



Astro News

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

Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., June 1, 2001

Lt. Gen. Arnold takes command of SMC

By Master Sgt. Tim Helton
Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold became the commander of Space and Missile Systems Center May 25, succeeding Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini, who retired after 36 years of service.

Gen. Lester Lyles, Air Force Materiel Command commander, presided over the change-of-command and retirement ceremony, which was held at the Fort MacArthur parade grounds in San Pedro, Calif.

"Today is a bittersweet day," Lyles said. "It's a chance to hail a new commander, but say farewell to a beloved leader. But more importantly, the legacy of great commanders at SMC continues. One is lost, but one is gained. It's a continuation of the heritage and great leadership that's been maintained at SMC."

Arnold comes to SMC with

a vast background. The 29-year officer's prior assignments include two tours in acquisition at the Pentagon, the first as a program element monitor for the Operational Requirements Directorate, and most recently as the director of Space and Nuclear Deterrence for the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition where he was responsible for space and missile systems.

The general, a pilot with more than 3,100 flight hours, has served as a squadron commander, wing commander and sub-unified commander. He has spent the majority of his career in FB-111 and B-52 aircraft.

"We're excited about joining what I consider to be the elite acquisition force in the Air Force," said Arnold. "This is an important time here at SMC, and I'm excited to be part of it."

The general was commissioned through Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, Texas, in 1971.

His educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in education from California State University, Hayward, and a Master's degree in administrative education from Pepperdine University. He graduated from Air Command and Staff College in 1985 and National War College in 1992.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

He is married to the former Tina Vilas of Sonora, Calif. Their five children are Brian II, Troy, Kristi, Kerri and Scott.



Photos by Joe Juarez

Above: Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold, right, takes command of SMC by receiving the unit guidon from AFMC commander Gen. Lester Lyles, as Command Chief Master Sgt. Don Cleveland looks on.



Above: As the Los Angeles AFB Honor Guard marches with the colors, retiring Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini, left, and new SMC commander Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold, salute the colors. Lower right: Tattini, and wife Jene, wave to the crowd following the retirement and change of command. Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Tattini will remain in Southern California as the retired general will become the deputy director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.



Safety first as '101 Critical Days of Summer' begins

By Gen. Gregory Martin
Commander, U.S. Forces in Europe

"Spring into 101 Critical Days of Summer" is not just another safety campaign, but rather a time for us to think about and prepare for the summer and schedule our activities accordingly.

By planning ahead of time, we can do a much better job of anticipating the many challenges we'll face as we try to

balance personal, family and Air Force priorities. And, most importantly, we will be able to build in some flexibility, which will allow each of us to deal with the inevitable pop-up circumstances requiring changes to our original plan.

Although we face seasonal risks throughout the year, I have found the summer season to be the most dangerous. With longer days and predominantly better weather, we have a

tendency to overestimate the number of activities we can accomplish in any given day while underestimating the fatigue factor associated with those activities. Additionally, the summer months produce rapidly changing and often violent weather patterns that can catch even the most prepared at an awkward and dangerous point.

The first step in all mishap prevention plans is to be aware

of and expect change. Next, match and assess the risks associated with a change.

Finally, we must adjust our attitudes and behaviors based on change and its associated risks.

I offer the following as a recipe for your personal mishap prevention plan: Expect change; Assess the risk before you act; Trust your intuition; Take care of each other; Your goal is to survive.

I cannot stress enough how

important our people are in making our mission a success. I do not subscribe to the view that mishaps are considered a normal part of our military business — they can be prevented and eliminated!

We must all step out and demonstrate our sincere concern for everyone's safety and security to ensure a healthy environment during this time of year as we "Spring into 101 Critical Days of Summer."

'Rolling blackouts' are a security concern

By Norman Miller
Information Security Manager

Rolling black outs are a reality in Southern California and have occurred in the local community. Our base in El Segundo has not been affected, however, we must plan and prepare for them.

How will rolling blackouts affect your ability to protect classified information? Think about the possibility of your

work area going dark with classified computer hard drives and classified documents throughout your work area. If this occurs, do you have a security plan?

