



Astro News

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

Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., Aug. 10, 2001

'Beautiful!' Titan IVB rocket takes DSP-21 satellite to orbit

By 2nd Lt. Annette Wells
Public Affairs

Rising above schedule changes and a previous delay, Space and Missile Systems Center teamwork paid off as an Air Force Titan IVB carrying Defense Support Program flight 21 climbed into orbit Aug. 6.

"Wasn't that beautiful?" said Col. Mike Dunn, Mission Director and System Program Director for SMC'S Launch Programs after the 3:28 a.m. launch at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

SMC had a three-fold stake in the launch: Titan IVB flight 31, DSP-21 and Inertial Upper Stage-16, which delivered the payload into its final orbit approximately six and a half hours after the launch.

Though many different programs and contractors had to be coordinated, everyone worked as a team, Dunn said. "It's very neat to have mission partners like that."

The team approach to the mission enabled it to get into space with a quick, five-month turnaround. Dunn was in constant communication with DSP program manager Col. Dudley Killam,

Titan program manager Col. Charles Crain and industry partners from The Aerospace Corporation, TRW, Lockheed Martin and Boeing. He said that in the days and hours before the launch, they were communicating almost on an hourly basis.

The launch had been delayed from July 27 due to abnormal readings in the Titan's second-stage guidance control unit during pre-flight checks. Dunn said the decision to delay that launch allowed technicians enough time to perform further tests on the unit.

Further delays were averted when additional testing showed the GCU was operating within an acceptable range, and did not need to be replaced.

The \$256-million DSP satellite was the 21st DSP satellite launched since 1970. Part of the Space Based Infrared System program office, DSP satellites provide early warning of missile launches and nuclear explosions worldwide.

"This was a great job by all," said Col. Charles Cornell, SBIRS deputy director. "I'm very impressed with the entire SMC and Air Force team effort in getting this important defense satellite up and ready to help defend our country."



A Titan IVB rocket launches in the early morning Aug. 6 from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., taking Defense Support Program flight 21 into orbit.

U.S. Air Force photo

The IUS gave DSP-21 its final push into geosynchronous orbit. This step completed the team's launch effort.

DSP-21 will now begin a series of functional checks that are expected to last several weeks.

Air Force striving to increase awareness of drug abuse

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force has announced nine initiatives designed to promote awareness of drug abuse and educate people on the problem.

The initiatives are the result of the Air Force Inspector General's concerns about what appeared to be rising drug abuse trends in the Air Force —

especially in the area of new "club drugs."

The inspector general tasked the IG special investigations directorate to pool together various experts and determine if there was, in fact, an increase in the drug abuse trend, and if so, why. The Air Force Drug Abuse Reduction Team was created in October 2000 to address those

questions. The team, composed of air staff-level experts from legal, medical, security forces, personnel, public affairs, recruiting, Air Force Office of Special Investigations and the Reserve and National Guard components, began meeting in November, said Maj. Janice Pegram, AF DART team chief. The team's goal was to

attack the problem from a variety of angles, focusing on prevention and deterrence, she said.

With respect to IG concerns about increased drug use, AF DART has determined the number of Air Force members identified as abusing drugs is growing. The higher number can be attributed to higher use

and better detection through testing and investigations, Pegram said.

The team came up with the following recommendations and initiatives the service can implement to help reverse the drug abuse trend:

— Recommend the Defense Department test recruits at

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101 Critical Days of Summer half over, 14 airmen dead

By Gen. Lester Lyles
AFMC Commander

We are halfway through the 101 Critical Days of Summer of 2001 and I solicit your help in keeping the Air Force Materiel Command campaign active and effective. To date, the Air

Force has lost 14 irreplaceable airmen including one from the AFMC family. As in past campaigns, we need to keep focused on off-duty activities including private motor vehicle and motorcycle operations. These two areas account for the bulk of Air Force fatalities this

year with a total of nine deaths. I need you to devote extra attention to keeping our folks safe as the campaign continues into the Labor Day weekend. Risk management awareness throughout the command will help, but personal involvement from all commanders and

supervisors is key to a successful safety program. Let's take a "back-to-basics" approach to the safety of our people – talk with the ones that engage in hazardous activities, demand effective pre-departure safety briefings for young troops headed out on leave, and

identify areas for improvement early. We must work together to protect our people during the remainder of 2001, but especially during the final days of the 101 Critical Days of Summer. Your support and participation are vital to keeping everyone safe, all the time.

