



Astro News

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“Forging the shape of military space for the 21st century”

Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., Feb. 9, 2001

President's message to the troops



George W. Bush 43rd President of the United States

To the armed forces of the United States and the men and women whose work supports them: your service in the cause of freedom is both noble and extraordinary.

Because of you, America is strong and the flame of freedom burns brighter than at any time in history. Your country can never repay you for the sacrifices and hardships you endure, but we are grateful for the liberties we enjoy every day because of your service.

As your commander-in-chief, I will always support you and your families so this great nation continues to have the greatest armed forces in the history of the world. Thank you.

Three cheers for Team SMC! Hip, Hip, Hooray!



Photo by Joe Juarez

Lt. Gen. Eugene Pettini, SMC commander (at the center of the "M"), and members of Team SMC line up for a photo opportunity at the "Inspector General is Gone" picnic Tuesday at the Area A

meal. The day began with a series of Commander's Calls where the general thanked everyone for their hard work during the weeklong visit from the AFMC Inspector General team.

Seventh GPS IIR spacecraft launched into orbit

By Capt. Colleen Lehne
Public Affairs

Despite a mad rush during countdown to resolve Delta II issues, the seventh Global Positioning System IIR spacecraft successfully achieved orbit after its launch Jan. 30 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

"The complexity, the challenge and the excitement were definitely there that day," said Jerry Heydinger, GPS Joint Program Office Space and Control Segment program manager.

"After six successful GPS IIR/Delta II missions, one

would think that this is routine," he said. "But it is far from that. Routine implies a simple task that lacks challenge or excitement."

Each launch requires extreme attention to complex details by a large government and contractor team working long, hard hours. Their unique skills and dedication are continuously called upon to solve new challenges on every mission. "The IIR-7 was no exception and they came through flawlessly," Heydinger said. "I am so very proud to be a part of this launch team."

"This was one of the wildest

terminal counts that the Delta team has been through yet," said Lt. Col. Nancy Insprucker, Medium Launch Vehicle program manager. "The tower rolled more slowly than usual because some new technicians were in training. Then, the front-end computer network went down and had to be rebooted. As soon as we arrived on console, several launch pad workers had yet to clear the pad area because there was an issue with the boat-tail, or backend, of the rocket."

Glue needed to be used to keep a tie-on strap from flapping as the rocket launched,

yet the team successfully ensured that sufficient time remained for the glue to adequately cure prior to lift off. Then, "difficulties arose closing an access door on the boat-tail, and, as if that weren't enough, a bolt was lost in the process," she said. The team had to find the missing bolt, and luckily its location was isolated to the flame duct on the ground.

"Once the launch pad was cleared, Team Delta was significantly behind schedule and went into its 'hurry up offense' to load fuel and oxidizer on-board," she said.

See GPS Page 3

Ongoing energy crisis could affect Los Angeles AFB

By Dan Dickerson
Environmental Engineering

California is beginning a second month of Stage 3 power alerts that bring the threat of power curtailments through

"rolling blackouts." Consumers across the Golden State are taking steps to cut consumption and costs by reducing electrical and natural gas usage.

Ed Wilson, Los Angeles AFB Energy Program manager,

says consumers and the base will soon have first-hand evidence what a power shortage means to the pocketbook.

"January's utility costs may prove to be a real eye-opener when compared to the rates we

are accustomed to, and anyone not conserving until now will find the motivation to begin doing so," he said.

The California Public Utilities Commission approved See ENERGY Page 12

Commander's Corner

By Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini
SMC Commander

On Monday afternoon, after a very long week of probing our organization, the Air Force Materiel Command Inspector General briefed the Center's leadership on the results of our Limited Operational Readiness



Inspection and Unit Compliance Inspection. Since it had been some time since SMC received a critical IG examination, we welcomed the team's visit with us last week. It was an opportunity to get an independent assessment of our organizational health and capability.

Overall Team SMC demonstrated its ability to effectively accomplish its mission. In program management, we received very high marks. However, we need to do some additional work to be the very best at support functions. We will take the IG's report and thoroughly review those areas in which we need work. In those areas where we did well, we will continue to improve upon our already admirable space systems acquisition

practices so that we continue to be the recognized center of technical excellence and the product center of choice for innovative, affordable, operationally effective space systems.

