



Astro News

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

Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., May 4, 2001

President picks new SECAF



James Roche

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President George W. Bush has announced his intention to nominate James Roche to serve as the next Secretary of the Air Force.

Roche is currently corporate vice president and president of the Electric Sensors and Systems Sector of the Northrop Grumman Corporation.

Before joining the private sector, Roche served as democratic staff director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services from 1983 to 1984, and served at the State Department.

He was a senior professional staff member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence from 1979 to 1981, and served as assistant director of the office of net assessment in the office of the secretary of defense from 1975 to 1979.

Roche is a 23-year veteran of the U.S. Navy.

First Atlas V rolls out



Courtesy photo

More than 2,000 people were on hand for a rollout ceremony Monday as Lockheed Martin Space Systems announced that it has completed assembly of the first Atlas V rocket, designated AV-001, and is shipping it to Space Launch Complex 41, the company's Atlas V launch site at Cape Canaveral, Fla. Atlas V is the largest, most powerful Atlas space launch vehicle built to date and is scheduled for its first launch in the second quarter of 2002.

Compressed Work Schedule option debuts Monday

By Tim Dougherty
Astro News Editor

In an ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for personnel assigned to Los Angeles AFB and the Space and Missile Systems Center, employees are being offered the opportunity to have a day off every two weeks. However, to take advantage of this deal, employees must agree to extend their hours during the days they are at work.

"I believe this to be an important step in improving the quality of life for the members of SMC," said SMC commander Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini in an e-mail sent to every member of his command.

"With the proper planning and emphasis, each and every person should be able to take advantage of the options while continuing to provide the

highest level of support to our customers. The options are available to all personnel at SMC, military and civilian alike," he said.

This "Compressed Work Schedule" is a result of several years of work between SMC, its senior leadership, the Senior Civilian Advisory Group and the Local 2429 of the American Federation of Government Employees. While the CWS can be a great way to help employees balance work and personal needs, accomplishment of the mission and focusing on customer needs takes precedence over the CWS program.

"Today in this briefing you're going to hear 'mission comes first' several times, almost like a mantra," said Brian Polanco from SMC's Plans and Programs directorate. AFGE Local 2429 President

Jennifer Grigsby said, "This program is the responsibility of both employees and managers, but to make it work it's going to take cooperation, open communication and commitment from everyone."

Under the CWS, a two-week period will still see employees on the clock for 80 hours. However, instead of reaching 80 hours by working traditional eight-hour days, employees opting for the CWS will work nine hours for eight days and will work eight hours on one day. This gets them to 80 hours, which leaves the final day as a "Regular Day Off." Employees may choose either Friday or Monday as their RDO, but again, mission comes first.

"The CWS allows the individual to establish their schedule, but in some cases, a directorate can opt for a

Monday or Friday only RDO. There are always exceptions to a rule and the CWS is no different," said Susan Brough from the Civilian Personnel Office.

Flexible work schedules are not a new concept. The idea of flex time was introduced in Germany in 1967 to alleviate commuting problems. Silicon Valley-based Hewlett-Packard followed the Germans' lead and was the first company to bring flex time to the United States in 1972. In 1982, Congress passed the Federal Employees Flexible and Compressed Work Schedules Act which allowed federal agencies to give employees the choice of either flex time or a compressed work schedule.

"There are many other programs currently available to Los Angeles AFB personnel that allow employees to have a greater degree of flexibility in

establishing a schedule. I want to encourage everyone to research these programs and talk to their supervisor to determine which program works best," Brough said.

Some of these programs include Flextime, Flexiplace/Telecommuting and Credit Hours. Under Flextime, an employee works an eight-hour day but can vary the hours that they arrive and depart from the office.

"For someone who is working an eight-hour day, the employee must be at work during the core hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but with their supervisor's approval, they could decide to come in at 6:30 a.m. and depart at 3 p.m. with a 30-minute lunch break. Federal regulations require a minimum 30-minute lunch break," Brough said.

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Commander's top priority: taking care of people

By Tech. Sgt. Carl Norman
AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio – It was April 20, 2000, in front of hundreds of well wishers at the Air Force Museum here when Gen. Lester Lyles took over the Air Force's most diverse command.

One year later, Lyles is looking squarely ahead, following through on the ideas and initiatives he sees as the command's biggest challenges. High on his list are people issues, like developing and implementing family-oriented programs and making sure the people who make the mission

happen are properly cared for. "We have a variety of people initiatives for AFMC's Year of the Family, and following through on them is my first priority," Lyles said. "We've got to make sure we're taking care of the entire spectrum of people within the command. "One important part is

making sure our people who are on the job, who are actively doing the mission, have the tools, equipment and training they need to get their missions accomplished." Military recruiting and work force shaping are additional challenges for the command's leaders.

