

# Astro News



Photo by Diane Prendergast

## Joint Chiefs chairman visits Los Angeles

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army General Henry H. Shelton, left, is welcomed to the Los Angeles area by Lt. Gen. Eugene L. Tattini, Space and Missile Systems Center commander, Aug. 4. Jim Albaugh, president of Boeing's Space and Communications Group, Seal Beach, was also on hand to welcome the Chairman. Shelton was here to participate in a delivery ceremony of the Air Force's newest C-17 Globemaster III, the "City of St.

Louis," at Boeing's Long Beach facility. The Chairman also spoke at Town Hall Los Angeles, a forum of LA-based senior business and industry leaders. During his speech, the general said, "I'm proud to tell you that our men and women in uniform continue to do a great job safeguarding America's interests around the globe." America's military is "clearly the strongest and most capable force in the world today."

## Dining Out just a week away

Preparations are being finalized for the Dining Out to be held Friday at the Hyatt Regency in Long Beach. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a social hour, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and dancing at 9:30 p.m. The first Dining Out of the Millennium is sure to be a hit. Lots of surprises

are planned that you don't want to miss. Contact your unit representative for tickets, or call Capt. Roberto Silva at 363-3246. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come out for what promises to be a night of great food, great fun and great friends.

## DoD police officers get arrest power for on-base violations

**Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty**  
Public Affairs

A real world incident Aug. 1 gave DoD Police Officers from the 61st Security Forces Squadron the opportunity to put in motion new procedures for the disposition of civilians apprehended on-base for violations of state law.

The new procedures are based on a grant of authority by Chief Tim Grimmond of the El Segundo Police Department under Section 830.8(b) of the California Penal Code. The incident involved the arrest of a man for carrying a loaded, uncased and concealed handgun in his vehicle at Los Angeles AFB.

"The subject entered the base and made contact with Officer Scot D. Kowalski,

saying his cell phone was stolen or misplaced. Kowalski and his backup, Officer Joel D. E. Arthur, offered to help the man look for the phone and instead found a loaded handgun in the car," said Maj. Lyle W. Cary, 61st Security Forces Squadron commander. They arrested the subject, a retired enlisted member, and transported him to the El Segundo city jail for processing. The individual was cited and released on his own recognizance.

Under previous procedures, Security Forces personnel would have detained the civilian subject and requested that the El Segundo Police Department respond. El Segundo officers would then have determined whether to arrest and transport the subject for booking. Although the Federal

— See **ARREST**, Page 7

## Milstar II wins top engineering award

**Ronea Alger**  
Public Affairs

The Department of Defense has presented its Fiscal Year 1999 Value Engineering Achievement Award for Program Management to the Milstar II Program Office for saving the government \$28 million through 58 cost-reduction initiatives.

Dr. Jacques S. Gansler, undersecretary of Defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, presented the award to Brig. Gen. Craig Cooning, MILSATCOM Joint Program Office director.

Others recognized at the Washington ceremony were Melinda Richmond, price analyst, and Milstar II project officers Capt. Mark Skosich and 1st Lt. Arnold Johnson.

"The key to the success of the Milstar II Program Office's value engineering ef-

fort has been the ability to encourage innovation, leverage the benefits of the commercial market place and maximize the application of best business practices," said Cooning.

"Aside from just the money saved, we've seen many other positive effects for the program. This includes finding smarter, more flexible ways to meet program goals, mitigating the delays caused by unexpected, unpredictable events in other areas of the program and discovering potential flaws before they ever become a significant issue," he said.

Milstar II Innovative Cost Reduction Initiatives are implemented at all levels of management and supervision within the program. "The contractor has effective, empowered teams with the authority to

— See **MILSTAR II**, Page 7

# As the '101 Days of Summer' wind down, remain safe

**Col. David Price**  
61<sup>st</sup> Air Base Group Commander

With only a few more weeks until the 101 critical days of summer are officially over, I would like to compliment all of you—military, civilian and contractor—on your safety record this summer both on and off the job. However, this does not mean we can lower our guard.

Now we need to start thinking about keeping our clean record all the way through the upcoming Labor Day weekend. Remember Labor Day is peak sea-

son for accidents! Indeed, this is the time to renew our efforts to ensure that all of us and our loved ones do not take any unnecessary risks.

I know many of you will be taking advantage of the three-day Labor Day weekend, and driving will be a necessary part of activities. As we all know, due to the number of people traveling, traffic accidents can and do happen. Therefore, it is truly important to not only drive safely, but to watch out for the other guy—so drive defensively.

Labor Day is also a popular time for cookouts. Be careful around your barbe-

cue grill. Only use approved fire starters. Never use gasoline or any other unapproved starter fluids for your grill. Let's ensure that everyone keeps their hair and eyebrows.

The summer might be winding down, but it's actually the hottest part of the year. Heat and dehydration problems can't be ignored. Be sure you and everyone you work with are drinking lots of fluids.

While you are taking care of yourself do not forget to ensure your loved ones keep safety in mind as they go about their Labor Day business. This holds especially true for our little ones. They are precious

and irreplaceable. It is up to us to keep them out of harms way.

Make sure your children follow the rules and wear helmets while biking or skating. Currently very popular with the youth of today is the "Razor" kickboard. It's an all-metal skateboard with a steering handle. It's not called the "Razor" for nothing. In addition to wearing a helmet while riding, make sure children are careful of the sharp edges on the scooter. They need to wear shoes and not just sandals while riding.

I want you to enjoy the remaining days of summer, but keep safety in the forefront.

## Action line 363-2255

The Action Line is your direct link to Col. David E. Price, 61st Air Base Group commander. Its purpose is to make Los Angeles AFB a better place to live and work. Below is a list of people to call if you have any issues that need to be addressed.



