



Astro News

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"Forging the shape of military space for the 21st century"

Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., April 6, 2001

Space Based Infrared program takes critical step to future as Combined Task Force opens

By Tim Dougherty
Astro News Editor

The Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command and Lockheed Martin took a giant step toward building greater unity and teamwork as the Space Based Infrared Systems Combined Task Force was opened at a ceremony in Boulder, Colo., March 29.

Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini, SMC commander, with Lt. Gen. Roger DeKok, AFSPC vice commander and Lockheed president Tom Marsh, along with over 100 members of the three organizations, took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the facility located on Lockheed Martin property in northeast Boulder.

"This Combined Task Force will be critical to the future

success of the SBIRS program with a cascading impact on the future of the National Missile Defense System, which is so dependent on SBIRS to form a credible missile defense umbrella. I suspect we will see more composite teams of this nature as we look for more innovative ways to meet the mission challenges for SMC and AFSPC," Tattini said.

The CTF has the dual mission of providing crews necessary to conduct early orbit testing of new SBIRS payloads and spacecraft and to test and activate software upgrades of the SBIRS ground segment to ensure the warfighter has the capabilities they need.

"We now have in place a first class team of operators and engineers from SMC, AFSPC and Lockheed Martin. Our job

is to allow the AFSPC operators to focus on their primary mission of missile warning and flying the existing satellites, while the CTF will focus on testing new hardware and software before it is turned over to AFSPC users," said Col. (s) Bill Possel, CTF director.

An assignment to this new organization, which will ultimately include 10 people from SMC, 15 from AFSPC and about 40 from Lockheed Martin, will be an opportunity to participate in both space acquisition and operations at the same time.

"For Air Force personnel assigned to the CTF, this will be the experience of a lifetime because they will work the development, testing and eventual turnover to AFSPC of the new SBIRS systems," said Col. Mike Booen, SBIRS



Photo by Tim Dougherty

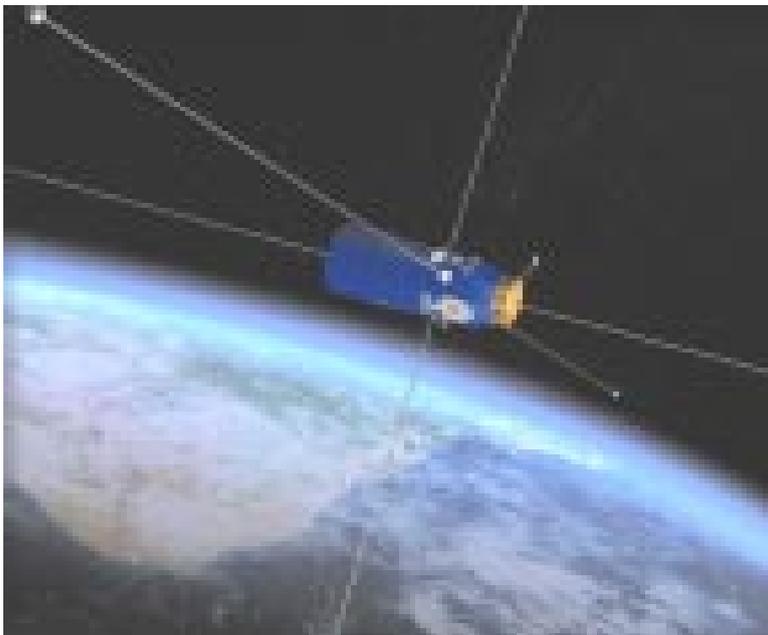
From left: DeKok, Marsh and Tattini cut the ribbon signifying the opening of the Combined Task Force.

system program director.

The SBIRS program will provide the nation with critical missile defense and warning capability well into the 21st century. SBIRS is one of the

Air Force's highest priority space systems. It is designed to incrementally upgrade and eventually replace the Defense Support Program.

See SBIRS Page 2



An artist's depiction of the C/NOFS satellite.

Courtesy photo

Space Test Program awards \$51 million space weather forecasting satellite contract

By Capt. Scott Haskett
Space Test Program Office

The Department of Defense's Space Test Program, an asset of the Space and Missile Systems Center's Test and Evaluation Directorate at Kirtland AFB, N.M., recently awarded the Communication/Navigation Outage Forecasting System satellite and launch service contract to Spectrum Astro Incorporated of Gilbert, Ariz. The contract, valued at nearly \$51 million, is the

largest portion of the \$103 million C/NOFS program.

This program is a joint effort between the Space Test Program and the Air Force Research Laboratory Space Vehicles Directorate. It will provide warfighters a first-hand glimpse of an exciting new space weather forecasting technology designed to guarantee the effectiveness of space force enhancement assets.

