have the responsibility of ensuring every eligible voter is well armed to

discharge their responsibility as United States citizens to register and vote."

The FVAP administers the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. The UOCAVA covers members of the U.S. uniformed services, U.S. merchant marines, their family members, and U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.

There are more than six million potential voters, 3.7 million overseas civilians, 1.5 million military, 1.3 million military dependents of voting age, and about 100,000 federal civilian employees over-seas.

According to Edens, the 50 voting assistance officers in attendance at the workshop came from base squadrons and nearby military organizations.

As VAOs, they are assigned to assist those who fall under the UOCAVA during voting, including absentee voter registration and procedures.

The 2004-2005 voting action plan details responsibilities, timelines and resources for Department of Defense and other Executive Branch agencies.

"Each service and DoD agency has an internal voting action plan," Edens said. "It is very important to vote. It is our right to vote. By helping military people vote we can make a difference."

"It is very important to vote. It is our right to vote."

MAJ. MARK EDENS,
30TH SPACE WING
VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICER

In this issue of the



Also view

The Space & Missile Times at www.vandenberg.af.mil and click the Space & Missile Times button.



Team Vandenberg celebrates the coming holidays with an annual tree-lighting ceremony. See Page A7



Destinations Central Coast gets holiday shopping done at Prime Outlets at Pismo Beach. See Page B1

Weekend forecast
Cloudy with rainshowers Friday.
Chance for showers Saturday.
Low/High
50/65
For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KURT GIBBONS

Eatin' dirt

1st Lt. Sean Allen, 533rd Training Squadron instructor, powers his way through the belly buster Wednesday at the obstacle course here. He ran the course with 14 other company grade officers during the Vandenberg Squadron Officer Course. VSOC is an intermediate class between Air and Space Basic Course and Squadron Officer School.

This week in history ...

COMPILED BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JUANIKA GLOVER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

November 30

1954 – The first modern instance of a meteorite striking a human being occurs at Sylacauga, Alabama, when a meteorite crashes through the roof of a house and into a living room, bounces off a radio, and strikes a woman on the hip. The victim, Mrs. Elizabeth Hodges, was sleeping on a couch at the time of impact.

1956 – The TM-61 Matador becomes the Air Force's first completely tactical missile.

December 1

1824 – As no presidential candidate had received a majority of the total electoral votes in the election of 1824, Congress decides for the first time to turn over the presidential election to the House of Representatives, as dictated by the 12th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

1941 – The Civil Air Patrol is created. The B-70 bomber program is redirected by elimination of essential systems in 1959.

December 2

1961 – Following a year of severely strained relations between the United States and Cuba, Cuban leader Fidel Castro openly declares that he is a Marxist-Leninist. The announcement sealed the bitter Cold War animosity between the two nations.

1864 – Confederate General Archibald Gracie, Jr., is killed in the trenches at Petersburg, Virginia, when an artillery shell explodes near him.

December 3

1945 – The P-80 becomes the Air Force's first jet fighter

1989 – Bush and Gorbachev suggest Cold War is coming to an end. Meeting off the coast of Malta, President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev issue statements strongly suggesting that the long-standing animosities at the core of the Cold War might be coming to an end. Commentators in both the United States and Russia went farther and declared that the Cold War was over.

December 4

1991 – Journalist Terry Anderson, the last and longest-held American hostage in Lebanon, is freed by his Islamic Holy War captors after being held for 2,454 days.

1992 – President George Bush orders 28,000 U.S. troops to Somalia, a war-torn East African nation where rival warlords were preventing the distribution of humanitarian aid to thousands of starving Somalis.

December 5

1907 – Wilbur Wright offers the government an airplane capable of carrying two people for \$25,000.

1945 – Rumors of strange disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle begin when five U.S. Navy Avenger torpedo-bombers comprising Flight 19 take off from the Ft. Lauderdale Naval Air Station in Florida on a routine three-hour training mission. They never returned.

Two hours after the flight began, the leader of the squadron reported that his compass and back-up compass had failed

and that his position was unknown. The other planes experienced similar malfunctions.

Radio facilities on land were contacted to find the location of the lost squadron, but none were successful. After two more hours of confused messages from the fliers, a distorted radio transmission from the squadron leader was heard at 6:20 p.m., apparently calling for his men to prepare to ditch their aircraft simultaneously because of lack of fuel. By this time, several land radar stations finally determined that Flight 19 was somewhere north of the Bahamas and east of the Florida coast, and at 7:27 p.m. a search and rescue Mariner aircraft took off with a 13-man crew. Three minutes later, the Mariner aircraft radioed to its home base that its mission was underway.

The Mariner was never heard from again. Later, there was a report from a tanker cruising off the coast of Florida of a visible explosion seen at 7:50 p.m. The disappearance of the 14 men of Flight 19

and the 13 men of the Mariner led to one of the largest air and sea searches to that date, and hundreds of ships and aircraft combed thousands of square miles of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and remote locations within the interior of Florida. No trace of the bodies or aircraft were ever found.

1964 – The first Medal of Honor is awarded to a U.S. serviceman for action in Vietnam is presented to Army Capt. Roger Donlon of Saugerties, New York, for his heroic action earlier in the year.

December 6

1865 – The 13th Amendment to the Constitution, officially ending the institution of slavery, is ratified. "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

1949 – \$50 million Air Force funds are diverted to build U.S.-Alaska radar defenses.

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES

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This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Vandenberg AFB Public Affairs

Office. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are Air Force photos.

The Public Affairs Office reserves the right to edit all submissions for style and space.

Deadline for publication is 4:30 p.m. every Wednesday, nine days prior to publication.

Send submissions to: 30SW/PA, 747 Nebraska Ave., Room A-105, VAFB, CA 93437; via fax at DSN 276-8303 or commercial (805) 606-8303; or by e-mail to Space&MissileTimes@vandenberg.af.mil

For information about the Space & Missile Times, call the staff at (805) 606-2040.

COMMANDER ON CONSOLE

Reorg streamlines launch future

By COL. FRANK GALLEGOS
30th Space Wing commander

First of all, congratulations to everyone who worked hard on launching Vandenberg's last Atlas IIAS earlier this week. The rocket blasted off into the clear sky early Tuesday morning providing an impressive finale and 67 consecutive successful launch of this heritage system. It was a fitting tribute to a fantastic weapon system.

On Dec. 5 we formally welcome the launch group into our wing family during a ceremony at the Pacific Coast Club at 10 a.m.

Although effective Dec. 1, this ceremony recognizes months of planning from the space wings and Air Force Space Command, and approval from the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

But the result is worth the wait! This reorganization ensures better flow and accountability throughout the entire launch process through a synthesis of

both acquisitions and operations. This will enable us to continue to effectively provide assured access to space for our customers. While the biggest effects will be seen by the newly formed 30th Launch Group, 30th Operations Group and the former Detachment 9, Space and Missile Systems Center, it is important that everyone understand what changes have been made.

The 30th Operations Group will be the central nervous system of the launch process. They will provide all range support, maintenance, communications, weather and operations support, including the 76th Helicopter Flight.

The 30th Launch Group will house the current 4th Space Launch Squadron which will focus on our upcoming evolved expendable launch vehicle

30th Space Wing vectors

Unleash Human talent

Airmen

Wing mission

Knowledge to command the future

Safety

launches as well as

the 1st Air and Space Test Squadron, which will continue to test newer and better booster technologies. The third squadron under this group is the 2nd Space Launch Squadron who will continue their great work flying out the last of the heritage systems with the final Titan IV launch from here sometime in 2005.

Although Det. 9 was deactivated effective Dec. 1, the

people will continue to do great work, only instead of working for SMC, they will fall under the umbrella of the 30th LG and the 30th Space Wing. Our launch group is a perfect example of how Air Force Space Command is trying to grow our future "Space Professionals." For the first time ever, we will unite rocket scientists and engineers with operators. I am excited to lead such a dynamic group.

While today's ceremony will be brief, we plan on holding a larger formal ceremony in January.