An estimated 60 to 70 percent of AFMC's civilian work force is eligible to retire in the next five years. To fight this battle he said the command's senior leadership must work aggressively with Congress and others to implement the work force shaping initiative, which is designed to replenish and reshape the work force so the command has the right mix of

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First-term airman introduced to Air Force 'voice of enlisted'

By Senior Airman Adam Scheuer
Base Chaplain's Office

The Air Force Sergeants Association has been representing the Air Force Enlisted since its founding in 1961. AFSA is a total force organization consisting not only of active-duty enlisted but guard, reserve, retired members, as well as spouses who serve in auxiliary positions. Organized into fifteen divisions worldwide with several chapters in each division, AFSA works the grass-root initiatives to improve the quality of life and well-being of Air Force enlisted and their families. The "Voice of

the Enlisted" is well respected by Washington's leaders and can be heard on Capitol Hill and at the Pentagon. I recently had the opportunity to hear this "voice" at Division 13's Annual Conference held April 20-22. This year, the annual conference was held in Concord, Calif. Many California Chapters attended the Conference including the Chapter I represent, The Greater Los Angeles Chapter 1330. The events for the weekend included business, recognition and fun. Some of the convention highlights entailed electing new Division 13 Officers, an Awards Lun-

cheon, and concluded with an Honors Banquette. As a first-term airman, I was not familiar with AFSA. However, after listening to the speeches and stories from various AFSA members, I gained knowledge and appreciation of the many contributions these men and women have given to the enlisted force. Although I have gained more knowledge through my AFSA experience my most memorable moments are more of the personal type. This weekend gave me an opportunity to hear the 8th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Sam Parish, who was the guest speaker at

the Honors Banquette, and to share Air Force stories with individuals who had retired before I was born. The stories from recently retired and fellow active duty enlisted helped me understand how the AFSA has improved the quality of life for the enlisted force. The local AFSA, Chapter 1330, here at Los Angeles AFB takes and active role in several base activities as well as participating in nationwide programs. For example, some of the Chapter 1330 programs donate money to the SMC awards program and support seven local Junior ROTC programs as

well as several other activities. Nationwide, Chapter 1330 is currently taking part in a fund raising campaign to build the Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Greater Los Angeles Chapter 1330 of the AFSA holds its monthly meeting on the third Friday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at The Club, with the next meeting scheduled for May 18. Come and attend a meeting to see what AFSA has to offer you and what you can contribute to AFSA. Direct questions to the chapter president, Master Sgt. Basil Franz, 363-1816.

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Base officials hope the CWS will make Los Angeles AFB a better place to work. Short-term absences for medical appointments may be reduced. The day off could result in more productivity from employees as well. "I'd like to see as many military members as well as civilians take advantage of this program as possible. You can take care of personal needs but still be productive in your job. Plus, it cuts down on the number of days a person needs to commute to work," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Don Cleveland. The Air Force has revised leave procedures in AFI 36-3003 to accommodate military personnel participating in CWS programs.

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
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Kodiak Star launch set for late August

By Capt. Jeff Zdenek
DoD Space Test Program

Kodiak Star, the first orbital launch from the new Kodiak Launch Complex in Alaska, is a NASA collaborative mission with the Department of Defense Space Test Program located at Kirtland AFB, N.M. The payload consists of four small satellites to be launched Aug. 31 aboard a Lockheed Martin Athena I launch vehicle. The Athena I being used for this launch was reassigned from NASA's Vegetation Canopy Lidar mission.

"As soon as the VCL mission was canceled, we started trying to get these satellites on board," said Lt. Col. Perry Ballard, STP deputy program director.

PICOSat, the primary DoD satellite, was built by Surrey Satellite Technology Limited of Guildford, United Kingdom, and partially funded through the DoD Foreign Comparative Testing program. The satellite gets its name from the four DoD experiments onboard: the Polymer battery experiment, Ionospheric occultation experiment, Coherent electromagnetic radio tomography, and Optical precision platform experiment.

The second DoD spacecraft is the Prototype PICOSat Communications Satellite, operating in the amateur radio band, designed and manufactured by Midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy. It will become part of the amateur radio community's Automatic Position Reporting System in low-earth orbit receiving digitized identity and position data from amateur radio operators and transmitting it to one or more ground stations.

"This is a great opportunity for the students who worked on both PCSat and Sapphire," said Ballard. "They're really getting some hands-on, practical experience."