In the event of a blackout don't panic! Remain calm, and be proactive rather than reactive. First, make sure the classified material and computer hard drives are properly secured. Second, never leave your work area without ensuring

all classified material has been locked in an approved security container. Third, each person working with classified information is responsible for the protection of that material at all times. If the classified material cannot be secured in an approved container, it is the responsibility of the user to provide the necessary security. Personal safety is very important and should never take priority over security. Never

endanger your life or the lives of others during a blackout or at any time.

After the power has been restored, check your work area. If anything looks questionable, contact your Security Manager.

During a rolling blackout, some systems will continue to operate on backup battery power. These systems include the closed circuit television cameras, the intrusion detection alarms located on the facility perimeter and interior, and the card readers located throughout

the facilities in Area "A." However, the turnstiles are not on backup power and will not operate in the event of a power outage.

Some offices have backup generators that will turn on in a power failure. Check with your building manager to find out if your office has backup power. If you have any questions about security, contact your Security Manager. If we all do our best to conserve energy, the potential of rolling blackouts will be reduced.

Long-term parking limits still in effect

Construction projects have put the squeeze on parking available in Area B. Therefore, long-term parking has been restricted. Only the following personnel are authorized long-term parking privileges: active-duty military assigned to Los Angeles AFB, reservists on active duty assigned to Los Angeles AFB, and Department of Defense civilians employed at Los Angeles AFB. If you have any questions, contact the Law Enforcement desk at 363-2123.

Action Line 363-2255

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.



- Base Exchange – David Clore 640-0129
- Base IG – Lt. Col. John Woodcock 363-0802
- Chaplain – Lt. Col. Gary Garvey 363-1956
- Civil Engineering – Capt. Bo Bloomer 363-5126
- 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. John Cherry 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/Health Benefits – Rosie Manning 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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- Master Sgt. Tim Helton Staff Writer

Editorial policy

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status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

For advertising information or space reservations, call Gail at 661-945-5634.

Submit news to:
**SMC.PA.ASTRONEWS@
LOSANGELES.AF.MIL**
Call 363-0303 for more
information.

Give blood, get food

The Los Angeles AFB Blood Drive takes place June 7 in the Daedalian Room of The Club from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. Appointments are preferred and are available every 15 minutes. Make appointments by calling 1st Lt. Tracy Villano at 363-5260. In addition to helping out a critical need by giving blood, everyone who donates gets free food.

Stop smoking class

A smoking cessation class will be given at the Health and Wellness Center starting Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. This is the first class in a series of five classes over four weeks. The class is open to all active-duty members, family members, retirees, Department of Defense civilians, and base contractors. Please call the HAWC at 363-6266 to register or for more information.

Heart-Healthy class

The Health and Wellness Center is also offering a Heart Healthy Eating class on Tuesday from 9-11 a.m. The basic principles of heart healthy eating to lower cholesterol and risk of heart disease will be discussed. If you know your cholesterol values, bring them with you to class. Call the HAWC at 363-6266 to sign up or for more information. Space is limited.

TSP open season

The open season for the Federal Employees Thrift Savings Plan is in effect until July 31. To make a TSP open season election, a civilian employee must call the Air Force Personnel Center Benefits and Entitlements Service Team telephone line at 800-997-2378. Employees covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System can contribute up to 11% of their annual salary, while employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System can contribute up to 6% of their annual salary not to exceed the Internal Revenue Service elective deferral limits, currently \$10,500.00. For more information, contact a BEST counselor at the above phone number.

Meet the new commander

'My priority is to take care of our people'

By Tim Dougherty
Public Affairs

While Space and Missile Systems Center commander Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold knows the importance of his job and the challenges he faces, he says his priority is to take care of the people first.

"We need to make sure we recognize and award our quality people, make sure we recruit the right people, and make sure we're working on their career development," Arnold said Tuesday during an interview with the Astro News. As SMC prepares to realign under Air Force Space Command, the general said taking care of the people is critical.