In the region between the upper atmosphere and outer space lies a zone known as the

ionosphere. Beginning approximately 50 miles above the Earth's surface, the ionosphere is filled with a seething plasma consisting of free electrons and energized molecules. Fluctuations in this environment can cause radio waves passing through it to undergo changes in direction of travel, intensity and phase known as scintillation. This scintillation effect is similar to the familiar twinkling of stars caused by changes in atmospheric density. Unfor-

See C/NOFS Page 2

Keep an eye on safety as outdoor activity increases

By Tech. Sgt. Carl Norman
AFMC Public Affairs

Spring is in the air and it's time for people to start firing up the ole' grill, cracking the softball bats and making vacation plans.

But while doing that, keep in mind it's also the season when the number of off-duty accidents and incidents increase by a factor of three and five times as many Air Force people are killed in off-duty accidents.

"Spring means people are doing activities that have increased risk, like lawn care,

cooking, sports and recreation activities," said Col. Vance Lineberger, AFMC safety director. "They've been less active during the winter months and now they're trying to rescue themselves from cabin fever. They need to keep safety in the forefront of their mind now more than ever."

In Los Angeles, swimming and surfing and other water sports compound the risks associated with warmer weather.

In 2000, Air Force ground safety statistics showed 13 Class A mishaps – those involving \$1

million or more in damage or loss of life — happened to Air Force people while on duty, according to Lineberger. If current trends continue, that number will be down to about 8 in 2001.

But off-duty mishaps present a different picture. The 2000 accident and incident figure shot up to 54 for off-duty mishaps in the same category. Safety office officials project an increase to 58 mishaps for 2001 if trends continue.

And what's more serious, across the Air Force, 10 people were killed on the job and 50

killed in off-duty accidents and incidents in 2000 – five times as many. If things continue as they are, 55 Air Force people will die in off-duty accidents and incidents in 2001, according to Lineberger.

The reason behind this off-duty increase is simple, Lineberger says. People tend to pay less attention to the risks involved with their activities when they're home than they do in their work environment.

"When people are at work, they have mandated safety controls, technical orders and safety equipment provided," he

said. "Once you turn them loose on their own, they don't have those controls and tools, and many would choose not to use them even if they did."

To help solve this dilemma, safety officials encourage everyone to try applying risk management techniques, according to Lineberger.

"Exercising personal risk management in everything we do, on and off duty, is the key to enjoying safe activities," he said.

"If we soundly apply the six steps of risk management, we can minimize surprises."

C/NOFS from Page 1

Unfortunately, for radio waves, the scintillation effect can cause disruptions in communication signals with serious consequences for the warfighter.

The C/NOFS' experimental payload consists of seven instruments and a data processing unit designed to measure conditions which cause scintillation and to predict when its occurrence is likely. This will ultimately enable an operational C/NOFS to forecast

communication outages that could render global positioning system, space-based radar, and satellite communication systems partially or totally ineffective.

The DoD Space Experiments Review Board rated C/NOFS as the top DoD space experiment in 1997, 1998 and 1999. In March 2000, the importance of this program was again recognized when C/NOFS was designated an Advanced Concept Technology

Demonstration program by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

The Air Force Research Laboratory, the Naval Research Laboratory, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, the University of Texas at Dallas and The Aerospace Corporation will provide the C/NOFS' instruments and data processing unit. Spectrum Astro, under contract to the Space Test Program, will build the one-of-

a-kind C/NOFS spacecraft and integrate the instruments and DPU. Spectrum Astro will also provide a commercial launch service to place C/NOFS in orbit. Orbital Sciences Corporation of Dulles, Va., is the launch service subcontractor to Spectrum Astro.

The Space Test Program will fund one year of on-orbit operations for C/NOFS. The Space Test and Evaluation Division will conduct on-orbit operations from their Research,

Development, Test and Evaluation Support Complex at Kirtland AFB.

C/NOFS will launch in October 2003 into a slightly elliptical orbit circling the earth in the region of the equator. It will be the first DoD spacecraft launched from an overseas launch site, beginning its flight to orbit aboard a Pegasus XL booster from either the Alcantara Launch Center in Alcantara, Brazil, or Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

SBIRS from Page 1

SBIRS is an integrated system of multiple space constellations and an evolving ground element. The legacy Defense Support Program satellites will continue to operate and provide data to the nation. Increment 1 will usher in a consolidated ground segment that will streamline the current software capabilities with an open architecture that will accommodate SBIRS High and Low components.