I encourage everyone to attend today's ceremony and congratulate the newest members of the 30th Space Wing. This is a great step toward commanding our future and building the culture required for our Space Combat Command in 2025! Go HAWKS!

Commander's Action Line

Call 606-7850 or E-mail your message to actionline@vandenberg.af.mil



Col. Frank Gallegos commander

By performing Vandenberg's mission safely and effectively, Team V provides proof of its commitment to do the right thing.

Two-way communication is paramount to continued mission success. The 30th Space Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct link to me.

Through the action line you can congratulate your teammates on a job well done, affect change and express productive points of view.

I want your input and I am personally involved in every response.

The action line is always available and it's an excellent tool, but remember to

use your chain of command. Talk to your supervisors, first sergeants, services officials and other base professionals and give them a chance to solve your problem first.

Working together, we will enrich the 30th SW mission performance and the quality of life of our airmen.

When calling the action line, leave your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

CLIP AND SAVE!
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE
Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving
For a free and confidential ride home, call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 606-AADD or 605-AADD (2233).

Team V members responsible for guarding public trust

By ANTHONY BAGNANI
30th Contracting Squadron

Guardianship of the public trust is everyone's business. This means that the citizens of the United States have placed their confidence in us to care for their property. In return for this confidence, we unselfishly perform a variety of important duties to help ensure the defense of our country.

Our jobs require a level of commitment and accountability that is irreplaceable. While, for the most part, we perform them eagerly and flawlessly, there are risks associated with this endowment.

Every once in awhile, hardworking, well-intentioned government employees make mistakes – mistakes that can get them into trouble. While there are varying degrees of mistakes with varying degrees of consequences, there is one in particular that can actually make you personally liable for the cost of that error.

The mistake is known as, "entering into an unauthorized commitment." A UAC is the act of obligating government funds to contractors without the proper authority.

First and foremost, remember that dealing with contractors without the involvement of the contracting office may be the first mistake that leads you down the proverbial path to perdition. If you continue on this path and commit a UAC, you might wind up paying the charges for goods or services rendered by a contractor and receiving disciplinary action for your transgression.

A contracting officer has the sole responsibility of dealing with contractors, with the exception of special delegations of authority like the Government Purchase Card or Quality Assurance Evaluation functions. These delegations are not without restrictions and people who receive them are required to attend regular mandatory

training courses in order to receive a formal letter of appointment by a contracting officer.

The UAC is the result of a government representative stepping outside of the bounds of their authority by making an agreement that is not binding. You may think this would never happen to you, but with the ever-increasing presence of government contractors in our midst, contractors who also have the responsibility of guardianship and who often work side by side with us to get the job done, it is not difficult to make a slip of the tongue.

A UAC will not be honored after the fact unless an official who has the authority to enter into a contractual commitment ratifies it. But the process of ratifying unauthorized actions is difficult and time consuming, and depending on the circumstances, the ratification may not be honored.

Here are a few factually based

examples to further clarify the nature of unauthorized commitments: accepting subscriptions after expiration of the purchase order; having equipment repaired without a contract; ordering supplies; requesting service from a contractor because someone thought it was included in their contract; or purchasing farewell gifts such as plaques and other mementos.

So how do you know if you are operating outside the bounds of your authority? To find out, here are a few questions you should ask yourself:

Have you placed orders or discussed your needs or requirements with contractor(s) without a valid contractual instrument in place?

Have you directed any contractors to do work in excess of the contract value? Or to work beyond the period of performance?

Have you authorized new work to a contract without having a contract

modification in place?

Have you directed the contractor in any way that could change the terms and conditions of the contract instrument or be deemed outside the scope of the contract?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may have entered into an unauthorized commitment.

The best rules of thumb to remember are: 1) a contracting officer is the only one authorized who can obligate the government and 2) don't give direction to any contractor unless you have specific authority to do so from a contracting officer.

By considering the information contained in this article and exercising a little caution and sound judgment in your dealings with government contractors, you can prevent UACs, keep yourself out of trouble and maintain your stalwart image as a guardian of the public's trust.

Hometown: California
Time in service: 6 years
Time on station: 5.5 years
Role in mission: Base Honor Guard Manager, Linen Exchange Manager
How do you contribute to the wing mission? Ensure proper military honors are given to our fallen comrades.

How do you fulfill the core values? Hold a flexible schedule, on and off duty (service before self), ensure military honors are properly executed and carefully inspects all linen before accepting it on behalf of the Air Force (excellence in all we do), uphold the customs and courtesies of the Air Force, and by ensuring when I'm looked at by others, they see a professional military representative, wearing the uniform proudly (integrity first)

What do you like best about the Air Force? It gives me a chance to meet other people from different places and different cultures. I like to have a better understanding of the world I live in. And what better way than to meet different people.

How would you improve life at Vandenberg? Provide a cost of living allowance for personnel living off-base. Make more outdoor activities for people to do on this beautiful base. Make more clubs to join i.e. theater clubs, paintball, computer gaming, hiking, a theater that is not just open on weekends. Ask or observe what the junior enlisted are doing in their off-time.

What's the most exciting experience you've had so far in the Air Force? Watching a mass of people with one goal, come together as a team and achieving greatness.

Who is your role model and why? Nature. Nature shows us life is in everything. There is a method to the madness. Nature is a great teacher, you just have to look. The value of



Team Vandenberg Warrior
Staff Sgt.
Christina Pryor
30th Services Squadron

PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS

creation and destruction. Everything is in a balance. If the balance is disrupted, nature adapts.

Who is your favorite leader in history and why? Buddha. He has lived with an open mind and knew he could do anything. But with that power he had, he choose to use it to help others. Help them to open their minds and realize, anyone can reach enlightenment, only if you choose to. Finding the path is an adventure in itself.

Hobbies: Computer gaming, Renaissance Faires, alternative medicine, music, sewing, road trips, woodworking, just being with nature, and collecting shells from the beach, paintball, playing Dungeons and Dragons.

ALCON: Normal

A general threat of possible alcohol abuse or DUI activity exist.

DUI totals for the year: **18**

AADD saves: **304**

Days since last DUI: **7**

30th OG	1	14th AF	0
30th MXG	1	381st TRG	2
30th MSG	9	576th FLTS	1
30th MDG	1	Det. 9	1
30th SW	0	Others	2

Hometown: New Orleans, La
Time in service: 28 years active duty 'Air Force and 1.5 years Federal Service.

Time on station: 7 years
Role in mission: To provide the most nutritious food and best food service operation to our airmen.

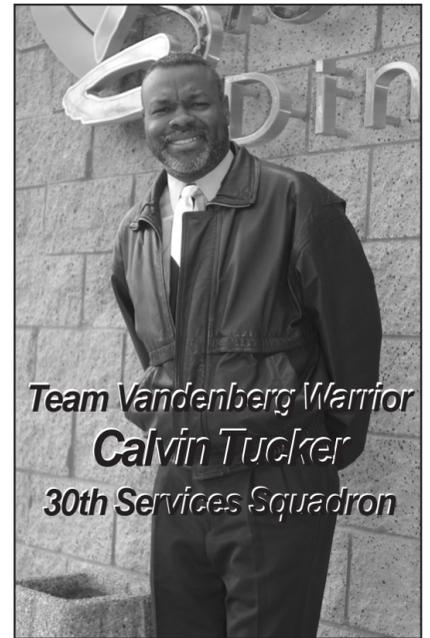
How do you fulfill the core values? By trying my best to apply them in my daily actions; by not running out the door at lunch or quitting time when a customer needs assistance, internal and external, keeping my word and doing the right thing, and finally, I don't accept mediocrity. As Dr. Martin Luther King exhorted, "if you are a garbage man strive to be the best garbage man."

What do you like best about the Air Force? I like the family atmosphere and the organizational structure; we take care of our own.

How would you improve life at Vandenberg? I think Vandenberg is great, we offer a lot to our people. Now looking through some younger people's eyes, I think we should make every effort to meet their needs.

