**Vandenberg Air Force Base**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vandenberg Air Force Base** | |
| Part of [Air Force Space Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Force_Space_Command) (AFSC) | |
| Located near: [Lompoc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lompoc), [California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California) | |
| Titan IV Centaur rocket launch from Space Launch Complex-4 East, Vandenberg AFB, 19 October 2005 | |
| **Coordinates** | [34°43′57″N 120°34′05″W﻿ / ﻿34.7325°N 120.56806°W﻿ / 34.7325; -120.56806﻿ (Vandenberg AFB)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_43_57_N_120_34_05_W_&title=Vandenberg+AFB) |
| **Built** | 1941 |
| **In use** | 1957-Present |
| **Controlled by** | [United States Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force) |
| **Garrison** | [30th Space Wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Space_Wing) (USAF) |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Airfield information** | | | |
| [**IATA**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Air_Transport_Association_airport_code)**: VBG –** [**ICAO**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Civil_Aviation_Organization_airport_code)**: KVBG –** [**FAA**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Aviation_Administration)[**LID**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Location_identifier#FAA_identifier)**: VBG** | | | |
| **Summary** | | | |
| **Elevation** [**AMSL**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level) | | 369 ft / 112 m | |
| [**Coordinates**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system) | | [34°43′58″N 120°34′05″W﻿ / ﻿34.73278°N 120.56806°W﻿ / 34.73278; -120.56806](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_43_58_N_120_34_05_W_type:airport)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): [34°43′58″N 120°34′05″W﻿ / ﻿34.73278°N 120.56806°W﻿ / 34.73278; -120.56806](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_43_58_N_120_34_05_W_type:airport) | |
| **Map** | | | |
| **KVBG**  Location of Vandenberg Air Force Base | | | |
| [**Runways**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runway) | | | |
| [**Direction**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runway#Orientation_and_dimensions) | **Length** | | **Surface** |
| **ft** | **m** |
| 12/30 | 15,000 | 4,572 | [Concrete](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concrete) |
| Source: Official website and [FAA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Aviation_Administration) | | | |

**Vandenberg Air Force Base** ([IATA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Air_Transport_Association_airport_code): **VBG**, [ICAO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Civil_Aviation_Organization_airport_code): **KVBG**, [FAA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Aviation_Administration) [LID](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Location_identifier): **VBG**) is a [United States Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force) Base, located approximately 9.2 miles (14.8 km) northwest of [Lompoc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lompoc,_California), [California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California). It is under the jurisdiction of the [30th Space Wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Space_Wing), [Air Force Space Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Force_Space_Command) (AFSC).

Vandenberg AFB is a Department of Defense space and missile testing base, with a mission of placing satellites into [polar orbit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polar_orbit) from the West Coast, using expendable boosters ([Pegasus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pegasus_(rocket)), [Taurus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taurus_(rocket)), [Minotaur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minotaur_(rocket_family)), [Atlas V](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas_V) and [Delta IV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_IV)). Wing personnel also support the Service's [LGM-30G Minuteman III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30G_Minuteman_III) [Intercontinental Ballistic Missile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intercontinental_Ballistic_Missile) Force Development Evaluation program.

The base is named in honor of former Air Force Chief of Staff General [Hoyt S. Vandenberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoyt_Vandenberg).

**Units**

The host unit at Vandenberg AFB is the [30th Space Wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Space_Wing). The 30th SW is home to the Western Range, manages Department of Defense space and missile testing, and places satellites into near-polar orbits from the West Coast. Wing personnel also support the Air Force's Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Force Development Test and Evaluation program. The Western Range begins at the coastal boundaries of Vandenberg and extends westward from the California coast to the Western Pacific, including sites in Hawaii. Operations involve dozens of federal and commercial interests.

The wing is organized into operations, launch, mission support and medical groups, along with several directly assigned staff agencies.