Meet fire: It's fast, hot, dark, deadly

By Jim Powderly
Base Fire Chief

Every day Americans experience the horror of fire. But most people don't understand the true nature of the beast. Only when we know the

potential consequences can we prepare and protect our families and ourselves. Each year more than 4,000 die and more than 25,000 are injured in fires, many of which could be prevented.

Fire is fast

In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house. In minutes a house can be engulfed in flames. Most fires occur in the home when people are asleep. If you wake up to a fire, you won't have time to grab valuables because fire spreads too quickly and the

smoke is too thick. There is only time to escape.

Fire is hot

A fire's heat alone can kill. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super hot air will scorch your lungs. This heat can melt clothes to your skin. In five minutes a room can get so hot that everything in it ignites at once: this is called flashover.

Fire is dark

Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness. If you wake up to a fire you may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find

your way around the home you have lived in for years.

Fire is deadly

Fire uses up the oxygen you need and produces smoke and poisonous gases that kill. Breathing even small amounts of smoke and toxic gases can make you drowsy, disoriented and short of breath. The odorless, colorless fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door. You may not wake up in time to escape.

Fire safety tips

Remember to escape first, then call for help. Always have a home escape plan with a

designated meeting place outside and make sure everyone in the family knows the ways to escape from every room. Have your family members play a game where everyone closes their eyes and feels their way out of the house. This may prevent panic during an emergency and may save your life.

Get a smoke alarm

Having a working smoke alarm in the home dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. Test your detector monthly and correct problems immediately. For a Home Safety Checklist, contact the Los Angeles AFB Fire Prevention Unit at 363-2395.

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
Base Safety Office	363-3048
Chaplain – Lt. Col. Gary Garvey	363-1956
Civil Engineering – Capt. Bo Bloomer	363-5126
Commissary – Al Cherry	363-6140
Comm. Sqd. – Lt. Col. Lori Ramirez	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 – Lt. Col. Greg Allen	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. Donald Wahonick	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

Registration for local schools begins Aug. 20

Parents of school age children are reminded that registration for White Point elementary begins Aug. 20 with Point Fermin elementary registration starting Aug. 23. To register, bring proof of residence such as a utility bill or California identification card, proof of child's age such as a birth certificate, passport or baptismal record, school transfer papers from previous schools, and immunization information. Questions regarding registration may be directed to 833-5232 for White Point and 832-2649 for Point Fermin.

Astro News

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Call 363-0303 for more
information.

It's simple, but travel card rules must be followed

By Cleota Drysdale
Public Affairs

Misuse of the government travel card can land you in jail. Federal employees – both military and civilian – are required to use the card for both temporary duty travel and permanent change of station travel, but using the card for personal reasons can lead to severe disciplinary action such as non-judicial punishment or a court-martial for military members, while civilians can be reprimanded, suspended or removed from the job.

“The travel card gives Federal employees some great benefits, but misuse can cause some very unpleasant consequences,” said Senior Airman Alicia LeValley, Base Agency Program Coordinator.

“If you are going on temporary duty, you can use the card to buy airplane tickets, rent cars and pay for lodging,” LeValley said. “The card can also be used to purchase food and to get cash advances from automatic teller machines when traveling. When in a PCS status, the card can be used to buy groceries, pay for lodging and obtain cash advances if staying in temporary quarters while looking for permanent lodging.”

It's a fairly simple formula – if you aren't in a travel status, you can't use the card. LeValley said the card can never be used to pay for an ordinary purchase or to draw money from an ATM if not in a PCS or TDY travel status.

“Do not use the card to make reservations for social events or to pay club dues. These things all constitute misuse,” she said. According to LeValley, disciplinary action has been taken in cases of misuse of the card here at Los Angeles AFB.

Col. Samuel Bagley, SMC Staff Judge Advocate, said a civilian who misuses the government travel card faces discipline up to and including termination, depending on the circumstances. Military members are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Tops In Blue performs at Fort MacArthur



Photo by Teri Mathis

Maj. Ivan Thompson, tour director and vocalist with the 2001 Tops In Blue, sings the military ballad “God Bless the USA” by Lee Greenwood during the final act at the group's performance July 27 at Fort MacArthur. Celebrating over 45 years of entertainment history, Tops In Blue is proud to represent the United States Air Force as one of the oldest and most widely traveled entertainment groups of its kind. This world-renown production, Tops In Blue, is an all active-duty Air Force special unit made up of talented amateur performers selected for their entertainment abilities. Each year, thousands compete in base talent contests and the most talented move on to higher levels of competition. The result is an elite group composed of 36 of the most talented vocalists, musicians and dancers anywhere. Their main purpose is to perform for military personnel and their families throughout the world. The enormous popularity of the group has also made them America's goodwill ambassadors around the globe. The performance was a first for Los Angeles AFB.