Increment 2 will be marked by the addition of SBIRS High, with SBIRS Low being added as part of Increment 3.

The Action Line is your direct link to Col. Phil Parker, 61st Air Base Group commander. Its purpose is to make Los Angeles AFB a better place to live and work. If you have an issue that needs to be resolved, discuss it first with your supervisor or First Sergeant. Call the Action Line at 363-2255 if you can't find a solution

through your chain of command. Your call will be recorded and, if you leave your name and number, you will get an answer to your question.

Action Line 363-2255



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Astro News

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information.

AFOTEC office to work with SMC

By Maj. Liz Holmes
AFOTEC

The Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center recently opened a new operating location at Los Angeles AFB. The new office will be working with several Space and Missile Systems Center system program offices to ensure the needs of the warfighter are met during the acquisition process.

This new AFOTEC office is currently involved in projects with the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, Space Based Infrared, Global Positioning System and Space Based Laser system program offices.

AFOTEC's mission is to

determine operational capabilities and limitations of Air Force and joint systems to meet warfighter mission needs and to provide operational effectiveness, suitability and evaluation expertise. AFOTEC is involved in acquisitions as directed by the Secretary of Defense to provide an independent evaluation from concept development to system employment in support of Air Force, Department of Defense and other government agencies. AFOTEC is the warfighter's advocate during the acquisition of new Air Force systems and publishes reports supporting milestone decisions in the acquisition cycle and also

operational capability declarations.

Currently, the local AFOTEC office has three Air Force officers who report to AFOTEC Detachment 4 at Peterson AFB, Colo. Detachment 4 is one of five AFOTEC detachments located throughout the country and is responsible for planning, executing and reporting on operational tests of space systems and intercontinental ballistic missiles. There will be five more officers assigned this summer.

The OL is located at the Lawndale Annex in Building 80. For more information on AFOTEC's newest office, call 363-8759.



Courtesy photo
Left to right: Capt. Jennifer Draper, Maj. Liz Holmes and Capt. Eric Gang recently opened a new AFOTEC office at Los Angeles AFB.

Corona Photo Reconnaissance exhibit, technical intelligence center opens

The Space and Missile Systems Center's Directorate of Intelligence opened an exhibit dedicated to the Corona Photo Reconnaissance program April 2. SMC Commander, Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini, center, along with SMC Vice Commander, Brig. Gen. William Wilson, tour the exhibit with Lt. Col. Larry Hollett, SMC's director of intelligence. Tattini cut the ribbon officially opening the exhibit as well as the Hardy Technical Intelligence Research Library. Corona was the nation's first photo reconnaissance satellite system, operating from August 1960 until May 1972. The program was declassified in February 1995. (Photo by Joe Juarez.)



Defense Support Program Flight 21 sent to prepare for summer launch

By Capt. Dan Theisen
SEIRS Program Office

The Air Force sent its 21st Defense Support Program satellite to Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., to prepare for a summer launch.

On-orbit DSP satellites provide continuous infrared missile warning capability for the United States. The satellite,

DSP Flight 21, was assembled at TRW in Redondo Beach, Calif., and has an infrared sensor built by Aerojet Gencorp in Azusa, Calif.

"The team performed flawlessly," said Capt. Gerry Gleckel, from the DSP system program office who oversaw the operation.

"The whole night was very smooth and everything was

well-planned and executed. Many of the veterans of the DSP program said that it was the smoothest, most trouble-free shipment they had ever been a part of."

Flight 21 departed Los Angeles International Airport at approximately 2 a.m. on an Air Force C-5A cargo plane from Travis AFB, Calif. After an uneventful flight, it arrived

at the skid strip at Cape Canaveral less than five hours later.

TRW handled the majority of the delicate loading and shipping procedures for the \$250-million satellite. The satellite must be protected from contamination, excessive shock and high temperature.

"All on-board sensors monitoring the satellite's state-

of-health through the flight remained within tolerances," Gleckel said.

The satellite will spend the next five months undergoing further tests and integration onto its Titan IV launch booster. Air Force Space Command's Third Space Launch Squadron is working toward an early August launch into orbit.

Eligible Air Force members get choice of retirement plans

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

Opting for a 20-year 50-percent retirement under High-3 or taking the Career Status Bonus of \$30,000 and staying with REDUX at 40 percent is a choice that Air Force people, who initially entered the service Aug. 1, 1986, or later, will have to make beginning this August.

This opportunity to elect retirement plans was a result of the 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, said Maj. Jeff Keef, chief of military estate and special pay policy at the Pentagon.