* [30th Launch Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Launch_Group)

The 30th Launch Group is responsible for booster and satellite technical oversight and launch processing activities to include launch, integration and test operations. The group consists of an integrated military, civilian and contractor team with more than 250 personnel directly supporting operations from the Western Range.

[1st Air and Space Test Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Air_and_Space_Test_Squadron)

[4th Space Launch Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th_Space_Launch_Squadron)

* [30th Operations Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Operations_Group)

The 30th Operations Group provides the core capability for West Coast space lift and range operations. Operations professionals are responsible for operating and maintaining the Western Range for space lift, missile test launch, aeronautical and space surveillance missions.

* 30th Mission Support Group

The 30th Mission Support Group supports the third largest Air Force Base in the United States. It is also responsible for quality-of-life needs, housing, personnel, services, civil engineering, contracting and security.

* 30th Medical Group

The 30th Medical Group provides medical, dental, bio-environmental and public health services for people assigned to Vandenberg Air Force Base, their families and retirees.

Tenant organizations assigned to Vandenberg are:

* [Fourteenth Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourteenth_Air_Force)
* [Joint Functional Component Command for Space](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Functional_Component_Command_for_Space) (JFCC SPACE)
* [9th Space Operations Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9th_Space_Operations_Squadron)
* [21st Space Operations Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/21st_Space_Operations_Squadron) (GSU, 50th Space Wing)
* [576th Flight Test Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/576th_Flight_Test_Squadron)
* [381st Training Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/381st_Training_Group)
* [148th Space Operations Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/148th_Space_Operations_Squadron) (California ANG)
* 216th Operations Support Squadron (California ANG)
* NASA Resident Office
* Air Force Office of Special Investigations



Fourteenth Air Force



Joint Functional Component Command for Space



30th Launch Group



30th Operations Group



1st Air and Space Test Squadron



4th Space Launch Squadron



9th Space Operations Squadron



21st Space Operations Squadron



576th Flight Test Squadron



381st Training Group

**History**



General Hoyt S. Vandenberg



Major General Phillip St. George Cooke

Vandenberg Air Force Base is named in honor of the late General [Hoyt S. Vandenberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoyt_S._Vandenberg), second Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force and chief architect of today's modern Air Force.

General Vandenberg was born in [Milwaukee, Wisconsin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milwaukee,_Wisconsin), on January 24, 1899. In 1923, he graduated from [West Point](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Point). During [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II), Colonel Vandenberg was transferred to [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England) and assisted in planning air operations for the [invasion of North Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Torch). He received his first star in December 1942, and became chief of staff of the [Twelfth Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelfth_Air_Force) in North Africa under General [James H. Doolittle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_H._Doolittle). During this campaign he flew over two dozen combat missions over [Tunisia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia), [Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy), [Sardinia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sardinia), [Sicily](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sicily), and Panteileria to obtain firsthand information.

In March 1945, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, and full general in 1947. Meanwhile, in January 1946, General Vandenberg was appointed chief of the intelligence division of the General Staff. In June, he was named director of the Central Intelligence Group, predecessor to the [Central Intelligence Agency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Intelligence_Agency) formed in 1947.

With the establishment of a separate Air Force in September 1947, Vandenberg became its first vice chief of staff under General [Carl Spaatz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Spaatz), and succeeded him on April 30, 1948. He held that post through the critical periods of the [Berlin Airlift](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin_Airlift) (1948–1949) and the [Korean War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_War) (1950–1953).

General Vandenberg retired from the Air Force in June 1953. He died in [Washington, D.C.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington,_D.C.) on April 2, 1954.

**United States Army**

**Camp Cooke (1941-1953)**

In 1941 the [United States Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army) sought more and better training centers for the rapid development of its armored and infantry forces. In March 1941, the Army acquired approximately 86,000 acres (350 km2) of open ranch lands along the Central Coast of California between [Lompoc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lompoc) and [Santa Maria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Maria,_California). Most of the land was purchased. Smaller parcels were obtained either by lease, license, or as easements. With its flat plateau, surrounding hills, numerous canyons, and relative remoteness from populated areas, the Army was convinced it had found the ideal training location.