<b>Base Exchange</b> – David Clore .....	640-0129
<b>Base IG</b> – Lt. Col. John R. Woodcock .....	363-0802
<b>Chaplain</b> – Lt. Col. Gary Garvey .....	363-1956
<b>Civil Engineering</b> –	
Lt. Col. William Saunders .....	363-0287
<b>Commissary</b> – Al Cherry .....	363-6140
<b>Comm. Sqd.</b> – Lt. Col. Lori L. South .....	363-0798
<b>Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office</b> –	
Leonard Gonzales .....	363-1565
<b>Family Support Center</b> – Tom Sanders .....	363-5365
<b>Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline</b> .....	363-2020
<b>Housing</b> – Jon M. VanHoose .....	363-8340
<b>Logistics</b> – Capt. Tam Elliott .....	363-0351
<b>Medical</b> – Col. Mark Wisniewski .....	363-5005
<b>Mission Support</b> –	
Lt. Col. Maureen Hurley .....	363-1230
<b>Privacy Act/FOIA</b> – Jesusa Cruz .....	363-2576
<b>Security Forces</b> – Maj. Lyle W. Cary .....	363-0032
<b>Services</b> – Gary Van Dusen .....	363-0430
<b>Military Equal Opportunity Office</b> –	
Capt. Elizabeth Vallery .....	363-2806
<b>TRICARE</b> .....	363-0261
<b>24-hour Crime Stop</b> .....	363-2124
<b>Legal Office</b> – Col. Scott Bagley .....	363-0916
<b>Area Defense Counsel</b> –	
Capt. Art Kirkpatrick .....	363-6776

### No privacy, Part I...

**Q.** Our home backs up directly on 25th Street in San Pedro. There are bushes behind the house that provide some privacy, however, every six months or so, these bushes are cut back to the point where you can see right through and over them, leaving us absolutely no privacy. I have complained to civil engineers for the last four years without results. In addition, last time the trimming crew didn't clean up the area, so I had to spend a full day and about 12 garbage bags to do it. I sincerely wish something could be done to maintain our privacy. I don't think I am asking for much.

### No privacy, Part II...

**Q.** I was pleasantly surprised when I returned home last Friday evening to find a much different bush trimming "product" than I had seen over the past four years. Although they were a little shorter than I would prefer, they were still very full and afforded a certain amount of privacy. More importantly, I was extremely impressed with civil engineer's new attitude and quick response to my complaint. Not only did they immediately give me the impression that they really cared about this issue, they followed through with a phone call and a personal visit to my home to discuss the matter. It was very obvious to me that CE was genuinely interested in my concerns. This kind of caring helps remind me why I joined the military 20 years ago, and why I still find it worthwhile to this day. My hat is off to our new, much improved CE team!

### In response...

**A.** Happy to say, I had nothing to do with CE's response. When I spoke to CE to research your original E-

mail, they showed me a copy of your follow-up note. The fact that CE took rapid, independent action to follow-up on your concern means Los Angeles AFB is getting the kind of support people on base deserve. That is the proactive responsiveness I have encouraged and now expect from our entire base support team. Thanks for closing the loop with me so I can pass on appropriate kudos to our CE folks.

### Honor Guard brings memories...

**Q.** Please pass along sincere thanks to the Los Angeles AFB Honor Guard for their participation in the Los Angeles Veterans Resource Center's 20th year celebration held at our Vet Center in Gardena on April 14. This is the third time Los Angeles AFB has provided a Color Guard for one of our events, and, once again, they did an outstanding job! The event was held outside, and the Color Guard, out of a sense of professionalism and duty, stood at attention for more than an hour to hold the flags to prevent them from being blown over by gusting winds. The audience of approximately 150 including several political dignitaries and senior Veteran's Administration officials noted this and gave the Color Guard a standing ovation at the end of the program. As a retired chief master sergeant, I felt an acute sense of pride for having been a part of the U.S. Air Force team. Thank you!

### In response...

**A.** Your letter clearly captures the dedication and professionalism our base Honor Guard members display every time they carry our "Colors" into the community. No doubt about it, they are great ambassadors for Los Angeles AFB!

– Col. Price

## Astro News

Space and Missile Systems Center  
Editorial Staff

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### Editorial policy

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Deadline for submissions is Friday, close of business, the week before publication. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor or sent on disk. The mailing address is SMC/PAI, 2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467, El Segundo, Calif. 90245-4659.

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### Submit articles to:

**SMC.PA.ASTRONEWS@  
LOSANGELES.AF.MIL**

OR

**Call 363-0303 for more  
information.**

## News Briefs

### DNC may cause disruptions

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) will be held in Los Angeles, Aug. 14-17. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 110 has a few words of caution.

The national committee takes place at Staples Center and the Los Angeles Convention Center. Major traffic delays are expected surrounding Staples Center and on the Harbor Freeway. Additionally, it is expected that protestors will demonstrate against specific large businesses that conduct international trade and against particular delegates staying in Los Angeles. Some of these demonstrations have the potential of becoming violent with the possibility of affecting bystanders.

Specific traffic and protestor information can be found on the Internet at [www.lahost2000.org](http://www.lahost2000.org). Everyone needs to be aware and should report suspicious activities or violent protests to local law enforcement or the AFOSI hotline at 363-2121.

### DNC may cause commute snags

It is anticipated that the street and traffic congestion anticipated for the national committee may cause problems for civilian employees in traveling to work. They may even find it impossible to get to work during normal duty hours. If you live near Staples Center, or must travel near it to get to the base, you should discuss your specific situation with your immediate supervisor and explore options such as taking annual leave, credit hours or flexible duty hours. If you have any questions, call Anthony Noriega at 363-5349.

### Enlisted save \$10 at Dining Out

The Top Three Association again is offering a \$10 offset of all enlisted tickets purchased for Friday's SMC Dining Out. Therefore, the price for E1 to E6 is \$15 each while tickets for E7 to E9 are \$20. Contact your unit representative today to buy tickets and pick your entree.

