

Base Briefs

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The 2002 Annual Awards Banquet begins at 6 p.m. today in the Pacific Coast Club. Contact unit first sergeants to purchase tickets. Tickets cost \$21 or \$19 for PCC members. The guest speaker for the event is Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray.

FORCE PROTECTION REMINDER

Force protection is every individual's responsibility. In the event of a bomb threat, follow the steps on Air Force form 440 located by each telephone. Do not hang up the phone. Call 911 on another line. Don't change anything about the environment, and evacuate the building. If encountering a suspicious or unattended package, do not touch anything. Remember details about the package and environment. Don't change the environment, evacuate the building and call Security Forces at 606-3911. Remember: don't panic. Enlist the help of others and take action.

VANDEMBERG CHIEF'S GROUP

The Vandenberg Chief's Group is looking for all local retired chief master sergeants to become members. Meetings are at 7 a.m. the first Tuesday of each month at Breaker's Dining Facility. For more information, call Chief Master Sgts. John Gunther, 605-0750, or Philip Cope, 606-9567.

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.

MEDICAL TRAINING DAY CLOSURE

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

GUARDIAN CHALLENGE KICK-OFF RALLY

All Team Vandenberg is invited to join Hawkman at the Guardian Challenge kick-off rally at 3:30 p.m. March 7 at the Pacific Coast Club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Rudy Gutierrez at 605-0549.

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.

EOD detonates 500-pound bomb

Students apply classroom knowledge in FBI's Post-blast Class

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

The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight detonated 500 pounds of ammonium nitrate on the EOD range here in support of an FBI Post-blast Class Feb. 11.

The course is designed to train local, state and federal agencies in the process of conducting the investigation of a bombing, said Special Agent Robert Heckman, FBI forensic sciences instructor. It gives the students a chance to apply what they've learned in the classroom.

The course also establishes a network of people on the West Coast trained to investigate bombings that do occur, Heckman said.

Those people would be available to augment investigations and assist other federal agencies in a bombing situation, he added.

Vandenberg has been supporting this class since 1999, but it is not the only base that participates, Heckman said. The FBI also holds classes at Travis, Nellis, Edwards and Eglin Air Force Bases.

Between 25 and 38 students participate in each class. The students investigate the blast scene to identify the type of explosives used and the type of vehicle that carried them, said Sheriff's Department Sgt. George Gomez, Los Angeles County arson and explosives detail.

After searching the scene, the class uses the information they gather, along with information provided by instructors, to identify a suspect and build a case against him, Gomez said.

A Los Angeles deputy district attorney



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

Staff Sgt. Jacob Monelo, Lt. Col. Douglas Tucker, and Brent Schumacher, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, survey the after-effects of a 500-pound blast set in a 2.5-ton truck (inset). The 30th CES Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight conducted a post-blast class with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Feb. 11 here. The class trains local, state, and federal agencies in conducting the investigation of a bombing.

ney visited the class Feb. 14 to listen to the class's evidence against the suspect they identified. Then the DDA told the class if the evidence they provided was enough to support a conviction, Gomez said.

In comparison to the Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995, which used 4,000 to 6,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate as the explosive, the blast performed here was small, Heckman said.

If the blast here had taken place inside a city instead of on an EOD range, it would have shattered windows and hurt many people, but probably would not have destroyed a building, he

said. Even so, the frame was all that remained of the 2.5-ton truck used to house the explosives.

All of the students taking the course are from different bomb squads around the country. This is an advanced course for people who've had other bomb training in the past, Heckman said.

In fact, the advanced course was set up because students from beginner bomb blast courses said in critique that they needed a follow up course. The advanced course here reinforces the skills they've already learned and builds upon them with hands-on learning, he added.

ANG soldiers arrive to beef up Security Forces

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

Team V can expect to see 67 new faces guarding the gates and running patrols around Vandenberg Monday.

Members of the 578th Engineers Battalion, Bravo Company, based in Long Beach, Calif., arrived on base Feb. 10 to augment the 30th Security Forces Squadron. They are trained and ready to begin duty Monday.

The Army National Guard troops underwent a week of Air Force security forces training that ranged from searching vehicles to crowd control.

"Training was thorough," said Sgt. Robert Hammersley, squad leader for the company. "All the soldiers feel confident about the training they received."

The security forces training was similar to the Army training the soldiers received at Fort Lewis, Wash., prior to coming to Vandenberg.

"Infantry tactics are pretty basic to the Army," said Capt. Albert Soliz, company commander. "But these guys are combat engineers, so some of the training was a good refresher for them."

There were some subtle differences in the way the Army soldiers and Air Force security forces do things, such as the way they holster weapons or secure buildings.

However, "so far we have been thoroughly briefed on those differences, so I don't foresee any problems," Hammersley said.

The soldiers, combat engineers for the Army, spend their military time demolishing mine fields, so learning to handcuff and apprehend suspects was new for them, Hammersley said.

Most of the soldiers enjoyed learning defensive tactics, he said. The training included take-down techniques and was the most physically demanding.

The national guardsmen are

finishing up Army requirements, such as physical fitness testing, and taking a few days of personal leave before they begin their one-year Vandenberg deployment.

While the Vandenberg assignment is an unaccompanied tour and will force the soldiers to live and work away from their families, most are within a few hours drive from their homes.

"Vandenberg is a garden spot," said Hammersley, who left his wife and job as a technical writer to serve here. "My commander said getting the assignment here was like winning the deployment lotto."

The 67 soldiers at Vandenberg are part of a nationwide move that mobilized 9,000 soldiers across the country to 163 Air Force bases. In California, the Army National Guard called up about 500 soldiers to augment Air Forces bases in the state.

"The soldiers have really high morale right now," Hammersley said. "We're ready and willing to help and do our part."



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

Staff Sgt. Derek Greene, 30th Security Forces Squadron, teaches Army National Guard Specialists Kenneth Addie and Gabriel Vasquez the procedures for searching a vehicle here.

Smallpox education, vaccinations to begin

By MAJ. STACEE N. BAKO
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Hot on the heels of the restart of anthrax vaccinations comes the smallpox vaccination program.

According to Department of Defense officials, the smallpox vaccine is coming back into use to ensure the military stays mission capable in the event smallpox is used as a biological weapon.

While most Team Vandenberg personnel may not see vaccinations begin for a few months, the current goal is to educate the base populace on the smallpox vaccine and the care required for the injection sight.

In a Jan. 6 policy letter, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper outlined details of the commanders' force protection program against smallpox as a



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JASON NEAL

Airman 1st Class Rebecca Burgess, 43rd Medical Squadron technician, inoculates an airman against smallpox Feb. 11 at Pope AFB, N.C.

deadly biological warfare agent.

Similar to the anthrax vaccine, the Department of Defense is

and base-level smallpox medical team members. These are medics who've been selected to treat

anyone who contracts the disease. Stage 2 includes mission-critical forces, for example, deployers to high-threat regions.