“The legislation, designed to provide all servicemembers with the same retirement benefits, transferred all members from the REDUX retirement to the more generous High-3 system,” Keef said. “However, at their 15th year of active duty, these members may instead elect to receive a \$30,000 CSB and retire under

the REDUX retired pay system.”

The basic eligibility requirements for electing and receiving the Career Status Bonus are:

- have a Date Initially Entered Military Service of Aug. 1, 1986, or later;

- be on active duty with 15 years of active uniformed service;

- meet eligibility requirements to remain on active duty through 20 years of service to include:

- not having an approved date of separation;

- no pending court-martial or administrative discharge;

- not being subject to any quality force conditions that would prevent continued service to 20 years.

Current Active Guard/Reserve status members and some non-AGR members may at times become eligible, if offered an opportunity to serve on continuous active duty until completion of 20 years of service.

Preliminary notification has already been made to the first Air Force people eligible for the CSB, Keef said. Normally, people will be notified on or before the date a person completes 14 years and six months of active duty.

Those eligible who want to elect the bonus must complete a written CSB agreement that states the person will remain on continuous active duty until the completion of 20 years total active federal military service.

“Under most circumstances, any CSB recipient who fails to serve on active duty to (his or her) 20th year must repay a prorated amount of the \$30,000,” he said.

If a member is not eligible for the bonus, the notification will explain why not and will inform the member whether there will be an opportunity to make a CSB/REDUX election in the future.

The CSB is taxable income as of the date on which the payment is made to the mem-

ber, Keef said.

However, if a person is eligible for a combat zone tax exclusion or qualified hazardous duty area tax exclusion on the date the bonus election becomes effective, the bonus, within allowable limits, will not be considered taxable income, he said.

Additionally, people may avoid paying taxes on the entire \$30,000 if they are a Thrift Savings Plan participant and contribute a portion of their bonus to the TSP, Keef said.

The current annual elective deferral limit of all TSP participant contributions from taxable pay, including the CSB, is \$10,500.

“Since the TSP will not be implemented until October, with the first contributions beginning in January, anyone eligible to receive the CSB may defer their election until two months after the start of the TSP,” he said.

Keef cautions people that electing the CSB with REDUX

instead of remaining with the High-3 retirement is a complicated financial decision and should not be made in haste.

“People are asking whether the change in the law and whether CSB with REDUX is a good deal for them,” he said. “The obvious answer is that you have a good deal in that you now have a choice — stay in your current retirement pay system or change to a reduced one with the benefit of a significant bonus. With that choice comes some risk, however.

“Responsible people will need to be well-informed and be making reasonable assumptions about the future when making this choice,” Keef said.

“Either choice is not universally good or bad and will have to be analyzed in light of one’s own personal circumstances. One’s own values, expectations and goals will probably have influence on how the decision will ultimately be viewed.”

Library closed

Los Angeles AFB will host the California Base Commander's Conference April 19-20. To accommodate this conference, the Fort MacArthur Community Center library will be closed during the two days of the conference. In addition, there will be no parking available in the Community Center parking lots during this time.

Speakers needed

The Space and Missile Systems Center Speakers Bureau has received a request from Morningside High School in Inglewood, Calif., asking for volunteers to participate in "Career Week." They're looking for people to share professional expertise with students. They have requested classroom speakers, workshop and demonstration participants, as well as "job shadow" volunteers. "Career Week" will take place April 9, 10 and 11 from 8-11:45 a.m. If you are interested or have questions, please call Cleo Drysdale at 363-2582.

Curfew reminder

Los Angeles AFB enforces Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 45.03 at Fort MacArthur restricting juveniles under the age of 18 years age from being outdoors or in public places between 10 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. (including weekends) unless accompanied by an adult. The curfew policy is intended to provide a safer community and protects children from becoming victims of crime or becoming involved in delinquent behavior.

Energy tip of the week

Avoid running large appliances, such as washers, dish and clothes dryers and electric ovens until after 7 p.m., if possible, especially during Stage 3 Power Alerts.

Volunteer opportunity

Ride to Fly, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing horseback riding to disabled individuals needs volunteers. Call Maj. Liz Holmes at 363-8759 for more information.

Lights, camera, action!



Photo by Joe Davidson

On stage from left, Tom Spiglanin, Mark Looper and Colleen Hallagan of The Aerospace Corporation, read lines as they audition for the upcoming production of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" by The Aerospace Players. The production is scheduled to open July 20 with performances through July 28 at the Armstrong Theater in Torrance, Calif., near the public library at the corner of Madrona and Torrance Boulevards. The Aerospace Players have presented plays such as Oliver, City of Angels, Music Man, Damn Yankees, Little Shop of Horrors, Hello Dolly, Once Upon a Mattress, Fiddler on the Roof and many more in their more than 10-year history at Los Angeles AFB and The Aerospace Corporation. Auditions were held Tuesday and Wednesday with performers being asked to return for "call backs" yesterday.