What's the most exciting experience you've had so far in the Air Force? There are so many exciting experiences I've enjoyed but if I had to look for the most exciting, I think it would be the time I experienced an aerial refueling mission on a KC-135. While heading to the Philippines in 1980 I was able to get down near the boom operator and watch as several F-16s were refueled.

Who is your role model and why? My Dad, he was a faithful person, if he



Team Vandenberg Warrior
Staff Sgt.
Calvin Tucker
30th Services Squadron

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHUCK WALKER

gave his word you could count on it. I try my best to follow his example in keeping my word. The old saying, "my word is my bond," is a lost quality in today's world.

Who is your favorite leader in history and why? Dr. Martin Luther King because he had vision and he changed my life and our nation's destiny. He stood for a just cause to the point of losing his life.

Hobbies: Reading the Bible, enjoying my family, playing chess, shooting pool, playing basketball and watching my Lakers.



The Vandenberg Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m Call 606-3128 to find out more.

The shop is located next to the skills development center in Bldg. 11180.

New Web-based customer feedback now online

■ **PETERSON AFB, Colo.** - Air Force Space Command has officially entered the new ICE age with web-based customer feedback.

The DoD Interactive Customer Evaluation system is helping shape the future of customer service through technology. The interactive website allows customers to give direct and immediate feedback to facility managers about their products and services.

With just the click of a mouse, the system sends comments, suggestions, complaints or compliments directly to the

appropriate service provider manager for action. Add a phone number or e-mail address to receive a direct response from the manager. All that's needed is an Internet browser to access the ICE system.

Comments can be submitted by logging on to <http://ice.disa.mil>.

Managers will use the feedback to continuously review, improve and provide the highest quality service possible. The system automatically calculates the customer service rating each week and reports trend data as well. After the system has been operational for 90 days,

customers will be able to see those ratings.

The primary purpose of ICE is to improve customer service by giving leadership timely information about service quality and by improving the speed, quality and quantity of feedback from customers.

Other base organizations can be added to the ICE system by contacting the Office of the Secretary of Defense Quality Management, at (703) 588-8150, or by visiting their home page at <http://quality.disa.mil/>.

(Courtesy of the Air Force Space Command news service.)

Remember to report those expensive foreign gifts

■ **RANDOLPH AFB, Texas** - Air Force Personnel Center officials want to remind airmen that gifts received from foreign governments valued at more than \$285 must be reported.

Failure to report gifts exceeding this amount can result in a U.S. District Court penalty equal to the fair market value of the gift plus \$5,000, according to Frank Posey of the judge advocate's office here.

All Air Force people, including civilians and family members, need to know that according to the law any gift received from

a foreign government is technically U.S. property, he said. "If items received at one time are worth more than \$285, they need to be reported."

Reporting a gift doesn't necessarily mean it will be taken away.

"High value items are usually sent to the General Services Administration's vaults," said Nancy Gaisford, chief of the special trophies and awards section here. "But people can get permission to keep their gifts on official display or even purchase them back from the GSA."

Gifts must be reported within 60 days

of receipt, she said. Gifts received this year or before worth more than \$285 must be reported to:

HQ AFPC/DPPPRS
550 C St. West, Ste. 12
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714

Gifts received after January 1 must be reported to:

SAF/AA
1720 Air Force Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20330-1720

(Courtesy of the AFPC news service.)

service questions - call Bonnie Robles at 606-7483, or Judith Monroe at 606-6785.

OPINIONMETER

The 30th Medical Group asks its customers to take a short survey located in the pharmacy/primary care lobby. The "Opinionmeter" device asks for opinions regarding health care, medical staff and specific issues regarding Vandenberg's medical clinic. Call 606-3308 for details.

MUSSEL QUARANTINE

California's annual mussel quarantine has been extended indefinitely. The quarantine is issued for the entire coastline to protect consumers of sport-harvested shellfish from red tide paralytic shellfish poisoning or domoic acid poisoning. Call the public health office at 606-0648 for details.

EYE CARE

The Optometry clinic is open to all active duty and TriCare Prime dependents. Some space available appointments are available for all other categories of DoD beneficiaries. Per TriCare Prime guidelines, dependents of active duty are authorized one eye exam every 12 months. Retirees and their dependents are authorized one eye exam every twenty-four months. To schedule an appointment, call the clinic at 606-0468.

GAS MASK INSERTS

All active-duty airmen who require glasses for distance vision must have a usable pair of gas mask inserts. Call the optometry clinic at 606-0468 for details.

Crimebeat

COMPILED BY SENIOR AIRMAN
EDWARD PANAS
30th Security Forces Squadron



Dec. 1

Minors in major trouble - 1:35 a.m.

An airman reported a suspicious female wandering around Bldg. 13675 (Security Forces). Investigation revealed the

21-year-old non-base affiliated female was intoxicated. She said she was lost after leaving three other non-base affiliated females in the Peacekeeper dormitory. Patrolmen responded to the dormitory and discovered the three girls accompanied by three airmen in their respective rooms. All were intoxicated and under 21. All three airmen were apprehended for failure to obey an order and released to their first sergeant.

Bite me - 4:30 p.m.

An airman's wife reported a neighbors' dog bit her husband at a quarters on Del Cielo Court. Investigation revealed the airman stuck his hand under the neighbors' fence to retrieve a ball and voila his hand was bit.

Up in smoke - 6:04 p.m.

The South Gate sentry suspected a civilian contractor possibly under the influence of a controlled substance... besides he told the sentry he smoked a joint prior to arriving. A Santa Barbara County Sheriff's deputy placed him under arrest. His base credentials were seized.

"Alarming" trend:

In the past 30 days there were ten facility alarms caused by human error. The primary reason was attributed to users entering incorrect Personal Identification Numbers. The remainder appears to be from accidental duress activation and/or opening an alarmed door prior to deactivating the alarm. The best way to combat these types of alarms is to recall your PIN well in advance of entering the alarmed area and ensuring deactivation of the alarm has occurred prior to entering the facility.

***Editor's note: Although the Space & Missile Times may make light of some blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*

Nov. 25

Can you hear me now? - 9:05 a.m.

The Main Gate sentry reported a Ford Explorer failed to stop for an identification check. A patrolman quickly stopped the vehicle on California Boulevard. The civilian contractor said an apparent "miscommunication" occurred. Her base credentials were verified and she was cautioned on entering the gates properly.

Christmas in November? - 12:50 p.m.

A Vandenberg Base Exchange detective reported detaining a retired sailor's wife for shoplifting. Investigation revealed she departed the store without paying for over \$60 in cosmetics. She was cited into Federal court and released.

Nov. 27

Just in the nick of time - 1:25 p.m.

A patrolman observed a vehicle driving erratically on Highway 1. Upon stopping the vehicle, he discovered the non-base affiliated female was in insulin shock. He summoned an ambulance and she was transported to the Lompoc Hospital Emergency Room.

Nov. 28

Medical emergency - 4:12 p.m.

A retired soldier entered the law enforcement desk experiencing shortness of breath. The desk sergeant summoned an ambulance, and he was transported to the Lompoc Hospital Emergency Room.

Nov. 29

Suspected Vandalism - 2:57 p.m.

An airman reported his vehicle was vandalized. Investigation revealed scratches to the driver's side quarter panel.

The airman said he believed the damage occurred in Arroyo Grande. He was referred to the Arroyo Grande Police to file a report.

Briefs

From Page A1

the Air and Space Campaign Medal. Operations that qualify are ALLIED FORCE (March 24 - July 20, 1999), JOINT GUARDIAN (June 11, 1999 to TBD), ALLIED HARBOUR (April 4 - Sept. 1, 1999), SUSTAIN HOPE/SHINING HOPE (April 4 - July 10, 1999), NOBLE ANVIL (March 24 - July 20, 1999), KOSOVO TASK FORCES HAWK (April 5 - June 24, 1999), SABER (March 31 - July 8, 1999), FALCON (June 11, 1999 to TBD), and HUNTER (April 1 - Nov. 1, 1999).