Stage 3 includes all other U.S. forces depending upon circumstances. Some civilian employees and contractors will also be vaccinated in accordance with the Air Force smallpox vaccination implementation plan.

The smallpox vaccine has been used successfully for more than 205 years but the United States stopped routine smallpox vaccinations in 1972 and in 1979 the World Health Organization declared the virus eradicated worldwide.

As a result, more than 40 percent of the American population is not vaccinated, and immunity in those

who received their shots previously is waning, according to the Center for Disease Control.

Because all vaccine production facilities were dismantled after 1980, and renewed vaccine production is estimated to require at least 24-36 months, the vaccine stock cannot be immediately replenished. The Johns Hopkins University Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies estimates there are 50-100 million doses of the vaccine existing worldwide, and U.S. military members are a top priority and will receive their vaccinations first.

The DoD plan to vaccinate military members against a possible smallpox attack emphasizes four simple messages:

See SMALLPOX Page A6

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 and Hawkman show pride in their team during the Annual Awards Spirit Rally. See Page A6.



The 30th MDG's Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight competes in a duathlon for WarFit. See Page A9.

Weekend forecast
Sunny skies Friday. Partly cloudy to sunny Saturday and Sunday.

Low/High
41/70

For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit
www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather

Commander's Action Line

Concerned pedestrian asks for more light

Q: Is there any way to get more lighting at night on Oceanview Avenue in the area between base housing and Crestview Elementary School? Utah is lit up like daylight and then you turn on to Oceanview and it's so dark it's almost unsafe. There is lighting around the playground area, but it's always off. Thanks!

A: Thank you for your concern about the potentially unsafe nighttime situation for pedestrians on Oceanview Avenue. Base civil engineers have performed a lighting survey and found that the area does in fact lack adequate lighting. They have initiated a work order and will install additional lighting fixtures to correct the problem.

Resident frustrated with maintenance

Q: When calling housing maintenance and setting up a work order, they ask for your rank. What does rank have to do with getting a heater or hot water heater fixed? Second, the time frame they give you to expect them is sometime

between 7 and 11 a.m. for morning appointments or noon to 4 p.m. for afternoon appointments. My frustration comes when they arrive and can't finish the job for some reason, which requires me to miss another four hours of work waiting for them to finish the job. I know never to complain if you don't have a solution. My suggestion is to first do away with asking a person's rank and second, narrow the time frame down to a two-hour block. I understand emergencies arise which pull maintenance techs away from scheduled work orders. It seems they could have a couple of guys who only handle emergency calls.

A: Thank you for taking the time to voice your opinions regarding our housing maintenance service call procedures and giving me the opportunity to address them. Asking for an occupant's rank is not done to prioritize service calls — it's done primarily as a courtesy, in order that C. Martin Company customer service staff may properly address you in conversation.

Our current maintenance contract with C. Martin Company specifies they establish an 8-hour window for appointment scheduling. C. Martin Company has voluntarily reduced this to a 4-hour window to minimize lost duty time. During this 4-hour window, there are two main scenarios when a scheduled

repair may not be completed on the first appointment.

First, C. Martin does maintain a small bench stock of parts at their maintenance complex and should bring parts with them that are appropriate for the described repair action. Unfortunately, required parts may not always be on hand for the required repair, and a follow-up visit may be required.

Second, C. Martin Company is required to stop their repairs and contact the contracting office whenever the material costs for a repair will exceed \$75. Vandenberg contracting personnel then perform a quick cost analysis of the proposed repair to determine if repair or replacement is most cost effective.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Housing Maintenance Quality Assurance Evaluators at 606-2808, whenever they don't receive prompt, courteous housing maintenance support from our housing contractor. Our QAEs are on the contract frontlines—ready to leap into action should contractors not fulfill their contractual obligations.

Crosswalk in library parking lot unsafe

Q: I wanted to follow-up on a conversation I had with you at a Commander's Call in October. I had inquired about the sidewalk and crosswalk beside the base library. There is a crosswalk marked there, but it does not have a pedestrian sign or any kind of indicator that it is a crosswalk, other than just two large bold lines. This morning, a car

that did not yield to the pedestrian crosswalk almost hit me. We brought this up before because on Thursdays we have children's story time. People not observing the crosswalk are very dangerous because we have a lot of parents who bring their young children to the library. I had suggested possibly having some kind of markings on the ground. People assume for some reason that this is a street instead of a parking lot and they speed through here. I see all the other improvements that have been made around the base, like Cocheo Park. Hopefully you can include this too.

A: Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention. After having the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron look into the situation, they agreed that additional measures were needed at that location. Pavement markings have been installed at the crosswalk to warn drivers in advance of possible pedestrians. Additionally, security forces will place more emphasis on speed compliance in the BX area.

Although additional markings and enforcement will be implemented, education will have the largest impact on safety in the BX area. Your input gives me the opportunity to remind everyone that pedestrians should remember to be alert and cautious when crossing a street, regardless if they are using a crosswalk or not. Furthermore, your call reminds drivers to be more aware of their speed in this high pedestrian traffic area. Thank you for improving safety for pedestrians on base.

CComment

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

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



Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander

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 such 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.

The 30th Space Wing

Mission:

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

Vision:

America's finest professionals building the best spaceport and test range in the world.

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES

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

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Tech. Sgt. Robert Dunn
2nd Space Launch Squadron



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ED BRALY

Duty: NCO in charge, booster mechanical section
Home state: Texas
Time at Vandenberg: 2 years
Time in service: 19 years
Hobbies: fishing, SCUBA diving
Education goals: to complete a Community College of the Air Force degree in missile maintenance technology
Why he likes his job: "I like being a part of the 2nd SLS family, working directly with launch vehicles that put satellites in orbit, and doing my part for the 'war on terrorism,'" Dunn said.
Supervisor's comments: "Tech. Sgt. Dunn is an outstanding NCO. I can always depend on him to get the job done right the first time!" said Master Sgt. Kevin Williams, 2nd SLS Generation Flight superintendent.

Commander gains insight during cross-country flight

By MAJ. KAREN TAYLOR
30th Mission Support Squadron

A few years ago as I traveled on a flight across the country beside a gentleman a few years my senior, we got into the usual discussion about the purpose of our trips. When he learned I served in the Air Force he said, "I was in the Air Force for six years, got out a few years ago."

My hope that we could pass the time during the flight sharing exciting stories of wonderful Air Force experiences quickly dissolved when he said, "I could not believe the waste and inefficiency. I stayed in for six years thinking it would get better, but my integrity would not let me continue to be part of such an organization."

"I realize it could be just the organization I worked with, and now that I'm a regular taxpayer, I really hope that it was just that organization."

While he talked, I wanted to defend our service and recount

all of my memories of dedicated aircraft maintenance professionals turning wrenches on flight lines either on scorching 110 degree concrete or windswept, minus 40-degree snow pack.