### Det. 8 change of command

Col. Michael T. Baker will assume command of Detachment 8, Space & Missile Systems Center from Col. Gregory C. Muntzner at 10:00 a.m., Aug. 23 at the Patrick AFB NCO Club. Lt. Gen. Eugene L. Tattini, SMC commander, will be the presiding official.

Baker was formerly the deputy program manager, Titan Space Systems at the Space and Missile Systems Program Office, Los Angeles AFB. Muntzner is retiring from the Air Force after 26 years of service. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony at the NCO Club.

### Medical debt help available

A new debt collection assistance officer program is available to help servicemembers, retirees and their eligible family members resolve unwarranted collection actions resulting from unpaid medical claims. The debt collection assistance officer for the 61st Medical Squadron is Rosie Manning, and she can be reached by calling 363-0261 or visiting Building 201.

## "Virtual MPF" goes live

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPC) - Nearly 650,000 Air Force military members now have access to efficient, accurate and convenient personnel services around the clock from anywhere they choose.

The first installment of the virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF), part of the new five-goal Air Force personnel vision implementation plan, went online for active duty members July 28. Guard and Reserve applications are expected to be available soon. The vMPF is a key aspect of the plan's fifth goal of developing field technology enhancements by the end of fiscal 2002.

"Moving to a web-based service platform will be a giant leap forward for Air Force technology," said Maj. Gen. Richard "Tex" Brown, Air Force Personnel Center commander. "The vMPF concept is centered on the principle of conducting the majority of basic personnel transactions via the web on a self-service basis."

"The driving push for the virtual Military Personnel Flight is declaring that even in the most hidden, remote corners of the globe, people will be able to do real-time personnel transactions and keep themselves informed" said Col. Terry Nelsen, chief, Field Activities Division.

"The big advantage of the vMPF is its convenience for the customer anyplace, anytime to support our well-trained, mobile force," added Nelsen. "Its function is a force multiplier for our personnelists in the field — offering them more one-on-one time with the customer."

Web applications for vMPF will range from checking duty history entries to changing home addresses to voluntarily applying for separation. The first round of eight applications available now are information retrieval products and includes:

Dependents Remaining Overseas; Designated Location Move; Duty History Inquiry; Early Return of Dependents; Exceptional Family Member Program; Humanitarian Reassignment Program; Overseas Returnee Counseling and Reenlistment Eligibility Inquiry.

"We are starting with the basics," said Nelsen.



It's a bird... it's a plane...  
it's an air conditioner motor?

After a complete rebuild, the motor for Building 105's air conditioning system is flown back to its resting place on the roof. Afterwards, base civil engineers manhandled the nearly 1,000-pound beast back into service providing cool air for building occupants. Everyone is reminded to conserve energy in the summer and all year. See Energy Conservation story, Page 4. (Photo by Shaad Madison.)

## Chief's Corner: *Commentary from SMC's Top Enlisted*

### We are all recruiters

A great opportunity many of you might not be aware of is the Recruiter Assistance Program (RAP.) Airmen can go home for up to 12 days and not get charged any leave under the newly expanded RAP. This program allows airmen to take non-chargeable leave under the provisions of a change to AFI 36-3003, Military Leave program. The change states that under rule 46 unit commanders can approve up to 12 days of non-chargeable leave as part of the "We Are All Recruiters Program."

To apply for the program, airmen must complete the AETC Form 1327, which can be found at [www.aetc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.aetc.randolph.af.mil) under interest areas, then click administration, then publications and forms where the application can be found.

The RAP program was limited to only technical training and Officer Training School graduates, but has been recently expanded to include all active-duty Air Force members, regardless of rank and years in the service. The program was expanded to boost recruiting efforts.

The "We Are All Recruiters" program asks all active-duty members to share Air Force opportunities with potential airmen; help tell the Air Force story; in-

roduce or refer young men and women to an Air Force recruiter; and encourage sharp airmen to volunteer for special duty with Air Force Recruiting Service.

Airman identify the recruiting station they want to assist in their application. Airmen with conduct problems or on a control roster cannot apply.

Once the application is approved, the airmen complete their leave form and head home, getting in contact with the local recruiter upon arrival. Air Force Chief of Staff General Ryan has declared war on recruiting and retention. With that level of support and commitment from the top, we should all review our individual contributions and help the Air Force achieve our goals.



Command Chief Master Sgt.  
Don C. Cleveland

# Some ideas to help save energy this summer

**Ed Wilson**  
61st Civil Engineering Squadron

Late last month, President Bill Clinton directed federal agencies and military bases in California to put energy-saving programs into action to help ease the state's power shortage. Under this directive, managers of federal buildings and military installations are expected to raise thermostats slightly and make sure lights are turned off in rooms not in use.

If you've been outside lately, it's obvious that Southern California is in the middle of a hot summer with electrical use at record levels throughout the state. Roaming blackouts are becoming a common occurrence affecting thousands of residential and business customers of the electrical utilities. With the demand exceeding the supply, utility companies are forced to turn to the public for some relief by issuing voluntary calls for energy conservation.

When voluntary efforts fail to bring relief, utility companies are forced to take more drastic measures to reduce the load or otherwise risk what is known as a "brownout" or worse yet, a system "blackout," whereby power is lost to some or all utility customers. Los Angeles AFB is not immune from

the effects of power shortages. Anyone who has experienced a power outage on base can attest to how disruptive and unsettling it can be to find your way outside in a dark building.

