

U.S. Air Force

VANDENBERG AFB : CALIFORNIA

Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) is located near Santa Maria in the central coastal area of California. Much of the land surrounding the base is rugged, undeveloped, and mountainous. The base is



named in honor of former U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg (1889-1954).

Vandenberg AFB is a Department of Defense's space and missile testing base. The 30th Space Wing is the base's host unit. The 30th Space Wing manages the western range in support of space lift to polar orbit, Intercontinental

Ballistic Missile developmental test and evaluation program.

In 2010, Vandenberg AFB had an estimated economic impact of \$1.75 billion on Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

FAST FACTS

- » Location: **Santa Barbara County, CA (near Santa Maria)**
 - » Land Area: **99,578 acres**
 - » Special Use Airspace: **113 square nautical miles**
 - » Military Personnel: **2500**
 - » Civilian Personnel: **1143 and 2822 contractors**
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Above: Members of the 576th Flight Test Squadron oversee the launch of an unarmed Minuteman III missile from Vandenberg Air Force Base during an operational test launch. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Left: A Titan IV Centaur rocket launches at Vandenberg AFB. The rocket is the largest unmanned space booster used by the U.S. Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)

30th SW MISSION STATEMENT

To provide combat capability to the joint warfighter through assured access to space and combat ready airmen

CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
805- 606-3595



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UNIT MISSIONS

- » **30th Space Wing:** Provides combat capability to the joint warfighter through assured access to space and combat ready airmen. Includes the the following groups:
 - **30th Space Wing Staff Office:** Includes the Comptroller Squadron, Chaplain's Office, Command Post, Emergency Management, History Office, Inspector General, Equal Opportunity Office, Plans and Programs, Protocol Office, Public Affairs Office, Retiree Activities, Safety Office, Small Business Office, Space and Missile Heritage, and Staff Judge Advocate.
 - **30th Operations Group:** Command and controls the Western Range and directs range resources in support of space and missile test launches and aeronautical and space surveillance operations. Includes the Operations Support Squadron, Space Communications Squadron, 2nd Range Operations Squadron, Range Management Squadron, and Weather Squadron.
 - **30th Launch Group:** Processes, tests boosters and satellites. It provides mission assurance, protects critical launch resources, performs launch operations, oversees mission integration, and develops future launch leaders. The group's spacelift experts are shaping the future of responsive launch operations through seamless partnership with launch and satellite program offices. Includes the 1st Air and Space Test Squadron, and 4th Space Launch Squadron.
 - **30th Mission Support Group:** Provides security, law enforcement, disaster response, civil engineer, base services, mission support, morale services, contracting, and logistical support. Includes the Force Support Squadron, Civil Engineer Squadron, Security Forces Squadron, Contracting Squadron, and Logistics Readiness Squadron.
 - **30th Medical Group:** Provides medical, dental, bioenvironmental, and public health services for people assigned to Vandenberg AFB, their families and retirees.
- » **Joint Functional Component Command for Space (JFCC SPACE):** Provides a focal point for the operational employment of worldwide joint space forces, and enables the commander of JFCC SPACE to integrate space power into global military operations.
- » **Fourteenth Air Force:** Organizes, trains, equips, and oversees the employment and command and control of U.S. Air Force space forces to support operational plans and missions for U.S. combatant commanders and their subordinate components, and is the U.S. Air Force Component to U.S. Strategic Command for space operations.
- » **9th Space Operations Squadron:** Provides commanders with up-to-date information on the status of U.S. Air Force satellites. The satellites provide weather, intelligence, communication, and navigational data necessary for strategic planning of U.S. military operations.
- » **21st Space Operations Squadron (50th Space Wing):** Plans and conducts specialized communications for a wide spectrum of Department of Defense, allied, civil and commercial space systems.
- » **576th Flight Test Squadron:** Executes the U.S. Air Force Space Command's Force Development Evaluation program for America's Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Force and serves as the command's experts for missile systems capability and U.S. Air Force application demonstrations.



Above: Solar panels at Vandenberg AFB mark the initial push for the base to become compliant with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which requires federal agencies to reduce energy intensity 30 percent by 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo)

COMMANDER RANK

Colonel

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » Third largest Air Force base
- » Near the Santa Ynez Mountains
- » Responsible for 42 miles of coastline
- » Manages the protection of 18 federally listed endangered or threatened species
- » Supports launches into polar orbit
- » As of November 2005, Has launched just over 1,900 orbital and ballistic missiles
- » Home to Space Launch Complex 10 (National Historic Landmark), the Space and Missile Heritage Center, and Military Strategic and Tactical Relay (Milstar) Operations Center-Vandenberg (MOC-V)



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- » **381st Training Group:** Provides quality training to produce the finest space and missile operators and maintainers for our Air Force and our nation's defense. Includes the 381st Training Support Squadron, 392nd Training Squadron, 532nd Training Squadron, and 533rd Training Squadron.
- » **Area Defense Counsel:** Provides the utmost in professional defense competence, tenacity, and loyalty, limited only by the bounds of law, ethics, and good judgement.
- » **148th Space Operations Squadron (California Air National Guard):** Operates the Military Strategic and Tactical Relay (Milstar) Operations Center-Vandenberg (MOC-V), one of two fixed Milstar Ground Stations.
- » **216th Operations Support Squadron (California Air National Guard):** Organizes, trains, and equips space, intelligence, and communications professionals who provide operational support functions for the Joint Space Operations Center.
- » **NASA Resident Office, Vandenberg AFB:** Performs flight research and technology integration to revolutionize aviation and pioneer aerospace technology, validates space exploration concepts, conducts airborne remote sensing and science missions, and supports operations of the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station for NASA and the nation.
- » **Air Force Office of Special Investigations:** Provides professional investigative service to commanders, primarily criminal investigations and counterintelligence services.

For more information, please see < <http://www.vandenberg.af.mil> >