No member is eligible for both an ASCM and a DoD Campaign/Service medal awarded during a single tour in an ASCM designated operation. Members should report to their MPF awards and decorations office with TDY orders and travel voucher to determine eligibility.

DORM MANAGEMENT

The 30th Mission Support Group has an immediate opening for a dorm manager. The position is for Chief, Unaccompanied Housing and is a two-year controlled tour.

Highly motivated master sergeants are encouraged to apply by sending a letter of recommendation from their commander, and copies of their last three EPRs to 30 MSG/CD. Submission deadline is Dec. 12. Call Senior Master Sgt. Brian Joseph at 606-2744 for details.

TRICARE SERVICE

Vandenberg has two beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinators on hand to answer TriCare

Around the Air Force

Children define freedom with essays

By ARMY 1ST LT. STEVE ALVAREZ
Special to American Forces
Press Service

■ WASHINGTON — When posed the question of what freedom meant, a 10-year-old student's entry to an essay contest gave a thoughtful response. The reply was uncharacteristic of a mind that might ordinarily turn to skateboards, baseball and video games.

Kevin Young from San Diego gave a response indicative of the challenge faced by judges for the Weekly Reader's Operation Tribute to Freedom contest.

The Weekly Reader Corp., a publisher of classroom periodicals that reach more than 10 million students each week, sponsored the patriotic essay contest by asking students to submit essays that answered the question: What does freedom mean to you?

Young's essay, "Freedom," compared his everyday life to children living on the other side of the world.

Young wrote: "I am a ten-year-old boy living in the United States

of America; a country that stands for freedom. Today, I woke to the chirping of birds. On the other side of the world, another boy is waking up to the frightening sound of blasting (bombs).

"At night, as I slept in my nice, warm bed, I dreamed of a world filled with freedom for the little boy and girl on the other side of the world."

Young's essay was named the "best of the best," earning him a trip to the Pentagon in July 2004 to become a "kid correspondent." Young will file stories for Weekly Reader from Washington.

Winners in the contest are posted on the Weekly Readers Web site at www.weeklyreader.com/pentagoncontest.asp. Their excerpts will be published on the Defend America Web site at www.DefendAmerica.mil.

Tax statements available on myPay

■ ARLINGTON, Va. — Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have compiled a schedule of dates when servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through

myPay.

Military members and Department of Defense civilian employees will have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For assistance, users can call myPay customer support at (800) 390-2348.

Officials are projecting the tax statements will be posted on myPay during the following periods.

- ♦ Military annuitants: Dec. 13 to 18
- ♦ DoD civilians: Dec. 24 to 29
- ♦ Army, Air Force and Navy reserve components: Dec. 26 to Jan. 1
- ♦ Military retirees: Jan. 1 to 5
- ♦ Marine Corps active duty and Reserve: Jan. 13 to 21
- ♦ Army, Air Force and Navy active duty: Jan. 16 to 26

AF announces prom sweepstakes

■ RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Air Force officials announced the start of the fourth annual "Win the Perfect Prom Sweepstakes" Dec. 1.

The sweepstakes, which runs through Feb. 29, offers high-school students a chance to win prizes, including the grand prize, an all-expenses-paid prom and a

live prom concert by recording artists Wakefield.

Air Force officials are holding the prom sweepstakes to reinforce and expand a message for high-school students: "Be safe. Be smart. Be sober. Make the right choice."

Students can enter online at www.airforce.com or www.perfect-proms.com.

Children receive letters from Santa

■ EIELSON AFB, Alaska — Combat weather flight airmen here will once again help Santa send out thousands of signed, North Pole-postmarked letters to children worldwide.

The Santa's Mailbag program started in 1954 by 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron airmen, and has been carried on by those of the 354th Operations Support Squadron.

The volunteers will continue to process letters through Christmas. The flight must receive letters to Santa by mid-December to ensure a reply before Christmas.

Children can write to Santa at: Santa's Mailbag
354th OSS/OSW
2827 Flightline Ave. Suite 100B
Eielson AFB AK 99702-1520

There is no cost for the letters, but self-addressed stamped envelopes or donations to help defray the cost of postage are accepted.

(These articles are courtesy of Air Force Print News. To view the full stories go to the Air Force Web site at www.af.mil)

Message Home

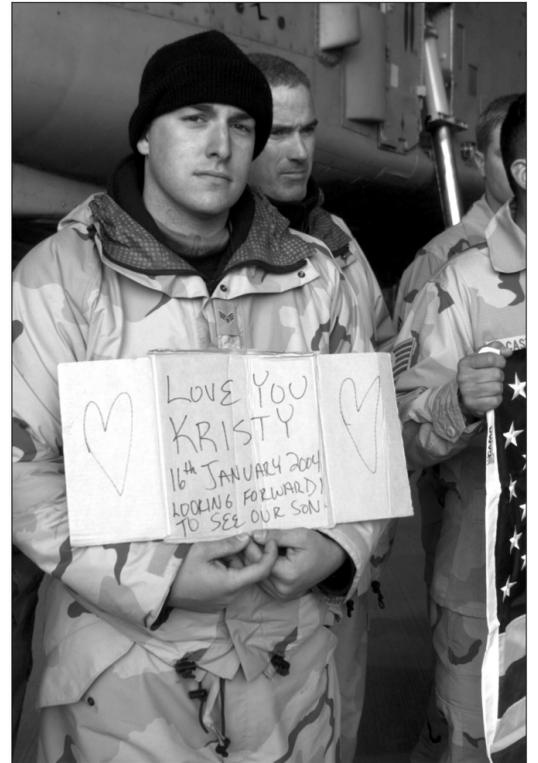


PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. BRIAN DAVIDSON

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Senior Airman Patrick Blevins sends a message to his wife, Kristy, and his unborn son during a national television news broadcast Nov. 30. The baby is expected to be born Jan. 16. Blevins is deployed here from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Babies help parents workout

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SUSAN STOUT
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

■ LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — Balancing a career, family and fitness program is not always easy.

A training routine, created by fitness trainer Mindy Mylrea here, may help new parents get fit and spend quality time with their babies.

The routine is designed for mothers and fathers with a 20- to 30-pound baby and should be done twice a week for about an hour. Instead of hoisting weights, parents use their child.

The following are ways a child can help parents get fit:

♦ Piggyback squat: Let the baby climb onto your back, wrapping his or her hands around your neck and legs around your waist. Hold onto the child's arms. Stand with your feet hip-width apart, keeping your abdomen tight and back straight. Slowly bend your knees to lower yourself until your thighs are as close to parallel with the ground as you can get. Perform one to two sets of eight to 12 repetitions.

♦ Quadricep lift: Sit in chair with feet together, holding onto the sides of the chair with your hands. Have your baby sit on your feet, facing you and holding onto your calves. With abs tucked in, slowly straighten your legs to lift your feet and your baby off the ground. Hold for one count; then bend your knees to lower your feet back to

the floor. Perform one to two sets of eight to 12 reps.

♦ Calf raise: Sitting in a chair with feet placed together on the floor, put your baby on your lap facing you and hold him or her around the waist. Raise your heels off the floor until the baby's weight is on the balls of your feet. Hold for one count; then return to starting position. Perform one to two sets of eight to 12 reps.

♦ Overhead press: Stand with your feet about hip-width apart, keeping your abs tight and back straight. Bending your knees, pick your baby up off the floor, and lift him or her over your

LUKE AFB, Ariz. — Debbie Diveney lifts her daughter, Julianna, in an exercise called the overhead press, which is part of a routine designed to help parents get fit while spending quality time with their babies.

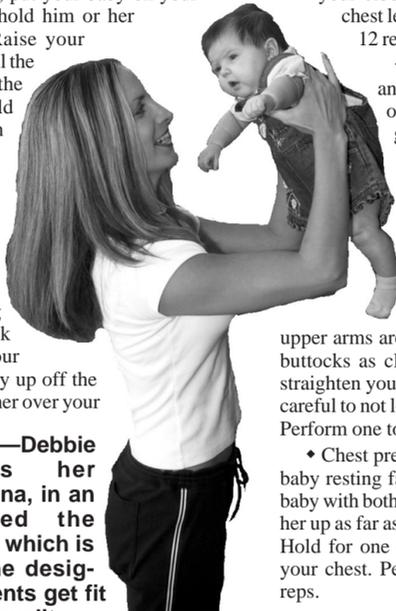


PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. COREY DRURY

head, straightening your legs as you extend your arms. Be careful not to lock your knees or elbows. Bend your elbows and knees to lower your baby to chest level. Perform one to two sets of eight to 12 reps.