Here are a few things to do at work and home to bring some relief to our electric utility system:

- ◆ Close all doors leading outside and do not prop outside doors open.
- ◆ Turn off the lights in unoccupied rooms or when leaving a room for more than a few minutes.
- ◆ Turn off computers and personal appliances when you know you will be away from the office for an extended period of time.
- ◆ Do not use space heaters to warm up air-conditioned areas.
- ◆ Close window blinds or drapes when the sun shines to keep the room cool.
- ◆ Do not block air defusers with paper or other foreign material to adjust the air flow.
- ◆ Do not attempt to adjust the office thermostats. These units are easily broken and difficult to replace.
- ◆ Report air conditioning problems promptly to your building manager or to Base Civil Engineering's service call desk at 363-1775.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty

**Ed Wilson, base energy manager, reads the gas meter during a periodic check of the base's energy consumption.**

## Congratulations

### SMC Quarterly Award winners

The following people were the base's 2nd quarter award winners: **Capt. Mark T. Skosich**, Senior Company Grade Officer; **2nd Lt. Michelle G. Bernhard**, Junior Company Grade Officer; **Master Sgt. Anthony G. Wood**, Senior Noncommissioned Officer; **Staff Sgt. Joseph G. Streets**, Noncommissioned Officer; **Senior Airman Christopher J. McGiveney**, Airman; **William W. Desmond**, Mid-level civilian; **Joel L. Perrine**, Junior-level civilian; and **Michelle D. Castleman**, Administrative support civilian.

### SCAG award winners

The base Senior Civilian Advisory Group congratulates the following personnel on their selection as organizational winners for the second quarter of 2000:

Administrative Support: **Michelle Castleman**, **Catherine Eppright**, **Remona McNelton** and **Lloyd Wills**

Junior Level: **Clarena Chambers**, **Joyce Howard**,

**Joel Perrine**, **Mary Smith** and **Larry Stewart**

Mid-Level: **Kimberly Dandridge-Drennon**, **William Desmond**, **Lauren Fleishman**, **Sharon Kolanowski**, **Elfriede Orr** and **Ariel Tonnu**.

### Officer promotions for August

The following officers are in line for promotion this month: **Second Lts. George A. Hestilow** and **Sean F. Tunaley** to first lieutenant; **1st Lt. Damund E. Williams** to captain; **Capt. Myles M. Nakamura** to major; and **Lt. Col. Samuel J. Barr** to colonel.

### Enlisted promotions for August

The following people will be promoted this month: **Airman First Class Kaniyika Freeman** and **Shannon M. Oaks** to senior airman; **Senior Airman Benjamin Bocker**, **Verna McQueeney** and **Brandon Stubblefield** to staff sergeant; **Staff Sgt. Robert W. Army Jr.** to technical sergeant; and **Tech. Sgts. Mark A. Amezquita**, **Rafel Lopez** and **David E. Morgan** to master sergeant.

If you aren't looking at the United States Air Force Online News, you aren't getting all of the news. After you read this paper, check out your other newspaper at:  
<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>

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your  
**intake.**

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# New evaluation system training required for all

Senior Airman Chris McGiveney  
Public Affairs

If you are a supervisor responsible for writing either officer or enlisted evaluations, a new regulation, Air Force Instruction 36-2406, requires that you complete computer based training to learn the new evaluation system.

"Supervisors should have a working knowledge of the new system because there are some changes that will affect the content of their reports," said 1st Lt. Tracy L. Villano, 61<sup>st</sup> Mission Support Squadron's chief of customer support.

Some of the changes to the officer and enlisted evaluation system are as follows:

- It's mandatory for all supervisors to complete the Officer/Enlisted Evaluation System training.
- One instruction now covers all evaluation systems.
- Evaluation terms are now standardized for both officer and enlisted reports.
- The new AFI provides a list of specific Military Personnel Flight and Command Support Staff responsibilities in reviewing reports.
- Allows evaluators to review career briefs when preparing performance reports and establishes the ratees responsibility for current and accurate records.
- Access to Performance Feedback Worksheets are clearly spelled out, and it captures new rules on who requires feedback and when it must be given.

The training provided by the CBT will help clear up any questions concerning the new regulation.

"Because there was a lot of interpretation going on in the old regulations, the new regulation helps eliminate a lot of that," Villano said. "By standardizing the terminology and some of the rules, the actual writing of the reports was simplified."

In addition to changes in the evaluation system reports, the features on the forms have changed. Some highlights are as follows:

- Form "X's" can be completed on the computer.
- Prohibits backdating of signature date.
- Performance Feedback Worksheets can now be typed.

The evaluation system CBT course is available on the Air Force Personnel Center's website at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/evaluations/EvalCBT.html> For more information on the new evaluation system CBT, contact the Military Personnel Flight customer service desk at 363-1109 or 1st Lt. Tracy Villano at 363-5260.

# Clinic gets new technology to let fingers schedule your visit

Senior Airman Chris McGiveney  
Public Affairs

Getting an appointment at the base's primary care clinic will be as easy as calling home thanks to some new technology purchased by the 61st Medical Squadron.

The new \$100,000 OCTEL phone system will be online starting Aug. 18 to help people schedule appointments with their primary care physician at any time.

"The new system was purchased to alleviate the difficulty with the old phone system," said Lt. Col. Cindy Davis, 61<sup>st</sup> Medical Operations flight commander. "Currently if several people call in to the appointment desk at the same time, they will get disconnected. This new system should eliminate this problem."

The new automated system will be implemented in two separate phases. The first phase, beginning Aug. 18, will provide the following capabilities: reminder notifications to patients of their appointments with a call the day prior to their appointment; appointments made with the clinic can be canceled by touch-tone phone; and management oversight of the number of appointment calls received per day.

The second phase, which will allow Active Duty and TRICARE Prime patients to make appointments by touch-tone phone at anytime will come online later this year.

