

Base Briefs

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES HOME DELIVERY

The *Space & Missile Times* should arrive at every on-base residence by 6 p.m. each Friday. Anyone not receiving home delivery should call the Lompoc Record circulation department at 736-2313 to report the discrepancy.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The 2002 Annual Awards Banquet begins at 6 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Pacific Coast Club. The guest speaker for the event is Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kevin Williams at 605-4012.

AWARDS BANQUET PIANIST NEEDED

The 30th Space Wing annual awards committee needs an accomplished pianist to play during the annual awards banquet Feb. 21. If interested, call Senior Master Sgt. Paul McGinnis at 606-6571 for an audition.

AFSA CHAPTER 1356 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Air Force Sergeant's Association, Chapter 1356 holds a general membership meeting at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Services Center. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Scott Astrosky at 606-8700.

576TH FLTS BLOOD DRIVE

The 576th Flight Test Squadron sponsors a base-wide blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Services Center.

SECURITY FORCES BLOOD DRIVE

The 30th Security Forces Squadron sponsors a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 4 at the Services Center.

LUSD SCHOOL CLOSURE

All Lompoc Unified School District schools and offices are closed Friday in observance of Lincoln's Birthday and again Feb. 17 in observance of Presidents' Day.

With the exception of Adult Education, all LUSD schools are also closed Feb. 18 for a district-wide Staff Development Day.

MEDICAL TRAINING DAY CLOSURE

The 30th Medical Group closes for training the fourth Thursday of each month beginning Feb. 27.

For emergencies – a threat to life, limb or eyesight – patients should call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. For urgent care only, call (800) 252-3299 or 606-2273. For more information, call 1st Lt. William Menza at 606-1407.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE CLOSURE

The 30th Space Wing Legal Office is closed for legal assistance Monday.

See BRIEFS Page A3

Warriors deploy to North Star

By MASTER SGT. LLOYD CONLEY
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

More than 70 Team Vandenberg men and women deployed to North Star training area Jan. 28 to hone their combat skills and exercise their ability to survive and operate in a hostile military environment.

"Military exercises and training are a natural and necessary part of life in the armed forces," said Edward Rambus, Vandenberg's chief of exercises and evaluations. "They reinforce valuable skills that each member has learned and serve to expose them to conditions they could possibly encounter while deployed."

"The men and women of today's Air Force are more mobile than ever before," said Lt. Col Douglas Tucker, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. They know they can be called away at any time, he said.

Training in a bare base environment like North Star gives troops the opportunity to adjust and adapt to a wartime environment beyond the scope of their daily duties.

Heavy equipment operator Senior Airman Manuel Painter, 30th CES, feels he's adapting well.

"I feel comfortable with the training we're getting and that we'll be ready if, and when we deploy," he said.

Last week's deployment exercise actually started a day earlier at 5 a.m. when the deployment-processing center began marshaling Vandenberg's warriors for their exercise mission to North Star.

After the group was processed they headed to the combat arms



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JAMES WILLIAMS

Tech. Sgt. John Green, 30th Comptroller Squadron, secures an area around a simulated unexploded ordnance found in the base camp at North Star training area.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN AUGUST BOLENDER

Airman 1st Class Javier Zaragoza and Airman Christopher McDaniel, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, demonstrate the proper technique for taking down an intruder, Airman First Class Craig Cisek, 30th Space Communications Squadron, at the entry control point during a base-level exercise Jan. 29. The exercise was designed to give Team Vandenberg a chance to practice critical mobilization capabilities.

training range for weapons familiarization and training.

The next day they convoyed to the site with all of their supplies and equipment to set up a base at North Star.

The warriors' initial training involved erecting tents and supplying them with electrical power.

Other airmen were involved in digging, building and camouflaging defensive fighting positions.

The troops also trained on ordnance familiarization and

recognition.

Staff Sgt. Clifford Weida, 30th CES explosive ordnance technician, instructed several deployed troops on identifying explosive devices and projectiles. He also covered their characteristics.

Weida cleared up the misconception of hearing a "click" when stepping on a mine.

"If you hear a click, it's Saint Peter closing the gate behind you," Weida said.

After a base camp was

established, the deployed warriors sharpened their combat skills through various scenarios over the next two days.

The troops reacted to situations like a chemical attack by properly donning their protective gear and surviving and thriving in the adverse conditions.

They also weathered the storm of conventional attacks. The recovery actions from those attacks included responding to SCUD damage to base facilities and repairing the runway as quickly as

possible.

Other scenarios included generator failure, water contamination and situations requiring self-aid-buddy-care to save lives.

"Team Vandenberg has 70 more personnel set to survive, operate, and thrive in a combat environment," Rambus said.

"I'm ready for it," said Staff Sgt. Jayme Lima, 30th CES heating and air conditioning technician. "I'll definitely take the knowledge I learn here to wherever I deploy."

Two airmen among seven lost in shuttle disaster

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Two Air Force officers were among the seven astronauts lost when the Space Shuttle Columbia apparently broke apart at 9 a.m. EST Saturday in the area over north central Texas.

Col. Rick Husband was the mission commander and Lt. Col. Michael Anderson was the payload commander.

The shuttle was preparing to land at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida when NASA's Mission Control in Houston lost contact with the crew.

The space vehicle was at an altitude of about 203,000 feet and traveling at approximately 12,500 miles per hour, or Mach 18, when contact was lost.

Other members of the crew included Navy Cmdr. William McCool, pilot for STS-107; Navy Capt. David Brown, mission specialist; Dr. Kalpana Chawla, flight engineer and mission specialist; Navy Cmdr. Laurel Clark, mission specialist; and Israeli Air Force Col. Ilan Ramon, payload specialist.

NASA has put out an urgent request to the public to not pick up or disturb any debris that might be found. Also, a call has been made for any amateur video or film that might be helpful in the investigation. For either situation, the public is asked to contact their local law enforcement agency. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Air Force extends current, upcoming deployments

By MASTER SGT. RICK BURNHAM
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Currently and soon-to-be deployed airmen will remain deployed longer than the previously targeted three-month rotation, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper announced Jan. 28 in a message to all airmen. The change was made to meet the needs of combatant commanders.

Specifically, active-duty and mobilized reserve-component airmen deployed with Air and Space Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8 and those deploying as part of new taskings ordered by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld Dec. 24 should anticipate remaining in place until further notice, Jumper said in the message.

Airmen in some "stressed" career fields have already been extended beyond three months.

The need for additional forces is part of a buildup of air power in Southwest Asia, ready to achieve national security objectives if directed by the president.

"We must interrupt our normal three-month AEF rotation cycle because the resources in a single AEF pair can no longer satisfy the needs of our combatant commands," Jumper said.

The general said that the change would likely

increase the amount of time many airmen are deployed. But, he added, it is a necessary move and one he feels airmen everywhere will take in stride.

"I know this is a lot to ask, and I am confident that every airman understands we have been called upon once again by our nation," he said.

Senior Airman Brian Hill, 384th Air Expeditionary Wing, is deployed from Vandenberg as part of AEF 7. He said the freeze affects many people in many different ways.

"I know one girl here who got married a month before her three-month deployment. She had one week left before returning home when she found out she's now here indefinitely," Hill said.

Hill said most people deployed with the mindset that extensions were in the mail anyway, so the official word they received wasn't all too shocking.

"It was dramatic though: it's sunny almost everyday, but yesterday just before the commander's call to announce the freeze, the clouds rolled in and it got really cold and it started thundering and raining. It was a strange background as our commander spoke on the current operations and our role in it all," Hill said.