I felt the need to object for all of my hard-working friends who spent over 200 days a year TDY and people who took care of each other's families, cooking and sharing in good times and bad. Instead, I restrained because obviously my experiences were not his, so the truth as he saw the Air Force was his perception.

He saw our service as filled with red tape, integrity problems, and "officers spending 40 hours a week building Powerpoint slides to justify and earn their next year's budget." And, while I have been part of some of the "hardest working units in the Air Force," I too remember seeing members who played solitaire, cut short 8-hour days to work out and play golf, and just in general not putting forth their best effort.

His disdain was enough for me to doubt my ability to influence

his perception of the Air Force, but I left the flight that day changed. It caused me to think more about the way we project ourselves.

When folks enter the Air Force, whether military or civilian, lifers or not, we need to put the Air Force's best foot forward, and the best place to start—the core values, of course!

INTEGRITY—Through our service we defend America. We serve the same people we grew up with -- great people who survive, struggling with fledgling businesses, farms, and tough jobs. They send us their taxes and their sons and daughters and trust us to do the right thing with these resources. We can feel proud when we use responsibility in spending taxpayer dollars, effectively use our workweek, and treat America's sons and daughters as integral parts of the team. Our service directly reflects on our integrity.

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO -- In our service to America we also "build better Americans"

through education and training during service. How well we serve says a lot to our customers, our leadership, and the taxpayers.

When we put forth our best effort, we look for efficient, better ways to do our jobs and the best way to use America's resources. We strive to serve with excellence.

SERVICE BEFORE SELF-- It is a simple question that easily gets lost in the daily schedule: are we making resource and time decisions with service to America in mind, or service to ourselves? We serve a calling that requires a higher level of commitment than the average citizen. Officers, enlisted, and DoD civilians take an oath regarding service. Until we are "average citizens" it is the responsibility we all carry.

Keeping core values at the forefront sets us on the way to making a great impression on all who pass through our doors, whether military, civilian, short timers, or lifers. Eyes are on us, and when we serve as proud professionals, it is noticed!

Many airmen wonder whether their efforts really make a difference. They could learn...

By LT. COL. JIM PARKER, CALL SIGN "FESS"
2nd Operations Support Squadron,
Barksdale AFB, La.

More than 20 years ago, I raised my hand and promised to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. Since then, our nation has won the Cold War with the Soviet Union and fought major battles in Grenada in 1983, Panama in 1989, Iraq in 1991, Bosnia in 1995, Kosovo in 1999 and Afghanistan in 2001.

As each conflict came and went, I wondered if I would ever be called upon to make a difference. Each time I was in a job where my unit wasn't called. Finally, in 2001, I was a B-52 pilot in a front-line unit, but again my unit wasn't called.

I watched as our sister squadron deployed in September 2001 to take the battle to Al Qaeda and the Taliban. I felt pride that the old B-52 "Buff" still instills fear in the enemies of the United States.

But I wondered if my efforts over the last 20 years had made any difference. Though serving in a calling, I had never been called.

In January 2002, my turn came. I deployed to a lovely island location. Our task? Maintain a presence over Afghanistan to respond if needed.

A typical mission (26 hours from get up to go to bed) went like this: take off, fly a few hours north and take on 20,000 gallons from a tanker. Fly another couple of hours to Afghanistan. Bore holes in the sky for several hours waiting for a tasking. Turn south and carry all the weapons back to the island. Hours flown: around 17. Distance covered: about 8,000 miles. Weapons dropped: 0. Difference made: unknown.

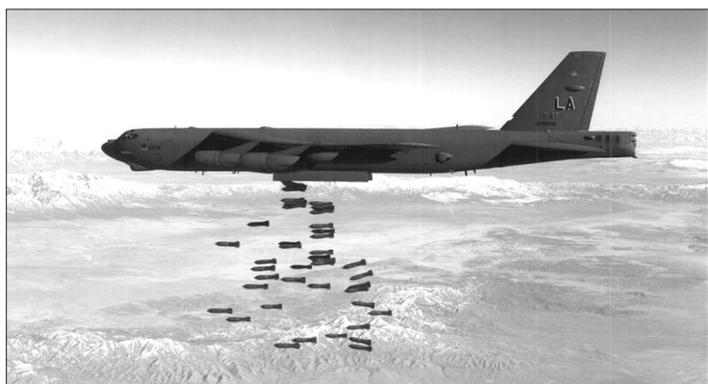


PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. RALPH HALLMON

A B-52H from Barksdale AFB, La. drops its 750-pound M-117 bombs. B-52s were key players in Operation Anaconda, an air and ground campaign in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Our long flights seemed to result in little more than bone-tired crews and hours of maintenance work for our crew chiefs.

At the end of February, we got the first indication that we were indeed making a difference. We received an e-mail message from a group of British special forces soldiers. They had encountered a force of Taliban and began to negotiate the enemy's surrender. Soon both sides realized the Brits were outnumbered and outgunned.

The negotiations began to go badly. Then one of the Brits noticed the contrail of a B-52 overhead. He reminded the Taliban negotiator of the Buff's presence. The negotiations then proceeded smoothly and the Taliban surrendered.

In early March, we supported Operation Anaconda, the most intense

fighting encountered so far by American troops in Afghanistan. Al Qaeda fighters had holed up on a ridgeline near the town of Gardez. The Soviets had spent years trying to dislodge the Afghans from this area with no success. We planned to do it in a few days.

During the early hours of the fight, my crew was tasked to destroy an Al Qaeda mortar position. The ground controller spoke in excited tones and urgently requested we strike this mortar. If we took too long, he would likely not be around, he said.

After getting the location, double-checking the coordinates against the positions of friendly forces and clearing the airspace below, we released on the target. In a few moments the ground controller, in a calm and collected voice, said, "Thanks, that did it."

As we returned to base with empty

bomb racks, I considered all the effort it took to give me the opportunity to hear, "Thanks, that did it." Thinking about the critical people who put a single B-52 over Afghanistan humbled me.

On our island we had bus drivers, wrench turners, cooks, personnel specialists, security forces, civil engineers and a few aircrew members. Back home we had thousands whose job it was to keep the airplanes healthy and flying over here.

We call my part the pointy end of the spear. My crew's effort that day was a tiny point on a massive spear, the spear of support of the American people, of the American way of life.

One part of that spear was a bus driver. On the day Operation Anaconda began, my crew headed for our mission briefing. But the usual bus was missing. We waited a bit, then started making phone calls. As the time for our mission brief approached, the phone calls got more heated.

Finally, a bus showed up 15 minutes late. The driver got an earful about the importance of being on time. His name was taken. His supervisor would be informed. This bus driver would have to shape-up. Didn't he know there were lives on the line?