I want to thank all of you for the hard work and can-do spirit you put into preparing for this inspection and for the sense of urgency you demonstrated during the inspection. I charge each of you to continue that hard, but very vital, work to deliver unrivaled space, missile and information capabilities and systems to the joint warfighter as we continue to forge the shape of military space for the 21st Century.

Q: I would like to state a complaint about speeders. I have a neighbor that lives behind our house who repeatedly speeds through base housing. My wife was walking through housing with our 8-year-old twins on a recent Friday night and although I'm not an expert on automobile speeds and didn't have a radar gun, it was quite obvious the gentleman went past her greatly exceeding the speed limit of 15 miles per hour. What can be done about this?

A: You're right. The speed limit on most base housing area streets is 15 mph and in some areas is as slow as 5 mph. There are established speed limits for the entire base that have been determined as the safest speeds for all concerned. The 61st Security Forces Squadron strictly enforces speed limits. However, to enforce these base requirements, they must catch speeders in the act. If you or anyone knows of a habitual speeder and can give security forces a few details, I will be glad to have them monitor that area more closely. With your help, we can ensure our streets remain as safe as possible.

Action Line

Speeders beware



Photo by Master Sgt. Tim Helton

On patrol at the Fort MacArthur housing area, Sgt. Pierre Romain, 61st Security Forces Squadron, points a radar gun at an approaching vehicle to determine its speed. The posted speed limit for Fort MacArthur is 15 miles per hour in most areas, while the maximum speed in some areas is as slow as 5 mph. If a driver is found exceeding the speed limit, the Department of Defense police officer will issue DD Form 1408, Military Traffic Citation. As is the case in the state of California, the military traffic system works on a "points" basis. If a driver accumulates a certain number of points against his or her on-base driving record, that person risks the possibility of losing driving privileges on base for a period of time. In addition, commanders are notified of violations of any base regulation and can take corrective action.

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 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.



- Base Exchange – David Clore 640-0129
- Base IG – Lt. Col. John Woodcock 363-0802
- Chaplain – Lt. Col. Gary Garvey 363-1956
- Civil Engineering – Lt. Col. William Saunders 363-0287
- Commissary – Al Cherry 363-6140
- Comm. Sqd. – Lt. Col. Lori South 363-0798
- Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office – Leonard Gonzales 363-1565

- Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office – TTY for hearing impaired 363-6862
- Family Support Center – Tom Sanders 363-5365
- Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline 363-2020
- Housing – Randy Farley 363-8340
- Logistics – Maj. Ronald Graham 363-0351
- Medical – Col. Mark Wisniewski 363-5005
- Mission Support – Lt. Col. Maureen Hurley 363-1230
- Privacy Act/FOIA– Jesusa Cruz 363-2576
- Public Affairs – Lt. Col. Robert Potter 363-0030
- Security Forces – Maj. Lyle Cary 363-0032
- Services – Gary Van Dusen 363-0430
- Military Equal Opportunity Office – Capt. Elizabeth Vallery 363-2806
- TRICARE 363-0261
- 24-hour Crime Stop 363-2124
- Legal Office – Col. Scott Bagley 363-0916
- Area Defense Counsel – Capt. Art Kirkpatrick 363-6776

Astro News

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Submit news to:
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Call 363-0303 for more
information.

Free concert

The 40-member Air Force Band of the Golden West will be playing in the auditorium at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach on Thursday, 15 February from 7 to 9 p.m. Free tickets are available from SMC Public Affairs at 363-0030.

Course offered

The Defense Technical Information Center Western Regional Office is sponsoring the Department of Defense Scientific and Technical Information Manager Training course, offered by DTIC headquarters. The class is free and will be held March 7-9 at the Building 80 classroom. The three-day course is an overview of the DoD Scientific and Technical Information Program and how the program's responsibilities are implemented by the local STIP manager.

Contact Daisy Clark, DTIC Western Regional Office, at 363-8980 for more information or to register for this course.

Clinic open house

An Open House will be held at the Fort MacArthur Clinic for active-duty and family members on Feb. 24 from noon to 4 p.m. Come out and meet Dr. Samuel Cloud and the staff. He arrived at the Los Angeles AFB in July 2000 and enjoys treating both children and adults alike.

GPS

From Page 1

The team proceeded through the rest of the count without using any of the built-in holds that would normally be used during a more typical Delta II count.