Base phone dialing plan changes take effect Aug. 17

By Fred Bostrom
Telephone Operations and Maintenance

The Los Angeles AFB telephone switchboard will soon adopt a standard, Air Force-wide telephone dialing plan which should help eliminate problems faced when trying to use the phone while on temporary duty or upon arrival at a new base.

On Aug. 17 at 6 p.m., the Los Angeles AFB telephone switch will be reprogrammed to match the dialing patterns found at other Air Force installations. To make a call within the local area, dial “99” instead of “9” and to make a long distance call, dial “98” instead of “9.” To access the Defense Switched Network for routine calls, dial “94” instead of “88.” For the near term,

users will not hear a second dial tone when accessing long distance numbers.

For users with access to other classes of DSN service, dial “92” for immediate and “93” for priority DSN. This capability will not be made available to the general base population.

The new dialing plan will also affect telephone auto dialers and fax machines. For more information, call 363-3447.

DRUG AWARENESS, from Page 1

military entrance processing stations for the same drugs the Air Force tests for. Currently, DOD only tests for marijuana and cocaine. The Air Force tests for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, PCP, LSD, opiates and barbiturates. Additionally, they test for ecstasy when the methamphetamine test is positive;

— Emphasize the periodic use of Air Force-wide weekend and holiday urinalysis testing, for detection and deterrence of club drugs;

— Expand instruction at squadron, group and wing commander courses and add officer professional military education classes. Emphasis will be put on commanders'

options and the impact of drug abuse on readiness and mission;

— Field a standardized substance abuse prevention awareness program at all Air Force bases;

— Design commander's call topics that discuss the effects substance abuse has on health, and the potential consequences of using drugs in the military;

— Highlight zero tolerance, increased drug testing, and integrity issues with internal media to promote awareness within the Air Force community;

— Continue with Air Force chief of staff messages that focus on drug abuse and readiness, the importance of drug testing, drug prevention

activities and commander involvement and responsibility;

— Create awareness videos on topics such as the chief of staff's expectations on drug abuse and the adverse effects of drug use on the body; and

— Establish the judge advocate general as the Air Force focal point to integrate drug abuse data.

Rodgers Travel selected as new travel agent for base

By Tim Dougherty
Astro News Editor

Getting ready for another exciting trip to a launch, a program review or a training class? Changes that took affect Aug. 1 will make your travel much smoother, according to base officials with the 61 Air Base Group Travel Management Office.

Rodgers Travel has replaced SATO as the travel office for official government travel and offers many new conveniences that should speed up the travel process.

"Our previous contractor failed to provide the level of customer service our travelers demand," said Staff Sgt. Mecole Spencer, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Traffic Management Office. "We chose Rodgers Travel out of several other bidders because they offered features that will make setting up travel plans much easier."

Some of the features Rodgers Travel offers include e-mail reservation confirmations, electronic customer profiles,

and a full-featured Internet site. In addition, travelers can now fax their orders to TMO for certification which will speed up the process considerably.

"The traveler will still need to visit TMO and Rodgers Travel to sign for an itinerary, however, this will be a very fast process. Once the orders are faxed over, the traveler can stop by and sign for the itinerary. It should be a very simple process," Spencer said.

Along with the change in contractor came a change in location. Rodgers Travel and TMO are now collocated in Building 130, a change that should make most Los Angeles AFB and Space and Missile Systems Center travelers very happy.

"It made sense to move to Building 130 because we calculated that 80 percent of our travelers are located in Area A. We also have more space in our new office which allows our customers to sit at a desk and make travel arrangements, rather than stand at a window. I think everyone is going to be very happy with both the new contractor and the new