A little investigation showed the bus driver was in the 14th hour of a 12-hour shift. While turning in his bus, he got the call about my crew's lack of transportation. He volunteered to extend his shift by about 30 minutes. His effort got our crew to the briefing on time on the day we took out a mortar position. The missing bus turned out to be our duty officer's fault.

The driver sowed diligence and self-sacrifice and seemed to reap only grief.

Did the airman make a difference that day? You bet. Did he get an "atta boy!"? He should have, but we failed to tell him the importance of his efforts to a ground controller thousands of miles away in Afghanistan. The driver helped me realize my life had made a difference before that day. I realized my efforts as a civil engineer, instructor pilot and staff officer mattered.

It wasn't dropping bombs over Afghanistan that made my life count. It was simply showing up, doing my job well, day after day, year after year. Persistence, self-sacrifice, diligence — that's what made my efforts significant.

How about you? Are you making a difference? Or are you frustrated with your job, your boss, your co-workers, your spouse or your kids?

The lesson from Afghanistan is the same one Paul wrote about in the Bible almost 2,000 years ago when he spoke on the principle of sowing and reaping.

Some people faithfully sow in their jobs, their family, their church, and their community, but somehow they feel they always miss out on the reaping part. They look at their lives and can't tell whether their contributions have made any difference.

Paul gave us a simple piece of advice: "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

Are you ready to quit? Hang in there. Are you tired? Keep at it. One day you will reap — if you don't quit.

To the bus driver who picked up my crew that day in March, I offer these simple words from a ground controller in Afghanistan: "Thanks, that did it."

(Courtesy of Air Combat Command News Service)

Team Vandenberg family member baffles husband as the 'Great Prognosticator'

By MOLLY TILLYER
534th Training Squadron family member

I've always thought of myself as a cautious person; someone who takes the time to think ahead. My husband, Mike, on the other hand, seems to think I'm an obsessive-compulsive control freak who's afraid of her own shadow.

He's wrong. I've told him he's wrong and I will continue to tell him he's wrong until he realizes the error in his thinking.

Mike is a fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants kind of guy. When we were living in Alaska, he had a whim to go hiking. Ignoring my arguments, as usual, he pulled alongside an overgrown trail. "Come on," he teased, "Where's your sense of adventure?"

The last time he challenged me with that question, my face slammed into, and left a drooling imprint on, the Plexiglas partition of a New York City cab.

Begrudgingly, I got out of the car and followed him up the trail. We got no more than ten feet into the woods when my Davy Crockett turned to me and said, "You know what? You've ruined it for me. I don't feel like hiking anymore."

"What?" I demanded. "You drag me out here..."

And then I saw it. Behind Mike's shoulder, trampling through the brush directly towards us was... a bear.

A big, huge, monster truck of a bear. Once we were back safely in the car, Mike sat gripping the steering wheel. Without turning to me, he said, "Don't say it. Just don't say it."

I don't know which is worse for him, the fact that I'm so cautious or that I'm always right. And, to Mike's further consternation, I

have a slight dependency problem with primetime news shows. I'm constantly cataloging, retaining, and rehearsing the information.

Halogen lights cause fires? Consider the light gone.

This move will take a mugger down? I'll have Mike attack me until I master it.

"You do realize," he said to me one day as he held me in a chokehold, "you're about one 20/20 or 48 Hours away from having to be committed."

"Mike," I said as I flipped him over my shoulder, "I am not crazy. I'm cautious.

There's a difference. I want to know how to get out of a burning airplane. I want to know how to escape should I ever drive my car into a lake. These are things a person should know."

His response? My newfound knowledge was scaring the hell out of the kids.

It's not my intent to scare my children. My intention is to get them to think. I want them to be able to look at a situation and make smart decisions.

It's imperative to their development that they learn the skill of evaluating consequences early in life. If they don't learn this skill early on, it will be very evident once they become adults.

The other day was a warm one here in California so Mike purchased a Slip 'N Slide for the boys. My son, Matthew, and I watched as Mike stretched out the plastic on a hill in the yard.

"Mike," I said, "the directions say you need to stretch it out on a flat area."

"Yeah, I know," he replied, "but this way, they'll have a pool of water at the end they can slide into."

I looked at Matthew; he returned my look and shrugged.

"Okay, but, Mike, don't you think there's a reason, maybe, why they specifically said a flat area?"

"Molly," he snapped, "Who's doin' this?" Understanding that was a rhetorical question, I shut my mouth and took a seat.

Mike turned on the water and watched as it trickled down the sheeting, pooling at the bottom. He clearly didn't see what Matthew and I saw, but, as instructed, we said nothing. Moments later, Mike tore off his shirt and announced, "Prepare to be amazed at my lightning speed."

"Go for it, Flash," I retorted.

He took a few steps back and made a running leap.

And, yes, Mike was right; we were amazed. We were amazed at the reverberation of his screams as the dry plastic ripped the skin off his alabaster belly. We were amazed at how the yellow plastic had wrapped around him so tightly, he looked like a giant banana. And we were amazed he was able to lift his head from the pool of water, spit out a mouth full of grass and debris and sputter, "Molly, do not say a word. Not one word."

I let out a low whistle and shook my head.

"You know," I leaned over and whispered to Matthew, "that had to hurt."

"Yup," Matthew replied, nodding in agreement, "I just can't believe he didn't see that coming."

That's my boy; the next Great Prognosticator.

Molly Tillyer is the wife of Lt. Michael Tillyer of the 534th Training Squadron and the mother of two young sons. She is a true thrill-seeker and cites sitting entirely too close to the television as one of her more dangerous stunts. She also once drove an entire block before putting on her seatbelt. She doesn't recommend trying this at home.

ALCON: Bravo

A DUI or alcohol-related incident has occurred without injuries.

Days since last DUI: 5
 DUI totals for the Year: 5
 Saves by AADD this year: 44

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

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 at 698-8823, 698-8822, or 606-2233.

Heard a rumor? Get the facts! During crises or emergencies, call the Vandenberg rumor control line at 606-1857.