"While this was going on, our Launch Readiness Manager, Lt. Laura Maginnis, expertly guided the team through a third stage rate gyro problem and a second stage Helium pressure regulator anomaly," she said. "Frankly, there were several times during the count when I thought the team would have to scrub for the day."

"The Delta team deserves a lot of applause for the hard work and heroics they went through to get us launched. They gave us an excellent ride," Heydinger added.

CSEL on way to warfighters

By Hap Parker
Public Affairs



If all goes according to plans, military aviators can be using a new Combat Survivor/Evader Locator hand-held radio as early as this year, according to Lt. Col. Edward J. Phillips, CSEL program director.

Phillips made the announcement early this week after learning Air Force headquarters had added \$4.7 million to the program to immediately procure approximately 300 radios for contingency operations as promised by F. Whitten Peters, former Air Force secretary.

"This is great news for the Air Force," Phillips said. "Right now, we are looking at waiting six months to get the parts and another three months to assemble and test the radios. These radios will be available later this year for contingency operations and tests."

The next big milestone for the CSEL program will occur in April when the Air Force Operational Test & Evaluation Center completes operational

field tests. After the operational assessments have been made "we can move ahead toward multi-service operational test and evaluation and fielding the radios," Phillips said.

Earlier this year, the Air Force added \$107 million to the program to complete the development of the CSEL system and accelerate the fielding of CSEL radios.

He said the Air Force will buy 16,500 radios for its program and an additional 31,000 for the other services. The current cost goal is estimated at \$5,500 each. "We are on track to meet all key performance parameters directed by the March 2000 Joint Requirements Oversight Committee."

Phillips pointed out that CSEL is the next generation combat search and rescue locator and communication system.

"It revolutionizes the way combat search and rescue will be done in the near future. Most current survival radios rely primarily on line-of-sight communication; CSEL gives the warfighter the capability to timely communicate over the horizon directly with search and rescue forces around the globe via a robust, automated command, control and communications system," he said.

"Whether from behind structures in remote areas, the thicket of forestation or from just about anywhere on the globe, this new, next generation survival radio system is designed and developed to provide U.S. combat forces with precise geo-location and complete global communications with rescue forces," said Maj. John Severance, CSEL program deputy director.

According to Severance, the radio also incorporates the latest-generation military

precision Global Positioning System receivers to give CSEL an unparalleled ability to precisely identify the location of the warfighter.

"The GPS technology provides capabilities for anti-jam and anti-spoofing that enables a downed crewmember to determine his or her precise location which is then transmitted to rescue forces. This happens more rapidly and accurately than we had anticipated," Severance said.

The CSEL systems architecture is composed of three segments. The "over the horizon" segment incorporates four worldwide UHF base stations providing two-way secure messaging.

The "ground segment" contains the Joint Search and Rescue Center software application which allows command and control interface with other government systems. The "user equipment segment" contains a multi-function hand-held radio incorporating the latest GPS technology.

All three segments work in consonance with each other to provide the best capability a downed pilot may need until recovered from hostile areas.

'Contract from Hell' laid to rest in ceremonial burning

By 2nd Lt. Jesse Walker
Launch Programs Office

History was made once again at SMC as Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini, SMC commander, joined in a symbolic ceremony that signified the "closeout" of the original Titan IV contract. Members of the closeout team joined Tattini and other SMC senior staff and said their final goodbyes to the "Contract from Hell" and carefully placed a replica page from the original contract into a roaring fire.

During the ceremony, William Maikisch, SMC executive director, recounted his days in the Titan Program Office, where he was a part of the team that originally awarded the contract. Pat Kirk-McAlpine, SMC director of contracts, spoke about the closeout process as well. Tattini presented awards to the nearly 40 members of the closeout

team from SMC, the Defense Contract Management Agency, the Defense Contract Audit Agency, AFMC, Alliant, United Technologies and Lockheed Martin Astronautics.

In 1985, the "-0019" contract was awarded for production and launch of 10 Titan IV launch vehicles. To ensure access to space, the Titan contract went through two restructures, a follow-on buy, two production slowdowns and a production bridge that left the contract too complex to manage. Cost visibility was limited, funding was difficult to track and some terms of the contract were considered unenforceable.

The solution was to transition the Titan IV program to separate contracts. The Titan Program Master Plan called for three new contracts to break out Research and Development, Launch Operations and Production. The original Titan



Photo by Lou Hernandez

Lt. Gen. Tattini places a page from Titan IV contract into the fire.