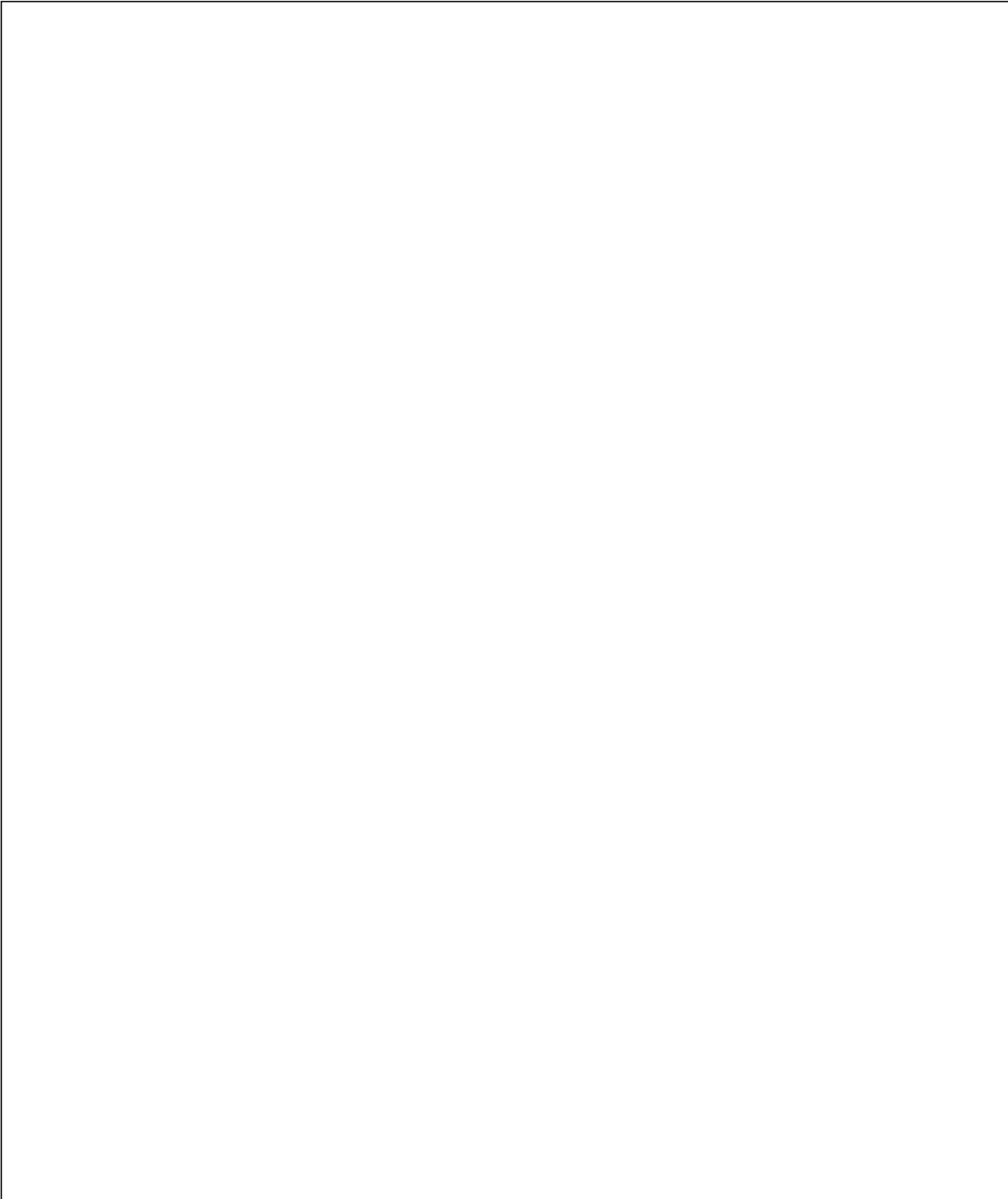
Photo by Joe Juarez

Staff Sgt. Mecole Spencer, left, accepts orders from Capt. J.J. Schwarz, the first customer to visit TMO and Rodgers Travel after they moved to Building 130.

location," Spencer said.

Rodgers Travel can be reached at 363-1064 and TMO can be reached at

363-0205. Orders can be faxed to TMO at 363-5185. The new Internet site is www.rodgerstravel.com.



Sure, we can do that!

Base officials answer questions generated at recent Town Hall meeting

Lots of questions were asked at a recent Town Hall meeting. Here is a sampling of questions and their answers. A complete list of the questions and answers will be printed in the upcoming Housing Flash.

Q. Can an occupied house without carpet be placed on the carpet installation list?

A. Yes. We would like to install or replace carpet in all homes where needed; however, because we don't have the resources to do them all at once, we will have to use a phased approach. We have enough money to carpet 50 homes. Our first priority is to replace and install carpet while homes are undergoing change of occupancy maintenance, although we will carpet other homes on a case-by-case basis.

Q. Is it possible to not install carpet in areas under the kitchen snack/breakfast bar? This area

should be tiled so the carpet doesn't get ruined from food and drink spills.

A. This is a great suggestion! We will incorporate it into our floor covering standards for housing.

Q. Can the wooden fences be treated? It seems like they are always in need of repair.

A. A stain/sealer and sprayer has been added to the self-help store, so anyone who wishes to stain their fence can do so. In addition, a new fence standard is being developed which uses a more durable material such as vinyl or metal. However, these fences are more expensive than wood and unfortunately, they have to compete for funds against carpeting which is our number one priority.