"When you have large organizational changes, people tend to worry about their careers as they leave an organization they are comfortable in and transition to another. I'm going to focus my attention on working the people issues as a top priority. This includes working on retention and mentoring of our people. Keeping up the recruitment and retention of our quality acquisition, engineering and scientific career fields is a difficult task. We need to make sure we have the right people, both civilian and military, here to fill our billets. It's a big job and a big focus."

Arnold said the realignment of SMC under AFSPC will create a good partnership.

"The two organizations need to have a good understanding of their roles and how we each play in the mission. The better we can communicate with each other will help us in creating a solid, trusting relationship that will take us forward. We're going to go through some cultural changes and it's important to realize we will be equal partners. I'm really



Photo by Joe Juarez

Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold addresses the audience at his change-of-command ceremony May 25.

looking forward to the realignment. It's going to take all of us being enthusiastic, looking forward and staying focused on the mission. We are going to be a better team as we create a critical mass for space, which is exactly what the space commission told us to do. We're going to make this as smooth a transition as possible.

"I knew the space commission had some great recommendations for space and so the timing is just right. I'm coming at a really exciting time for space and SMC. There are going to be lots of challenges and you'll see lots of organiza-

tional changes, but it's certainly going to be a fun time to be here.

"I've flown heavy bombers and fighter bombers, and I've run fighter and stealth programs. Combined with my acquisition experience from having spent three tours at the Pentagon in acquisition and two tours at major commands in acquisition, I bring a sort of balanced perspective for air and space," Arnold said.

He thinks his varied background will be very helpful as the Air Force moves to improve the integration of air and space.

"I can look across programs

and perhaps tie in what we do here with a different perspective as we support the joint warfighter. I've been a joint warfighter and a sub-unified commander. Being able to produce the right kinds of equipment at the right time for the warfighter is our primary mission."

Arnold says he is looking forward to meeting everyone connected to SMC over the next few weeks.

"I'm a team builder and will motivate people to be members of that team. I will try to inspire people to stay focused on the mission," he said.

Wideband Gapfiller Satellite team wins Welch award

By 2nd Lt. Gina Tracey
WGS System Program Office

The MILSATCOM Wideband Gapfiller Satellite team was awarded this year's John J. Welch Award May 19 for their groundbreaking work in developing and executing an outstanding acquisition strategy, which involved requests for proposal, defense acquisition boards, and source selection processes.

In just over a year, this small team formulated a clear commercial-like strategy, received approval from the Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition and the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, and flawlessly executed a competitive source selection measure.

"On behalf of the entire WGS team, I am honored to receive this prestigious award," said Lt. Col. Brian Magazu, WGS Program Manager.

"I'm convinced that this is just the first acknowledgement for this small team."

The Gapfiller Team was cited for crafting the DoD's first Commercial Item Acquisition strategy for a satellite program and their aggressive pursuit of acquisition reform opportunities. Most noteworthy was their use of rigorous costs as an independent variable to validate and prioritize requirements, develop a multi-service team and leverage commercial technologies to maximize the warfighters capability.

The team completed its performance by executing a model source selection program that is now the standard for all Space and Missile Systems Center acquisitions.

Each year the award is given to the Air Force program management team that demonstrates superior management in acquisition. The award is named after John Welch, who

served as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition from October 1987 to April 1992.

Lt. Gen. Stephen Plummer, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, and John J. Welch presented the award at a May 19 SAF/AQ Annual Awards banquet.

The multi-Service Wideband Gapfiller team benefited from the diverse experiences and backgrounds of all participants. Magazu and his team were present at the SAF/AQ Awards Celebration to receive this honor. Other SMC team members were: Maj. Craig Lamb, Captains Paul Capes, Louis Noble, John Glover, Jay Schatz, 1st Lt. James Jeter III, 1st Lt. Daniel Phillips, 1st Lt. Sean Tunaley, Glenn Berg, John Hamilton, Donna Kimball, Peggy Mayhew, Phyllis Meyers, and Ratnawati Ramirez.