The third DoD spacecraft is Sapphire, a micro-satellite designed and built by students at Stanford University, Calif., and Washington University, St. Louis. The primary mission of Sapphire is to space-qualify two sets of "Tunneling Horizon Detector" infrared sensors designed and built by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Stanford University. Secondary experiments include a digital

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civilian scientists, engineers, craftsmen and other professionals to meet future mission needs.

"We're at the front of the battle in terms of the need," Lyles said of the work force shaping challenge. "It's still a struggle, but we've just started.

"The good thing is we've got the right kind of people working on it, and we have help from Congress and a belief that it's a problem that needs to be addressed. So, I think we've got the right focus to make it a success."

Other goals he's set for himself and the command include continuing to emphasize strong business management and cost controlling; supporting the war fighter; taking the command to the next level in acquisition

excellence; having a greater and more profound role in science and technology; and forging new and better partnerships with the Defense Department and other federal agencies.

In looking back at his first year as AFMC commander, Lyles said the command has already had some successes in these areas, including the Air Force leadership charging AFMC with the advocacy and sponsorship of Air Force science and technology programs. AFMC is now responsible for pulling together the budget for all science and technology efforts. Another success was designating center commanders as enterprise leaders for various systems and workloads.

"These two are probably our biggest successes," he said. "They have put us in a position where we can offer better

SMC commander hosts conference



Photo by Lou Hernandez

From left to right: Army Maj. Gen. (Ret.) William Jefferds, the director of the Base Retention and Reuse Commission, Rep. Jane Haman, Congresswoman from California's 36th District, and SMC commander Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini, attended the Base Commanders Conference at the Fort MacArthur Community Center April 19-20. The conference focused on issues such as energy and education and was attended by more than 50 military leaders from all branches of the service throughout Southern California.

camera and voice synthesizer.

NASA's spacecraft in the Kodiak Star mission is Starshine 3, a satellite program developed by the Rocky Mountain NASA Space Grant Consortium and built by the

Naval Research Laboratory. The Starshine 3 satellite, about one meter in diameter and weighing about 200 pounds, is covered with front-surface aluminum mirrors. They were machined by technology

students in Utah and polished by participating grade schools from all over the world. Once the satellite is in orbit, the students will visually track the satellite and report their findings on their web site.

services to the total Air Force.

"We're doing a lot of things to better support the war fighters and to make sure they know we are dedicated to supporting them. It's our number one goal, our number one mission."

Lyles said his vision for AFMC is still the same as when he took command. That vision called for AFMC to continue its cost-control efforts, be the supplier of choice, be an organization of complete excellence that everyone recognizes, and take care of and support its people so they can accomplish the mission.

"Our challenge is to make sure we can perform," he said. "We have to follow through and make each one of our initiatives as good and as successful as it can be. We must execute everything we have promised in our vision."

Lyles is also concerned about retaining blue-suiters.

"We need to keep pressing to make sure we're doing everything we can to extol our benefits and retain the good people we have," Lyles said. "We're in the battle for recruiting and work force shaping, and we're fighting hard. I feel positive we'll eventually be successful, but it's not going to be a quick victory."

Mentoring and better communication will go a long way in this recruiting and work force shaping battle, according to Lyles. He said the majority of people he talks to in his visits around the command complain that their supervisors and others in their chain of command aren't talking to them about their careers or the opportunities and challenges that come with them.

"They're not mentoring

them and helping them along," Lyles said.

Lyles added that many Air Force people are good mentors, but more needs to be done. The bottom line, he said, is that supervisors and leaders must talk to their people.

"Your people are the ones who are accomplishing the mission, so we've got to talk to them," he said. "As painful as it might be when time is short, this is critically important and we've got to figure out ways to do it better."

With his vision firmly focused on the future and his first year as commander etched in time, Lyles now presses on toward more years of supporting America's war fighters.

"AFMC is a great organization," he said.

"I'm very pleased and honored to be associated with the people of AFMC."

Inspector General: the commander's 'eyes and ears'

By Dorothy Brown
Deputy Inspector General

The main function of the Inspector General is to be the "eyes and ears" of the commander. We are separate, full-time inspectors general. Being separate, we remove any preconceived conflict of interest, lack of independence, or apprehension by Air Force personnel as a result of a previous practice of assigning chain of command and IG roles to the same officials.

Our sole purpose is to receive, process and conduct a quality review of IG investigations. Believe it or not, we exist for you. Having said that, every one on base should be familiar with the Complaints Program and the responsibility of the complainant.

Your chain of command is the primary channel for processing and resolving complaints but no one may deny Air Force personnel access to the IG.