Hazardous waste roundup set for April 21

By Mehdi Sanwari
Base Civil Engineering

Each person in the United States produces an average of four pounds of household hazardous waste each year for a total of about 530,000 tons. The average U.S. household generates more than 20 pounds of household hazardous waste per year. As much as 100 pounds can accumulate in the home, often remaining there until the residents move out or do an extensive cleaning.

To assist Los Angeles AFB personnel in the proper disposal of household hazardous waste, a roundup will be held April 21 to allow military personnel to turn in household hazardous waste. The roundup will be held in the parking lot across from the Fort MacArthur Community Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

When turning in household hazardous waste, put cans in a cardboard box. Do not mix the different household chemicals. All containers should be closed and not leaking any material. The household hazardous waste should not exceed five gallons or 50 pounds total and must not be radioactive. Ammunition and explosives will not be accepted.

Individuals turning in household hazardous waste will be required to complete a form and provide information including name, address, office symbol, phone number and the type of waste that's being turned in.

A virtual tour is available online at the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9 website by starting at www.epa.gov for information on what potentially hazardous products are common in homes.

If you have any questions or for more information on the hazardous household waste roundup, call Base Civil Engineering at 363-0496.

Parent University deadline April 11

By John Ryan
Public Affairs

The Family Advocacy, Services, Family Support Center and Chaplain offices at Los Angeles AFB have combined resources to promote a full-day of Parent/Teen workshops at Fort MacArthur April 21. The workshops will cover a variety of topics. The event is open to all members of the Los Angeles AFB community and will be held on the second floor of Building 37 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Register by April 11 to receive free childcare at the Fort

MacArthur Child Development Center for children aged 6 months to five years.

Parents and teens will enjoy a full day of workshops. Registration begins at 9 a.m. At 9:40 a.m., guest speaker Juliet Funt, daughter of Allen Funt, creator of the Candid Camera television show, will offer an exciting presentation emphasizing the impact of language in communicating.

Several workshops for parents and teens will be offered following the guest speaker. For parents, there are workshops on Practical Parenting Strategies; How to

Get Stress Under Control; Balance Restored; Sexual Awareness in Young Children; What is Normal; Creating Healthy Boundaries within the Family and Effective Parent/Child Communication.

There are also workshops designed for both the parent and teen or just the teen: Using Creative Arts to Build a Family Esteem Team Contraceptive Choices, Healthy Eating and Disordered Eating and How much do you really know about Alcohol?

Contact Elisa Parr or Martha Hathaway at 363-1251 to register.



Double
your
intake.

After reading the Astro News, check out more Air Force news on the web at: <http://www.af.mil/news>

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 363-0303.

Deadline for article submissions is Friday at noon the week before the publication date. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor at:

SMC.PA.Astronews@losangeles.af.mil

Photos can be mailed to the following address:

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

Publication date

Submission dates

April 20	April 13
May 4	April 27
May 18	May 11
June 1	May 25
June 15	June 8
June 29	June 22
July 13	July 6

Space-A destinations for April

April 2001 departures				
Date	Flight #	Space-A showtime	Departure Time	Destinations
8,15,22,29	MC71	6:35 p.m.	9:35 p.m.	Seattle, Osan, Kadana
9,16,23	MC87	8:50 p.m.	11:50 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa
12,19,26	MC79	8:30 p.m.	11:30 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Kadana
April 2001 arrivals				
Date	Flight #	Arrival time	Arriving from	
28	MC88	1:50 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa	
7,14,21,28	MC80	4 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Kadana	

Notes: Space available travel is available for Active Duty, Reserve and Retirees. For more information on eligibility, contact the Air Mobility Command Customer Service Branch at 363-0714. You can sign up for space available travel in person at Terminal 2 at the Los Angeles International Airport, by fax at 363-2790 or on the Internet at www.travis.af.mil.



confident and cordial manner. He says "a lot of the people who visit the Dental Clinic come with a variety of dental requirements."

Preparing patients to meet his or her primary goal of readiness is his main concern. "We do this by providing the patient with the right form of dental device whether it is a mouth guard, partial crown or in some extreme cases, complete sets of dentures," Oliver said.