IV contract was finished as of July 1, 1996, and only awaited closeout.

The closeout effort was challenging because the nature of the program restructure did not lend itself to normal closeout procedures. The original contract had grown immensely in scope and complexity, reaching a final value of over \$11 billion. The contract consisted of over 1,200 line items, 239 accounting classifications and 570 special accounting classifications. In addition, the contract had been

modified nearly 1,600 times. Funding came from many sources. Especially challenging to the closeout effort was the unique manner in which the "-0019" contract ended. While effort on the prime contract stopped, the effort of the major subcontractors continued.

Through hard work and creative resolution approaches, the closeout team finished the project before schedule saving \$23 million in canceling funds and releasing another \$27 million to the program office.

Aerospace Corporation builds test laser for SBL

By Maj. Arnie Streland
Space Based Laser Project Office

The Aerospace Corporation team supporting the Space Based Laser Integrated Flight Experiment project did more than provide systems engineering expertise recently, when they built and delivered a test laser essential for the development of the SBL IFX beam control system.

The SBL IFX Joint Venture team had been working with a commercial vendor to provide the laser but was informed at the last minute that the vendor was no longer interested in doing this type of business.

"Our Joint Venture had a commercial vendor bow out after giving us a quote. With no other vendors available and faced with significant cost and schedule delays to develop another commercial vendor, we turned to The Aerospace Corporation labs for the

work," said Col. Neil McCasland, SBL program director. The Aerospace Corporation had developed similar lasers in the past.

Aerospace program office and Aerospace lab personnel started work on the optical parametric laser at the Aerospace labs on Aug. 8. The OPO laser is used to replicate the behavior of the high-energy laser that the SBL IFX will use to conduct the first-ever ballistic missile intercept from space, sometime around 2012. Using this low-power test laser allows Team SBL IFX engineers to economically design and test systems that will correct aberrations in the high-energy laser beam and ensure the maximum amount of energy is focused on the target.

The Aerospace team overcame some of their vendor problems, including late deliveries and some low quality components, and delivered the



Courtesy photo

From left to right: Dawun Chen, Todd Rose and Kevin Masters are credited with building test laser.

OPO laser on schedule to the joint venture in late January.

"It was a real team effort between the joint venture and

Aerospace labs. We got a high quality product on the schedule we needed," McCasland said.

The team plans to use the laser

in risk reduction for the next 2-3 years. (*Aerospace's Dr. Robert Hofland contributed to this report.*)

Base auxiliary firefighters practice basics

In case of fire, break out the Los Angeles AFB auxiliary firefighting team. Although the local El Segundo Fire Department has a very good response time to incidents on base, "during a catastrophic disaster, we may be on our own for the first 72 hours," said Base Fire Chief Jim Powderly. "This team was created to respond during disasters and prevent the spread of damage caused by fire." The team showed their skills to the AFMC Inspector General during the inspection last week. Clockwise from right: Staff Sgt. Jason Rusticelli displays proper form in retrieving a fire hose. Any kinks in the hose restrict water flow, reducing the effectiveness of the stream on the fire. During the inspection, the AFMC Inspector General team identified Rusticelli as an "outstanding performer" in his daily duties as a quality assurance evaluator for Civil Engineering, 2nd Lt. Ann-Marie Doerhoff drags the fire hose. The weight and pressure of the water in the hose make this a very tough task. 1st Lt. Amy McCoy quickly gets a ladder across the Area A mall.



Photos by Shaad Madison

AF surgeon general: 'one suicide is one too many'

By Leigh Anne Bierstie
Special General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — One Air Force suicide is one suicide too many, according to Lt. Gen. Paul Carlton, Air Force surgeon general.

The surgeon general is trying to combat suicides by instilling in every Air Force member that it is a community problem. That philosophy is the basis for the Air Force's community approach to suicide prevention.

"We have to stop thinking of suicide prevention as something only mental health professionals do," Carlton said.

"All of us have a responsibility to our fellow airmen and co-workers," he explained. "Recognizing when a person is having problems and actively encouraging that person to seek help is a vital part of suicide prevention."

"We lose too many airmen to suicide in the Air Force, and it is preventable," he said. "Whatever the numbers are, we can never stop being proactive and declare victory. Instead we must continue our efforts."