Individuals may not be reprimanded against for making or preparing to make a privileged communication. A privileged communication exists when an individual has contacted a member of Congress, an IG, any member of a Department of Defense audit, inspection, investigation, or law enforcement organization to make an IG complaint or get information about a concern.

Issues the IG can look into include allegations of injustice, violations of law, directives, policy or procedures, gross mismanagement, fraud, waste and abuse, abuse of authority/power, substantial danger to public health/safety, travel fraud, reprisal, facilities use, conflict of interest, bribery and acceptance of gratuities, and misuse of government vehicles.

Issues the IG cannot look into include conditions of employment for civilians, allegations of reprisal for civilian employees, civilian equal employment opportunity matters, non-appropriated fund employee reprisal complaints, military equal opportunity matters, administrative separations, claims against the government, correction of military records, unprofessional relationships, Tricare complaints or criminal activity.

If you contact us with these non-related IG issues, we will help you find the appropriate channel for your concerns.

Complainants must provide factual and relevant information regarding the issues and /or allegations. Complainants must state who did what to whom and what was violated – a regulation, policy, directive, policy letter, etc.

Complainants must contact the IG office within 60 days of the alleged wrong. IG complaints not reported within 60 days will normally be dismissed unless the complainant is able to demonstrate he/she was unable to meet the time requirements due to unforeseen or extraordinary circumstances and such circumstances justify the delay.

IG complaints not reported within 60 days may seriously impede the gathering of evidence and testimony. The IG may dismiss a complaint if, given the nature of the alleged wrong and the passage of time, there is reasonable probability that insufficient information can be gathered to make a determination or special Air Force interest exists to justify investigating the matter.

Complainants must provide as much documentation to the IG as possible to support the allegation. Complainants to



The SMC/IG team, from left: Woodcock, Brown, Maj. Mitch Mefford and Tech. Sgt. Raven Ferrar are located on the fourth floor of Building 105 and are ready to help.

the Air Force IG system must understand they are submitting official statements within Air Force channels. Therefore, they remain subject to punitive action for knowingly making false statements and for submitting other unlawful communications.

If you believe you are unable to resolve your complaint through chain-of-command channels, you may file a complaint if you believe inappropriate conduct has occurred or a violation has been committed.

There are many ways to contact the IG. You can contact our office at 363-0821 or 363-0802 and make an appointment. You can submit Air Force Form 102 (personal data) and send to the IG. The forms are found on the Intranet: <http://intranet.losangeles.af.mil/shared-folders>. You can send us a letter. Other ways of contacting us include calling either the SMC IG Hotline at 363-2020, the DoD IG Hotline at 800-424-9098 or the Air Force IG Hotline at 800-538-8429.

The IG is made of people just like you. We have not been inspectors general our entire careers.

For 11 years, prior to joining the IG, I served as the configuration/data manager for the Inertial Upper Stages Program Office and continued my duties after IUS merged with the Titan Program Office. I've worked with

people from many disciplines such as contracts, logistics, manufacturing, program control, The Aerospace Corporation and various contractors that supported the IUS and Titan Program Offices. I also served as a collateral duty EEO counselor at SMC. I continue to serve as SMC's Black Employment Program Manager.

Lt. Col. John Woodcock, SMC/IG, has a varied background as well. He served as a Minuteman II missile crew instructor commander at Malmstrom AFB, N.D. After an Air Force Institute of Technology tour in Education-with-Industry, he was an acquisition contracts manager at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. He then served as a division chief on the contracting staff and as the chief of protocol here at SMC. Prior to becoming the IG, Woodcock was the deputy chief of staff for the Defense Contract Management Command.

It's wise to give your supervisor, first sergeant or commander a chance to find a solution to your problem. This reinforces and demonstrates trust and confidence in command. However, the IG system should be used when referral to the command chain would be futile or there is fear of reprisal.

Ultimately, the Inspector General serves you, but it's up to you to know the rules and know your role. You can trust the IG process.

Cinco de Mayo: an important day in Mexican history

By Marco Rodriguez
SMC Systems Acquisition

In observance of Cinco de Mayo, celebrations will be scheduled throughout California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, to celebrate the Mexican national holiday that commemorates the victory of the Mexican Army over the French Army at the "Battle of Puebla" on May 5, 1862. The sound of loud trumpets and mariachi music will be heard the beginning of May with the many festivities and parades celebrat-

ing Cinco de Mayo. This Mexican holiday provides those with Mexican heritage the opportunity to share some of their history, culture and friendship with residents of other cultural backgrounds. Overall, this Mexican holiday has been adopted as an American celebration and is celebrated across cultural boundaries with the same feeling and passion as in Mexico.