However, until the system comes online it is recommended patients avoid calling to schedule routine appointments until after 11 a.m. when the high-call volume has declined. This will allow patients calling for urgent concerns—requiring assistance within 1-2 hours—to receive priority service on the appointment line from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Appointments are scheduled based on their priority



Photo by Doug Wood

Senior Airman Linda L. Ferguson, 61<sup>st</sup> Medical Squadron administrative technician, will be able to spend more time with patients because of the OCTEL automated phone system.

with defined care priorities. The three types of priorities are acute, routine and emergency. The clinic provides appointments for acute and routine. Definitions of these priorities are as follows:

**Acute** – care requiring assistance within 1-2 hours

**Routine** – care that can wait 1-2 days

**Emergency** – care requiring immediate assistance – threat of loss of life, limb or sight, call 911.

To schedule an appointment call 363-0964.

# Clinic parking shrinks for construction

Starting next week, a portion of the clinic parking area will be fenced off in preparation for the groundbreaking of the new base clinic, which will limit parking to less than a third of what is currently available. However, parking will be available around Building 219, in front of the main clinic and along the southern portion of the construction fence located behind the main clinic. The construction site will include Buildings 205 and 206, the tennis courts and all pavement within the boundaries of the construction site which will be torn down to make room for the new clinic.

Although most contractor equipment and supplies will be brought in through a new entrance off Douglas Street, the contractor may also have an additional entrance in the southern portion of the construction site. Watch for construction vehicles and equipment while walking or driving in the clinic area. Fencing will be provided along the construction site at all open excavations and tunnels to control access by unauthorized people and protect base personnel from potential injury. (Courtesy of the 61st Medical Squadron.)

# SMC Today

Got a good story? The staff of the video program, 'SMC Today', would love to hear about it. To submit story ideas for 'SMC Today' call John Brazelton at 363-6897.

# Military Equal Opportunity Office isn't out to get you

In his novel "1984," author George Orwell made famous the term "Big Brother" referring to the watchful eye of big government. Today, a television show of the same name puts a group of people under the camera and reports everything to the viewing audience. In the book and on the game show, Big Brother IS watching. But don't feel that way in your work environment. The Military Equal Opportunity office is not Big Brother and they aren't watching.

Certainly, the Air Force and all the services have had challenges in promoting and maintaining fairness, equity and justice. These challenges are always going to part of society and the military is no exception. However, the Military Equal Opportunity Office, formerly called Social Actions, is here to help.

"To ensure equality within the ranks, the Equal Opportunity and Treatment Program was created. The objective of the EOT is to improve mission effectiveness by promoting an environment free from personal, social, or institutional barriers that prevent Air Force members from rising to the highest level," states Air Force Instruction 36-2706 which governs this program.

Capt. Elizabeth Vallery is the MEO chief at Los Angeles AFB. She is a recent gradu-



Courtesy photo

**Clockwise from the top left is the base Military Equal Opportunity Office team: Tech. Sgt. Rocky McCants, Tech. Sgt. James Daley, Tech. Sgt. Troy Evans, Capt. Elizabeth Vallery and Staff Sgt. Eric Avery.**

ate of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute and a certified fair housing tester, and is charged with assisting military members, retirees and families at Los Angeles AFB.

A team of trained and experienced NCOs assist Vallery in the smooth operation of the office. Together they bring more than 20 years of experience to the table.

sive to the mission. He is always willing to meet the tough challenges presented. He is a trained and certified counselor, mediator and instructor.

Tech. Sgt. James Daley, NCOIC, has been an MEO technician since 1997. He is trained as both a mediator and a fair housing tester. He is responsible for first-duty station and newcomers' training, and he also conducts key personnel briefings to incoming first sergeants, commanders, and directors.

Staff Sgt. Eric Avery, EOT technician, entered the MEO career field in 1992 and is also a trained mediator and instructor. He attended the basic Equal Employment Opportunity course, the EEO investigator's course, and has one year of experience with the Inspector General.

Tech. Sgt. Troy Evans, information manager, assists with the management and operation of the office. He schedules first-duty station and newcomers' training and maintains the key personnel briefing schedule.

The MEO office is located in Building 120, Room 1424. To schedule an appointment, call 363-2806. The staff is ready, willing and able to assist you with any concerns. *(Courtesy of the Military Equal Opportunity Office.)*

"I'm very lucky to have such an experienced and knowledgeable staff to work with," Vallery said.

Tech. Sgt. Rocky McCants, program manager, is a 7-year veteran of the MEO career field. With a previous background as an aircraft maintenance technician and military training instructor, he knows how to be sensitive to the people and respon-

## Dollars, sense: Some good scoop from finance

**Tech. Sgt. Armand Fajardo**  
Financial Services Division

... You may be reimbursed for transportation expense (i.e. mileage, rental car, taxi and bus fare) when traveling on official business within the vicinity of your Permanent Duty Station. This applies even when not on official TDY orders. To qualify for this entitlement, military members and civilian employees must be conducting official business in and around PDS. However, it has to be determined that the mode of transportation used is more advantageous to the government or a government vehicle is not available or impractical to use. SF 1164, Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business, is the official form used to claim this entitlement. For more details regarding the reim-

bursement procedures, please refer to the Joint Federal Travel Regulations Volume 1 and 2.

... When going on TDY for more than 30 consecutive days, you maybe entitled to Family Separation Allowance. This entitlement applies to military personnel with dependents only. However, there are certain conditions that have to be met. The supporting documents required are: two copies of travel voucher, travel orders, and DD Form 1561, Statement to Substantiate Payment of Family Separation Allowance. These documents may be filed all together when filing for the TDY settlement voucher upon return from TDY.

... There is now an on-line system designed to change some of your personal data information in pay systems. It's called the Employess/Member Self Service or the E/MSS. It is an automated system developed in processing certain discretionary pay data with-

out using paper forms. Using the system provides several benefits not just for the employees and the members, but also for the government.