Maj. Guy Delgadillo, deputy flight commander, has been at the Los Angeles AFB Dental Clinic for about a year and says "the mission here is to provide the best quality care available. Providing that care is the challenge we face daily." When he is not busy with patients, Lt. Col. Daniel Dupont oversees the daily routine of clinic administration and readily explains "support to all active-duty members within a 50-mile radius and the Space and Missile Systems Center is the mission of the Dental Clinic. We provide optimal dental care and try to use

See DENTISTS, next page

Photos by Joe Juarez

Open wide!

Dental clinic provides care, ensures deployment readiness

By Joe Davidson
Public Affairs

Ask any Dental Clinic personnel at Los Angeles AFB their basic mission and they will all tell you the same thing. "Insuring Air Force members have their dental needs met prior to deployment at a moment's notice."

For the 130 or so personnel in a deployable status, dental specialists actively monitor their dental requirements. On any given day of the week, you will see them donning their blue gowns, masks and caps – the uniform of the dental technician.

Providing care in preparation for deployment sounds easy but then one must also

consider the other active-duty personnel the clinic staff treat. An additional 3,900 personnel, all within a 50-mile radius of Los Angeles, come to the Los Angeles AFB clinic for treatment – all with similar dental needs. This means over 4,000 people are treated at the clinic each month and on a space available basis, clinic personnel provide dental care for a large number of military retirees and their dependents. The task clearly is not so easy.

Clinic personnel provide the best possible treatment. They do this with a positive and professional can-do attitude. Those professionals include six dentists, 20 dental journeyman each at different skill levels, two laboratory technicians and

three perio-therapists.

On a typical day at the Dental Clinic, a patient will arrive at the records desk and will be met by any one of the records technicians on duty. On this particular day, patients were being "checked in" by Staff Sgt. Andrea Fisher, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, Records and Reception. Her personable manner helps patients overcome most, if not all, of their fears of a visit to the dentist. She openly admits that when patients arrive for a scheduled appointment, it has been "like pulling teeth" to get them through the process.

Once completed with reception, patients see any one of the technicians or perio-therapists on duty that day. Senior Airman Christina Webster, politely asks her next patient into the procedure room and soon she is busy cleaning teeth. More invasive procedures are handled by any of the six dentists assigned. Tech. Sgt. Joseph Oliver, NCOIC Dental Laboratory, explains his duties in a very



Top: Senior Airman Christina Webster performs a routine cleaning on a dental patient bringing his dental readiness up to par. Above: Staff Sgt. Andrea Fisher, NCOIC of Records and Reception, discusses a dental appointment with a potential patient. The clinic's primary mission is to ensure dental readiness of deploying members.

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whatever is required to achieve that. We also educate them with regards to their dental health needs.”

Customer satisfaction surveys within the dental flight helps bring out areas in which the dental clinic excels and where it needs to improve. However, a recent Department of Defense Customer Service survey noted the clinic’s timeliness as “Best in the Air Force.”

A visit to the Dental Clinic is not always something to look forward to but one can be assured they will be treated

with professionalism, kindness and a can-do attitude. In preparing personnel for readiness, mission requirements and personal dental health go hand-in-hand.

The Los Angeles AFB

Dental Clinic is here to meet your dental needs. Located in Building 200, the Dental Clinic offers just about any service you can think of from simple extractions to root canals. And yes, they do have a drill.



Left: Tech. Sgt. Joseph Oliver, NCOIC of the dental lab, smiles with a set of dentures. Top: Airman Analiza Dinong reviews a patient record following a visit to the dentist.

Leading LA

Tech. Sgt. Raven Ferrer

Tech Sgt. Raven S.J. Ferrer is the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Information Management in the Inspector General's Office at Los Angeles AFB. She has been stationed at the base for six years, and her primary duties include all facets of personnel; administration, resource management and computer related base-wide additional duties.

She contributes to the Inspector General's Office on a routine basis by transcribing testimonies and researching fraud, waste and abuse infractions and congressional complaints. She assists clients with filing complaints as well as referring them to the proper agencies for help in resolving their individual conflicts.

She also maintains the IG complaint database that is routed to HQ Air Force Materiel Command and other agency IG offices and compiles statistics for briefings.

"I believe my job is important because it is the hub of the entire office that can directly effect the base mission. Every piece of correspondence, financial and material resources as well as the clients are routed through me and by me. The IG office ensures that government resources are not misused, abused or violated, and it's up to me to see that those priorities are met by keeping data impeccable, which means accurate and accessible. If a case's files, money and suspense's aren't met, it hinders our process to accomplish the overall mission, which I believe is vital to the overall accomplishment of our base," she said.