Team V's Annual

Team Vandenberg recognizes its best and brightest during the annual awards banquet tonight at the Pacific Coast Club. The selection boards have met and tallied their results. Now, its time to wait and see which nominees are picked as the standard bearers for the whole-person concept. This year's nominees are:

Airman



Senior Airman Andrew Piuma, 30th Operations Group



Staff Sgt. Kevin Battles, 595th Space Group



Senior Airman Mignon Walker, 576th Flight Test Squadron



Tech. Sgt. Adalberto Velez, 381st TRG



Senior Airman Robert Knapp, 30th Medical Group



Staff Sgt. Bradley Wallace, Det. 1, 22nd Space Operations Squadron



Senior Airman Rodney Duncan, 30th Mission Support Group



Tech. Sgt. Julie Kaechle, Det. 9, Space and Missile Systems Center



Senior Airman Steven Duaime, 30th Maintenance Group



Tech. Sgt. Philip Nixon, 30th MSG



Senior Airman Jamie Santon, 381st Training Group



Staff Sgt. David Davis Jr., 30th SW



Senior Airman Keith Egelston, 30th Space Wing Staff



Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Gregory McNeill, 30th MDG

CGO



1st Lt. Daniel Triplett, 30th MXG



Capt. Melanie Bean, Det. 9, SMC



Capt. Ann Curtis, 30th OG



Capt. Charity Hartley, 576th FLTS



Staff Sgt. Jared Ey, 30th OG



Senior Master Sgt. Robert Plouffe, Det. 9, SMC



Tech. Sgt. John Pahnke, 30th MDG



Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Pridemore, 30th SW Staff



Tech. Sgt. Hermel Montero Jr., 30th MXG



Master Sgt. Rudy Gutierrez, 30th MSG



Master Sgt. David Erb, 30th OG



Senior Master Sgt. Michael Watson, 30th MXG



Master Sgt. Lee Lopez, 14th Air Force



Master Sgt. Edward Speller, 576th FLTS



Master Sgt. Dexter King, 381st TRG



Master Sgt. Gregory Webster, National Reconnaissance Organization



Capt. Chadwick Igl, 392nd TRS



Capt. Paul Quigley Jr., 30th MSG



Capt. Samantha Ray, 614th Space Operations Group



Capt. Michael Wascher, 30th MDG



Capt. Daniel Weak, 30th SW



Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Cook, 576th FLTS



Senior Master Sgt. Brian Robertson, 381st TRS



Master Sgt. Cindy Hasty, 30th MSG



Master Sgt. Tonia Rayford, 30th MSG



Master Sgt. Dennis Wingett, 30th OG

Honor Guard

Airman Category



Senior Airman Nimfa Mananggit, 30th MSG



Senior Airman Danny Twyman, 30th MSG



Senior Airman Yasmin Reis, 392nd TRS

Honor Guard

NCO Category



Staff Sgt. Marvin Banks Jr., 30th OG



Staff Sgt. Michele Higdon, 30th MDG



Staff Sgt. James Franciere, 534th TRS

Civilian

Category I



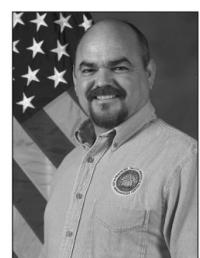
Ruth Clark, 30th MSG



Karen Cook, 30th MSG



Refugio Duarte, 30th MSG



Francisco Gomez, 30th OG

Award Nominees



Susan Haury, 14th AF



Dayna Castro, 30th OG



Carmelita Sibug, 30th MDG



Catherine Johnston, 30th MSG



Christy Crosiar, 30th OG



Charles Shrontz, 30th MXG



Jacqueline Leonard, 30th MDG



Randall Farley, 30th MSG



Junell Tillman, 30th SW



Alinda Nelson, 30th SW STAFF



Arsenia Flores, 30th MDG



Luong Tran, 30th MSG



Brandon Paige, 30th MSG



Sara Galligan, 30th MSG



Michael Woods, 576th FLTS



Bonnie Purvis, Det. 9, SMC



Dale Ragland, 576th FLTS



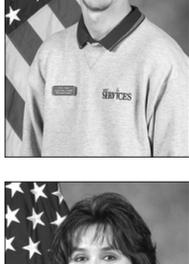
Brian Owen, Fitness Center



Frank Romero, 30th MSG



Janet Hebert, 534th TRS



Diana Vasquez, Information, Tickets and Travel



Christa Strehlo, 30th MXG



Sharon Hedman, 30th OG



Olenthia Snerling, Golf Course Snack Bar



Vicente Villegas, 392th TRS/CCT



Bruce Henderson, 533rd TRS



Ruby Fitzpatrick, Human Resources Office



Christine Knierim, 30th MDG



David Beil, Det. 9, SMC

NAF Employee

Category II



Michael Peterson, Marketing Department



Chon Shimashita, Lodging

NAF Employee

Category III



Patricia McCullar, Human Resources Office



Delores Scott, Bowling Center Snack Bar

Volunteer

Active Duty/DoD Civilian Category



Capt. Melissa Reidy, 392nd TRS



Master Sgt. Gregory Cain, 30th OG



Master Sgt. Richard Toczek, 381st TRS



Staff Sgt. Patricia Keen, 30th SW

Volunteer

Family Member/Non DoD Civilian Category



Laurel Peterson, VAFB Thrift Shop

Volunteer

Excellence Award



Mara Walton, VAFB Thrift Shop



Barbara Mecum, VAFB Thrift Shop



Paulette Taylor, 381st TRS



Annie Arrigo, VAFB Food Pantry



Elfiwde Wittwer, VAFB Thrift Shop



Earl Gustafson, VAFB Retire Activities Center



Photini Dusablon, VAFB Food Pantry

Civilian

Category II



David Beil, Det. 9, SMC



U.S. Air Force -- Cross into the blue!

SMALLPOX:

♦ Smallpox is a contagious, deadly disease that would disrupt missions

♦ Smallpox vaccine is effective, but requires careful use

♦ The health and safety of our people, especially those at greatest risk, are our top concerns

♦ Smallpox protection helps the global war on terrorism: new threats require new measures of force protection.

People getting the vaccine will receive a briefing on expected reactions, adverse effects, and how to access health care for medical concerns.

As a minimum, people will receive a copy of the smallpox vaccine trifold, available on the DoD smallpox Web site, www.smallpox.army.mil.

The 30th Space Wing communications plan directs that people will get information at commanders' calls, and 30th Medical Group professionals will be on hand to provide additional smallpox information.

All recipients will be screened before inoculation. The screening form is available in advance under the "Resource Center: Forms" icon on the DoD smallpox Web site.

If a person answers "yes" or "unsure" to any question on the form, that person will not receive the vaccine until they have received further medical evaluation.

"Smallpox vaccine has some well-recognized side effects," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Kelly Woodward, chief of preventive medicine at the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.

"Many people can expect to have minor side effects, such as feeling achy, low-grade fever, headache and itching at the injection site. Those are minor reactions and resolve on their own."

There are rare cases, Woodward said, where individuals have more severe side effects.

Although all vaccines cause side effects, smallpox causes a unique reaction at the injection site.

If the vaccination is successful, a red and itchy bump develops at the vaccine site in three or four days. Then, in the first week, the bump becomes a large blister and fills with pus. During the second week, the blister begins to dry up and a scab forms.

The scab falls off in the third week, leaving a small permanent scar. Swelling and tender lymph nodes can last two to four weeks after the blister heals. People who are being vaccinated for the first time have a stronger reaction than those who are being revaccinated. If someone does not get the expected vaccination site reaction, they need to be revaccinated.

Most people experience normal, mild reactions such as a sore arm, fever, headache, body ache, fatigue and sometimes vomiting. These symptoms usually peak 8 to 12 days after vaccination.