It saves time, is more convenient and is more reliable than the old-fashioned paper form processing by a third party. It is also available 24 hours a day, 7-days a week. Currently, the transactions that can be processed are: financial allotments, direct deposits, federal taxes and home address. Air Force military members may not be able to use this system until late this year. For more information and to view the Frequently Asked Questions about this system, visit the Defense Finance and Accounting web site at [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil).

Call Los Angeles AFB Financial Services Office Customer service desk at 363-1534 for answers to any of your finance questions.

**ARREST, From Page 1**

courts have held that military police may arrest civilians for on-base offenses in California, there is no Federal statute which expressly authorizes such arrests. Officers are authorized to apprehend military personnel under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Chief Grimmond's grant of authority allows DoD Police Officers to arrest civilians under the authority of the California Penal Code for offenses committed on Los Angeles AFB.

Such cases will be prosecuted by the

Los Angeles District Attorney in state court. The new procedures, embodied in a memorandum of agreement with the El Segundo Police Department, will help fill a jurisdictional void which precludes prosecuting the majority of on-base violations in Federal Magistrate's Court. Most traffic and parking offenses will continue to be resolved administratively.

"This arrest authority puts teeth into our policing and force protection efforts. It helps the officers accomplish our mission — protecting resources and people assigned to SMC," Cary said.

**MILSTAR II, From Page 1**

implement, follow-up and refine cost savings. Most of the cost savings and cost avoidance are reflected in the predicted total cost of the entire project," said Skosich. "In addition to assessing performance against what we expected, we also have a separate category that reviews "innovative" thinking that is beyond expected performance and results in saving money on the overall Milstar contract."

The value engineering award program is a highly visible acknowledgment of exemplary achievements and encourages additional projects to improve in-house and contractor productivity. An award winner from

each DoD component was eligible for selection in the following seven categories: (1) program management, (2) individual/team, (3) procurement/contract administration, (4) value engineering professional, (5) field command, (6) installation and (7) contractor. Additional "special" awards were given to recognize innovative applications or approaches that expanded the traditional scope of value engineering use.

This year, only five program management awards were given DoD-wide, and Milstar II was the only Air Force office to receive the award. In all categories, 31 awards were given and the Air Force received five.

**'Honoraria' rules must be followed**

**Maj. Tom Doyon**  
Chief of Procurement Ethics

In 1989, Congress passed a law that U.S. military and civilian employees could not receive money or an item of value as payment for an appearance, speech or article. This prohibition against so-called "honoraria" did not require a connection between the employee's official duties and the subject matter of the appearance, speech or article. For example, a contract specialist could not receive a fee for a magazine article concerning a hobby such as stamp collecting.

The honoraria prohibition was challenged in court, and the results dramatically changed the ethics rules involving honoraria. In U.S. v. National Treasury Employees Union, the Supreme Court ruled that the law was an "unconstitutional restriction on the freedom of speech of federal employees." Although the Supreme Court decision was limited to civilian employees GM-15 and below, since the court challenge was brought on behalf of these employees, a Department of Justice opinion subsequently determined that the Supreme Court opinion effectively voided the honoraria ban for all military and civilian employees, regardless of rank or grade.

The Supreme Court decision in National Treasury Employees Union did not affect the rules concerning teaching, speaking and writing on topics related to the official duties of the employee.

However, there are some important exceptions. An employee may accept compensation for teaching a course if the course is offered as part of the regularly established curriculum at a college, university, elementary school or secondary school. An employee can also receive honoraria for teaching courses related to a program of education or training sponsored and funded by a federal, state or local government agency, provided that same subject is not taught elsewhere.

The bottom line regarding honoraria is this: A government employee may not receive compensation for teaching, speaking or writing when the subject matter involves the employee's official duties, except for teaching as mentioned above.

If the subject of the teaching, speaking or writing does not involve the employee's official duties, the employee may accept compensation. If a rocket scientist wants to get paid for writing a magazine article on bee keeping, he or she won't get stung, at least not for violating any ethics rules.

Contact Maj. Tom Doyon at 363-6450 if you have any questions about honoraria.

**Space-A destinations for August**

August 2000 departures				
Date	Flight #	Space-A showtime	Departure Time	Destinations
13, 20, 27	MC71	6:35 p.m.	9:35 p.m.	Seattle, Osan, Kadena
14, 21, 28	MC87	8:50 p.m.	11:50 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa
27	MC79	8:30 p.m.	11:30 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena
August 2000 arrivals				
Date	Flight #	Arrival time	Arriving from	
16, 23, 30	MC88	1:50 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa	
12, 19, 26	MC80	3:35 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena	

**Notes:** No scheduled departures on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Passengers with confirmed reservations can check in six hours before departure. No scheduled arrivals on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. For more information, contact the AMC ticket counter at 363-0714 or 363-0715.

**Astro News deadlines**

The Los Angeles AFB paper, the *Astro News*, is published every other week on Friday. The editorial office is located within the Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs Office in Building 105, Room 4049, in Area A. The telephone number is (310) 363-0303.

Deadline for article submissions is Friday, close of business, the week before the publication date. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor at [SMC.PA.Astronews@losangeles.af.mil](mailto:SMC.PA.Astronews@losangeles.af.mil) or sent on disk. The mailing address is:

SMC/PAI -- Astro News editor  
2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467  
El Segundo, Calif. 90245-4659

Publication dates                      Submission dates

Aug. 25 .....	Aug. 18
Sept. 8 .....	Sept. 1
Sept. 22 .....	Sept. 15
Oct. 6 .....	Sept. 29
Oct. 20 .....	Oct. 13
Nov. 3 .....	Oct. 27

# X-men: striving to expand space access

**Ray Johnson**  
Air Force Flight Test Center

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Since the Roman Empire, military commanders have wanted to own the high ground needed to dominate the battlefield.