Above: Recipients of the John J. Welch Jr. award, from left to right: Lt. Col. Brian Magazu, WGS Program Manager; Brig. Gen. Craig Cooning, Program Executive Officer for Space; Capt. Paul Capes, Defense Satellite Communications System Program, and 1st Lt. Sean Tunaley, WGS Program Office. The Welch Award is given for team achievements in acquisition management for the previous calendar year. The award is pictured at right. (Photos by Robert Bartie)



\$10,000 for a bag of microwave popcorn?

By Jim Powderly
Base Fire Chief

Would you pay \$10,000 for a bag of microwave popcorn? Los Angeles AFB personnel in Area A did – twice – during the month of May, and they didn't even eat the popcorn!

Burnt microwave popcorn and burnt bagels are the number one cause of building evacuations at Los Angeles AFB. Have you ever wondered how much money is spent every time the fire alarm goes off and people evacuate a building? Consider hourly wages, lost man hours,

benefits and the number of personnel directly and indirectly involved and you can see how quickly the dollars add up. All for a 50-cent bag of popcorn!

To prevent you from becoming the cause of a building evacuation, consider the following recommendations:

1. Stick around. Don't leave your food cooking unattended. When your carelessness activates an alarm, you cannot shut it off.

2. Wipe up spills and clean the microwave. Built-up grease can catch fire. If your microwave does catch fire, leave the

door closed and unplug the appliance. Without oxygen the fire will go out.

3. Inspect the appliance. Most break areas are used by many people. Someone needs to check for cracked or frayed wiring and if an appliance overheats or smells funny, disconnect it and have it serviced or replaced.

Remember, when the fire alarm sounds in your building, evacuate immediately and report to your assembly area. If it's a false alarm it might cost \$10,000, but if it's the real deal, your life is irreplaceable.

Dollars and Sense

Finance, travel info to save you money

Here are some helpful hints for customers preparing orders and filing travel vouchers:

1. When preparing travel orders, the only location on the orders should be the actual temporary duty location, not the airport the traveler flies into. Also, likewise when filing your settlement voucher, there is no need to indicate the airport where you arrived and departed. Only your temporary duty location is required.

2. It is very important that your orders and the location listed on your travel voucher match. Finance can only reimburse travelers for authorized trips.

3. Travelers must purchase their tickets from the authorized Commercial Ticket Office which is currently SATO.

4. If a customer checks the split disbursement block on the travel voucher DD Form 1351-2 and does not specify an amount, the total settlement payment will be sent to their Bank of America Government Travel Card account.

5. To receive actual expense authorization up to 150 percent of the per diem rate, the traveler needs to have this approved by their 2-letter director for each specific trip. It cannot be a blanket statement and it cannot be delegated below the 2-letter

director level. 2-letter directors cannot approve their own AEA, it must go to the Space and Missile Systems Center commander. To receive AEA over 150-300 percent, this approval resides at the major command level. This type of authorization must go through Customer Service for forwarding to MAJCOM.

Granted, this is not very convenient but the procedure is required by the Joint Federal Travel Regulation and AFMC regulations. It is an extreme exception and not a common practice.

If you have an item you would like addressed in Dollars and Sense, contact Capt. Mark Holbrook at 363-0811.

Leading LA

Senior Airman Liberty Castillo...

... is a Personnel Journeyman with the 61st Mission Support Squadron and administers individual unfavorable information files and the Weight Management program.

"I think my job is important because I work directly for the squadron section commander, and the programs I manage directly affect individual Air Force careers," she said.

Although new to Los Angeles AFB, great things can be expected as Castillo

was selected as the Airman of the Year at Kelly AFB, Texas, prior to transferring to Los Angeles a month ago. She plans on enrolling in a community college to pursue her goal of completing a degree in criminal justice.

"I want to finish my degree and work on becoming a commissioned officer in the Air Force," she said.

In addition to the Airman of the Year award, Castillo has gained other recognition such as Airman of the Quarter, two Air Force Achievement Medals and an Air Force Commendation



Photo by Joe Davidson

Medal. In addition to her work and educational goals, Castillo plans on getting involved in local community activities.

"I mentored a fifth grade student at a Christian elementary school when I was in San Antonio, and I hope to do more mentoring here in Los Angeles. I also want to get involved in beach clean-ups and local women's shelters," she said.