Based on past experience, it is estimated that between 1 and 2 people out of every 1 million people vaccinated may die as a result of life-threatening reactions to the vaccine.

However, the risk is minimal compared to the protection the vaccine provides, say DoD officials. A smallpox outbreak could

cause many casualties among unvaccinated troops, disrupting a unit's ability to perform its mission.

Smallpox, because of its high case-fatality rates and transmissibility, represents one of the most serious bioterrorist threats to the population, according to Johns Hopkins University CCBS. Several factors fuel the concern: the disease has historically been feared as one of the most serious of all pestilential diseases; it is physically disfiguring; it bears a 30 percent case-fatality rate (in other words, 3 out of every 10 infected people die); there is no treatment; it is communicable from person to person; and no one in the U.S. has been vaccinated during the past 25 years.

A germ called *variola* virus causes smallpox, but the vaccine does not contain this virus. Rather, it contains a closely related virus called *vaccinia* that produces immunities in humans against smallpox the disease.

The shot will be given consistent with Food and Drug Administration guidelines.

Like all other vaccinations the smallpox vaccine is mandatory for designated personnel unless they are medically exempt.

The Air Force Space Command chief of operational medicine said that as of Jan. 31, the complications from smallpox vaccinations are much less than anticipated.

Of the 3,665 medical and tens of thousands of others vaccinated, the overall average of vaccinated people requiring sick leave is three percent, with the average length of sick leave at 1.5 days.

Go Hawks!



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MOLLY GILLIAM

Team Vandenberg and Hawkman gather at the base football field for the 2003 Annual Awards Spirit Rally Tuesday. Col. Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, announced the nominees for Vandenberg's annual awards.

Crime Beat ...

COMPILED BY MASTER SGT. WESLEY ASLESON
30th Security Forces Squadron

Concerned parent – Feb. 13

The wife of a military member reported her son did not return home after school and he possibly ran away. Patrolmen responded to investigate and a search for the child was initiated. He was found playing with friends adjacent to Katsura Street. The child was transported to his quarters.

Loud noise complaint – Feb. 13

Three spouses of military members and a military member reported loud noise coming from quarters on Hillside circle. Patrolmen responded to investigate. The military member was instructed to quell the noise, which was contributed to a party. The member complied.

Assistance rendered – Feb. 14

A patrolman reported a female walking in the middle of California Boulevard adjacent to Magnolia Street. Further investigation revealed she was the wife of a military member and was under medication. Emergency medical services responded and transported the female to the Lompoc hospital for treatment. A small knife was seized from the subject for her own safety.

Concerned neighbors – Feb. 14

A military member's wife reported her

children heard a woman screaming and a baby crying at a quarters on Chestnut Street. Patrolmen responded to investigate. Investigation revealed the military member and his wife were having an argument at the quarters. A unit representative responded and assumed control.

Assistance rendered – Feb. 15

A patrolman reported a female walking in the middle of the street on California Boulevard adjacent to Magnolia Street. Further investigation revealed she was the wife of a military member, and looking for lost property. She found the property and departed.

Suspicious box – Feb. 15

A military member reported observing an unattended item in the Base Exchange parking lot. A patrolman responded to investigate. Investigation revealed the item was a Dell computer box filled with trash.

Jailed military member – Feb. 16

A routine off-base jail check revealed the California Highway Patrol in San Luis Obispo arrested a military member for Driving Under the Influence. The members unit was notified and an incident report was accomplished.

DID YOU KNOW? In accordance with the 30th Space Wing Installation Traffic Code, any person operating a motor vehicle on Vandenberg AFB must make sure all children four years old or under not exceeding 40 pounds in weight are properly secured in an infant or child restraint device.

Smallpox vaccination site care tips

- ♦ Vaccine virus remains at the site until scab falls off and can infect others.
- ♦ Don't touch any vaccination site.
- ♦ If accidental contact occurs, wash hands immediately.
- ♦ Don't let others touch vaccination site or materials that have covered it.
- ♦ Handle your own laundry and towels and place directly in hot soapy water.
- ♦ Do not share a bed, bunk, or cot with people exempted from vaccination.
- ♦ Do not share clothes, towels, linen, or toiletries.
- ♦ Most vaccination sites can be left unbandaged, especially when not in close contact with other persons.
- ♦ Keep the site dry. Airing speeds healing.

- ♦ Wear sleeves covering the site and/or use an absorbent bandage to make a touch-resistant barrier.
- ♦ Dispose of bandages in sealed or double plastic bags. Carefully add a little bleach to kill the virus.
- ♦ Do not use creams or ointments, as they delay healing.
- ♦ Continue normal bathing. Dry the vaccination site last, so that the towel does not rub or spread virus elsewhere.
- ♦ Don't use public towels unless laundry workers are alerted that you were vaccinated.
- ♦ Use a waterproof adhesive bandage when exercising.
- ♦ Avoid getting the site wet in pools or spas.

On my honor ...



PHOTO BY CHERYL WILLARD

Emily Mitchell, 6, decorates a cookie while her mom registers her for Brownie Girl Scouts at the Space and Sea Girl Scouts Open House Feb. 4.



PHOTO BY JOANN GUSTAVE

Vandenberg's Catholic Parish, Our Lady of the Stars, celebrates Scout Sunday to encourage scouts in their faith and to recognize those who have earned their religious medals.

Want to be a Boy Scout or Girl Scout?

Boys and girls can join more than 200 Team V youth already in scouting at the base. There are openings for boys and girls in all grade levels as well as for parents to lead, co-lead or assist in other ways. For more information, call the Scout Hut at 605-2217.

14th AF celebrates 60 years

By 1st Lt. Eric Badger
45th SW Public Affairs

The story of the Flying Tigers began in July 1937 after the retirement of Captain Claire

Chennault from the United States Army Air Corps earlier that year.

He was hired by the Chinese government on an initial three-month contract at \$1,000 a month as an aviation adviser. Capt. Chennault was assigned the job through the efforts of an American friend.

When China found itself under attack from Japan later in the year, Capt. Chennault was quickly assigned as China's chief air strategist for the Chinese Air Force.

During the summer of 1941, the general went to Washington D.C. to meet with President Roosevelt's top aides to work out an agreement to recruit American active duty airmen into the Chinese Air Force.

Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau helped equip Capt. Chennault's new air force with one hundred P-40 "Tomahawk" fighters.

By fall 1941, Capt. Chennault's new air force, known as the

American Volunteer Group, was formed with former Navy, Marine Corps and Army Air Corps pilots. Erickson Schilling, an AVG pilot, had the idea of painting their aircraft in order to instill fear in the enemy and boost morale. Schilling was given approval by Capt. Chennault to paint the red mouth, flashing white teeth, and "evil eye" of a tiger shark on the nose of each P-40 fighter.

The Flying Tigers were credited with destroying 286 Japanese aircraft between Dec. 18, 1941 and July 4, 1942. In July 1942, the AVG was transformed into the China Air Task Force.