Cinco de Mayo is sometimes mistakenly referred to as Mexican Independence Day, which is the day that Mexico

won its independence from Spain on Sept. 16, 1810. Although Cinco de Mayo does not celebrate Mexico's independence, it represents an important military battle where 5,000 ill-equipped Mestizo and Zapotec Indians defeated the French army in what came to be known as the "Battle of Puebla" on the fifth of May. Even though the Mexican guerrilla forces were outgunned and outnumbered over two to one, these untrained forces successfully defended their positions, then attacked and

scattered the French troops. They achieved a total victory over the French, which were considered to be the best trained and equipped in the world. The French eventually captured Puebla and ruled Mexico until 1867.

Maximilian, the French ruler of Mexico was overthrown and captured on May 15, 1867, tried by court-martial, and executed June 19 at the Cerro de las Campanas. Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of people to self-determination and national sovereignty, and

the ability of non-Europeans to defend those rights.

If you would like to join in the festivity celebrating Cinco de Mayo, join the SMC Hispanic American Group and the Aerospace Hispanic Advisory Council at a fiesta lunch today at the Paulikas Mall at The Aerospace Corporation at 11:15 a.m. The cost is \$5 and includes a soft taco bar, rice, beans, drinks and more. There will be folklorico dancing and a mariachi soloist. Contact Marco Rodriguez at 363-6344 for additional information.

AFA salutes award winners

The General Bernard A. Schriever chapter of the Air Force Association has announced its annual award winners who will be honored at a dinner May 11. Left to right, top row: Col. Wesley Ballenger was selected for the Chairman's Award for Outstanding Field Grade Officer. Col. William McCasland was selected for the Lt. Gen. John O'Neill Award. Maj. Lyle Cary was

selected for the Lt. Gen. Richard Henry Leadership Award. Left to right, bottom row: Capt. Vida Beard was selected for the Lt. Gen. McCartney Outstanding Company Grade Officer Award. 2nd Lt. Michelle Bernhard was selected for the Outstanding Company Grade (less than four years) Award. Mark Jensen was selected for the Dr. Alfred Rockefeller Jr. Outstanding Civilian Award. SMC's Launch Programs Directorate was selected as the outstanding unit of the year. Award winners not pictured are: Maj. Patrick Burke, Capt. Marc Baumann, Capt. Dean Fitzgerald and Tech. Sgt. Gary Garver. (Photos by Joe Juarez)



No one comes close:

SMC gives local civic leaders a look at pride, professionalism of Air Force

Space and Missile Systems Center commander Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini escorted 30 civic and business leaders from the Los Angeles area on a trip to Air Force facilities in Texas and New Mexico April 17-18 to give them a better understanding of the roles and missions of the Air Force. Top left: Guest Jeff Greene, center, the executive director of the Sino-American Aviation Heritage Foundation, discusses flight operations with Capt. Todd Kay, right, and Senior Master Sgt. Marc Gilbertson from the Minnesota's 96th Airlift Squadron "Flying Vikings", on the way to Randolph AFB, Texas. Below: El Segundo Mayor Mike Gordon checks out the cockpit of a T-38A Talon trainer at the 560th Flying Training Squadron.

Photos by Joe Juarez



Above: At the Air Force Research Laboratory Space Vehicles directorate at Kirtland AFB, N.M., the civic leaders from Los Angeles stand in front of a large inflatable membrane that may pave the way for future, inexpensive weight-saving technologies that enable the creation of large space structures. Lower right: Tod Sword tries on the latest in pilot life support equipment as Staff Sgt. Michael Joseph from the 560th Flying Training Squadron assists and answers questions from other visitors.



Courtesy photo

Assistant Fire Chief John Nielsen, left, and Fire Chief Jim Powderly perform preventive maintenance on water supply system valves. During a catastrophic earthquake, these valves would be critical in isolating broken piping.

Earthquake preparedness key to survival in California

By Jim Powderly
Base Fire Chief

A wide range of natural disasters occur within the United States every year. Natural disasters can have a devastating effect on you and your home. The key to surviving or minimizing the impact of these disasters is to be prepared. The Los Angeles AFB Fire Department encourages you to use the following safety tips to help protect yourself, your family and your home from the potential threat of fire during or after an earthquake.

An earthquake can cause major damage, depending on the severity of the temblor. Appliances, furniture and household products can shift, fall or spill. Gas, chemical and electrical hazards may be present. Leaking gas lines, damaged or leaking gas propane containers, and leaking vehicle gas tanks could explode or ignite. Pools of water or even appliances can be electrically charged.