If not at work, Castillo can be found adding to her growing collection of over 500 basketball cards or possibly playing soccer.

Big ceremony takes planning, preparation

Change of command, retirement takes place without any problems

By Tim Dougherty
Public Affairs

Weeks of planning and the hard work of hundreds of Space and Missile Systems Center and Los Angeles AFB personnel paid off Friday as the SMC change of command and retirement ceremony of Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini went off without a hitch.

The planning began in earnest soon after the ink was dry on the orders sending Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold to Los



Photo by Tim Dougherty

Civil Engineering personnel set up more than 650 chairs.



Photo by Tim Dougherty

TrendTec contractor Harley Dugan clamps down the flag stands.

the day was Harley Dugan, a TrendTec contractor responsible for, among other things, coordinating the reserved parking signs and figuring out a way to ensure the many flags on stage didn't fall down in the wind.

"Even though the flags were all sitting in 20-pound flag stands, the wind was very strong Friday morning, and during the ceremony practice, the wind knocked the flags down. I used some large clamps to secure the flags to the stage. You couldn't see the clamps from where the audience was seated," Dugan said. His idea was a success as the flags stayed in place throughout the day.

As Dugan was clamping down the colors, 10 members from 61 ABG Civil Engineering were setting up nearly 700 chairs, John Bohon from the 61st Communications Squadron was configuring the sound system and the director of the Band of the Golden West was discussing final details with Col.

Al Moseley, commander of
See CEREMONY, Page 7

Angeles to become the new commander. Myriad details were considered and while some were more important than others, none were overlooked.

"The coordination of such a major event is always a concern because it's easy to forget a detail or two," said Maj. Michael Smith of SMC's Plans and Programs directorate.

"However, a lot of sharp individuals did a great job and pulled it off."

One of the unsung heroes of



Photo by Tim Dougherty

The hands of 2nd Lt. William Welser IV are seen placing a name tag on a chair for one of the many invited guests.



Photos by Tim Dougherty

Above: Staff Sgt. Oliver Greve ensures the awards are in the proper order before the start of the ceremony. Right: Wesler and 2nd Lt. Troy Thomas go over the seating chart.

CEREMONY, from Page 6
troops. Clearly there were many moving parts.

“We had 30 parking lot attendants, a 32-piece band from Travis AFB, Calif., and 130 Air Force airmen and officers in formation. The change of command is an important event as it symbolizes the Air Force tradition of passing leadership to the new commander,” said 61 ABG deputy commander Lt. Col. Terrence Regan.

Just seconds after taking command of SMC, Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold acknowledged the work and effort that went into the change of command. He spoke directly to the troops and issued his first order.

“As the new commander, I’d

like to give an order to all the troops who I know have been standing out there for a while. I’m going to give you a new command. It’s called Hollywood relax – just bend your knees a little bit. I don’t want anyone passing out.”

In issuing this order, the general hit another detail right on the head. In the event of any of the guests getting too hot or dehydrated, chairs and water were provided under the shade of several large canopies.

As the band played its final note, the planners gave each other a congratulatory pat on the back. There may have been some mistakes made or a detail overlooked, but it was unlikely that any of the nearly 1,000 people in attendance noticed.