Today, the Air Force is using a prevention team called the integrated delivery system that includes chaplains and professionals from mental health, family support, child and youth services, health and wellness centers, and family advocacy, all working together and taking responsibility for enhancing community health and well-being.

To date, suicide prevention efforts include an emphasis on involving and training Air Force leadership, and on buddy care and annual suicide preven-

tion training for all military and civilians. The Air Force also maintains a database that tracks not only suicides but also suicide attempts.

The Air Force is not alone

not enough, according to Lt. Gen. Mark Talcott, who leads the Air Force's suicide prevention team.

"Our pilots are responsible for early signs of problems with their jet engines, so mechanics can intervene before engine failure occurs," Talcott said. "In the same way, we expect our commanders, first sergeants and

supervisors at every level to be responsible for their co-workers and watch for early signs of problems so we can intervene early.

"The subject of suicide is very discomfoting for many people, but the first step toward preventing suicide is getting people to talk about it," Talcott said.

Talcott suggests people be alert for the following warning

signs that may signal suicide:

Preoccupied with death and dying; talk about committing suicide; make final arrangements for death; trouble eating or sleeping; drastic changes in behavior; withdrawal from friends or social activities; loss of interest in work, school, etc.; give away prized possessions; take unnecessary risks; loss of interest in personal appearance; increased use of alcohol and drugs.

For more information on what to do if a member encounters someone with these signs, immediately contact an appropriate integrated delivery system representative: the chaplain's office, family support center, behavioral health clinic, family advocacy, or health and wellness center.

The Los Angeles AFB Health and Wellness Center can be reached at 363-6266.

"We have to stop thinking of suicide prevention as something only mental health professionals do. All of us have a responsibility to our fellow airmen and co-workers..."

in its battle against suicide. David Satcher, surgeon general of the United States, described suicide as a "serious public health problem." Nearly 31,000 people commit suicide annually in the United States. Twenty-one active-duty Air Force people committed suicide in 2000, according to the casualty services branch of the Air Force Personnel Center.

Raising suicide awareness is



SMC/AD tackles Camp Pendleton obstacle course



On a recent military training day, members of SMC's Advanced Systems directorate tested their mettle at an obstacle course at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, 45 miles north of San Diego. Clockwise from top left: Tech. Sgt. Jon King makes his way up the rope climb. The SMC/AD group attacks the obstacles as Capt. Jeff Hollman makes it to the top of the rope climb. Capt. Jerry Loeffler prepares to climb the rope. Lt. Col. Roger Hall negotiates the metal high bar.

Photos by Master Sgt. Mark Eredman

Scholarship deadline nears

FORT LEE, Va. — A Feb. 15 deadline is fast approaching for students to apply for a new scholarship program funded by manufacturers and business partners of the commissary system. The Scholarships for Military Children program offers college-bound or college-enrolled military children the opportunity to apply for \$1,500 scholarships. One scholarship per commissary location is planned, dependent on the receipt of qualified applications

at the location. The Defense Commissary Agency operates nearly 300 commissaries worldwide.

Completed applications should be returned to the Los Angeles AFB commissary no later than Feb. 15. Applicants must have a 3.0 grade point average and write a short essay on "What Being a Military Dependent Means to Me." Applications are available at the Los Angeles AFB commissary or at www.commissaries.com.

YOFAM event tickets available for Valentine's Day at The Club

By Chaplain Maj. James Walker
Base Chapel.

In support of the Year of the Family and for the benefit of our SMC community, the Base Chapel will host a luncheon with renowned guest speaker Patrick Cleburne McClary, III "Clebe," and his wife Deanna. The luncheon starts at noon

Feb. 14 at The Club. The chapel is also featuring the McClarys at a Valentine's Social on the same day at 6:30 p.m. at the Cabrillo Marina Plaza in San Pedro.

Clebe McClary is the author of the book, "Living Proof," and one of the most outstanding motivational speakers in the country.

SMC interacts with local science students



Photo by Mike Morales

Col. Rick Reaser, chief engineer for the Global Positioning System Joint Program Office, demonstrates a GPS hand-held receiver to students from James Monroe High School, illustrating how the past 15 years of technological improvements have reduced the size of GPS equipment used on the battlefield. This was one of many briefings and demonstrations provided during a program at the Aerospace Corporation as part of Science and Technology Week sponsored by the state of California's Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency.