Chemical problems can also cause great harm. To keep you and your family safe, you should look for flammable liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid and paint thinner that may have spilled. If you find a spill, thoroughly clean it up and place containers in a well-ventilated area. Keep combustible liquids away from heat.

Electrical problems can occur as well. If you can safely

get to the main breaker or fuse box, turn off the power. Look for items that might have jarred loose during the earthquake. Appliances or power connectors could create a fire hazard. Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged including cable TV feeds. Look for and replace frayed or cracked extension and appliance cords, loose prongs and plugs. Exposed outlets and wiring could present a fire and life safety hazard.

An earthquake can jar loose gas connections as well. Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, immediately leave the house and leave the doors open. Never strike a match. Before turning the gas back on, have the gas system checked by qualified personnel.

California is constantly under the threat of rolling blackouts and it could get worse as the weather gets warmer. If you use candles for light, be careful when handling them. Keep the flame away from combustible objects and out of the reach of children. Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and install a new battery at least once a year.

Natural disasters are a fact of life. However, being prepared can be the difference between life and death.

Families clean up beach for Earth Day...



Photos by 2nd Lt. Mike Plumb

Clockwise from above: From left to right, Master Sgt. Jim Wyatt, Tech. Sgt. Kelvin Smalls, Capt. Bo Bloomer, Senior Master Sgt. Hugh Ali, Becky Ochoa with daughters Skye and Starr, and Senior Airman Carlos Ochoa stand in front of 158 pounds of trash they collected from Cabrillo Beach during an Earth Day cleanup April 22. From left to right, Skye Ochoa, 1st Lt. Matt Brennan, Starr and Becky Ochoa patrol the sand for more garbage. Master Sgt. Jim Wyatt found lots of junk near the graffiti-marked retaining wall of Cabrillo Beach.

... while displays show other ways to help



Photos by Dan Dickerson

Clockwise from above: Hundreds of Los Angeles AFB personnel visited Earth Day displays at the Area A Mall April 20. Tree sapplings were handed out while public transit agencies, Southern California Rideshare and The Aerospace Corporation provided commuting information. An electric hybrid vehicle was on display. The car runs on both gasoline and electricity and recharges its batteries by taking energy from the braking process. Several automobile makers have recently released hybrid vehicles. The American Automobile Association cut emergency spare keys out of recycled plastic.

Asian Pacific Americans celebrate heritage in May

By Ching Shelton
APA Program Manager

To understand the Asian Pacific American experience is to appreciate one of our greatest strengths — our diversity. APAs are Americans with ancestral roots in Asia and the Pacific Islands which include Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Japanese Americans, Korean Americans, Vietnamese Americans, Asian-India Americans and many other ethnic groups. There are approximately 10 million APAs who make up almost 4 percent of the U.S. population.

The APA story is one of great courage. In the 1800s, APA immigrants faced widespread prejudice and government restrictions while living and working in the United States. Throughout a large part of the 1900s, APAs continued to struggle to gain acceptance as U.S. citizens. Today, APAs are recognized for their many contributions to American culture. Notable APAs include writer Carlos Bulosan, Filipino American; U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, Japanese American; writer Maxine Hong Kingston, Chinese American; musician June Kuramoto, Japanese American; Olympic diving champions Sammy Lee, Korean American, and Greg Louganis, Samoan American; astronaut Ellison Onizuka, Japanese American; and Olympic figure

skating champions Kristi Yamaguchi, Japanese American, and Michelle Kwan, Chinese American.

APAs make up a diverse community but share values such as the importance of the family. However, the major ethnic groups are also different in many ways. Each group has its own language, religion and philosophy with belief systems including Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Shintoism, Taoism, Confucianism, Christianity, Parsiism and Islam. Cultural traditions vary widely from group to group and between city and rural life. Within the various groups some are allies while others are longtime rivals having fought wars against each other for centuries.

Many believe the first North Americans came from Asia. Thousands of years ago, people from Siberia may have crossed a strip of land that once connected Asia and Alaska. Early history says Spanish explorers forced many Filipinos to sail with them to North America. Some of the key events were:

In the 1500s, captive Filipino sailors helped

explore what is now California. The Antonio Miranda family helped found the settlement of Los Angeles.

In 1783, captive Filipino sailors jumped ship and settled in New Orleans. Their descendants fought for the U.S. against Great Britain in the Battle of New Orleans.

In 1848, the “Gold Rush” attracted the first large-scale Chinese immigration to California. Yung Wing worked much of his life as an educator and diplomat to improve United States and Chinese relations.