Air Force shines at Armed Forces Day celebration



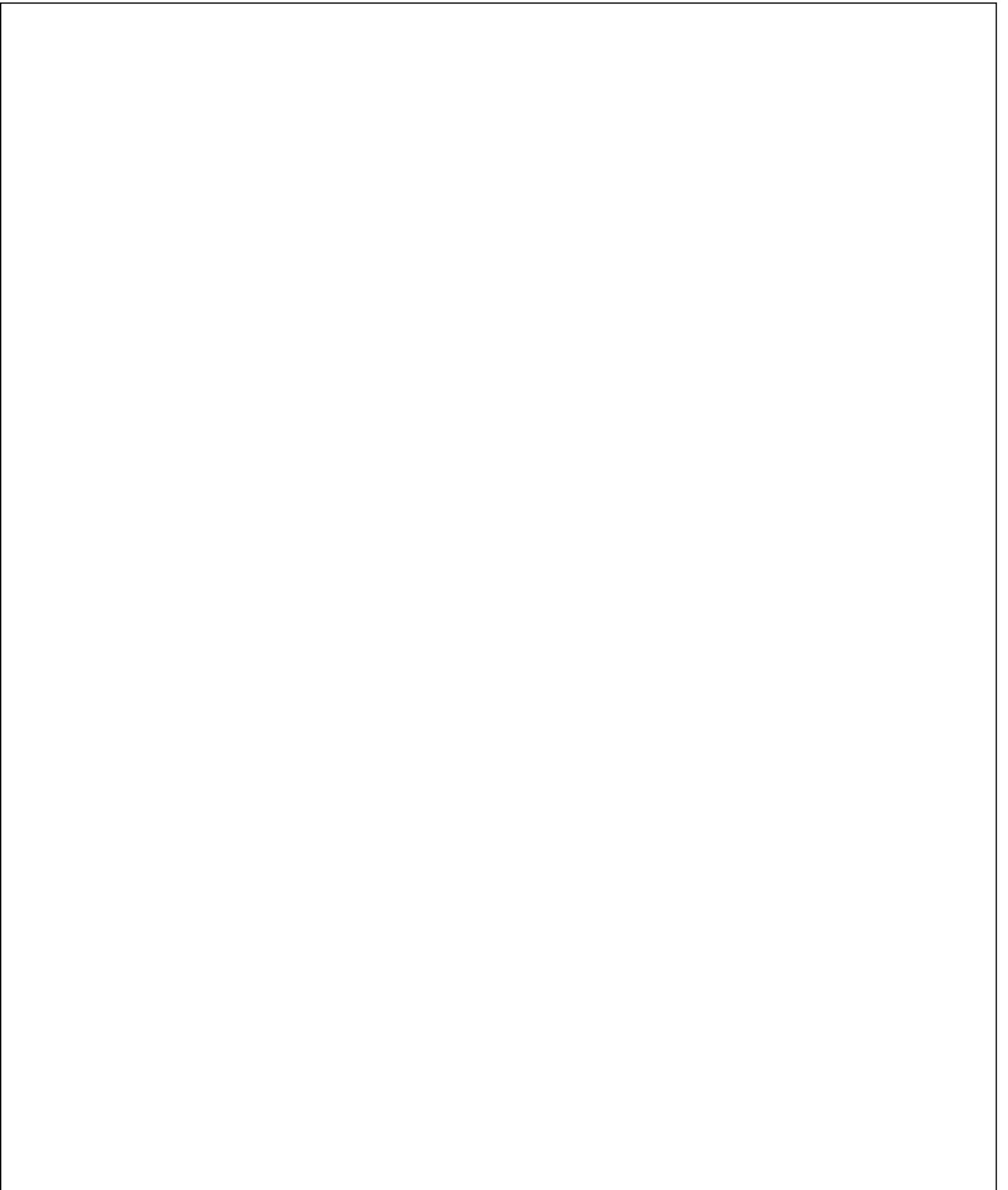
The Air Force was well represented as thousands of people turned out for the 42nd annual Armed Forces Day events in Torrance, Calif., May 18-20. Clockwise from top left: A member of the Air Force's STARS Parachute Demonstration Team lands in the center of Torrance Blvd. near the parade reviewing stand. The Air Force Honor Guard Precision Drill Team wows the crowd at a luncheon prior to the start of the parade. Second Lieutenants Robert Donovan and Shelly Hooten from the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program office display information about their program for visitors to the Del Amo mall. Several other system program offices also had displays inside the mall. Space and Missile Systems Center vice commander Brig. Gen. William Wilson and his wife, Patty, ride in the parade as official representatives of the Air Force.





Photo by Joe Juarez

Air Force Staff Sgt. Jerry Hernandez, center, from the Los Angeles AFB Honor Guard, flanked by the Navy, left, and Coast Guard, participated in the parade as a member of a joint service color guard team.



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.