Black History Month

Top female in Army acquisitions speaks at The Club

The Los Angeles AFB Black Employment Program and Aerospace Black Caucus is sponsoring this year's Black History Month luncheon. This year's theme is "Creating and Defining the African American Community: Family, Church, Politics and Culture." The program will be Feb. 23, in The Club at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$13.00. Menu consists of fried or baked chicken, collard greens, candied yams, black eyed peas, salad, bread, beverage and peach cobbler.

The guest speaker for this event is Tracey Pinson, the Director for Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Office, Secretary of the Army. She advises the Secretary of the Army and the Army Staff on all small business procurement issues and is responsible for the implementation of the Federal

acquisition programs designed to assist small businesses, including small disadvantaged businesses and women-owned businesses. She is responsible for the management of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions program, and develops policies and initiatives to enhance their participation in Army funded programs. As the top female in the Army's acquisition career field, she is responsible for the integration of small businesses, HBCUs and MIs in acquisition strategies developed at the Army Headquarters. She also provides management and oversight for the Army's Mentor-Protégé program.

Pinson was born in Washington, D.C. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from Howard

University. She also received a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. She is a member in good standing of the Maryland Bar Association. She resides in Silver Spring, Md., with her husband Darryl Dennis and daughter Maya.

Ticket representatives are: Capt. Detrol Alford 363-1543, Renee Combs 363-1187, Tonya Racasner 363-0025, Sloan King 363-3919, Leonard Coleman 363-6319, Carolyn Adams 363-6473, Teri Mathis 363-2027, Ethel Simpson 363-5347, Capt. Ricco Jones 363-1709, Sallie Grubbs 363-3208, Norma Jackson 363-3994, Madlyn Washington 363-6673, Earl Hanna 363-5467, Wanda Meyers 363-0512, Bobby Jones 363-2132, Capt. Elizabeth Vallery 363-2806. Tickets must be purchased by Feb. 21 and are not refundable.



Courtesy photo

Pinson will speak at Black History Month luncheon Feb. 23.

Dollars and Sense

Bank of America offers one-time clemency for past due travel cards

WASHINGTON (AFP) — In an effort to minimize the consequences facing airmen who have delinquent government travel card accounts, the card's issuer is granting a one-time opportunity for them to avoid the negative effects of credit bureau reporting.

Bank of America's government card program officials notified senior Air Force leadership this week of a one-time clemency offer for service members whose travel card account is canceled (more than 126 days past due) but not yet written off as a loss, according to Air Force finance officials.

The contract between the government and Bank of America allows the bank to report all government travelers who used the travel card and did not pay their bill, explained Michael Weber, Air Force travel card program coordinator.

"The contract allows the bank to send this credit information to a credit bureau after the card is 126 days delinquent," he said. "This could cause an Air Force member to be denied future credit for a car loan, utilities or other purchases."

Affected cardholders can avoid being reported to credit bureaus provided the following criteria applies: The cardholder's account must be less than 210 days delinquent; The account balance must be paid in full by April 2. Bank of America must receive the payment via normal payment methods; Canceled accounts paid in full between now and April 2 will not be reported to the credit bureaus, however, the card will not be reinstated.

For more information, contact your agency representative.

ENERGY

From Page 1

a temporary 15-percent price hike that went into effect on Jan. 4, affecting all large power consumers. Los Angeles AFB is not exempt from this increased rate and the higher costs will bite into the base operations and maintenance account.

"If the costs soar high enough, it may lead to the cancellation of several needed facility improvement projects. Tough choices will have to be made within the next few weeks. Some organizations are not going to like the outcome when funds originally earmarked for base improvements are used to pay the power bill," Wilson said.

To make a bad situation worse, the base consumed more energy in December 2000 than in December of 1999. If this trend continues, not only will we pay more through the increased rate structure but we will also be penalized for rising consumption. In a time when we should be doing our best to reduce consumption, the base is

moving in the opposite direction. We can't blame the weather—December was a mild month so it must be something we're doing or not doing.

Of course it goes without saying, the base must use energy to continue to carry out SMC's mission. It's important we make that energy used count towards what we want to achieve. When we use more than that, it is wasteful and expensive.

Conservation is the least expensive and most logical approach to save base funding. We can conserve energy by applying sound conservation measures and improving equipment efficiency. Some good tips include:

- Keep exterior doors closed. Our heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems are meant to operate with the building supply and return-air in balance. Once that balance is disrupted, it is difficult to maintain a reasonable comfort level in all areas.