See EXTENSIONS Page A3

Team Vandenberg earns promotions

■ Congratulations to the following members of Team Vandenberg on their promotions this month!

The promotees are:

Airman

Blayne Anderson, Detachment 1, 345th Training Squadron
Adam Andrie, 532nd Training Squadron
Crystal Bandini, 534th Training Squadron
Barton Lee Black, Det. 1, 345th TRS
Richard Burritt, Det. 1, 345th TRS
Michael Cabinian, Det. 1, 345th TRS
Camilo Castilloolsen, Det. 1, 345th TRS
Jason Cyrus Fox, Det. 1, 345th TRS
Ryan Lopresti, Det. 1, 345th TRS
Adam Pollow, 30th Security Forces Squadron
Matthew Reed, 30th Space

Communications Squadron
Daniel Rodriguez, Det. 1, 345th TRS
David Saysamone, 534th TRS
Francis Slack, 532nd TRS
Eric Turner, 532nd TRS
Thomas Verrette, Det. 1, 345th TRS
Airman First Class
Dion Chavis, 532nd TRS
George Cornejo, 532nd TRS
Christopher Craig, 532nd TRS
Cory Greathouse, 532nd TRS
Shanna Henry, 30th SCS
Victor Jeancola, 532nd TRS
Ryan Lasly, 532nd TRS
Sivan Mccoy, 532nd TRS
Daniel Moore, 532nd TRS
Joseph Ortega, 532nd TRS
Heidi Ppyer, 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Danielle Stefan, 30th Civil

Engineer Squadron
Rachel Rogers, 532nd TRS
David Thom, Det. 1, 345th TRS
Brendan Villahashimoto, 532nd TRS
Carey Wade, 532nd TRS
Keith Williams Jr., 30th CES
Senior Airman
James Asedo, 30th LRS
Derrick Fok, 30th SFS
Jacob Loya, 30th SFS
Sean Mackey, 30th CES
Areman Mansouri, 30th LRS
Thomas Mayhall Jr., 30th SCS
Thamara Mercado, 30th Mission Support Squadron
Brandon Porter, 30th SFS
James Rumohr, 30th SFS
Alicia Salas, 392nd Training Squadron

See PROMOTIONS Page A3

Four trade bronze for silver

■ Congratulations to the four Team Vandenberg members selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel!

John Coulahan Jr.
30th Comptroller Squadron
Michael Nutter
30th Operations Support Squadron
Scott Saul
30th Weather Squadron
Clyde Weirick
534th Training Squadron

In this issue of the



Also view
The Space & Missile Times at
www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news/space_times/



First-ever Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, Delta IV, arrives at Space Launch Complex-6. See Page A3.



Destinations Central Coast spends a restful evening at Sycamore Mineral Springs resort. See Page B1.

Weekend forecast
Mostly cloudy with rainshower Friday and Saturday. Partly cloudy Sunday.
Low/High
38/67
For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit
www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather

Defense Military Health System and TriCare provide patients the right to receive quality health care and now they up the standards on...

Patients' right to privacy

By Lt. Col. Kelly Wing
30th Medical Support Squadron

If you're a beneficiary of the Department of Defense Military Health System, you should have received a "Military Health System Notice of Privacy" in the mail recently.

You may have wondered what this notice was, why it was sent to you, or why you need to provide a signed acknowledgement of receipt of this document.

One of your basic rights in the MHS and TRICARE, aside from your right to receive quality health care, is the right to keep your healthcare information private.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 established health care standards or privacy rules that all military and civilian health care providers, hospitals and organization are required to follow. The rules are designed to protect the privacy of health care

information from unauthorized disclosure or use.

Under these rules, the MHS is required to inform you about how your personal health care information is used, provide guidance on your privacy rights, and limit use and disclosures of your personal health care information.

The notice of privacy that was sent to you is an official notice about this guidance.

The MHS has always had privacy and patient confidentiality standards in place to limit unauthorized access or disclosures, but the new privacy rules provide TRICARE beneficiaries with additional safeguards for ensuring this information is adequately protected.

Under the privacy rules, you have the right to:

- ♦ Access, review and receive a copy of your personal medical record or health care information

on file at the medical treatment facility

- ♦ Request a change or correct an error in your medical record
- ♦ Know how, when and to whom your medical information is disclosed
- ♦ File a grievance with the medical treatment facility regarding a privacy concern
- ♦ Provide written instructions on your personal preferences regarding the use and disclosure of your personal health information.

Your personal health care information may be disclosed to other health care providers such as specialists, pharmacists, or laboratory technicians who, at the request of your primary care manager, may need access to your private health care information to provide you with optimal care. However, treatment facilities may not share your personal health care information with outside sources for

marketing, health care research, or any other reason without your knowledge and written consent.

At the 30th Medical Group, the privacy staff acts as beneficiary advocates for privacy issues. They will respond to inquiries from TRICARE beneficiaries who may have questions or concerns regarding personal health care information or the new privacy rules.

We stand committed to ensuring private health care information remains accessible to beneficiaries and their providers and protected from unauthorized access.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your privacy rights, call the local privacy office at 606-9360. A copy of the MHS Notice of Privacy Practices is available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa. Additional information on TRICARE and privacy rules is also available at this site.

Commander's
Action Line

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



**Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander**

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.

While the action line is

The 30th Space Wing Mission:

To provide combat capabilities through launch, range and expeditionary operations.

a great way to communicate, don't forget to use your chain of command, first sergeants, base services officials and other base professionals first.

Thank you for helping to make Vandenberg a great place to work and live.

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

**SPACE & MISSILE
TIMES**

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

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

Army Guardsmen arrive to augment Security Forces

By 2ND LT. MICHELLE MAYO
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Help is on the way for the 30th Security Forces Squadron's undermanned and often overworked flights.

For the next year, 67 Army National Guardsmen from Bravo Company, 578th Engineer Battalion in Long Beach, Calif., will augment 30th SFS.

The National Guard troops fly into Vandenberg Feb. 9 from Ft. Lewis, Wash., and should be ready for duty Feb. 25 after a week of training.

The members of the 578th are engineers by trade. Once they arrive here they will learn about entry control, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, how to search vehicles, crowd control and how to respond to alarms.

"Our troops are really motivated that they're coming," said Capt. Paul Quigley, 30th SFS operations officer. "It helps with their morale."

Vandenberg's 30th SFS troops have been feeling the pain of being part of one of the Air Force's most critically stressed career fields.

Last August, the Air Force identified 17 career fields that were stressed in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

Of those 17, security forces is one of the six most critically stressed, according to Col. John Vrba, chief of Air Force competitive sourcing and privatization at the

"...the words airman and soldier should be synonymous."

CAPT. PAUL QUIGLEY,
30TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

Pentagon.

And 30th SFS troops have felt it. Since last year, 30th SFS troops have been working 12 hours a day on an intense four-days-on, two-days-off work schedule.

"And a 12-hour day is really a 13- or 14-hour day for those guys, because they come in an hour before work and stay an hour after work for inspections or to check in or check out their weapons," Quigley said.

The addition of the Army troops will mean more manageable work hours for 30th SFS and more time with families, Quigley added.

For the first month and a half, each Army person will be partnered with an Air Force security forces member.

They will be tasked as a Response Team Member running security patrols around the base before they undergo a standards evaluation after 45 days.

"Then they'll be one of us," Quigley said. "They'll be a regular security forces troop."

The mobilization of these 67 Army troops is part of a move that called up more than 500 members of the California Army National

Guard to augment Air Force security forces units across the state.

Nearly 9,000 guardsmen have been called to similar duties at Air Force bases across the United States.