♦ Triceps dip: Sit on the edge of a chair and place your baby in your lap with his or her arms wrapped as far as they can go around your waist. Place your hands on the sides of the chair, palms down and scoot your buttocks off the chair, making sure your thighs and calves form a 90-degree angle. Lower yourself by bending your elbows, keeping them pointing toward the wall behind you (not out toward the sides). Lower yourself until your upper arms are parallel with the floor, keeping your buttocks as close to the chair as possible. Slowly straighten your arms to raise yourself back up, being careful not to lock your elbows at the top of the move. Perform one to two sets of eight to 12 reps.

♦ Chest press: Lie face up on the floor, with your baby resting facedown on your chest. Holding your baby with both hands, extend your arms, lifting him or her up as far as you can without locking your elbows. Hold for one count; then lower your baby back to your chest. Perform one to two sets of eight to 12 reps.

♦ Push-up: Lie facedown on the floor with your hands directly under your shoulders, fingers pointing

away from your feet and your baby resting on your back. Straighten your arms to lift your body away from the floor, keeping your back straight, buttocks tucked, abs tight and head aligned with your spine. Hold for one count; then bend your elbows to lower yourself to starting position. Perform one to two sets of eight to 12 reps.

♦ Crunch: Lie face up on the floor with your knees bent, feet flat on the floor and abs tight. Let your baby sit on your stomach, leaning against your thighs, facing you. Loosely lace your fingers behind your head, and lift your upper body until your shoulders are two to three inches off the floor. Hold for two counts; then return to starting position. Perform 25 reps.

♦ Oblique crunch: Lie face up on the floor with your knees bent, legs twisted to the left, right knee on top of left. Have your baby sit on your right outer thigh with his or her feet touching the floor for balance. With your fingers laced loosely behind your head, slowly raise your upper body toward your baby, keeping your elbows out to the sides. Hold for two counts; then slowly return to starting position. Perform 15 reps; then repeat on other side.

♦ Rocking cool-down: Lie face up on the floor with knees bent and feet flat on the floor. Let your baby lie facedown on your chest and wrap your arms around him or her. Gently rock your body from side to side for two minutes, letting your baby hear your heartbeat. Both of you can now relax.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Around the DoD

Is there room for deterrence in 21st century?

■ **WASHINGTON** – During the Cold War, deterrence was at the heart of American strategy. The nuclear weapon triad of land-based missiles, bombers and submarine-launched missiles deterred the Soviet Union from attacking the United States and its allies.

In 2003, the Soviet Union is gone; Warsaw Pact nations are joining NATO; and the greatest threats facing the United States and its allies come from asymmetric sources.

The strategic environment of the 21st century is more complicated than it was during the superpower confrontation. Weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them are proliferating.

Is there a place for the policy of deterrence in the 21st century?

Yes, said Adm. James Ellis Jr., commander of U.S. Strategic Command. Ellis spoke at the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis and U.S. Navy-sponsored Fletcher Conference here today.

Ellis said that all legs of the traditional nuclear triad remain relevant today, but the missions, duties and tools have expanded.

The definition of deterrence is still the prevention of aggression threatening the United States, its allies and friends and vital interests, he said.

Soldier dies after ambush on Iraqi, Jordanian border

■ **WASHINGTON** – More than 100 persons were stopped from entering Iraq from the Jordanian border Dec. 1, while elsewhere in Iraq enemy forces ambushed a U.S. patrol, mortally wounding a U.S. soldier, according to U.S. Central Command.

The American patrol came under small-arms fire near Habbaniyah, CENTCOM reported.

The soldier was seriously injured in the attack, was medically evacuated, and later died of his wounds. The name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Three enemy attackers were captured during the engagement, CENTCOM noted, and are being

questioned by authorities.

Also Dec. 1, according to CENTCOM, coalition forces stopped 119 people and seven vehicles from entering Iraq at Třebil on the Jordanian border. The transients lacked passports or other valid documentation.

CENTCOM also reported that 82nd Airborne Division soldiers and troops from other units conducted three security operations in Iraq over the past 24 hours. The U.S. cordon-and-search patrols, CENTCOM said, included joint operations with Iraqi border guards and police.

About 15 enemy troops were captured as a result of those military operations, CENTCOM reported. Elements of the division's 3rd Brigade discovered a cache near Iskandariyah.

It contained 1,606 mortar rounds of various sizes, three mortar base plates and one mortar tube. They also found bomb-making materials, a number of RPG rounds and other ammunition.

The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment continued Operation Rifles Blitz, conducting 14 raids in Ubaydi and capturing 25 personnel.

Bush surprises troops on Thanksgiving

By GENE HARPER

American Forces Press Service

■ **WASHINGTON** – About 600 troops gathered for Thanksgiving Day dinner in Baghdad had a surprise guest: their commander in chief, President Bush.

Under the security of darkness and tight-lipped staff secrecy, the president arrived in Baghdad on Thanksgiving Day at Baghdad International Airport for a reported 2.5 hour visit.

Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, Combined Joint Task Force 7 commander, and coalition administrator L. Paul Bremer were just finishing remarks to soldiers of the two Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 1st Armored and 82nd Airborne divisions and other guests at the start of what was supposed to be a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

"It says here that I'm supposed to read the president's Thanksgiving proclamation," Bremer said. "But I thought the deal was for the most senior person to read it. Is that you, sir?" Bremer asked, turning to Sanchez. "Let's see if we've got anybody more senior here who can read the president's Thanksgiving speech. Is there anybody back there more senior than us?"

On cue, Bush walked into the area and up to the podium before a stunned crowd of soldiers. They immediately jumped to their feet and hailed him with sustained,



PHOTO BY TINA HAGER

BAGHDAD, IRAQ -- President Bush meets with troops and serves Thanksgiving Day Dinner at the Bob Hope Dining Facility, Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, Nov. 27.

thunderous applause and shouts of "hooah." The president's watery eyes showed his reaction.

"I was just looking for a warm meal somewhere. Thanks for inviting me," Bush said.

He acknowledged Iraqi Governing Council members on hand. "We're pleased you're joining us for one of our nation's great holidays, a chance to give thanks to the Almighty for the many blessings we've received."

"Today Americans are gathering with their loved ones to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives," the president said. "I bring a message on behalf of America: We thank you for your service. We're proud of you, and America stands solidly behind

you. "I'm proud to be your commander in chief," Bush concluded. "I bring greetings from America. May God bless you all."

The president then made his way through the crowd of delighted service members, shaking hands, and talking and posing for photos with several them.

He reportedly served food to the troops and ate. He boarded Air Force One and was wheels up 8 p.m. Baghdad time for the trip back to the States.

(These articles are courtesy of American Forces Information Service. To view the full stories go to the Department of Defense Web site at www.defenselink.mil)

And they're off !



PHOTO BY NAVY AIRMAN JASON LONDON

USS KITTY HAWK -- Petty Officer 3rd Class Derrick Clay signals an all clear during a "no-load" test on the number four catapult .

This won't hurt a bit



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JEFFREY WOLFE

IRAQ -- In a small village in northern Iraq, Capt. Barry Seip of Task Force 1-63 Armor, inoculates a villager against tuberculosis during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Operation Iraqi Freedom is a multinational coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people,

On the move



PHOTO BY MARGO WRIGHT

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. — 2nd Lt. Earl Elam (right) keeps a close eye on his surroundings as his unit moves out to rescue a "downed pilot" during a field training exercise here.