As their commander, Capt. Chennault is recalled to active duty and is promoted to a U.S. Army Air Forces brigadier general.

The nickname "Flying Tiger" was born when an Associated Press newsman noticed the artwork and sent his dispatches a message with a "Flying Tiger" tagline. From there, the term became a nickname that reached worldwide fame.

On March 5, 1943, the CATF was turned into the 14th Air Force and the unit was activated on March 10, 1943. The 14th Air

Force is the first numbered air force to be created in a war zone.

In August 1943, Sergeant Howard Arnegard created the Flying Tiger insignia of a winged Bengal Tiger, including a white star with a red circle on a blue disc. The insignia became the unit's official patch and is still in use today.

General Chennault requests to be relieved from active duty and retires on July 8, 1945.

By then, the Flying Tigers had approximately 20,000 personnel and 1,000 aircraft in operation.

Between 1942 and 1945, enemy casualties reached approximately 59,454 troops killed. Throughout the three-year period, Flying Tiger losses reached no more than 500 aircraft.

Throughout the vast history of the Flying Tigers, the unit has been activated and inactivated many times throughout several Air Force installations.

The unit was re-designated 14th Air Force (Reserve) and activated at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga., on Oct. 8, 1976.

Its final and current activation on July 1, 1993 was as a numbered air force of Air Force Space Command.

Since the Flying Tigers were influential in the space program between July 1, 1968 and October 1, 1976, officials returned the unit to active duty under a space mission.

The specific mission includes space operations, space launch, satellite control, missile warning and space surveillance.

The unit currently maintains approximately 131 units in 44 locations worldwide, with four primary units including: the 21st Space Wing (Peterson AFB, Colorado), the 30th SW (Vandenberg AFB, California), the 50th SW (Schriever AFB, Colorado), and the 45th SW (Patrick AFB, Florida).

(Editor's note: As the 60th anniversary of the creation of 14th Air Force approaches, today's Flying Tigers are planning to celebrate through events dedicated to the original Tigers. A commemorative ball, themed "Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future" which pays tribute to the Flying Tigers of yesterday and today, is planned for March 15 and a dedication of a 14th Air Force-unique wall in the Pacific Coast Club is also planned.)

Airman found guilty in child abuse case

By 2nd Lt. Eric Ward
392nd Training Squadron

A military judge sentenced a 30th Security Forces Squadron airman to two years in confinement, a bad conduct discharge, and reduction in rank to airman basic during a general court-martial held here Jan. 28.

Airman Steven Chavis II pleaded guilty to two charges of unlawfully striking a child under 16 years of age during separate incidents that took place in May and June 2002.

Chavis admitted that in May 2002 he struck the 6-

month-old across the face with his hand, causing bruises to both of the child's cheeks. He also testified that in June 2002, he covered the baby's head with a pillow and hit him on the buttocks with his hand.

Chavis elected to be sentenced by a military judge alone.

The maximum sentence he could have received was a dishonorable discharge, four years in confinement, reduction in grade to E-1, and total forfeitures.



Future threats envisioned during technology game

■ WRIGHT-PATERSON AFB, Ohio — Warfighters, leading scientists and engineers from across the United States met Feb. 11 - 13 in McLean, Va., to contemplate what the battlefield will be like in 25 years.

The futurists gathered to take part in the Air Force Technology Seminar Game II, sponsored by the Air Force Research Laboratory here, to envision a range of

threatening environments and answer questions about what it will take to win a war in 2027. The event was the second of four seminars that will unfold over a six-month period, ending in May.

"We encourage Star Wars-like thinking of our participants — to go beyond today's traditional warfare environment and delve into tomorrow's unforeseen threats so that the Air Force can better predict and prepare warfighters for the future," said organizer Debra Haley, associate director for investment and strategy from AFRL's plans and programs

director.

The seminar ensures AFRL and the Air Force are the vanguard of the future.

"This knowledge will increase our foresight and better enable the investment planning for tomorrow's scientific and technological programs," Haley said.

During the second seminar, participants focused on future capabilities the Air Force needs to conduct operations in the environment predicted by participants at the first seminar. Operators, technologists, and

others explored potential challenges that would result from this new environment.

"For the second seminar, our primary focus was on the operations community," said Bob Deasy of Booz Allen Hamilton, on contract to support TSG II.

"Essentially we are trying to merge operators and developers to try and determine the capabilities required in the year 2027, and these capabilities will help us get back to the science and technology community to come up with possible solutions," Deasy said. *(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)*

Wrong!

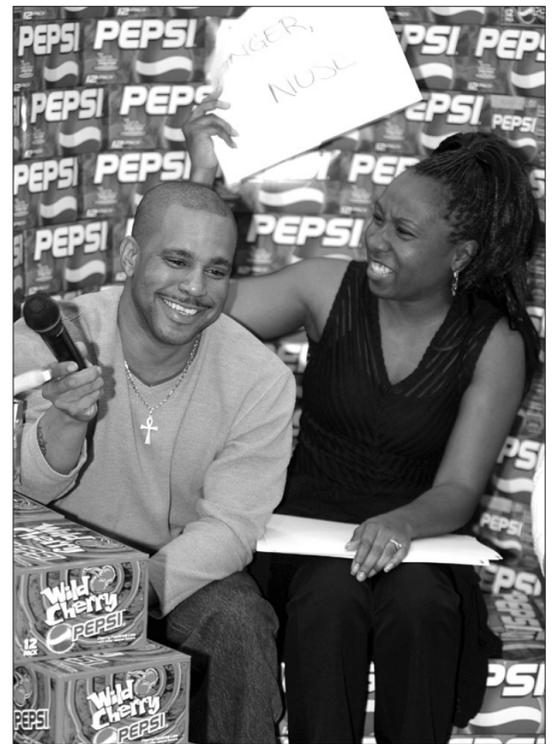


PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. RICHARD FREELAND

Staff Sgt. Mel Williams, 30th Space Communications Squadron, passes the microphone after incorrectly matching answers with his wife, Tanisha. The Commissary and Pepsi sponsored a couples Valentine's Day Newlywed Game Night Feb. 13. Tanisha reacts with a loving card tap punctuating her correct answer. The Williams actually went on to win an all-inclusive one-night stay at the Cambria Pines resort.

Ready, Set, GO!



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

The 30th Medical Group's Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight is getting in shape for WarFit by competing in athletic competitions each Wednesday. Maj. Thomas DeVenoge, 30th Medical Group, came in first place followed by Maj. Michael Phan, 9th Space Operations Squadron, and Senior Airman David Hicka, 30th Space Communications Squadron, at a duathlon Feb. 12. In a duathlon, competitors run, then bike, then run again. Staff Sgt. Cornelius Puiulet organizes the weekly competitions, in which the group covers seven to nine miles. All of Team Vandenberg is welcome to participate. For more information, call Puiulet at 606-7811.