- Space heaters consume a

lot of energy and unless a space heater is approved for medical or other extraordinary reasons, they are not to be used. Instead, wear comfortable business attire and dress appropriately for cooler temperatures.

- Turn off any lights that are not needed, especially in unused offices and conference rooms. Use task lighting if at all possible at your work station.

- Turn off your computer if you are out of the office for more than a few minutes.

- Adhere to the lights-out principle when leaving for the day. Give all office equipment a good night's rest. Most computers have a "sleep feature," but this is a misnomer. What your computer is doing is idling just like your car at a traffic light. Turn it off.

"Energy conservation is not a state of being without, rather it is a state of using what you have wisely" says Ed Wilson. For more information on how you can conserve energy contact Wilson at 363-0904.

Clippers honor AF

The Los Angeles Clippers welcome all Los Angeles AFB personnel to Staples Center on March 5 at 7:30 p.m. for their game vs. the Denver Nuggets. The Los Angeles AFB Honor Guard will present the colors, and the group will be welcomed on the big screen. Tickets for this game are available at a special discount: \$35 tickets are available for \$20; \$25 tickets are available for \$15 and \$20 tickets are available for \$12. Don't miss an excellent opportunity to enjoy exciting National Basketball Association action with your friends and family. Tickets are being sold at the Tickets and Tours desk inside the newly renovated Outdoor Recreation inside Building 242 in Area B. Deadline to purchase tickets is Feb. 26.

Outdoor Recreation

March. 3. Big Bear Ski Trip. \$45 includes transportation, lift ticket and ski rental. \$40 if you have your own skis. The bus departs the Fort MacArthur Community Center at 5 a.m. and Outdoor Recreation at 6 a.m. The bus will return to Outdoor Recreation at 7:30 p.m. and to the Community Center at 8:30 p.m. A minimum of seven skiers need to sign up before Feb. 28 to make this trip a possibility. The maximum number of participants is 11.

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.

Snow Day in L.A.

The Community Center will be a winter wonderland today as the Los Angeles AFB celebrates Snow Day. The snow falls at 4 p.m. There will be two sled ramps, a snowman building area and plenty of room for other snow fun. At 7 p.m., the movie Little Mermaid 2 will be shown in the Community Center ballroom for children and their parents. Also at 7 p.m., there will be a Sweetheart Dance for teens in the Garden Room.

Pedal power: An alternate energy source for California?



Photo by Teri Mathis

Bonnie Adkins, left, exercise physiologist with the Health and Wellness Center, takes a class through the paces on the Reebok Cycles during a lunchtime workout at the Fitness Center, Building 242 in Area B. The cycle class is held daily at 6 a.m., Monday Wednesday and Friday at 11:30 a.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. Adkins offers the following tips for class participants: - Get a pair of bike shorts preferably padded shorts like most outdoor cyclists wear. - Bring a full water bottle

and drink plenty of water during the ride. - Adjust the seat to the proper height. Ask for assistance if you can't get the settings just right. - Don't be intimidated by others in the class. If the instructor tells the class to ride at an intensity level of five and it's not comfortable for you, go down to a four. Keep moving but go at your own pace and soon you'll be leading the pack. For more information about this class, contact the Fitness Center at 363-6815 or just show up and give it a spin.

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.

Family Child Care

The Seal Beach Naval Facility has openings in their Navy licensed family home day care homes. For more information, call Kathy Richards 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, contact Hyechong Froschl at 363-8334 or stop by the Child Development Center at Fort MacArthur, Building 31. 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. The above providers are the only individuals authorized to provide child care in the Fort MacArthur, Pacific Heights and Pacific Crest areas.

RV storage

For your convenience, Los Angeles AFB offers two recreational vehicle storage facilities. They are 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 recreational vehicle storage located at Fort MacArthur is open to active-duty military personnel residing in Los Angeles AFB military housing.

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. Research has shown that exercise helps prevent many types of disease, helps people sleep better and

relieves depression. Individual appointments can be made by calling 363-6815, or you can ask at the front desk for a trainer during your workout.

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.

For information on baptisms, call Chaplain Maj. Randy Roberts at 363-1871.

Classes are available for anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. For more information about the Catholic faith, call Chaplain Maj. Randy Roberts at 363-1871.