With today's ever-advancing technology, that ancient philosophy remains even more applicable. But instead of rocky slopes, the modern high ground is space. And instead of foot soldiers serving as lookouts, it's satellites sailing quietly thousands of miles overhead.

Launching a satellite into space, however, is a little more difficult – and expensive – than ordering a legionnaire up a hill. Currently, it costs \$10,000 per pound to put satellites into space.

The Air Force and its space partner, NASA, would like to see this bill lowered to \$1,000 per pound since reaching and keeping the spatial high ground is becoming an increasingly significant and frequent endeavor. And corporations, who are moving more and more of their operations into space, also would like to see a price tag with fewer zeros.

Consequently, there's going to be tremendous research focused on reducing today's high cost of space travel, said Lt. Col. Don Thompson, Air Force Flight Test Center's Access to Space Office director.

Thompson's 15-man unit, also known as ATSO, provides Air Force support to NASA and commercial access-to-space flight test activities, plus it assesses leading-edge space technology for potential military use. One such endeavor is the X-33 technology demonstrator.

A wedge-shaped, unmanned vehicle, the X-33 is a half-scale version of a planned single-stage-to-orbit reusable launch vehicle, or RLV, called VentureStar - a possible replacement for an aging space shuttle system. Unlike the shuttle, which piggybacks on booster rockets and fuel tanks, VentureStar would be self-contained and wouldn't need external power.

The aim of any RLV program is "to build a vehicle that takes days, not months to turn around; dozens, not thousands, of people to operate with launch costs that are a tenth of what they are now," said Dan Goldin, NASA administrator.

Hopefully, developing this technology will result in the



Artwork courtesy of Boeing

**The X-33, a half-scale version of a planned reusable launch vehicle, is just one of several experimental-vehicle programs that the Access to Space Office is working on with NASA.**

United States "recapturing lost space business and provide an operational advantage to the military mission," added Johnny Armstrong, ATSO deputy director. Obviously, maintaining a celestial high-ground edge with fewer resources would be one such benefit.

Another family member of RLV's being tested at Edwards is the X-34. Also an unmanned vehicle, X-34 is undergoing ground taxi tests now and glide flight tests from an L-1011 are planned.

The X-33 and X-34 are just two of several experimental vehicles that the ATSO is cooperating with NASA on during developmental stages. Working in close alliance with NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, which is located at Edwards, and various contractors, ATSO also supports X-34, X-37, X-38, X-40 and X-43 programs. Not since the 1950's have there been so many X-planes here, Thompson noted.

One of the more prominent is the X-38, which NASA hopes to deploy around 2005 as a lifeboat for the International Space Station, replacing a Russian Soyuz capsule.

Ongoing flight tests are underway to develop the X-38's parafoil landing system.

X-38 program officials say the project has two purposes. First is to prove that a low-cost return vehicle for the space station can, indeed, be built. Second is to show that a human spacecraft can be developed for a price

much lower than expected. Originally, the crew-return vehicle project was estimated to cost \$2 billion in the late 1980's. But under the current plans, NASA hopes to build one and test-fly it in space for a tenth of that.

One reason why: The X-38 uses a lifting body design already proven and tested more than 30 years ago. The Air Force carried out some of that testing here with the X-23 in 1967 and X-24A from 1969 to 1971. In fact, with flight tests done here in the 1950's and the 1960's on hypersonic aircraft such as the X-20 Dynasoar and the X-15, one could say Edwards is where much of RLV research began.

"Someone at the AFFTC has been involved - hands-on, not looking over someone's shoulder - from the early hypersonic days to the space shuttle and now to a new generation of X vehicles," said Armstrong, who has served as an engineer on every X-vehicle for the last 40 years. "We have partnered with NASA for decades in exploring the unknowns of the hypersonic flight regime."

There is one big difference between today and the '50s: who's flying these experimental craft or, more importantly, who isn't.

"The current series of X-vehicles are extremely advanced," Armstrong explained. "Unlike their predecessors that had pilots in the cockpit who I could talk to, these vehicles are all unmanned, which adds a new dimension and complexity to flight testing."

Contributing to these modern experimental programs are ATSO engineers who all have extensive backgrounds and "irreplaceable" experience in the design and testing of hypersonic vehicles and rockets, said Thompson, who holds a doctorate in aeronautical/astronautical engineering and also pilots B-52 bombers.

Today, ATSO members also help manage rocket engine testing for and by commercial customers at facilities ran by the Air Force Research Lab Propulsion Directorate.

As for tomorrow, Thompson believes ATSO "will be around for a while."

"If you look at the Air Force's newest vision statement," he said, "we are merging air and space into an aerospace force and moving out into space. Currently, we are an office, but I can see us one day growing into a combined test force."

## The Club 363-2230

The Club will hold a barbecue every Thursday this summer in the Area A Mall. Food is served between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Items are priced a la carte and may include ribs, chicken, hamburgers, hot links, potato salad, corn cobbetts, baked beans, coleslaw and fresh fruit.

Every Friday the lounge is open at 4 p.m. The DJ starts playing at 5 p.m. Free snacks are available to club members.

The Barber Shop is open from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and is located in building 120 on the lower level floor. For more information, call 363-1733.

## Youth Services 363-8383

The L.A. Experience Summer Camp will run until Sept. 1 and is for children between the ages of 5 and 12 years. Kidz Korner Youth Center offers kid-friendly activities throughout the summer break. Activities include field trips, swimming, unsurpassed art creations, cooking projects, community service projects, hiking and sports events. Camp is a full-day care program, and fees are based on the annual income of both parents. Registration is open now.

Los Angeles AFB Family Member Support Flight is participating in Project 2000. Project 2000 is a collection of food and clothing items that will be donated to the community and to the homeless. The drop-off points are both Child Development Centers, the Community Center and the Youth Center.