"The men and women of Bravo Company are professional soldiers who have tremendous skills and military experience to bring to Vandenberg," said Lt. Col. Richard Wright, 30th SFS commander. "I'm looking forward to working closely with our Army brethren and appreciate the sacrifice they are making in coming to our base to help us through this difficult time."

While the troops are away from their friends and families for the next two years, they will occupy 18 houses in East Housing complete with furniture, washer, dryer and lawn care. One troop will stay in the dorms.

"They love our facilities," Quigley said. "They claim that the Air Force takes care of its people and they are excited about being able to take advantage of Air Force hospitality and way of life."

Team V can help make the Army augmentees feel welcome by learning the Army rank structure and coming out to show their support, Quigley added.

"A smile, handshake, and thank you go a long way," Quigley said.

"They want to meet the members of their new Air Force family. For the next year, the words airman and soldier should be synonymous."

Army enlisted rank structure

-  Private
-  Private First Class
-  Specialist
-  Corporal
-  Sergeant
-  Staff Sergeant
-  Sergeant First Class
-  Master Sergeant
-  First Sergeant
-  Sergeant Major
-  Command Sergeant Major
-  Sergeant Major of the Army



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. EDWARD BRALY

Team Vandenberg Warrior Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Harreld 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Duty: vehicle operator and dispatcher
Time at Vandenberg: one and one-half years
Time in service: two years
Hobbies: camping, wakeboarding, visiting family and friends in Sacramento
Education goals: to become a registered nurse
Why she likes her job: "I enjoy meeting new people and the teamwork in the shop," Harreld said.
Supervisor's comments: "Airman 1st Class Harreld is a key member of an awesome vehicle operations team," said Staff Sgt. Robert Snickers, Dispatch Support Element chief. "She has been very positive from day one in the Air Force and continues to show great strides toward a successful military career. Assigned as a vehicle operator, she is called by name to drive for numerous local and foreign dignitaries. She is a strong volunteer who is constantly involved with numerous organizations."

Delta IV comes ashore at Vandenberg

By MAJ. LEE ROSEN
Detachment 9, Space and Missile Systems Center

■ The West Coast's first Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, the Delta IV, arrived at the boat house dock Jan. 19 aboard the Delta Mariner. The inaugural Vandenberg EELV launch of an NRO satellite is slated for later this year.

The EELV Team is working closely with the Boeing Company as they bring the new Delta IV expendable launch system online. Boeing has worked for more than three years renovating Space Launch Complex-6 to launch this new spacelift launch vehicle.

The Vandenberg AFB government EELV team, known as EELV Vandenberg, is an extension of the EELV System Program

Office in Los Angeles. It will represent the mission assurance interests of the EELV users and the NRO.

EELV is a commercial-like program. The government role has transformed from an oversight function to that of an involved and informed customer paying for launch services. The ultimate goal of this consolidated industry-government team is to bring a successful, affordable, and competitive system online meeting the nation's need for assured access to space.

As the replacement for the flagship Titan, Atlas and Delta launch programs, EELV has big shoes to fill.

The arrival of the Delta Mariner ship carrying the first flight launch vehicle marks a major milestone for the program and the beginning of a new era.



BOEING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The brand-new Delta IV sits in front of newly-refurbished Space Launch Complex-6 on South Vandenberg.

ALCON: Normal

A general condition reflecting responsible alcohol use.

Days since last DUI: 33
 DUI totals for the Year: 1
 Saves by AADD this year: 21

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

DON'T DRINK & DRIVE!

If you're drinking alcohol -- you need a ride home. Don't hesitate. For a free, no-questions-asked ride home, Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving 698-8823 or 698-8822

Crime Beat...

COMPILED BY MASTER SGT. WESLEY ASLESON

30th Security Forces Squadron

Family Disturbance – Jan. 30

Fire Department dispatch reported receiving a call of a disturbance in family housing. Patrolmen responded to investigate.

Investigation revealed a military member's daughter and her mother were involved in an argument resulting in a physical altercation and damage to government property at the quarters.

All parties involved were transported to the security forces control center. An incident report was accomplished.

Found paraphernalia – Jan. 30

A retired military member discovered the remnants of a suspected marijuana cigarette in the area of Space Launch Complex-6. A

patrolman responded and placed the item into evidence. An incident report was accomplished.

911 Call/Family Disturbance – Jan. 30

Fire Department dispatch received a 911 call for a disturbance in family housing. Patrolmen responded to investigate. Investigation revealed a military member's child became irate after failing to follow the parent's instructions. The matter was referred to the unit first sergeant.

Verbal dispute – Jan. 31

The wife of a military member requested police assistance after an argument with her husband at their quarters. Patrolmen responded to investigate. Investigation revealed the two were having an argument over personal matters. The unit first sergeant responded and assumed control.

Stolen vehicle – Jan. 31

A patrolman responded to assist a stranded motorist near the intersection of Highway 1 and California Boulevard. After contact with the

non-base affiliated driver, investigation revealed the truck he was operating was stolen. Upon detaining the civilian, drug paraphernalia was discovered on his person.

He was transported to the security forces control center for processing. The civilian was cited into magistrate's court for various offenses. An incident report was accomplished.

Horseplay – Feb. 1

A Services employee reported a possible fight on the patio of the Pacific Coast Club. Patrolmen responded to investigate.

Investigation revealed the club manager separated several individuals horse playing by pushing one another. The individuals in question departed the club prior to arrival of patrolmen.

Verbal dispute – Feb. 2

A patrolman requested assistance at the Delta Dormitory after discovering two military members involved in an altercation. Further

investigation revealed the altercation was limited to a verbal argument only. Both members were identified and released.

Government property damage – Feb. 3

A military member reported damage to an electric vehicle adjacent to Matador Dormitory. A patrolman responded to investigate. Damage consisted of two broken side mirrors and a broken turn signal handle. The damage occurred over the weekend. An incident report was accomplished.

DID YOU KNOW? In accordance with the 30th Space Wing Installation Traffic Code, the sidewalk adjacent to California Boulevard from the Main Gate to 13th Street is a designated bicycle lane.

Bicyclists must refrain from operating on California Boulevard due to the availability of the bike path. The traffic congestion and narrow lanes are not conducive to safe bicycle operation.

EXTENSIONS:

From Page A1

Rumsfeld said recently, the president has called the world's attention to Saddam Hussein and Iraq.

"He has rallied the United Nations to enforce its resolutions calling for the regime's disarmament," Rumsfeld said.

In light of these developments, DOD leaders recognize the uncertainty longer deployments may create for those in uniform, the civilians who work beside them, and their families, Rumsfeld said.

"Be assured that the president will not decide to commit forces unless conditions

require it, and only as a last resort," Rumsfeld said. "Should action be necessary, you will have what you need to carry out the missions assigned."

Jumper said every effort will be made to relieve those deployed in a way that accommodates mission requirements.

"I assure you that we will continue to assess the evolving situation and develop rotation plans which seek to relieve our forces in the most equitable fashion while still meeting combatant commanders' warfighting requirements," he said. "Although AEF rotation timing will change, we will make every effort to preserve the AEF sequence which will give

us the ability to sustain our operations over the long term.

"When able, we will return to a more normalized three-month AEF battle rhythm."

Although that rhythm is intended to provide airmen and their families with a predictable schedule for deployments, resulting in a more normal lifestyle, an implicit understanding is that increased operations tempo changes everything, Jumper said.

"Sustaining on-going requirements with three-month rotations has become part of our Air Force culture," Jumper said. "But we need to remember that the AEF structure

also allows us to posture for a full range of combat operations, including major theater contingencies that require more forces than can be provided by one AEF pair on a three-month rotation."