The Glassboro, N.J., native has been in the Air Force for 14 years. She recently received an "Outstanding Performer" award during the AFMC Unit Compliance/Operational Readiness Inspection. Some of her other major accomplish-

ments include an Associate of Arts Degree in Applied Science from Community College of the Air Force, and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from National University in San Diego, Calif., where she earned her degree "Magna Cum Laude." She is currently continuing her education by pursuing a Master of Forensic Psychology with National University.

Ferrer plans to continue her Air Force career and obtain the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. She also has a desire to become an Air Force officer and work in the Office of Special Investigations. After the Air Force she plans to work as a forensic or clinical psychologist within the FBI.

When not at work, she can be found volunteering as an Los



Angeles County Big Sister, Mentor and Counselor at the LA County battered woman's shelter.

Her hobbies include writing poetry, painting, weight training, basketball, softball and rollerblading. She is currently in training for an upcoming bodybuilding competition and likes being a mentor and spending time with children to help encourage their personal growth.

Congratulations

The following individuals were promoted in April to the ranks indicated:



Master Sergeant:
Ferdinada Lazaga, Kevin LeRoy, Brian Rhodes



Tech. Sergeant:
David Cantu, Christian Mapp



Staff Sergeant:
Christopher Chaikittirattana, Donny Egan, Amy Pasquarello, Sharon Rodgers, Jerry Hernandez



Airman:
Norelle Thomas

Commissary to stop requiring Social Security Numbers on checks

By Kevin Hennelly
Defense Commissary Agency

Starting in May, the Defense Commissary Agency will no longer require customers to put their Social Security Numbers on checks when paying for their groceries. It's another example of how the commissary is listening to customers and giving them what they want.

"Our customers are telling us they are increasingly concerned about disclosing personal information on their checks that may result in 'identity theft,' violations of personal privacy, fraud or personal financial loss. We are listening to our patrons and are

taking the steps needed to reduce their exposure to these risks," said Air Force Col. Ed Jones, DeCA's comptroller.

DeCA's strategic plan directs employees to listen to customers and make it easier for them to use their commissary benefit. Commissary managers have opened stores earlier, closed them later and offered new services in response to customer suggestions. But sometimes customer concerns go beyond store hours and product selection. As national anxiety over identify theft mounted and various civilian retailers stopped asking for SSN's, military shoppers began asking DeCA to change too. As a result, customers will have

extra security and the convenience of not having to write their SSN on a check when shopping at the commissary.

DeCA is taking these positive steps even though there was little or no risk in DeCA's current requirement for SSN's on checks.

"There is a very low probability of customers having their identities stolen or their Social Security Numbers misappropriated at a DeCA commissary," said Fred Stein, DeCA's security officer. "Our customers' checks are safeguarded like cash and remain under positive control of appropriate commissary personnel until they are deposited in the bank."

But just to be sure, DeCA worked hard to change its systems. This means that by May, commissary patrons will no longer be required to show a SSN on the front of their personal check. It also means that the agency is modifying its cash register system to stop printing SSN's on the back of

Commissary shoppers save 29 percent

FORT LEE, Va. - Shop your commissary and save more than 29 percent on your grocery bill. That's the good news according to the most comprehensive Market Basket Price Comparison Study ever done by the Defense Commissary Agency.

"This survey revealed an

overall savings of 29.2 percent," said DeCA Director Maj. Gen. Robert Courter. And the bottom line for customers: the amount of savings verified by the survey means an annual savings of over \$2,300 for a family of four that regularly shops in their commissary.

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

Family Child Care

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, contact Hyechong Froschl at 363-8334 or stop by the Child Development Center at Fort MacArthur, Building 31.

Current providers: **Amy Gonzalez** can provide child care from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, for children ages 3 and up on a full, part-time and drop-in basis. For more information, call 514-1938. **Johvon Tidwell** can provide child care from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays to Fridays for children ages 2 and up on a full, part time and drop-in basis. For more information, call 547-9762. **Ann Hall** has an opening for a child two years or older. Call 832-5673 for more information. **Kimberly McClure** has an opening for a child two years or older. Call 833-8188 for more information. **Kellie Heironimus** provides hourly care for children of all ages. Call 833-5751 for more information. **Tina Alejandro** has an opening for a child two years or older. Call 832-2620 to speak to Tina. **Joan Smith** has two openings for children two years and older. Call 241-1422 for more information.

The above providers are the only individuals authorized to provide child care in the Fort MacArthur, Pacific Heights and Pacific Crest areas.

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 34-276, persons wishing to provide child care for more than 10 hours per week on a regular basis in base housing must be trained, certified and granted a license by the base commander.

The Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station has openings in their Navy licensed family home day care homes. For more information, call Kathy Richards at 562-626-7899.