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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

June 15	June 8
June 29	June 22
July 13	July 6
July 27	July 20
Aug. 10	Aug. 3
Aug. 24	Aug. 17

Space-A destinations for June

June 2001 departures				
Date	Flight #	Space-A showtime	Departure Time	Destinations
3,10,17,24	MC71	6:35 p.m.	9:35 p.m.	Seattle, Osan, Kadena
4,11,18,25	MC87	8:50 p.m.	11:50 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa
7,14,21,28	MC79	8:30 p.m.	11:30 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena
June 2001 arrivals				
Date	Flight #	Arrival time	Arriving from	
23, 30	MC88	1:50 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa	
19, 26	MC80	4 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena	

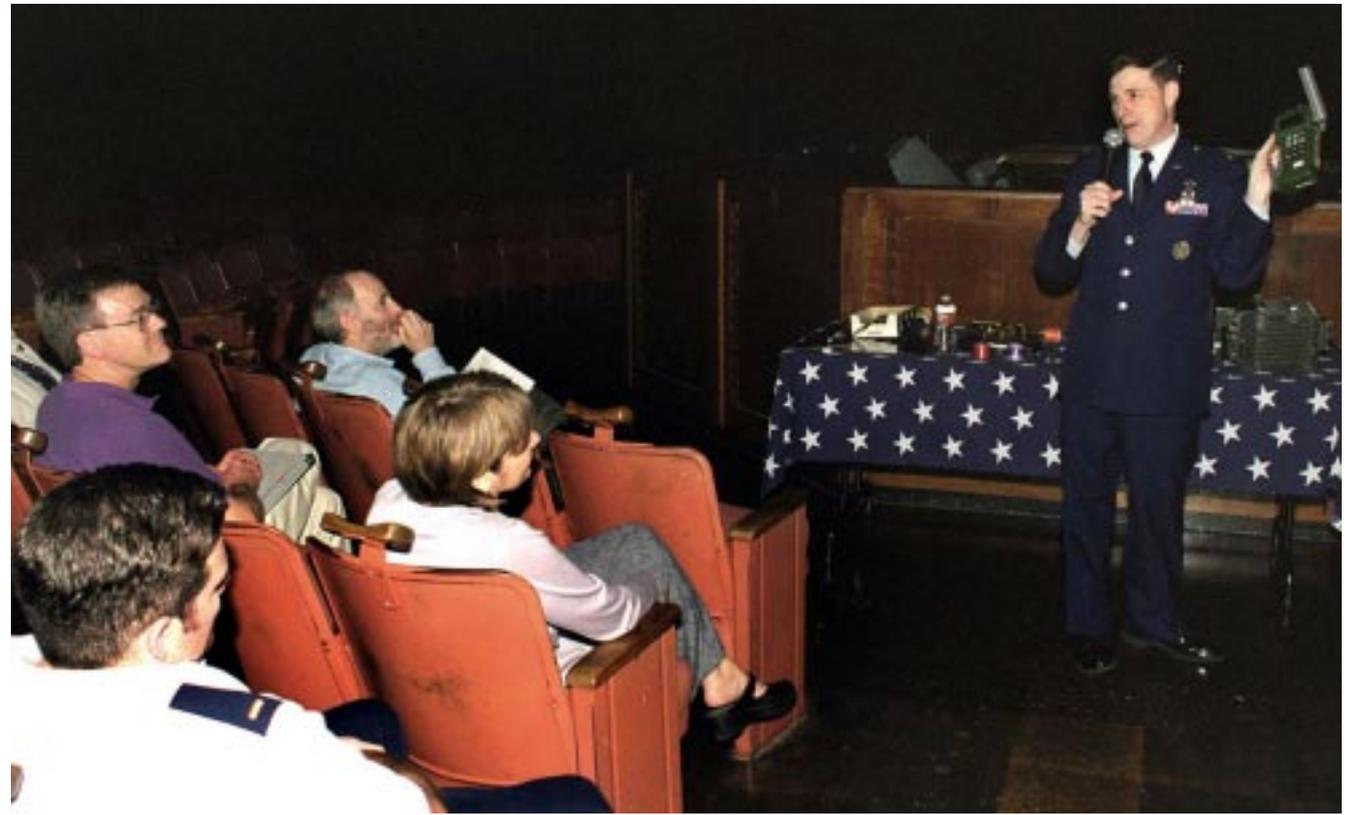
Notes: Space-available travel is authorized for active-duty, reserve and retirees. For more information, contact the Air Mobility Command Customer Service Branch at 363-0714. You can sign up for Space-A travel in person at Terminal 2 at the Los Angeles International Airport, by fax at 363-2790 or on the Internet at www.travis.af.mil.