Hill has a positive outlook on his career despite the freeze.

"I think I can test for staff (sergeant) whenever it is that I get back. I know someone who was deployed during last year's testing cycle and he ended up testing in June," he said. "They make concessions for us unfortunate sand-dwellers."

Hill said it's hard to avoid thinking about staying at his deployed location longer

than he expected. "But, as long as you get into a good routine and stay busy, the days fly by -- I can't believe it's already been two months!"

Jumper said this is a national security matter, one in which the efforts of the entire Air Force team will be needed.

"I have never been (more proud) of our Air Force and of the great men and women that bring America's resolve to the doorsteps of those who would seek to inflict harm upon us and our allies," he said. "I know you are all equal to the task, and I look forward to seeing our great Air Force continue to successfully defend American values and freedoms."

BRIEFS:

From Page A1

Wednesday. Normal legal assistance hours are: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Notaries and Powers of Attorney can be obtained during regular office hours; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call Master Sgt. Cary Rosson at 605-6200.

JUDGE ADVOCATE LAW SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Officers with between two and 10 years of active-duty service may apply for the Funded Legal Education Program and the Excess

Leave Program. Both programs require attendance at an American Bar Association accredited law school. Upon graduation and admission to practice law before any state's highest court or federal court, candidates are eligible for designation as judge advocates. To be considered for FLEP or ELP, applicants must complete all application forms, apply to an ABA accredited law school, receive their Law School Admissions Test results, and complete a Staff Judge Advocate interview by March 1.

For more information and an application, contact Maj. Lynnette Pratzner, Headquarters US Air Force Judge

Advocate, at DSN 224-5941. Information is also available online at www.jagusaf.hq.af.mil and in Air Force Instruction 51-101, Judge Advocate Accession Program.

PATRIOT VOICES AUDITIONS

Vandenberg's vocal ensemble, Patriot Voices, needs military members of all ranks to audition for this all-volunteer organization. Patriot Voices performs at various functions on base and in the local community. For more information, call Capt. Zack Guza at 606-4725 or Staff Sgt. Tim VanProoyen at 606-8483.

PROMOTIONS:

From Page A1

Robert Trujillo, 30th SFS
Staff Sergeant
 Tyrone Eddins Jr., 576th Flight Test Squadron
 Christopher Fields, 30th SFS
 Melody Goode, 614th Operations Support Flight
 Vichit Hausman, 30th SFS
 Tyler Knox, 576th FLTS
 Michael Machado, 30th SFS
 Jimmy Nguyen, 30th Contracting Squadron
 Wayne Petersen, 30th SCS
 Yvonne Ramirez, 30th Medical Support Squadron
 Jeffery Sack, 30th SFS
 Jessica Soto, 30th MDSS
 Jaime Stanton, 534th TRS
 Stephan Tranter Jr.,

576th FLTS
 Christopher Vegter, 576th FLTS
 Jerilyn Watson, 30th SFS
 Aaron Williston, 576th FLTS
 Michael Wilmot, 30th CES
Technical Sergeant
 Adrian Abayari, 2nd Space Launch Squadron
 Joe Aquino III, 533rd TRS
 Dennis Barnes, 576th FLTS
 Andre Dean, 30th LRS
 Terrell Grant, 595th Space Support Group
 David Grimes Jr., 595th SSG
 David Guthrie Jr., Det. 1, 345th TRS
 Timothy Leddy, 576th FLTS
 Randy Martinez, 30th Aero-medical-Dental Squadron
 Michael Messer, 576th FLTS
 Frank Powers, 30th SFS
 Robert Reape, 595th SSG

Larry Roach, 30th Space Wing
 Gary Spaid, Det. 1, 345th TRS
Master Sergeant
 Hermel Montero Jr., 30th SCS
 James Sandy, 30th MDOS
Civilian promotions
GS-6
 Eric Patarak, 30th CES
 Anatia Ragland, 576th FTS
GS-11
 Marta Ledesma, 30th MSS
 Nancy Shaw, Air Logistics Command
GS-12
 Ramona Estes, 30th SFS
 John Smith, 30th CPTS
 Gloria Thomas, 30th SCS
GS-13
 Ernest Greenwood, ALC
GS-14
 Corey Cather, 30th SW

Vandenberg holds National Prayer Luncheon

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

Team Vandenberg members paused for a time of reflection and prayer Monday at the Pacific Coast Club during the annual National Prayer Luncheon here.

The observance, which is held in both military and civilian communities, was an extension of the annual prayer breakfast held in Washington, D.C. each year.

"Prayer has always been part of our national heritage," said Chaplain (Maj.) David Terrinoni, acting wing chaplain. In 1952, the Senate and House of Representatives prayer groups began the tradition of hosting national prayer events on the first of February, he said.

Air Force Space Command Chaplain (Col.) Richard Hartwell was the guest speaker for the luncheon. His speech, entitled, "Ora et Labora," means to pray and work. Through his speech, the colonel emphasized the need for a U.S. role in combating terrorism.

Once the Honor Guard finished posting the Colors, Patriot Voices gave a stirring rendition of the National anthem.

Vandenberg chaplain (1st Lt.) Michael Martin gave the invocation followed by chaplain (1st Lt.) Phillip Griffin, also a protestant chaplain here, giving the introduction.

During lunch, the Chapel Ecumenical Choir sang "He Reigns" and "We Will



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JAMES WILLIAMS

Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Egan, Detachment 1 Launch Communications Office, and his wife, Sharon, bow their heads in prayer during the 2003 National Prayer Luncheon held Monday at the Pacific Coast Club.

Stand." Chaplain (Capt.) Earnest Beeman, a base protestant chaplain, and Anita Friedman, a Jewish lay leader, read scriptures from the Bible in English and Hebrew. Chaplain (1st Lt.) Zeb Beck offered

a prayer for the nation.

"It is difficult to be point-of-contact for such an event," Hartwell said, but it is even more difficult to speak at an event like this in a time such as this."

"What can I say in the backdrop of all the events that have taken place in the last few weeks," he asked. "We must pray for our nation and for our leaders."

"We must pray and work," Hartwell, "to pray is important but without the works it may not be enough."

People pray for blessings, but they still go to work to make money and to the store to buy food. They realize that God is answering their prayer they just have to meet him halfway, Hartwell said. They are not just sitting around holding out their hands waiting for food from the sky.

He added, it is okay to pray to God for help but there must be action. Some people though, are all action and no prayer, trying to make it on their own. For those people, Hartwell said, God is like a spare tire. They know it's there and only want to use it if they have to.

Once the address was finished, Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, thanked the chaplain for his message.

The entire group sang America's National Hymn, "America the Beautiful" and Chaplain (Cpt.) Mitchell Zygadlo gave the benediction.

"These events call leaders to pray and to recognize the variety of religious expression in our American society," Terrinoni said.

Around the Air Force

Bush vows space program to continue

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

America's space program will go on, President Bush vowed today at a memorial service for the seven Columbia astronauts in Houston.

Bush spoke at the Johnson Space Center. He said the cause of exploration and discovery "is not an option we choose; it is a desire written in the human heart."

"We are that part of creation which seeks to understand all creation," he said. "We find the best among us, send them forth into unmapped darkness and pray they will return. They go in peace for all mankind, and all mankind is in their debt."

The seven astronauts killed when the Columbia broke up upon returning to Earth Saturday were Air Force Col. Rick D. Husband, Navy Cmdr. William C. McCool, Air Force Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson, Navy Capt. (Dr.) David M. Brown, Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Laurel Blair Salton Clark, Israeli air force Col. Ilan Ramon and civilian engineer Kalpana Chawla.