## Child Development Center 363-8335

### El Segundo

The El Segundo CDC preschool class goes to the Fort Mac Pool today. For more information, please contact the El Segundo CDC Front Desk.

## Swimming Pool

Fort MacArthur swimming pool is open. Hours of operation are 12 to 8 p.m., Thursday to Tuesday.

## Family Child Care – 833-8334

The Seal Beach Naval facility has openings in their Navy licensed Family Home Day Care homes. For more information, contact Kathy Richards, Family Childcare Director, at (562) 626-7899.

Los Angeles AFB is striving to expand Family Child Care Services in homes of military and retired military members. If you are a spouse who lives either on or off base and are interested in becoming a licensed family Child Care Provider, please contact Ms. Hyechong Froschl at 363-8334 or stop by the Child Development Center on Fort MacArthur, Building 31.

### Providers:

Amy Gonzalez can provide child care from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday for children ages 3 and up on a full, part time and drop-in basis. For more information, call 514-1938.

Terri Gregg can provide child care from 7 a.m. to



5:30 p.m., Monday to Friday for children ages 2 and up on a full, part time and drop-in basis. For more information, call 832-1099.

Johvon Tidwell can provide child care from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday for children ages 2 and up on a full, part time and drop-in basis. For more information, call 547-9762.

The above providers are the only individuals authorized to provide child care in the Fort MacArthur, Pacific Heights & Pacific Crest Areas. In accordance with

Air Force Instruction 34-276, "Persons wishing to provide care for more than 10 hours per week on a regular basis in government quarters must be trained, licensed and granted approval from the Base Commander." If your child care provider is not on this list, please notify our office immediately so we can invite them to become trained and licensed through our Family Child Care office.

## The Fitness Center 363-6815

Fitness Center Age Restrictions according to AFI 34-266, Air Force Fitness and Sports Programs, 1 Nov. 1999, are established to ensure a safe environment for all Fitness Center customers. Guidelines are as follows:

**16 years of age and over:** Unrestricted use of all Fitness Center facilities and equipment. Need not be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

**14 and 15 years of age: Cardiovascular Equipment and Weight Rooms** – Require interactive supervision from a parent, legal guardian or Youth Program staff member or coach. Other areas (basketball court, racquetball, etc.) unrestricted use.

**13 years of age and under: Cardiovascular Equipment and Weight Rooms** – Access to these areas prohibited. Other areas (basketball court, racquetball, etc.) require interactive supervision from parent, legal guardian or Youth Program staff member.

**Two new sports will soon be introduced to the Fitness Center customers: 4-Man Indoor Soccer and Tri-Ball Volleyball.** Sign-ups are now being taken to determine whether the Fitness Center can run an intramural event or a tournament. For more information, please call SSgt. Ronnell Ramos or TSgt. Juan Gordovez at 363-6816.

**The fitness Center offers one-on-one free individualized fitness programming.** We have certified personal trainers that offer the following services: Fitness assessments, personal fitness planning, fitness goal setting, programs to lower cholesterol, strength training, cardiovascular training, proper use of equipment and proper lifting techniques. Individual appointments can be made by calling 363-6815 or you can ask at the front desk for a trainer during workouts.

### Upcoming AF Form 303 Due Dates

**Rugby** – due Aug. 24. No trial camp. Armed Forces Championship is at NAS Pensacola, Fla., Oct. 8 to 15.

## Outdoor Recreation

### Camping Trailers

**Hard shell camper**, sleeps three, w/toilet, shower, air conditioning, stove and refrigerator is \$35 per day, minimum two days.

**Pop-up camper**, sleeps 7 to 8, with stove, refrigerator and air conditioning. Requires electrical brake hookup. \$35 per day, minimum two days.

**Large Barbecue Pit** on a trailer is \$25 per day.

### Camping Packages

**Family Pack** is \$22 and includes a five-man tent, lantern, two-burner stove and four sleeping bags.

**Outdoorsman Pack** is \$18.50 and includes a three-man tent, lantern, two-burner stove, four sleeping bags and a mess kit.

**Traveler's Pack** is \$7.50 and includes a backpack, mess kit, sleeping bag, hatchet and sleeping mat.

**Visitor's Pack** is \$12 and includes a three-person tent, two sleeping bags and two air mattresses.

## RV Storage

For your convenience, Los Angeles AFB offers four RV storage facilities. They are located next to Bldg. 219 and 215 in Area B, next to the FamCamp in Lawndale and one at Fort MacArthur\*. Storage fees are \$30 per month for RVs over 23 feet and \$20 per month for RVs under 23 feet long.

\*The RV storage located at Fort MacArthur is open to active duty military personnel residing in LAAFB military housing.

## FamCamp

Los Angeles AFB operates a Family Campground, or FamCamp. We have 15 hardstand units with hookups for water and electricity.

It is open year round and advanced reservations are accepted. The camp is located two miles south of in Lawndale. Call 363-2081.

## Tickets & Information 363-2190

San Diego Padres tickets are now available. Call or come by and ask about special order tickets to major attractions in Florida, Texas and others.

## Base Briefs

### Cub Scout pack 665 wants you

All boys in grades 1-5 are invited to join Cub Scout pack 665 with meetings in Building 37 at Fort MacArthur. Cub Scouts helps build social skills and recognizes the boys with awards. Now is the time to sign up your son for Cub Scouts. Don't delay, and have your son miss out on all the fun and activities planned for the upcoming year. For more information call Greg Schiller at 831-9265 or Brad Bolstad at 832-6881.

### Scouts need adults as well

Your local Pacifica Boy Scout District needs your help. We need unit commissioners (both men and women) to help Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops. As a unit commissioner, you provide units with meaningful service that delivers Scouting ideals to boys. Please contact Maj. Mark Harris at 363-6361 or 214-9362 for more information.