Q. Are there plans to build ramps at the end of the sidewalk on Old Fort Road and Arthur MacArthur, particularly the playground areas?

A. Yes. We have a multi-phased project to put in handicapped ramps throughout Fort MacArthur where needed.

Q. I have problems with gophers. Can all of housing be treated? The gophers move from yard to yard.

A. We are somewhat limited by the environmental laws and rules governing the use of pesticides. We have asked our pest control subcontractor to recommend a comprehensive approach to gopher control.

Q. When will the gate at Pacific Heights be open? What's causing the delay?

A. We should have the gate open by Aug. 16. During construction, the inspector found uneven surfaces in the pavement, which meant the subsurface was weaker than expected and would not support traffic. We stopped the project, did a quick redesign, got the additional funds and construc-

tion began again July 31. We regret the inconvenience to our housing residents and off-base neighbors, and ask everyone's continued patience and cooperation.

Q. What is the status of a request made to repair the playground equipment at Pacific Heights II?

A. A maintenance technician has repaired the equipment at the Pacific Heights II playground. The playground is good to go, but call Lt. Col. Bill Kitch at 363-5127 if additional problems are found.

Q. What is the policy for personnel from Civil Engineering to work on warranty items?

A. Civil Engineer craftsmen respond to all service calls and, if possible, correct any non-warranty work on the spot. If there is an existing warranty, we contact the contractor or company that we have paid for that service and require them to

perform the repair. We regret any inconvenience this causes, however, the warranty periods are beginning to expire, and all calls thereafter will be "non-warranty" work.

Q. What is the latest status on allowing fences at Pacific Heights II?

A. We looked at this from every angle, and found in the end that in-ground electronic fencing is the only workable alternative. The neighborhood was designed using open spaces between the homes as a key visual and functional feature.

Q. Can the overgrown grounds at the rear gate of Pacific Heights II be cut back? I'm concerned about the safety of children during the school year.

A. Our rationale for planting this area with native plants was to conserve water and eliminate most maintenance. Although
See Town Hall, Page 7

Town Hall, from Page 6

the vegetation grows tall in the summer, it will soon fall back in height, following a natural cycle. However, we have cut the vegetation back along the fence line and sidewalk, and will continue to monitor this area.

Q. Why can't two-bedroom units be for couples only? Have people with one child moved into a three bedroom?

A. We have to follow regulations in determining bedroom entitlements for military family housing. Timing also comes into play: the "book" allows families with one child only a two-bedroom house, however, whenever vacancies in three bedroom houses exceed the three bedroom waiting list, we can allow families with only one child to occupy three-bedroom units. Within that framework, we'll continue to house families in the largest units they qualify for.

Q. I have ants, and the self-help store does not have insect spray. If I get my area treated they just move to my neighbor's

house and then come back. Can we get the whole unit treated at the same time?

A. Thanks for the suggestion — we will add home pesticide products to the self-help store's inventory!

Q. Why does it take so long to get the LA Scoop? Some events are over before we get it.

A. Thanks for the feedback! We prepare the LA Scoop in time for delivery, but asked the post office to deliver as bulk mail which meant it had a low delivery priority. We've changed that, and now we're sending it as first class mail.

Q. Why can't we have food on the Community Center patio on Fridays?

A. We've changed this policy. If you are a patron of the Lounge, you are now welcome to take food out on the patio.

Q. I'm concerned about identity theft. Why are Social Security numbers required on checks?

A. This was a "hot button" issue for the Army and Air

Force Exchange Service and thanks to customer comments, the policy was changed two months ago. Patrons are no longer asked to put their Social Security numbers on checks.

Q. I have a concern with the quality of life guards at the pool. They are not doing their jobs and someone is going to get hurt.

A. All lifeguards frequently receive briefings stressing their responsibilities, the importance of their jobs to the community, and the perceptions their actions can create. If you see something that raises a safety concern, we would appreciate your calling it to the head lifeguard's attention immediately.

Q. We need more Teen Center programs.

A. We agree! The renovation of Building 425 opens new opportunities for the youth and teens. There will be over 40,000 square feet of space offering separate junior and senior lounges, a large multipurpose room, arts and crafts room,

computer-learning center, snack bar with arcade games, and game rooms. We are now recruiting for a Teen Coordinator to plan new programs and collaborate with off-base teen programs.