Bush said the nation was "blessed to have such men and women serving in our space program." (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Eglin engineers test bombs with brains

By DORIS JOHNSON
Air Armament Center Public Affairs

Determining if warheads can penetrate underground targets and detonate after counting floor levels or measuring depth was the focus of recent sled testing on a Hard Target Smart Fuze here.

HTSF engineering team members placed the fuze in an inert warhead on a 2,000-foot test track and sent it through walls at a speeds of 1,300-feet per second, said DeAllen Hobbs, Air Armament Center HTSF engineer.

He said the HTSF features a device that measures impact and depth of burial. When a bomb hits a floor or ceiling of the intended target, the device measures a high impact that looks similar to a seismographic recording of an earthquake; when a bomb passes through an open space or void, the device measurements are shorter, and it records a void.

The HTSF can be programmed to trigger detonation after a certain number of voids or impacts are counted, Hobbs said.

"If intelligence reported an adversary's biological or chemical weapons storage in an underground facility, say, four floors down, then the fuze could be programmed to detonate the warhead at the fourth void it counts and limit collateral damage," Hobbs said. "If we only know how deep it is underground, then we could program it to detonate at the depth required to hit the target." (Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service)

Air Force gets new race, ethnic categories

By 1ST LT. BRANDON LINGLE
AFPC Public Affairs

Airmen are now able to claim more than one race in their official personnel files because of a change in how the Air Force

records racial information.

Some airmen's race designations will automatically be changed to fit the new categories as part of the data conversion. The new choices are part of a government-wide effort to standardize race data. "Everyone should take a minute to ensure their race preference is correct," said Colonel Gary Smith, chief of the field activities division here.

In the past, airmen could select only one race preference, said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Knudson, superintendent of the military equal opportunity branch here. Now, they will be able to select any number of five newly designated race groups. The revamped choices are American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; and White.

The easiest way for members to view and update their racial designation is on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight by clicking the "vMPF" button at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>. Race choices and descriptions of the new categories are located on the "personal information" page under the "records review" link, he said. "Most people's current race selections will smoothly transfer into the new categories," said Sergeant Knudson.

More information is available by calling the Air Force Contact Center toll-free at 1-866-229-7074 or DSN 665-5000 or by visiting your local personnel flight. (Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

First sergeant changes benefit entire AF

By STAFF SGT. A.J. BOSKER
Air Force Print News

Air Force officials are touting recent changes made to first sergeant assignments and hope that more senior noncommissioned officers take advantage of what some are calling "the best job I've ever had in the Air Force."

The Air Force converted the career field into a special-duty assignment in October, according to Senior Master Sgt. Chris Anthony, first sergeant special-duty manager at the Pentagon. However, since then, the Air Force is still short 100 first sergeants.

Anthony said the recent changes, which have been well received throughout the force, are helping the Air Force fill these critical jobs.

"A review of the career field was conducted, and it was determined that something needed to be done to make the position more attractive to senior noncommissioned officers," said Anthony. "So far, we've heard nothing but good things about the changes we made."

Most notably, the Air Force made the first sergeant position a three-year special-duty assignment, Anthony said. After two years, the first sergeant can apply to extend for another three-year assignment.

Once first sergeants complete their special-duty assignment, they are free to return to their previous career field.

The program, as it was structured, was not meeting Air Force needs, explained ce."

"Senior NCOs should expect progressively more demanding roles as they handle each successive leadership step," Gilbert said. "We don't want a system that routes many of our best enlisted

leaders into a dead end. In many cases, the first sergeant position, as a career field, was doing just that."

When someone became a first sergeant, the career field had to give up one of its sharpest troops, Anthony said. Although the Air Force, as a whole, gained a valuable asset, the career field was short one future leader. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Evidence shows Iraq not cooperating

By KATHLEEN RHEM
American Forces Press Service

Satellite photos, recordings of intercepted phone calls and intelligence reports paint an "irrefutable" picture of Saddam Hussein's intentions, Secretary of State Colin Powell told the U.N. Security Council this morning.

Powell made the United States' case for disarming Iraq in a 90-minute presentation in New York. "I cannot tell you everything that we know. But what I can share with you, when combined with what all of us have learned over the years, is deeply troubling," he said.

Powell wasted no time in providing evidence. A few minutes into his presentation, he played a tape he said is a recording of a conversation between two senior Iraqi Republican Guard officers concerning imminent U.N. inspections.

"We evacuated everything," one officer reassured the other in the Nov. 26, 2002, recording, just one day before the U.N. inspectors returned to Iraq.

In another taped conversation Powell played, one Iraqi officer is telling another to make sure he has cleaned out all the ammunition and scrap storage areas and then to destroy his written instructions. "Because I don't want anyone to see this message," the officer said, according to a translation provided by U.S. government officials.

Powell's presentation today has been highly anticipated around the world. Thirteen foreign ministers attended today's Security Council meeting. Only two countries sent the customary U.N. ambassador. Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Hans Blix and Mohammad ElBaradei, the two lead U.N. inspectors; and CIA Director George Tenet were present for Powell's presentation. Shortly before Powell began speaking, the Iraq's U.N. ambassador was also invited to join the ministers. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

IRS grants partial tax break for home sales

Washington, D.C. --The Internal Revenue Service recently clarified a home sales rule affecting service members seeking a capital gains tax exemption worth up to nearly \$500,000 for a couple.

The IRS said service members can claim partial exemptions if military duty interfered with their ability to comply with the exemption's two-year residency rule.

The income tax rule in question said home sellers could claim the full exemption only by owning and living in the house for at least two years out of the previous five. Sellers who couldn't meet that rule could still qualify for a partial exemption if, among other things, they sold because of a

change in the place of employment of 50 miles or more.

The rule made no explicit mention of exceptions or relief for service members moving on official military orders. The IRS clarification, in essence, gives service members the same status as any other early seller eligible for a partial exemption.

The amount of the partial exemption is based on how many days of the 730 (two years) required were met before the sale. For example, one year of residence would merit 50 percent of the tax exemption, which would mean an exemption of up to \$125,000 for an individual and \$250,000 for a couple.

Tax reporting and treatment of full and partial exemptions are discussed in IRS Publication 523, "Selling Your Home." It's accessible and downloadable online at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p523.pdf. Budget. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

Request funds war on terror, transformation

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

The president's fiscal 2004 defense budget request would fund the ongoing war on terrorism while continuing the transformation of the armed forces to meet the threats of the future.

The president is asking Congress for \$379.9 billion for defense in fiscal 2004, which begins Oct. 1, 2003. That breaks down to spending \$42 million an hour, said a senior defense official who briefed reporters Jan. 31 on the 2004 request.

The budget request is \$15.3 billion more than for fiscal 2003. By service, the Army would receive \$93.7 billion, the Navy and Marine Corps would get \$114.6 billion, and the Air Force, \$113.7 billion. Defensewide spending would be \$57.9 billion. The amount each service spends is roughly the same percentage as in the past.

The department has programmed \$453 million for transformational satellite communications based on laser technology, and \$299 million on a Space-based Radar System.

Last year, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld took a lot of heat from Congress over shipbuilding.

The budget calls for an almost \$3 billion increase. Shipbuilding is pegged at \$12.1 billion in fiscal 2004. The Navy would receive a Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine, three Arleigh Burke-class Aegis destroyers, a San Antonio-class amphibious transport ship and two cargo ships.

In addition, the Navy would receive \$1.2 billion for research and development of the DDX destroyer, the littoral combat ship and the CGX cruiser.