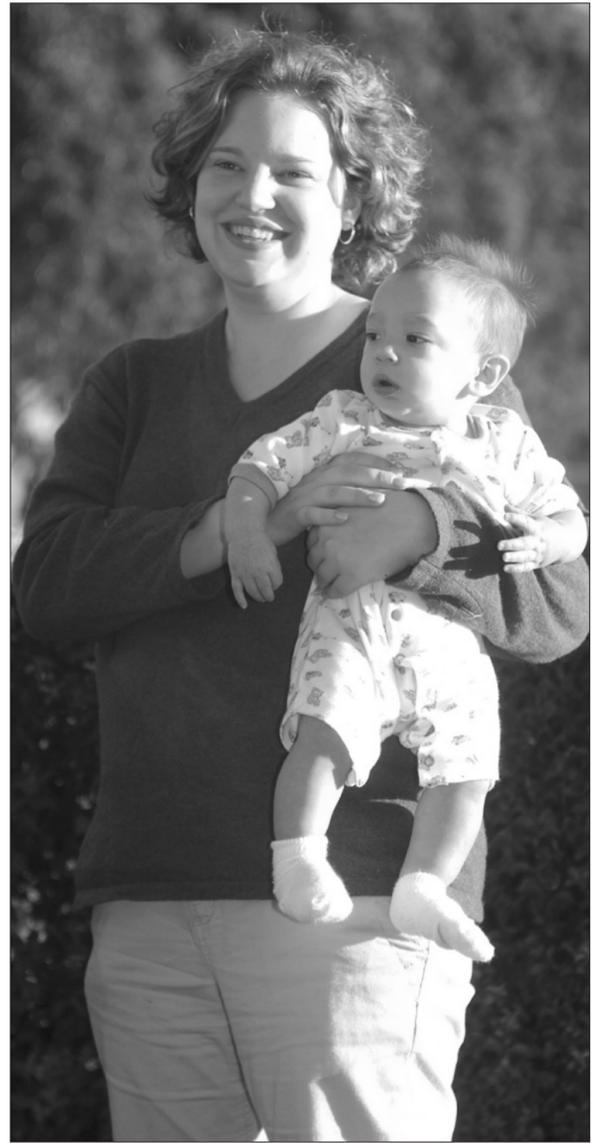


Santa waves to onlookers during the holiday parade.



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. CHUCK WALKER

Janine Doctor, 9, met Santa at the parking lot of Bldg. 11777 before the tree lighting ceremony.



Angela Agcaoili and her six-month-old son, Noah, watch the parade in base housing.



Brownie Troop 319 sang Christmas carols during the ceremony.



Kaitlyn, 5, and her sister Sara Seagren, 3, watch the parade go by. The parade featured vehicles from security forces, civil engineers, medical and a local car club.

Santa and Team V light up base tree



Santa and 30th Space Wing Commander Col. Frank Gallegos light the tree Wednesday night.

Winter softball

30 CES stomps 576th FLTS 30-1

By Staff Sgt. Chuck Walker
30th Space Communications Squadron

One of the tell-tell signs that your team is back on the right track is picking up a big, blowout victory.

That is exactly what the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron softball team did Tuesday night.

CE pounded out 32 hits and almost scored as many runs as they demolished the 576th Flight Test Squadron 30-1 in Intramural Winter League play.

Drew Cuevas led a slew of batters for CE that had multiple hits, going five-for-five with two doubles, a home run and six RBIs.

"I've been watching how the defense is playing me and trying to hit to certain spots," Cuevas said. "If the outfield is playing in close, I try to hit it over their heads. If there is a big gap, I'm trying to place it in the gap. Ball placement has been the key. We're all hitting real good right now."

The 576th can attest to that.

CE took all the drama out of this game from the get-go, scoring nine runs in the first inning and 15 runs in the second inning to take a commanding 24-1 lead.

But unlike some of their games earlier this season, CE did not let up once it had the lead and tried to remain focused throughout, despite the big lead.

Player-coach James Goode said that is something he has been trying to get across to his players and it has been working. CE has won four games in a row to move into a tie for second place in the Winter League standings with a 5-2 record.

"We had some big leads earlier in the season and we let up and those teams were able to come back and beat us," Goode said. "Since then we've been trying to not let up at all despite the score on the field. We're not going to stop until we win or they call the game."

Keeping that focus has definitely paid dividends for CE. Goode said one area where that focus has made the most difference has been on defense.

"We've come a long way since the beginning of the season on defense, especially with errors," Goode said. "Earlier in the season, we would get a lead, then get the big head, and start making dumb mistakes in the field. But now we keep our focus and we've cut down on our errors. We're just focusing on getting the three outs."

Defense was definitely evident against the 576th. CE was able to hold the 576th to only five hits.

Cuevas, who is CE's pitcher, said that when his defense is playing like it did against the 576th it makes his job a piece of cake.

"Our defense the last two games has been awesome," Cuevas said. "When we're winning, it is a whole lot easier to throw strikes than it is when the game is close. Our defense though, is the reason we're winning games right now."

For the 576th, it was a matter of running into a determined team and a determined fog. CE took advantage of a lot of defensive miscues with the 576th losing the ball in the dense fog on Vandenberg most of the night.

576th player-coach Mike Keen said poor play by his defense definitely hurt



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN HILL

30th Civil Engineer Squadron base runner Jeff Barry slides safely into second as 576th Flight Test Squadron infielders Trisha Heard and Matt Blank scramble to end a second inning that produced a commanding 23-run lead for CE.

the cause.

"Our infield wasn't playing well, letting too many balls get through and we were losing the ball in the lights and fog - just little things," Keen said. "Having two weeks off also didn't help. We just need to get together, get some level swings going and we'll be alright."

Keen said base running and focus will be key in his team being able to turn things around.

"We need to work on our base running and paying attention to what

we're doing," Keen said. "We also need to work on stopping the ball in the infield, not necessarily catching it, but stopping it so we can hold them to one base, instead of two or three bases."

Now that his team is second in the standings, CE will try to keep it rolling.

"We just need to come to win and actually have some fun out here," Goode said. "When we're not worried about the score and keep our heads in the game, that's when we play our best ball. Just get the three outs and keep going."

Intramural Winter Softball

The winter softball league plays Monday through Thursday at the field across from the fitness center.

The 12 teams compete for the prize of base champions. Playoffs begin at the end of regular season.

Sports Briefs

SQUASH TOURNAMENT

A squash tournament opened to all begins at noon Dec. 12 at the squash courts behind the annex.

FITNESS CONTEST

The 'Walk Your Way Through the Holidays' fitness contest begins Monday and runs through

Dec. 19. Sign up at the fitness or health and wellness center.

YOUTH GOLF LESSONS

Marshallia Ranch Golf course holds youth golf lessons at 1:30 p.m. Saturday for youth ages eight and up.

CGO COURSE RUN

The Company Grade Officer Course run is at 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the obstacle course. Call 2nd Lt. Korinne Houston at 605-0782.

Intramural Sports

Winter Softball

Team	Wins	Losses	Team	Wins	Losses	Team	Wins	Losses
SFS No. 1	3	1	NRO	4	3	WS	3	3
SFS No. 2	4	2	14AF	0	4	533RD	2	3
CES No. 1	5	2	HAWKS	3	0	576TH	4	4
CES No. 2	2	3	1 ASTS	6	0	392ND	1	6



Outlets provide cheaper shopping opportunities

By REBECCA KERR
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Christmas lights are up. Santa is at the mall. And you can't put off Christmas shopping any longer. My husband and I decided to get started on our holiday shopping. We hit the area outlet malls in search of quality gifts that would not break our budget.

We headed north on the 101 hoping for small crowds and big sales. Our first stop was the Prime Outlets at Pismo Beach. The outlet is just a quick 35 miles from the base and has more than 40 stores to choose from. Although most are clothing stores, I found the outlet offered much more than fashion.

The Publisher's Warehouse is a book lover's dream offering children and adult books in hard and soft cover. Most of the titles run between \$4 and \$7 for hardbacks and even less for paperbacks. The book selection at Publishers Warehouse is rather extensive but finding a specific title might prove difficult since they don't carry recent best sellers. I was able to find excellent gifts for the family history nut, sports fanatic, and computer geek at Publisher's Warehouse. And with almost half the store dedicated to young readers, finding reading material for children and teens is a breeze.