Q. Can we get a shuttle bus from the heights and the Crest to the Youth Center for our kids?

A. Yes. We offered a shuttle bus some time ago, but had little participation. We will offer it again during after-school hours and for special events.

Q. Why was the diving board removed at the pool?

A. This was a "gotcha" on us! For safety reasons, pools with diving boards must have a depth of 10 feet.

Q. Can the pediatrician work at the Fort MacArthur clinic where most of the families with small children live?

A. Yes. Although only a third of our 1,203 pediatric patients live in the San Pedro area, we are establishing a 90-day test program to make the pediatrician available at the Fort

at least one day per week.

Q. What happened to the neighborhood watch program that was discussed at the last Town Hall?

A. There wasn't much demonstrated interest in our military housing communities, and our attempts to recruit Neighborhood Watch Captains were completely unsuccessful.

Q. Can we get keys to the back gate at Pacific Heights II so we can access the open areas behind our homes?

A. Sorry, but no. That would violate Air Force regulations, but even more importantly, it would detract from the security and low crime rate we enjoy. While our residents are very responsible, it only takes one person's forgetting to lock the gate to jeopardize security.

Q. Can we get computers in the Family Support Center so people who PCS in and out can access their personal e-mail accounts?

A. It's happening! We have the new computers, and they will be up and running in the Family Support Center soon!

Youth Center has fun in the sun with ocean kayaks

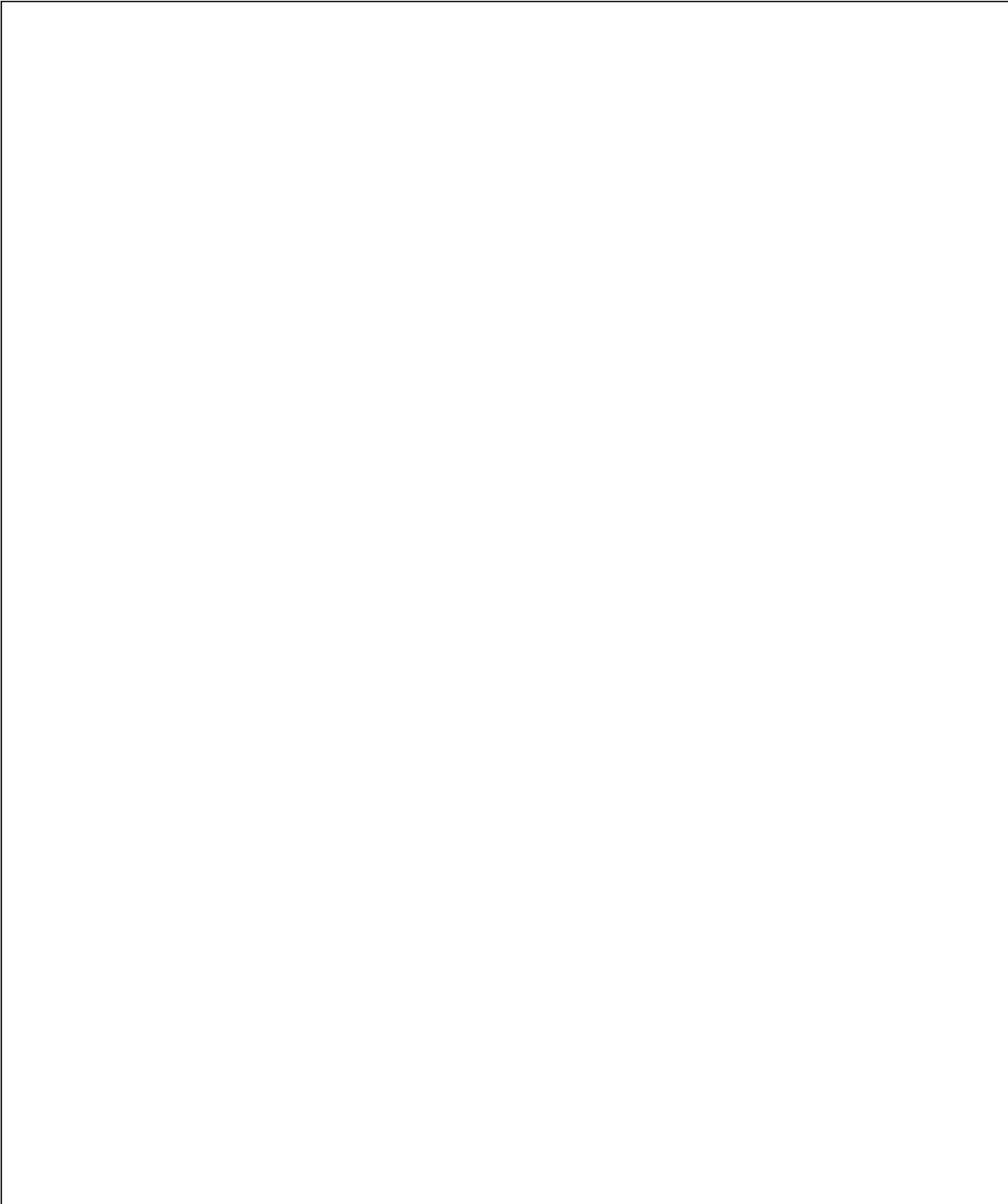


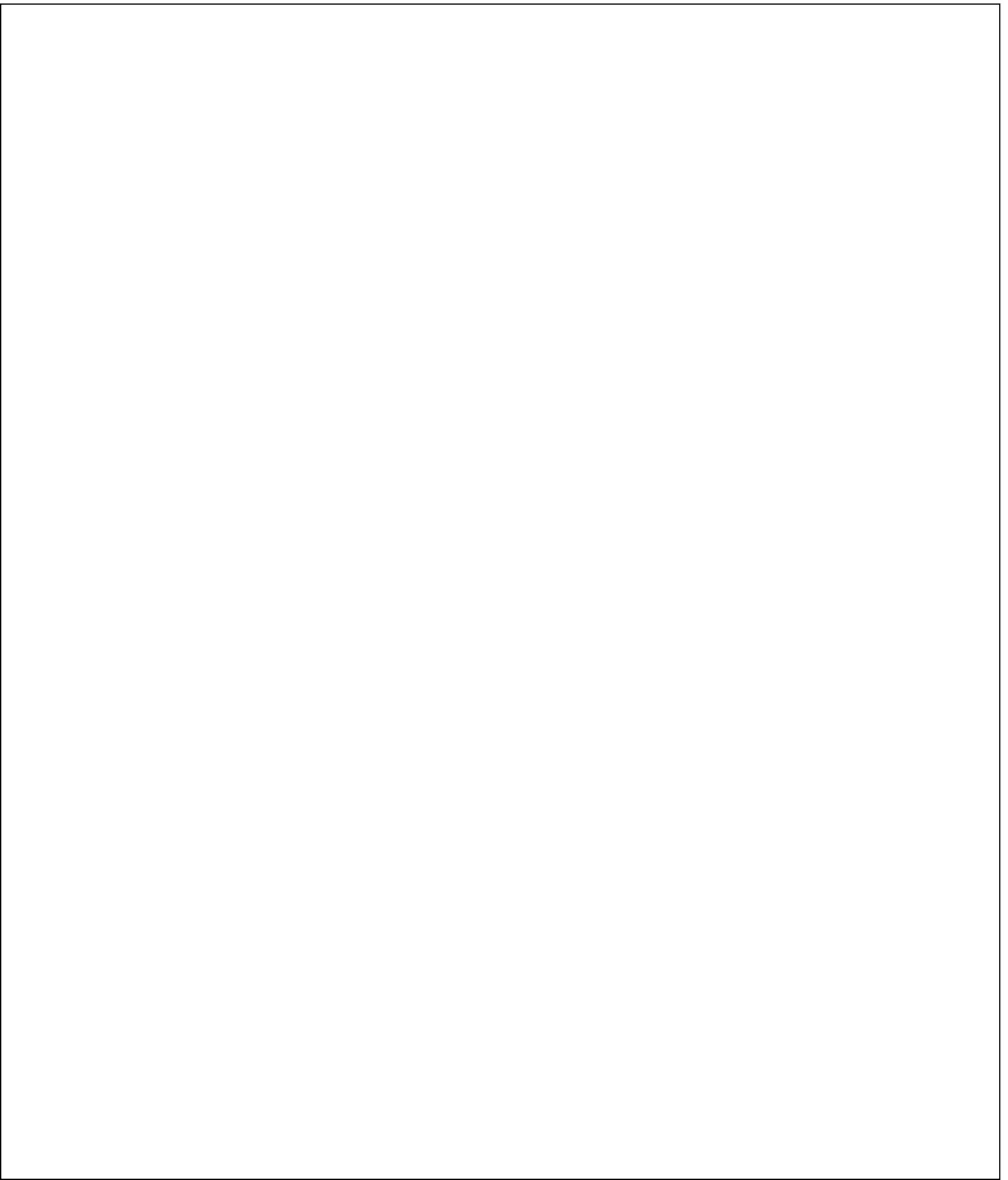
Above: Sean Lewis takes David Hall for a ride as they narrowly avoid a dive-bombing seagull. Below: From left to right: The three amigos Case Hammelberger, Pat Bradley and David Hall pal around at the beach.