In aircraft, the request allocates \$5.2 billion for the F/A-22 Raptor program (22 aircraft), \$3.5 billion for the F/A-18 Hornet (42 planes) and \$4.4 billion for the Joint Strike Fighter program.

The Air Force would get \$3.7 billion for 11 more C-17 Globemaster III transports, and the Marines and Air Force would receive \$1.8 billion for 11 V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft. (Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service)

(Editor's note: for these complete stories and more, visit www.af.mil and www.defenselink.mil)

U.S. outlines Iraqi quest for nuclear weapons

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

Following the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the U.S. military gathered huge piles of information and came up with a long list of "lessons learned."

The United States wasn't the only place with experts mulling over the war. One Indian general came up with his succinct own lessons learned from the conflict: "Never fight the Americans without nuclear weapons."

A huge post-war surprise for the victorious Gulf War coalition was how close Iraq had been to having nuclear warheads.

Iraq was within months of producing an enriched-uranium nuclear weapon when the Persian Gulf War started in January 1991. Had Iraq waited until it had a nuke and had mounted it on a Scud missile begs the question of what the worldwide response would have been to its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Would the United States have been as quick to offer aid to Kuwait? Would any of the Gulf nations have allowed a U.S. or coalition presence if Saddam Hussein had threatened nuclear retaliation? By extension, would or could the United States have been able to mass a coalition?

"The purpose of a terror weapon is to terrorize," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said during testimony before Congress on Sept. 18, 2002. "And it need not even be used to still be very effective, because it alters behavior. And in the hands of the likes of Saddam Hussein, that is a significant shift in capability and power."

Iraq, with its ties to worldwide terrorism, is a rogue state. Hussein has already used weapons of mass destruction on his neighbors and his own people. An Iraqi nuclear weapon would clearly be destabilizing.

"His regime has an active program to acquire and develop nuclear weapons," Rumsfeld said. "And let there be no doubt about it, his regime has dozens of ballistic missiles and is working to extend their range in violation of U.N. restriction."

The Persian Gulf War heavily damaged Iraq's nuclear facilities. Yet Iraq managed to hang on to its scientific and technical expertise. Hussein has kept his core of nuclear experts together.

Experts believe Hussein's "nuclear holy warriors," as he calls his scientists, have developed the plans for a nuclear weapon. The International Institute for Strategic Studies said Iraqi scientists could fashion a warhead within months if only Hussein could get foreign fissile material.

President Bush addressed the threat of Iraqi nuclear weapons in his State of the Union speech Jan. 28. He noted that the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed in its inspections following the Gulf War that Iraq had an advanced nuclear weapons development program and a bomb design. Saddam Hussein's scientists were also working on five different methods of enriching uranium for a bomb, Bush said.

"The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa," Bush said. "Our intelligence sources tell us that he has attempted to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes suitable for nuclear weapons production."

"Saddam Hussein has not credibly explained these activities," Bush continued. "He clearly has much to hide."

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Base youth league basketball encourages family, volunteerism

By COACH MCKINNEY

30th Space Wing Command Section

Vandenbergh youth basketball is another example of families sharing the pure joy of children's sports.

Each Saturday, hundreds of Team Vandenberg youth merge at the Youth Center and Fitness Center to play basketball. Some of the games are scored and others aren't, but what they all have in common is family and volunteerism. It takes both to keep this activity going for base youth.

The teams range in age from kindergarteners playing in the peewee league, on up to 5th and 6th graders playing in the junior league.

The two beginner levels, the peewee and rocket leagues, play without scoring. With the pure joy of running around, they learn some valuable life lessons in the process. They don't have to worry about mom and dad catching them for doing something wrong... unless of course their parent is one of the many volunteer coaches. The

dribblers in 3rd and 4th grades, along with the juniors, play for scores but they too are learning the most important aspect of the game ... sportsmanship!

Staff Sgt. James Douglas, 30th Security Forces Squadron, is the commissioner of the Youth Basketball League here.

"We encourage the coaches to try and teach the basics of teamwork and safety," he said. "It's important that they learn the right way to participate in sports, from the very beginning.

We want them to have fun, but we want them to be safe at the same time."

The commissioner also noted the important role played by parents.

"Kids take their cue from the parents," the commissioner said. "Regardless of the role the parent is playing, either coach or fan, the kids are going to behave themselves based on what they see from mom or dad. If the parent is negative and mean spirited, guess what the kid is going to be? On the other hand, if the parent is positive and shows that sportsmanship is the way, so will the kids."

The games this past Saturday illustrated the success the youth league is enjoying. The fun-filled games were just part of the energetic atmosphere. Moms and dads watched nervously from the stands as their sons and daughters negotiated the maze of teammates and opponents.

In peewee games, one of the coaches from each team wears a dual hat as coach and referee.

Under other circumstances, a coach might get booted out of the gym for being on the court. Douglas gave his theory for this method of play.

"With the emphasis on learning, having coaches on the floor is a distinct benefit," he said. "All of the coaches are volunteer parents who want to see all of the kids learn and do well."

One child doing well is Ariana Abayari.

"My favorite sport is basketball," exclaimed the young ball player. "It's fun and sometimes I do real good," she said making a blatant understatement for a talented player.

Ariana has the support of her entire family.

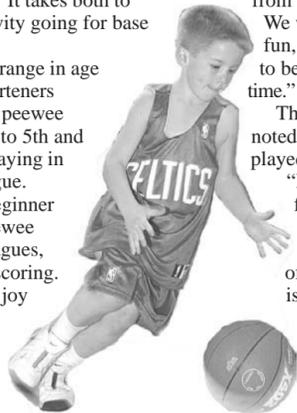
"My other daughter, Alyssa, has been playing for three years and both of them are getting better all the time," said Xiomara Abayari, Ariana's mom. "Alyssa really enjoys softball, but Ariana has a talent for basketball. It's something that she really enjoys and is willing to work at. Most important is the fact that she has fun with it ... we all do!"

Ariana also has the support of her father, Staff Sgt. Adrian Abayari, 2nd Space Launch Squadron. Abayari coaches soccer, basketball, and softball, which are the sports his two daughters participate in.

"My husband is a real good coach and he knows how to teach my daughters the right way to play sports," Xiomara said. "We both love to be out here with our kids and all the kids. Sports are a good way to keep them busy and out of trouble, not to mention that it's good exercise for them."

Staff Sgt. Ernest Guajardo, a rocket league assistant coach, summed it up the best.

"We had a couple of real good shooters on our team, but they didn't like to pass the ball," Guajardo said. "We focused on teaching them to pass to the other players and some of the others have become real good shooters. The other two boys have become excellent passers and that's what this is all about!"



Vandenberg boxers head for Armed Forces victory

By COACH MCKINNEY

30th Space Wing Command Section

Vandenberg Boxing Coach Don Green is the proud mentor of two 2003 Air Force Boxing Champions. Senior Airmen Jorge Hernandez and Daniel Barrera won their respective weight class titles during the United States Air Force Box-Offs, held recently at Kelly AFB, Texas.

Jorge won the 165-pound middleweight title, while Daniel earned the 178-pound cruiserweight title.

In an interview conducted last fall, Coach Green said that Hernandez and Barrera "have it all in front of them." Now the two have even more in front of them ... destination, Port Hueneme, Calif. and the Armed Forces Boxing Championships.

"Jorge and Daniel have both made awesome progress and both are in a position to really make it happen now," said the 63-year boxing guru. "Jorge is going to be a world champion, you watch. He works at it, he believes, and he is focused on what he has to do," Green said.