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

NAVSTAR GPS in spotlight

Col. Douglas Loverro, system program director for the NAVSTAR Global Positioning System Joint Program Office, discusses the NAVSTAR GPS program with visitors to the Griffith Observatory May 7. Loverro is responsible for a multi-service, multi-national organization which conducts development, acquisition and sustainment of all GPS space segment, satellite control segment, GPS user equipment, and Combat Survivor Evader Locator segment resources. The \$19 billion GPS program maintains the nation's largest satellite constellation and the largest avionics integration and installation programs in the Department of Defense. (Photo by Shaad Madison.)



Champion crowned at chili cook-off



Photos by Joe Juarez

Clockwise from top left: 2nd Lt. William Welser IV, right, receives a plaque from 61ABG commander Col. Phil Parker for winning the "Best Overall" category in the Space and Missile Systems Center Dining Out Chili Cookoff May 17. Parker not only presented the awards, he was a judge and sampled more than eight different types of chili with various toppings. Parker presents the award for the "People's Choice" category to Donia Keys. An empty crock-pot is all that's left of Yolanda Gonzalez' "Borinquen" chili.

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., Monday through Friday, 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 through 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. Call **Kathy Richards** at 562-626-7899 for more 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 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.

South Bay Fun Run

The South Bay Fun Run takes place tomorrow in San Pedro. Registration is open until the day of the event.

'Piranhas' seek swimmers for summer swim season

Are you looking for a fun-filled educational summer activity for your children? The Fort MacArthur Piranhas, Los Angeles AFB's Youth Swim Team, is looking for children ages 5 to 16 to swim for the summer. The team practices throughout the summer in the mornings or evenings, depending on the child's age.

Last year's team consisted of 45 children with skill levels ranging from beginner to many years experience. The team builds upon the foundation of swimming lessons, offered by 61 ABG Services. The team works to develop stronger, confident swimmers who can enjoy water sports for a lifetime.

"Neither of my sons could swim at the beginning of last summer," said Capt. Angel Ortiz. "After a couple weeks of swim lessons and a summer on the team, both love the water."

The Piranhas swim in an instructional summer league against city teams in West Los Angeles. Practices consist of stretching, stroke instruction, and a variety of

games to build endurance and confidence. A big advantage in swimming over other sports is that the children pick their own events so every child can swim in the event they want. The meets are exciting, but low stress.

The team is coached by volunteer parents: Larry Hollett, who "moonlights" as the SMC director of intelligence; and Sarah Henderson, whose husband Scott works in SMC's MILSATCOM office.

"My three older daughters participate in a number of Services' programs but the swim team is the best," said Amy Miller, whose husband Greg also works for MILSATCOM.

The only requirement to join the team is the ability to swim one length of the base pool. The Piranhas hope to swim in their first meet at the Fort MacArthur Pool on June 23 or 30. To sign up, come to the pool at 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. For more info, call Larry Hollett at 831-3151, or Pat Brown at 363-8565.

Encourage your office to get a team together.

The goal is to sponsor 50 children to go to Camp Del Corazon, a Catalina Island-based camp for children recovering from heart surgery. Go to www.southbayfunrun.com on the Internet for more details. To volunteer to assist with this event, contact 1st Lt. Kevin Mantovani at 336-4664.

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 between \$20 and \$30 per month.

The Fitness Center

The Fitness Center offers one-on-one free individualized fitness programming. Personal trainers provide 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.

Gymnastics offered

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

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. Contact Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Walker at 363-6433 for info.