In 1862, thousands of Chinese endured harsh conditions in building the first transcontinental railroad to link the West and East for the first time.

In 1868, the first group of Japanese immigrated to the Hawaiian Islands working on the sugar plantations. Nakahama Manjiro was the

first Japanese to come to the United States.

In 1870, anti-Chinese violence erupted. Chinese workers were blamed for a shortage of jobs. Mobs destroyed Chinese communities in many Western states.

In 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act passed. The U.S. Congress banned most Chinese immigration for a decade and excluded Chinese from U.S. citizenship. Chinese exclusion was continued into the 1940s.

From 1885-1903, large-scale immigration of Japanese and Koreans began. They worked on California farms and Hawaiian plantations.

From 1899-1901, the United States took over the Philippines, Hawaii and Samoa. This opened up Filipino, Native Hawaiian and Samoan immigration to the United States.

In 1942, Japanese people on the West Coast were forced into detention camps—110,000

people, including 75,000 U.S. citizens, were imprisoned in 10 makeshift camps.

In 1943, the Magnuson Act repealed the Chinese

Exclusion Act of 1882. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Executive Order 9066 was legal.

In 1952, the McCarran-Walter Act repealed the National Origins Act of 1924.

In 1965, Congress passed the Immigration Act opening up large-scale APA immigration for the first time.

In 1979, “APA Heritage Week,” now “APA Heritage Month,” was officially established.

In 1988, the “Redress Bill” passed apologizing to Japanese Americans for wrongful treatment during World War II and promising payment to each detention camp survivor.

The challenge facing APAs into the 21st century is fighting the myth of the “model minority.” Because of stereotyping, unfortunately, APAs are still targets of discrimination in the United States. To increase tolerance, APAs are working to improve accuracy in the media and entertainment industry and promoting social and economic justice for all Americans. To build political power and to increase political strength, APAs are working to increase voter registration and bilingual voting materials. To improve educational opportunities to overcome language barriers and other hurdles, APAs are working to improve bilingual programs and APA studies, increase parental participation in schools and promote cultural diversity.

The Aerospace Asian Pacific American Association will hold an awards and recognition ceremony May 30 at 11 a.m. The event will be held at The Aerospace Corporation’s Building A1, Room 1062. For more information, contact Ratna Ramirez at 336-4888. For additional information on APA Heritage Month, contact Ching Shelton at 363-2719.

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

Bond-like devices could increase DoD computer security

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – James Bond gained access to Q's sensitive offices by putting his palm to a reader. A sexy voice said, "Hello, Commander Bond," and the door opened.

You never saw James Bond trying to remember a password. And if DoD's biometrics research effort works, you won't have to anymore either.

Biometrics is the overall name for security technologies that measure a person's physical characteristics and then allows them access. Biometrics works via fingerprints, iris scans, retina scans, the shape of your face, voice prints and so on. The DoD Biometrics Management Office is charged with bringing this technology to the department.

The bottom line is security.

"If we look at the way hackers are penetrating our

systems we find that it's usually password-related — bad password management, bad passwords in that they are easy to crack or, perhaps in some cases, no passwords at all," said Philip Loranger, head of the office. "If we make security easier to the users, which is the intent behind biometrics, then those things go away.

"This technology can be a picture of your face, your fingerprint or your voice to allow you to enter a system," he continued. "Therefore it's not required to write down your password and put it into your wallet."

The office has two pilot projects. One is with the West Virginia National Guard and tests how the program works with information technology. The other is with Army Materiel Command and deals with physical security.

The services, too, have biometric efforts. The Army

Lab Command in Adelphi, Md., is studying ways to control access into all DoD labs. The lab is looking at iris recognition and facial recognition, said project manager Hal Harrelson, an engineer at the lab.

"We've just finished a six-month test of iris recognition, and we'll start the facial recognition test in July," Harrelson said.

Iris recognition works by taking a picture of a person's eye and comparing it against a picture taken earlier. "It's highly reliable," he said. Face recognition works much the

same way, Harrelson said.

He said there are two mistakes any system would make: letting in unauthorized persons or keeping out authorized persons.

"In the test, it may have let in one unauthorized person," Harrelson said.

"It did keep out authorized personnel. It cost them another five seconds to try the recognition system a second time. This happened once out of every 20 times."

DoD may use these technologies not only in information technology systems, but in weapon platforms and weapon

systems, Loranger said.

"Imagine ... biometric access to the motor pool and motor park," he said. "These things are all possible. It's a matter of lining up the infrastructure to start implementing that."