Hernandez was born and raised in Puerto Rico and that is where his love of the ring began, although it didn't start with a love of the sweet science. Hernandez began his days in the ring as a kick boxer. It was apparent in the very beginning that he had something special in store for him.

"My brother was real good at kick boxing," said his brother Gabriel Hernandez. "He knocked everyone out with his feet."

Jorge's wife, Ginette, is emphatic about her husband's love of the ring.

"No matter what it is, kick boxing, fighting with gloves, education, or family, my husband gives all he has," she said. Indeed, Jorge had become a kickboxing champion in Puerto Rico and now he stands at the crest of another major championship.

Barrera's story is not unlike Hernandez's with regard to his early show of passion for athletics. Barrera too showed a knack for success in the athletic arena, trying football, wrestling, and rodeo, all while growing up in Idaho. Boxing wasn't an option for Barrera, primarily because there were no gyms supporting the sport where he lived.

Past exploits aside, Hernandez and Barrera are now headed to the Armed Forces Championships Feb. 17-22 at Port Hueneme in Oxnard, Calif.

Not only are they both going for the gold against Army, Navy, and Marine boxers, but they will also face the country's No. 1 and No. 2 ranked fighters in their weight classes.

"The Air Force championship is just the first step," said middleweight Hernandez. "Usually, you go to the Air Force Championship, the Armed Forces Championship, and then the National Championship. Each time it gets a little tougher to win; the competition is greater. This year, because I have to fight the number one and

number two guy in the Armed Forces tournament, it will be the most difficult title to win."

Hernandez realizes what he has accomplished so far, although he said he is not looking back.

"It feels good to win three Air Force Championships in a row," the boxer said. "This year I fought another champion in the final match. He won the 165 (pound) division two years ago, last year he didn't make it, but he

was back again this year and we had a good fight. I moved up in weight, into his division at 165. He is 6'3" and he is a left-handed fighter just like me. That made it harder, because I had to take some time to figure out how to get inside, but when I did I took him out. He was strong and a very good fighter, but I just wanted it ... bad!"

According to Green and both fighters, the Armed Forces Championship is never a walk in the park.

"Fighting the top two fighters in the nation will be a big challenge," said Barrera. "I always work hard in my training and then leave it in God's hands, because I know his will is all that matters. I'm looking forward to this opportunity and I want to win it something bad and I know I can, I just know it ... I can do it."

Hernandez is fully aware of where he and Barrera are headed.

"The first year I did okay in the armed forces, the second year I finished in second and this year I want to win," he said. "I watched Barrera at the Air Force Championships and he fought really, really well. I was proud of the way he fought and I feel good for him."

The winners of the Armed Forces Championships will join fighters from all around the country at the U.S. Senior Men's Nationals, March 24-30. All divisional regional champions, to include the four branches of service, will meet for the national crown.

Hernandez is not just fighting for himself and his family, but recognizes that he is fighting for the Air Force and Team Vandenberg.

"I want to share this with all the people from this base," he said. "It would be great to have a big group of Air Force people come down to watch us fight ... that would be real nice!"

"It would be great to have a big group of Air Force people come down to watch us fight ... that would be real nice!"

SENIOR AIRMAN
JORGE HERNANDEZ

SPACE & MISSILE

FEATURES

Destinations *Central Coast @ Sycamore Springs*

By 2ND LT. JENNIFER WHITAKER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

With all the stress that daily life brings, most of us could use a break. I found a great weekend getaway for my husband and me...a visit to Sycamore Springs Resort near Avila Beach.

The sulfur mineral springs resort got its start in the early 1900s and has since been prized for its therapeutic effects on its visitors.

Tucked among the oaks and sycamores that cover the California hillside, this resort and day spa offers the perfect retreat for anyone who wants to get away, even if just for a few hours.

The resort has mineral spring water hot tubs that you can rent by the hour, and each room at the resort has its own private patio or balcony with a hot tub. The day spa offers basic and European facials and three types of massage therapy, available from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day. All treatments include a complimentary 30-minute mineral spa, before or after the therapy.

The day spa option is perfect for those who want to escape without shelling out a whole lot of cash, and children are welcome in the hot tubs.

Sycamore Springs also offers overnight stay packages for those who want the experience to last a bit longer.

We opted for the "Rub, Tub, and Grub" package, which included an overnight stay at the resort with our own private balcony and sulfur spring-fed hot tub, vouchers for dinner and breakfast at the Gardens of Avila restaurant, and two one-hour therapeutic full-body massages.

After checking into the hotel, we had



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. EDWARD BRALY

LeeAnn Sunn-Wagner and her husband, Merlin Wagner, tour the secluded mineral water hot tubs nestled among the oak trees at the Sycamore Springs Resort near Avila Beach, about 40 minutes north of Vandenberg.

dinner at the Gardens of Avila, a romantic restaurant at the resort. The food was amazing. We had an appetizer called Ahi Poke, a traditional Hawaiian salad made with raw tuna. I highly recommend it.

After a good night's sleep, we woke ready for our massages. Before the massage therapists went to work on our

stress spots, we soaked in the outdoor redwood mineral spa to enhance the effects of the massage. Never have I been so relaxed. I felt like a sleepwalker for an hour afterwards.

If you're going to Sycamore Springs for an overnight stay, I'd recommend spending the extra cash for a luxury suite

or cottage room. We opted for a standard room, and, while it was nice to get away from home, the room was just your average hotel room with few amenities.

And be prepared for the strong smell that accompanies the white sulfur mineral water in the hotel spas. The gift shop sells pouches of spa scents to take the edge off of the sulfur smell, but I'll be honest, they didn't help much. The redwood tubs at the day spa are treated with something that makes the sulfur smell less noticeable, but it's still there.

If you're not going *au naturel*, make sure you've got an old swimsuit, and wash it separately from the rest of your clothes. I found out the hard way that sulfur acts

much like a dryer sheet, infusing all of the laundry with its distinctive odor.

One last recommendation: make reservations! We had no problems getting reservations for the restaurant, but the spa's openings fills up quickly.

Sycamore Springs is located near Avila Beach, and the scenic drive from



Guests can relax on the porch or take a dip in a private hot tub and enjoy the mineral water that's put the resort on the map. The resort offers accommodations for couples and families to enjoy.

Vandenberg takes about 40 minutes. To get there, take Highway 101 North past Pismo Beach and exit Avila Beach Drive. The road curves to the left and Sycamore Springs is about a mile from the highway on the left.



The shop is located next to the skills development center in Bldg. 11180. They always need volunteers.

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



WANTS YOUR

Destinations *Central Coast*

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

7 FRI

Financial planning workshop - 11 a.m. to noon today at the Family Support Center. Call 606-4491

Scholarships for Military Children - Applications for \$1,500 scholarships are due at the Commissary by Feb. 21. The Defense Commissary Agency awards at least one scholarship per Commissary location to qualified applicants. Scholarships are available for unmarried children of active duty, Reserve, Guard, and retired military members. Applications are available at the Commissary or online at www.commissaries.com.

Henry H. Arnold education grant - Applications are available at the Family Support Center for \$1,500 grants to qualifying applicants. Deadline for submission is March 14. Call 605-8551.

College for Kids dance classes - Ages four to 18 years with or without dance

experience can sign up now. Class fees range from \$20 to more than \$100. Call Allan Hancock College community education at (805)922-6966, Ext. 3209, or visit www.hancockcollege.edu.

College for Kids spring tennis camp - 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays beginning March 15 at the Allan Hancock College Santa Maria campus tennis courts. Beginners ages seven to 17, register now. Fee is \$50. Call (805)922-6966, Ext. 3209.