After carrying our trove of books to the car, we decided to begin searching for gifts for the family cooks. Corning Revere, Kitchen Collection, and Mikasa are all found at Prime Outlets. Corning Revere and Kitchen Collection offer great deals on high quality kitchenware. They carry everything from basic stainless steel cookware to gourmet gadgets and small appliances. Although items were priced reasonably for their quality, they were more expensive than plastic items from discount stores. However, true cooks will definitely appreciate the quality and value of cookware from Corning Revere and Kitchen Collection.

Mikasa offers china, fine dinnerware, and crystal at below retail prices. Items from Mikasa really aren't mail-friendly so sending them to family was out of the question. However, there were several items that I added to my personal



PHOTOS BY REBECCA KERR

The Prime Outlets at Pismo Beach provide the same customer service as the malls but with cheaper prices.

Christmas wish list.

With the family bookworms and culinary experts taken care of, we decided to hit the clothing stores to finish our Christmas shopping. The best part of outlet shopping is designer clothing at low prices. Most clothing ran about 20 to 25 percent below retail with some merchandise marked an additional 50 to 70 percent off. The Tommy Hilfger, Bass, Jockey, and Levi outlets offer good deals on men's and women's clothing. My husband tried to keep me away from the Anne Klein Factory Store and the Casual Corner Annex, but he was not successful. Both stores had an extensive selection of women's clothing and caused my personal wish list to grow. But the day's best deal was found at the Osh Kosh Outlet. We were able to purchase an entire outfit for my husband's 10-year-old cousin for only \$15.

By this time, we were down to just the few "hard to shop for" family members. So we checked out the various remaining outlets including the Perfumania, Samsonite, and Sunglass Hut/Watch Station outlets.

My husband tried in vain to keep me out of the shoe stores but the lure was too strong. Although there were huge

sales at the Shoe Pavilion, Factory Brand Shoes, and Nine West outlet stores, I stuck to budget and made no purchases.

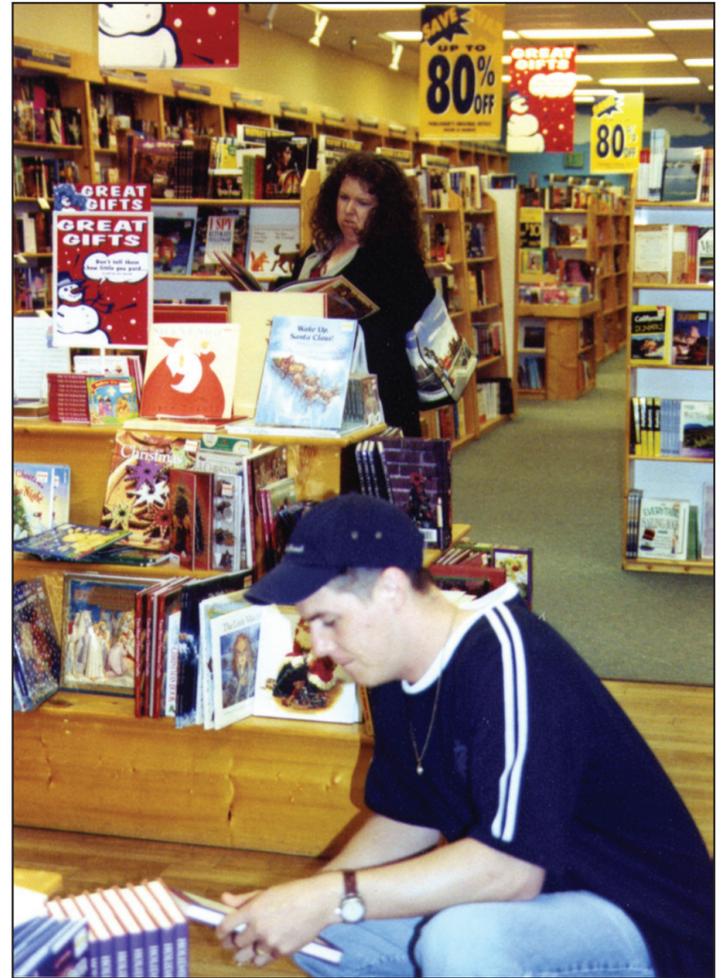
It was well after lunch so my husband and I decided to grab a bite to eat and regroup. With numerous restaurants near the Prime Outlets, opportunities for grabbing a quick snack or long lunch are readily available.

Over lunch we discovered there was only one gift left to purchase - my father's. With his love of tools in mind, I remembered the Black & Decker outlet located at the Atascadero Factory Outlet Mall only 30 miles north of Pismo Beach. So we decided to continue up the 101 to Atascadero and check out their outlets.

The Atascadero Factory Outlet Mall is much smaller than Prime Outlets at Pismo Beach and offers many of the same stores. However in addition to the Black & Decker outlet, they also have a Polo Ralph Lauren outlet.

Depending on what you are looking for, these two stores alone may be worth the drive. The Black & Decker outlet offers hand tools, power tools, and small appliances at least 20 percent below retail with some sets and kits offering even greater savings.

They also offer a display of gifts ideas under \$15. The last gift was



Discounts are found in abundance at the outlets for holiday savings.

purchased, but I had to stop by the Polo Ralph Lauren outlet. There I found men's and women's shirts under \$15 and sweaters under \$20. Perfume, jewelry, and linens can also be found at the Polo Ralph Lauren outlet and are priced well under retail. Ralph helped my personal wish list double, and I am hoping my husband took note.

We finished our Christmas shopping and were well within our budget. And

since our family members live several states away, I can tell you we spent an average of \$15 per person and came home with high quality, name brand items.

We spent a total of \$152 and came home with \$426 dollars of merchandise equaling a 64 percent savings off the retail price. Our families will think we broke the bank this Christmas when we really came in under budget.



Destinations Central Coast WANTS YOU!

Have you visited a Central Coast destination lately? Share it with the rest of Team V! Send in a 400 - 600 word rough draft about your adventure! Send submissions to: space&missiletimes@vandenberg.af.mil

Community Calendar

5 FRI **Grant program** - General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program awards \$1,500 college education grants to eligible candidates. Visit the Air Force Aid office at the family support center or the Society's web site www.afas.org for information and application for this grant.

Youth Basketball scholarships - Applications are located at the youth center and base library.

Cell phone collection - Family Advocacy is collecting used cell phones and accessories to be recycled for people involved in domestic violence.

Collection boxes are located at the commissary, base exchange and medical clinic. Call 606-8217.

Low walk-up fares - American

Airlines expanded its military fares to next fall. The fares include no advance-purchase requirements and no change fees. Call (800) 433-7300.

5 FRI **Hunters Against Hunger** - donate wild game to the needy. Call 606-6804.

Hebrew, Bar Mitzvah - classes are available. Call 734-3311.

Free car seats - to E-4 and below. Call 606-5338.

The Vandenberg Airmen's Attic - needs donations of items necessary to set up a household. The program is open to military personnel E-5 and below with an Air Force Form 552 from their first sergeant. Call 606-5484.

G.I. Java seeks musicians - G.I. Java wants local musicians to play at the coffeehouse during

business hours. Solo performers and bands are welcome. Call the Chapel at 606-5773 for an audition.

5 FRI **Gift of Groceries program** - The Defense Commissary Agency offers a gift certificate program that allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates to donate to military families through charitable organizations or give directly to military friends and family. Gift certificates are available online at www.commissaries.com.

Marriage enrichment counseling - offered on a one-on-one basis for married and unmarried couples. Call 606-9958.

Dads-to-New Dads and Moms-to-New Moms programs - These mentorship programs offer support to new moms and dads.

Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338.
6 SAT **Lompoc Valley Master Chorale** - 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday at the First United Methodist Church. Call 733-1677 for tickets.