The DoD office partners with industry, but there are some unique aspects to the military. "The commercial world is not too interested in whether the presenter is alive or dead," Loranger said.

"The last thing we want is to field a technology that would get an American's finger cut off or eyeball poked out to gain access to a system."



**Double
your
intake.**

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

Spouse's Day May 19

Spouse's Appreciation Day pays tribute to all Los Angeles AFB military and civilian spouses with an afternoon of fun and surprises. Mind/Body/Work is the theme, and festivities run from noon until 4 p.m. at the Fort MacArthur Community Center. One of the highlights of the day will be a demonstration from Billy Blanks (Mr. Tae-Bo). The first 80 people to register and attend will receive a bag of gifts. Free childcare for children five-years-old and under is available. A door prize valued at \$450 will be given away. Register by May 14 by calling Kathy Baker at 363-1796, Linda Barentine at 363-3540 or Tech. Sgt. Tony Haynes at 363-3540.

Chili Cook Off May 23

Sign up now to enter your favorite chili in the Space and Missile Systems Center Dining Out Chili Cook Off. Teams must register by May 18 and

the cost is \$10 per team. Winners will be chosen in several categories: Best Overall, Hottest, Weakest and "People's Choice." The contest will be held in the Area A Mall. Teams must bring chili, toppings and an extension cord if needed. Bowls, spoons, napkins and cups will be provided. Following the judging, the chili will be on sale for \$4 for all-you-can-eat which includes soft drinks. To register, contact 1st Lt. Steve Jones at 363-3800.

May is Fitness Month

May is the 16th Annual Air Force Fitness month. Participants can win many prizes including a trip for four to the Brickyard 400 auto race. Events include: A "Cardio Challenge" all month, body fat evaluation today, squat lift competition May 14-15, Fitness Boot Camp May 14-25, Health Fair May 16 and a 5K run/walk May 30. For more information, call the fitness center at 363-6815.

Space-A destinations for May

May 2001 departures				
Date	Flight #	Space-A showtime	Departure Time	Destinations
6, 13, 20, 27	MC71	6:35 p.m.	9:35 p.m.	Seattle, Osan, Kadena
7, 14, 21, 28	MC87	8:50 p.m.	11:50 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa
10, 17, 24, 31	MC79	8:30 p.m.	11:30 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena
May 2001 arrivals				
Date	Flight #	Arrival time	Arriving from	
9, 16, 23, 30	MC88	1:50 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Iwakuni, Misawa	
12, 19, 26	MC80	4 p.m.	Seattle, Yokota, Kadena	

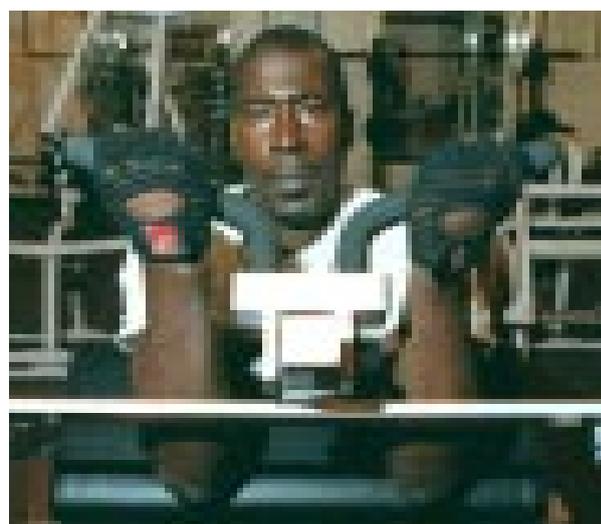
Notes: Space-available travel is available for active-duty, reserve and retirees. For more information, contact the Air Mobility Command Customer Service Branch at 363-0714. You can sign up for Space-A travel in person at Terminal 2 at the Los Angeles International Airport, by fax at 363-2790 or on the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

'Hammer' time at gym



Photo by Tim Dougherty

Ron Bartolome exercises his biceps on the new Hammer Strength machine.



Top: Bartolome, left, shows Shannon Kassebaum proper form on a shoulder exercise on the Fitness Center's new Hammer Strength machine. Left: Dennis Ross concentrates on the biceps machine. The Fitness Center recently installed over \$60,000 of new Hammer Strength exercise equipment. (Photos by Joe Juarez)

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 infor-

mation. **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 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.

Youth Center

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

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.

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.

Cinco De Mayo

Celebrate Cinco De Mayo with a buffet at The Club Atrium Room today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The buffet is \$4.50 per person for Club members.

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. For more information, contact Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Walker at 363-6433.