Airman 1st Class Angelo Mejia, 30th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Flight, takes off on the bike portion of the Med Group's weekly duathlon Feb. 12.

SPACE & MISSILE

FEATURES

Destinations Central Coast @ www.geocache.com

By JACK HOKANSON
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

It's a picture perfect California Central Coast evening, or better yet, a long weekend. You want to get out of the dormitories and off the base, give your spouse a break and personally spend some wholesome, yet quality time with your children. Or better yet, you want to get the entire family involved in a fun event where everyone participates. But it seems that nowadays nothing is free and everything costs lots of money.

Well one Central Coast Destination may offer a solution to all of the above. Here's a chance to experience some of the great outdoors, get some exercise and do something fun that all of the family can participate in.

The solution is scavenger hunts, not just any scavenger hunt, but a new, high-tech scavenger hunt that will not only take you to some of the area's most scenic locations, but will also be fun and rewarding for people of all ages.

On the Internet, whether at home or at the library, log on to www.geocaching.com. Enter your zip code or state and find the latest list of hidden caches in your area. The site tells how you can hide your own cache, and gives information on how to get started in this fun and exciting pastime.

There are more than 337 caches hidden at parks, rest areas, beaches, and hiking areas in and around the California Central Coast.

Caches can contain



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

everything from toys where children can exchange their old toys for different ones, cameras where the cache creator wants you to take a photo of yourself and place the camera back in the cache, a log book of who has found the cache and when, and even coupons or recipes to share. So when you go cache hunting, take along some goodies to exchange.

The Internet site provides details of exactly what you are looking for, i.e. a clear plastic bowl with a blue top, or a red and black backpack. It also gives detailed information about the past experiences of previous finders of each cache plus recommendations like, "bring a

camera and come around sunset as the area is picture perfect."

Each cache site is rated by degree of difficulty to find the hidden item, and the ruggedness of the terrain.

Once you arrive at your cache site, the fun begins as you split up and everyone begins looking for the hidden container. Finding the hidden cache is challenging, but rewarding and fun. Upon finding the cache, the finder calls the rest of the group together and they all discover what the cache contains.

Once found, a cache may provide visitors with a wide variety of rewards. Each hunter is asked to leave something in the cache if they find something

they'd like to keep.

Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game. And it takes you outdoors to some of the Central Coast's most beautiful locations.

The cache scavenger hunts will take you to places like Nojoqui Falls just south of Buellton off the 101 Freeway, Lompoc's Ryon Park, Santa Maria's Waller Park, Jalama Beach off of Highway 1 between Lompoc and Goleta, and picturesque Pismo Beach, just to name a few.

After you've found your hidden treasure, you can take advantage of the other amenities each location has to offer. You can take a pony ride or grab a

game of frisbee at Waller Park, play in the water at Nojoqui Falls or build a sand castle at Jalama Beach. The fun comes in being outside together.

A great part of cache hunting is that individuals and organizations can set up caches all over the world and share the locations of their caches on the Internet. Cache hunters can then use the location maps to find the hidden caches.

Once you play the hide-and-seek portion of geocaching, you may want to create and hide your own cache. Complete instructions, to include printouts to place in your cache are located on the Internet site.

Happy cache hunting!



(Above) Gabriel Guerreor and Dylan Smiley take advantage of the open space at Waller Park with a game of frisbee. (Left) Base photographer Senior Airman Steve Schester, 30th Space Communications Squadron, finds a Geocache treasure hidden at Waller Park.



John Deleon gives his grandson, Nathaniel Adams, and Sequoiah Cameron a push on the swings at Waller Park.

Community Calendar

21 FRI **Cal-Vet Home Loan Class** - 1:30 - 3:30 today at the Family Support Center. Learn application procedures and basic facts about the Cal-Vet Home Loan process. Call 606-0801.

Scholarships for Military Children - Applications for \$1,500 scholarships are due at the Commissary by today. 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 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.

21 FRI **Closed captioning project** - Allan Hancock College is seeking volunteers who are competent typists, have

21 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 today to sponsor a student.

Dads to New Dads and Moms to New Moms programs - this mentorship program offers support to new moms and dads. Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338.

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

22 SAT **Harbor and boat cruises** - at Adventure Marina in Morro Bay. Call (805) 772-9463.

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

Babysitter training - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Family Support Center. Call the Lompoc American Red Cross at 736-5110 to sign up.

23 SUN **Lompoc Pops Orchestra concert** - 6 p.m. Sunday for a family concert and 7 p.m. Monday for the regular concert at the Trinity Church of the Nazarene in Lompoc. Tickets are available at the door.

24 MON **Spouses Newcomer Orientation** - 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. Monday at the Pacific Coast Club. Call 606-0801 for more information.

Office closure - The Family Support Center is closed for staff training every Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Personnel requiring emergency Air Force Aid will be assisted. Call 606-0801

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.

Allan Hancock College photo exhibit -

7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in the Art Gallery, building L, at the AHC Santa Maria campus. This free exhibit begins Monday and runs through March 31, featuring black-and-white photos of Latino farm workers on the Central Coast. Call (805) 922-6966.

25 TUE **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 shopping center. Call 606-5474.

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.

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

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

Manage Your Move - 8:45 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the Family Support Center. Plan to attend

90-120 days prior to departure. Call 606-0801

27 THU **Depression management group** - 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays at the Life Skills Support Center, with new groups beginning every 6-8 weeks. The group is open to active duty members and their dependents appropriate for adults or mature adolescents experiencing depression. Call Capt. Arlin Hatch or the LSSC staff at 606-8217.

Women, Infants and Children - 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday in the Family Support Center. Call 605-8557 or the Lompoc WIC office at 737-6470 for an appointment.

28 FRI **Warehouse Sale** - 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Vandenberg Commissary.

MAR 1 SAT **Women's history month contest** - essay and coloring contest for elementary to high school students. Winners receive a savings bond. Deadline for entries is March 11. For contest rules and information, call 606-3284.

5 WED **Women's History Month meetings** - noon to 1 p.m. Every Wednesday in March beginning March 5 at the Pacific Coast Club. Call 606-3284.

10 MON **Operation Baby Launch** - 5 p.m. March 10 at the 30th Medical Group clinic auditorium. There will be representatives from local hospitals, TriCare, the Family Practice Clinic and more. Fathers are welcome. For more information, call Nancy Sias at 606-8217.



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.

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

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
Just Married

Chronicles the beleaguered romance of Tom Leezak (Ashton Kutcher) and Sarah Mc Nerney (Brittany Murphy), a young couple unexpectedly swept off their feet after their first meeting. snobbish. Rated PG-13

Saturday
National Security
Adversaries become wary allies in this free-

wheeling action comedy. Hank Rafferty (Steve Zahn) is a Los Angeles Police Department officer who finds himself out of a job after he becomes involved altercation with police academy flunk-out Earl Montgomery (Martin Lawrence). 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.