The Fort MacArthur Youth Center enjoyed a day of fun in the sun last week at the beach and on ocean kayaks. At left: Sean Lewis paddles the front kayak along with Pat Bradley, as Porscha Thomas rides in Rebecca Burns' kayak as they try to keep up. Above: Gabby Litonjua enjoys her lunch with her friends in the park.

Photos by Joe Juarez









Courtesy photo

SMC's Developmental Planning Directorate presented its third annual Col. "Duke" Kane award to members of the Advanced Space Lift Architecture Study Team. Members at the award ceremony were, from left: Dr. Greg Furumoto, Dorian Buitrago, Capt Michael Daniel, Lt. Col. Richard Einstman, Dr. Francis X. "Duke" Kane, and Joe Adams.

Developmental Planning hands out third annual Col. 'Duke' Kane award

By Paula Provost
Developmental Planning

The Space and Missile Systems Center's Developmental Planning Directorate awarded the third annual "Duke" Kane Award to the Advanced Space Lift Architecture Study Team July 12.

The award is presented in honor of retired Col. Francis X. "Duke" Kane, the first Director of the Developmental Planning Directorate, for his contribution to the XR legacy. Under Kane's leadership, from 1967 to 1970, the beginning of the program which would later become the Global Positioning System was developed.

This award is presented to the individual or team within XR who "breathes life" into a program/project during the award period. The program or project must fall within three categories: – improvement of operational forces; – identification of advances in space technology; or – development of the rationale for advocacy of new systems and technology.

A controversial study, ASL

identified key technical, economic and acquisition issues and challenges affecting the nation's ability to field an operationally responsive advanced space lift system. As such, it was necessary for the study team to question assumptions underlying both NASA and military space lift planning. The ASL study has received positive high-level attention throughout the space community, and has been immensely successful in bringing key technical and acquisition issues to decision makers. All recommendations of the ASL study are being implemented.

The members of the winning team are Lt. Col. Richard Einstman, Capt. Michael Daniel and the following individuals from the Aerospace Corporation: Dr. Inki Min, Dr. Greg Furumoto, Dr. Laura Ledsinger, Dr. Eric Mahr, Dr. Nat Patel, Dr. Greg Richardson, Joseph Adams, Robert Hickman, Dorian Buitrago, Glenn Law, John Skratt, Manny Alvarez, Keith Duncan, John Mayberry, Jay Penn, Hyo Shim, and Karolyn Young.


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

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 Christina Kobayashi 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 2 years or older. Call 832-5673 for more information. **Kimberly McClure** has an opening for a child 2 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 2 years or older. Call 832-2620 to speak to Tina. **Joan Smith** has two openings for children 2 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.

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.

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.

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.

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic: Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays at 4 p.m., Mass at 4:30 p.m. Mass at 9 a.m. Sundays.

Protestant: General worship at 10:30 a.m. Contact Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Walker at 363-6433 for info.

Vacation Bible School

The Fort MacArthur Chapel is offering an exciting Vacation Bible School Aug. 13-17 in Building 37 on the second floor. Anyone between the ages of 4-years old to 4th grade is invited. Contact Lisa Pinder for more information at 833-8066.

Astro News deadlines

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

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

smc.pa.astronews@losangeles.af.mil

Publication date

Submission date

Aug. 24	Aug. 17
Sept. 7	Aug. 31
Sept. 21	Sept. 14
Oct. 5	Sept. 28
Oct. 19	Oct. 12
Nov. 2	Oct. 26



Staff Sgt. Mecole Spencer

... is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Traffic Management Office, 61st Air Base Group. She is a Quality Assurance Evaluator and ensures that Rodgers Travel, the new contractor for official government travel, provides

quality service to the travelers of the Space and Missile Systems Center and Los Angeles AFB.

“It seems as if people who work in the various offices here at the Los Angeles AFB travel all the time,” Spencer said. “As a result, my job is extremely important because before anyone can travel they need to

Leading L.A.

go through my office to certify orders and make their travel plans.”

Spencer is a nine-year veteran of the Air Force and has been stationed at Los Angeles AFB for the past three years. She has recently been involved with a change in travel contractor which has kept her very busy.

The New Orleans, La., native is currently enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Phoenix, attending classes at night while she is off duty. She plans to complete her degree in computer science within the next year. She plans to apply for Officer Training School when she completes her degree.