Youth Center

“YOFAM” 2001 Year of the Family membership sign-up. Sign up now for before- and after-school programs, summer camps, family events, teen

scene and much more. Call 363-8565 for information.

Extended child care

The Child Development Center will implement a new child care initiative to extend the hours of child care to accommodate for extended duty hours. Extended duty is defined as temporary shift change, unplanned longer duty day, unplanned weekend duty, short-term temporary additional duty if no other parent available, dual military or single parent deployment. For more information, contact Iris Alexander at 363-5950.

RV storage

Los Angeles AFB offers two recreational vehicle storage facilities located next to the FamCamp in Lawndale and at Fort MacArthur. Storage fees are \$30 per month for RVs more than 23 feet and \$20 per month for RVs less than 23 feet long.

The Fitness Center

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 your workout.

Gymnastics offered

Gymnastics classes are being offered at the Fort MacArthur Fitness Center at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Boss and Buddy Night

Come relax with your co-workers and friends at The Club Pub from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday April 6. There will be a variety of games to play, music to dance/listen to, or a chance to just hang out. Call 3-2230 for more info.

Family Fun Run

Bring the family out for a fun run or walk at Fort MacArthur on April 7 at 10:15 a.m. Runners/walkers should

Soccer champions crowned



Photo by Joe Juarez

The intra mural soccer championship tournament was held March 26-29 at the Lawndale Annex soccer field. Emerging victorious was the team from Space and Missile Systems Center Launch Programs. They defeated the NAVSTAR Global Positioning System team with a final score of 2-1. Pictured here, Francisco Dominguez, foreground with yellow vest, attempts to get the ball away from Laura Vacarro.

meet at the flagpole by 10:15 a.m. to sign up. Call 363-6815 for more info.

Airmen Open Play

Come out of your dorm room for a few hours April 9 for Open Play Night at the Teen Center at 6 p.m. All single airmen are invited to participate in 3-on-3 hoops and other game challenges. Call 363-8225 for more info.

Spring Fling Camp

The Los Angeles Spring Fling Holiday Camp is for kids aged 5-12 years old. The Youth Center offers this program from April 9 to 13. Activities include games, food, sports, art projects and a field trip. Call 363-8383 for more info.

Wednesday's Friends

Join Wednesday's Friends April 11 from 10 a.m. until noon for outdoor activities for parents and their children. Call Johvon Tidwell at 547-9762 for more info.

Big Bear Ski Trip

Outdoor Recreation sponsors the last ski trip to Big Bear Mountain for the season. Cost is \$47 and includes transportation, lift ticket and ski rental. Those who bring their own skis receive \$5 off. Bus departs Fort MacArthur Community Center at 5 a.m. and El Segundo Outdoor Recreation at

6 a.m. The bus will return at approximately 7:30 p.m. to Outdoor Recreation and 8:30 p.m. to Fort MacArthur. Call 363-2190 for more info.

Sports Night

Come hang out at the Harborview Lounge Wednesday night April 11 from 6 until 10 p.m. for a night of televised sports, pool, darts, dominoes and other games. Call 363-8383 for more info.

Teen Council meeting

Teen Council Meetings are held every Wednesday night from 6:30 until 8 p.m. at the Teen Center. The Teen Council discusses upcoming programs, activities and other ideas for Los Angeles AFB teens.

Puppet Show

The El Segundo Child Development Center will host a puppet show April 13 at 2:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to join their children for this special show. Call 363-1792 for more information.

Magic Mountain trip

Pre-teens and teens are headed to Magic Mountain April 12. The bus leaves the Youth Center at 9 a.m. and will return at approximately 11 p.m. The cost of this trip is \$25 per person and permission slips are required. Attendees should bring money for dinner, and a

sack lunch is suggested to reduce meal expenses. Call 363-8383 for more info.

Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the Fort MacArthur parade ground April 14 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. The hunt is free and is appropriate for children from infants to 10 years old. Call 363-8383 for more info.

Easter Brunch

Don't miss the Easter Brunch at the Community Center April 15 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The brunch cost is \$15.50 for adults and \$7.50 for children five-12 years old. Children under five are free! Brunch includes an omelet bar, scrambled eggs, baked ham, roasted turkey, garlic mashed potatoes, dessert bar, champagne and much more. Call 363-8225 for more information.

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic: Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays at 4 p.m., Mass at 4:30 p.m. Mass at 9 a.m. Sundays. Continuing Christian Development is held in Building 37 at 10:15 a.m.

Protestant: Sunday School at 9 a.m. in Building 37. General Protestant worship at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Walker at 363-6433.