Depression management treatment group - The Life Skills Support Center offers a 6-week depression management treatment group to active duty personnel and their dependents. The group meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays at the LSSC, with new groups beginning every 6-8 weeks. The group is appropriate for adults or mature adolescents experiencing depression. Medical or mental health providers

7 FRI

American Military University - offers free undergraduate tuition to spouses of active-duty members who attend the college as undergraduate students through the Spouse Schoolmates Scholarship program. Call (703)330-5398.

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.

Host families needed - The Cultural Homestay Institute is looking for families to sponsor junior-high and high-school age Japanese students March 26 through April 3. Call Diana Gellentien at 735-9168 or 735-2771, Ext. 238, by Feb. 21 to sponsor a student.

Dads to new dads

7 FRI

program - this mentorship program offers support to new dads. Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338 for more information.

Moms to new moms program - this mentorship program offers support to new moms. Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338 for more information.

Military care packages - The Family Support Center staff is accepting donations to support deployed troops. Call 605-8553.

Food Pantry - The Family Support Center provides emergency food assistance and distributes food via the USDA Food Program. Donations are always needed. Call 606-2960.

Free car seats - available for single-income families E-4 and below. Call 606-5338.

One-on-one marriage enrichment counseling - at the Family Support Center. Call 606-9958.

Harbor and boat cruises - at Adventure Marina in Morro Bay.

8 SAT

Twilight beach horseback rides - at Pacific Dunes Ranch in Oceano. Beginners are welcome. Call (805)489-8100.

Global Hearts pizza and a movie - 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Family Support Center.

Global Hearts parent-child sweetheart dance - 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Youth Center.

Relaxation Room - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at the Health and Wellness Center. Call 606-2221.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at the Health and Wellness Center. Call the HAWC at 606-2221.

Stress and self management class - 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays at the Health and Wellness Center. Call 606-9958.

Joint Retiree Activities Center - Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday - Friday in building 10346 in the Base Exchange

11 TUE

shopping center. Call 606-5474.

Thrift Shop hours - 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays.

Pre-separation Briefing - 8 a.m. Tuesdays in the Family Support Center. The briefing is required 90 days prior to leaving the service. Call 606-0801.

Single Parents' Support Group - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Services Center. Call 606-9958.

Spouses Club Newlywed Game - 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Pacific Coast Club. Make reservations by Feb. 6. Call 734-1867 or 734-0397.

3-day Transition Assistance Program seminar - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday at the Family Support Center. Recommended for military members who are separating or retiring within one year. Call 606-0801 to sign up.

12 WED

MAR 4 TUE

7 FRI

Chapel Services & Events

For other denomination worship services and events, call the chapel at 606-5773.

♦ **G.I. Java** - This free coffee house is open 5 to 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday for dorm residents. Volunteers and cookies are always needed. Call 606-5773.

♦ **Catholic Women of the Chapel** - meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Chapel 1 Annex. Call 605-5773

♦ **Catholic Bible study groups** - 7 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays in the religious education building. Call 734-4202.

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sunday
8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship, Chapel 2
10 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 1
11:30 a.m. Traditional Protestant, Chapel 1
11:30 a.m. Gospel, Chapel 2
Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2
Saturday
5 p.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2

♦ **Praise Kids** - 5:30 p.m. Sundays in the religious education building for children 4 years - 5th grade. Call 734-0514.

♦ **CCD classes are underway** - Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the religious education building. Call 606-2505 or 734-3070.

♦ **Protestant adult and youth Bible study** - 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Chapel 1 Annex. Call 605 7564

At the Movies

Today and Saturday Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

Hobbits, humans, Orcs, Oh, my. The second film in the trilogy begins right where the last one left off. Rated PG-13

Sunday The Wild Thornberrys: The Movie

The Thornberry clan is at it again except this time in a

full length movie. Poachers swoop out of the African sky and snatch a cheetah cub Eliza and Darwin are traveling with. Rated PG Showing at 3 p.m. doors open at 2:30 p.m.

Two Weeks Notice
A new twist on the typical boy-meets-girl. Rated PG-13

All movies start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. A minimum of 15 people must be present for movies to run.

30th Services News

V.I.T.T.

Vandenberg Leisure Tours

Las Vegas TURNAROUND

March 29 and 30
\$40

Get \$25 back in cash, play and food coupons. Leave base at 6 a.m., return approximately noon.

SKI LIFT TICKETS are available now!

For more information, call 606-7976.

GOLF COURSE

Saturday -
SCGA Team Play, 10 a.m. to noon

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

YOUTH SPORTS

Vandenberg Youth Baseball and Youth Softball Sign Ups

Register now for Vandenberg's Youth Baseball and Softball leagues. Boys baseball is for ages 8 to 13 with co-ed ball for players 5 to 7. Girl's softball is for ages 8 to 14 with three divisions. Games are played on base and at Cabrillo High School in Vandenberg Village. Registration continues through Feb. 21, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$55, \$50 for Youth Center members. No fund-raisers are required. For more information, call the Youth Center at 606-2152.

YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Sponsored by the Vandenberg Youth Center
Organized by the 4-H Photo Club

SHOW DATES: Feb. 24-28

\$1 per entry.

Maximum 3 entries per participant.

Amateur youth, ages 7-18 and still in school

Entry deadline: 5 p.m. Feb. 17 with entry form and fee

Age categories are 7-9, 10-13 and 14-18

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

- Black and White
- Landscape
- Portrait/Still Life

Exhibit and contest will be held at the Youth Center. For more information, call Kristi Bonneau at 606-9374.

LIBRARY

The Library NOW HAS a 24/7 VIDEO RETURN SLOT for library videos and music CDs!!!

The return slot is located in the window next to the library staff entrance. The new return slot takes only the single and double video cases, music CD's and smaller cassette audiobooks. The CD audiobooks and larger cases do not fit in the slot but they can be returned in the regular book drop. Multimedia sets such as Muzzy's and Hooked-on-Phonics must be returned inside the library.

Call the library at 606-6414 for more information.

Valentine's Events

PACIFIC COAST CLUB



Valentine's Day DINNER SPECIAL

6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 14 in the Ballroom

\$29 per couple for members • \$33 per couple for non-members

Dinner from 6 to 8 p.m.

Music by **DZIRE 'til 10 p.m.**

Special menu features a choice of prime rib or salmon, served with fresh spring greens, chef's vegetable, roasted red potatoes, dessert and wine.

Reservations recommended: 734-4375

100 Greatest Love Songs Countdown in both lounges



O-Lounge, 7 to 11 p.m. • E-Lounge, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.



Special Ladies' Choice Night!

Feb. 15 • E-Lounge, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Visit us on the web at www.30svs.com

NATURAL KNEAD MASSAGE THERAPY & DAY SPA



Remember your Valentine Feb. 14th with a great gift!

Special 'HUGS & KISSES' gift wrapping available for gift certificates, just \$2!

Telephone: 605-4748

Located in the Services Center
Massage Therapy & Day Spa



TOPS IN BLUE

tops-in-blue WINNER!



Senior Airman Matt Royal, 534th Training Group student, won the Tops in Blue door prize of a \$200 gift certificate from AAFES. Royal is shown here with sponsors, Reggie Sanford, left, and John Winkler, right.

PACIFIC COAST CLUB

Join us this Sunday for...



Sunday Brunch

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Adults \$13.95

Children 4 to 12, \$.75 per year, under 4 years, FREE

(Show Club Card for member discount)

Reservations not required, but highly recommended. Call 734-4375.