8 MON **Relaxation room** - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Vandenberg Health and Wellness Center. Call 606-2221 for an appointment.

9 TUE **Stress & Self Management class** - 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Dec. 9 at the Health and Wellness Center. Learn skills to deal with conflict, relaxation techniques and positive lifestyle choices. Call 606-0039.

Vandenberg Retiree Activities Center - Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday in building 10346 in the base exchange shopping center. Call 606-5474 for more information.

9 TUE **Sign language classes** - 3 to 3:50 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the education center room E-4. The class is for children in third through fifth grades. Call (805) 734-0452.

Baby Meet - 9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the religious education center, building 16140. Baby Meet offers discussion and socialization for expectant parents and those with babies newborn through two years old. Call 734-1461.

10 WED **Mechanics of Resume Writing** - 9 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the family support

center. Call 606-0039.
10 WED **Playtime for Tots** - 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Cocheo Park. The playgroup is for parents and children ages two to five. Call 734-2098.

Catholic fellowship - Noon Wednesdays at Cocheo Park following 11:30 a.m. mass at Chapel 2.

11 THU **Risk reduction classes** - 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays at the HAWC. Call 606-2221 to sign up.

Monthly Prayer Breakfast - 6:30 a.m. Thursday in the Chapel 1 Annex.

12 SAT **Global Hearts Movie Night** - 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Chapel Annex. This is for the children so 'mom and dad' can have some quiet time.

<p>Hi-Way Drive-in Santa Maria Ph. 937-3515 GEN. ADM. \$5 KIDS 4-11 \$1</p> <p>THE CAT AND THE HAT PG 7:00 p.m. ELF PG</p> <p>Parks Plaza Buellton Buellton Ph. 688-7434</p> <p>THE CAT IN THE HAT PG DAILY 2:15-7:15 SAT-SUN 11:45</p> <p>LAST SAMAUARI R DAILY 4:00-7:15 SAT-SUN 1:00</p> <p>MASTER AND COMMANDER PG-13 DAILY 4:30 FRI-SAT-SUN 9:30</p> <p>THE HAUNTED MANSION PG</p>	<p>Movie Corner</p> <p>DAILY 2:15-4:45-7:15 FRI 9:30 SAT-SUN 11:45-9:30 TIMELINE PG-13 DAILY 2:00-4:30-7:00 FRI 9:30 SAT-SUN 11:30-9:30</p> <p>THE MISSING R DAILY 4:00-7:00 FRI 9:30 SAT-SUN 1:00-9:30</p> <p>Movies Gemini Lompoc Ph. 736-1306</p> <p>THE HAUNTED MANSION PG DAILY 4:30-7:00-9:30 SAT-SUN 11:30-2:00</p> <p>TIMELINE PG-13 DAILY 4:30-7:00-9:30 SAT-SUN 11:30-2:00</p>	<p>Movies Lompoc Lompoc Ph. 736-1558</p> <p>LAST SAMAUARI PG-13 DAILY 4:00-7:15-9:30 SAT-SUN 1:00</p> <p>THE CAT IN THE HAT PG DAILY 4:45-7:15-9:30 SAT-SUN 11:45-2:15</p> <p>GOTHIKA R DAILY 4:30-7:00-9:30 SAT-SUN 11:30-2:00</p> <p>MISSING R DAILY 4:00-7:00-9:30 SAT-SUN 1:00</p> <p>General Admission \$7 kids and seniors \$5 All shows before 5:30 p.m. \$5. Movies and times subject to change</p> <p>Call Edwards Santa Maria 10 for movie listings (800) 326-3264</p>
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The Vandenberg Food Pantry
Needs food donations Items needed are:

sugar, Bisquick, pasta sauce, pancake mix, Hamburger Helper, evaporated milk, Chicken Helper, baby wipes, crackers, soups, complete meals, cheese, brown sugar, canned macaroni & sugar, canned vegetables, rice, flour, pasta, peanuts, mixed nuts, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, diapers; sizes 3, 4, 5, juice boxes, cake mixes, frosting, canned fruit and vegetables

The food pantry is located behind the family support center. For more information on hours of operation, call 606-2960.

30th Services News

SERVICES CENTER



SANTA VISITS BASE HOUSING

If you would like Santa to visit your children in your home (base housing only), stop by the Services Center and sign up. Cost is \$5 per family. Just bring a small, wrapped gift for each child to the Services Center the day **BEFORE** your scheduled visit, and Santa will deliver them in person. Visits available **Mon-Thu, (this week), 15-18 and Dec. 22 and 23 from 6 to 8 p.m.** For more information, call Lynn Warner at 606-7976. **Volunteer Santas are needed!** If you are interested in being a volunteer Santa for the base children and their families, please contact Lynn Warner at 606-7976.

SURF LANES



\$1 per person, per game
Every Thursday night, 6 to 9 p.m.
Call Surf Lanes for details, 734-1310.

SERVICES CENTER



Massage Therapy & Day Spa

Holiday Gift Certificates & Gift Baskets are now available!

- GIFT CERTIFICATES for massages, manicures, pedicures and facials!
- GIFT BASKETS of all types and sizes are also available! Call or come by today...

Located in the Services Center • 605-4748

GOLF COURSE/PRO SHOP

Holiday Sale!

Sunday through Dec. 14

Stop by the Pro Shop and get 10 percent off any item over \$10 not already on sale. This offer does not include club sets.

Saturday - Men's Club

Monticito CC here

Wednesday - Ladies Priority

8:30 to 9:04 a.m.

Dec. 20 - Christmas Turkey Shoot

Tournament, Sign up for the 2003 Christmas Turkey Shoot at the Pro Shop.

Holiday Hours of Operation

Dec. 22. course open

Dec. 24. holiday hours*

Dec. 25. course closed

Dec. 29. course open

Dec. 31. holiday hours*

Jan 1, 2004: course closed

*Holiday hours schedule:

No rental equipment after noon.

Driving range closes at 3 p.m.

Snack bar closes at 4 p.m.

Pro Shop and clubhouse close at 5 p.m.

Call for more information, 606-0606.

Find the Missing Reindeer & Win Big!

Congratulations to **TSgt Karon Williams** for catching Comet!



TSgt Williams is now entered into our grand prize drawing for a family vacation package to **DISNEYLAND CALIFORNIA** sponsored by **WALMART** of Santa Maria (2-adults, 2-children, and hotel stay)

Listen to 106.7 My 80s My 90s My Music with Jennifer Grant in the morning for clues and winners!

-OR-

Go to www.30svs.com for more hidden clues and rules!

Be sure to hit **REFRESH** with each visit.



No Federal Endorsement Intended.

SERVICES CENTER



ATURDAY!

Family & Teen Talent Show
Come out and support our talented base performers!

7 to 9 p.m. • Vandenberg Center • FREE

Call Lynn Warner at 605-8974 or Mike Renner at 606-2152 for more information.



YOUTH CENTER

Breakfast With Santa



Dec. 13
9 to 11 a.m.
Youth Center

- Free breakfast for all
- Photo-ops with Santa
- Holiday art & crafts
- Games, bingo & raffles
- Prize giveaways

Get a prize ticket at the event, or stop by any Services' facility to sign up EARLY and get a BONUS prize ticket. Contact the Youth Center at 606-2152.

Sponsored by:

- Vandenberg Thrift Shop • Vandenberg Spouses' Club
- Armed Forces Bank • Wal-Mart of Santa Maria

NO FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT INTENDED

Donations of **CANNED GOODS** are appreciated!

PACIFIC COAST CLUB



Pizza With Santa Monday

Enjoy a special holiday Family Night during regular evening hours at Foggio's.

Cost is \$3 for kids and includes all the pizza and beverage they can eat and drink. Adults, \$5 per person.

FAMILY PIZZA SPECIAL!

Christmas Movie on the big screen TV starting at 5 p.m.! Santa will arrive at 6 p.m. with candy for the kids.

Surprise visit by Santa!



NOTICE: AUTO HOBBY SHOP will be closed through Monday for reflooring. Open regular hours Tuesday, 1 to 8 p.m.