Construction of the Army camp began in September 1941. Although its completion was still months away, the Army activated the camp on October 5, and named it **Camp Cooke** in honor of [Major General Phillip St. George Cooke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_St._George_Cooke).

General Cooke was a cavalry officer whose military career spanned almost half a century, beginning with his graduation from [West Point](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Point) in 1827 to his retirement in 1873. He participated in the [Mexican War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican%E2%80%93American_War), the [Indian Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Wars), and the [Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War). A native of Virginia, General Cooke remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. Perhaps his most enduring achievement came when as a colonel during the Mexican War, he led a battalion of [Mormons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormons) from Missouri to California. The route led by Colonel Cooke in 1847 opened the first wagon route to California, and today the railroad follows much of the early wagon trails.

Although the construction of Camp Cooke continued well into 1942, troop training did not wait. The [5th Armored Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5th_Armored_Division_(United_States)) rolled into camp in February and March, and the steady roar of its tanks and artillery soon became part of the daily scene. From then until the end of the war, other armored and infantry divisions kept up the din before they too left for overseas duty.

Besides the 5th Division, the 6th, 11th, 13th, and 20th Armored Divisions as well as the 86th and 97th Infantry Divisions, and the 2d Filipino Infantry Regiment were all stationed at Cooke at varying times during the war. Also trained at Cooke were an assortment of anti-aircraft artillery, combat engineer, ordnance, and hospital units. Over 400 separate and distinct outfits passed through Camp Cooke.

As the war progressed, German and Italian prisoners of war (the latter organized into Italian Service Units) were quartered at Camp Cooke. Both groups were kept separate from each other in accordance with the Geneva Convention, and worked on the post at various jobs including mechanical and civil engineering services, clerical positions, food service, and the main laundry. To help relieve the severe labor shortage in the commercial market created by wartime exigencies, the Germans also worked in local communities - mostly in agricultural jobs.

A maximum security army disciplinary barracks was constructed on post property in 1946. Confined to the facility were military prisoners from throughout the Army. When Camp Cooke closed in June 1946, personnel at the disciplinary barracks received the additional duty as installation caretakers. Practically the entire camp was then leased for agriculture and grazing.

From August 1950 to February 1953, Camp Cooke served as a training installation for units slated for [combat in Korea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_War), and as a summer training base for many other reserve units. On February 1, 1953, the camp was again inactivated. The disciplinary barracks, meanwhile, was transferred to the [U.S. Bureau of Prisons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Bureau_of_Prisons) to house civilian offenders in August 1959. Today it is known as the United States Penitentiary at Lompoc.

In September 2000, veterans of the 40th Infantry Division gathered an Vandenberg Air Force Base to dedicate its Korean War Memorial. In June 2001, the final remnants of Camp Cooke, including some barracks used by the 40th Infantry Division during its mobilization for the Korean War, were torn down.

**Known United States Army Units at Camp Cooke**

**World War II**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * [5th Armored Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5th_Armored_Division_(United_States)) * [81st Armored Regiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/81st_Armor_Regiment_(United_States)) * [6th Armored Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6th_Armored_Division_(United_States)) * [50th Armored Infantry Regiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/50th_Infantry_Regiment_(United_States)) * [11th Armored Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/11th_Armored_Division_(United_States)) | * [13th Armored Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13th_Armored_Division_(United_States)) * 20th Infantry Division * [86th Infantry Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/86th_Infantry_Division_(United_States)) * [97th Infantry Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/97th_Infantry_Division_(United_States)) * 2d Filipino Infantry Regiment |

**Korean War**

* [40th Infantry Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/40th_Infantry_Division_(United_States))
* [44th Infantry Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/44th_Infantry_Division_(United_States))

**United States Air Force**

**Cooke Air Force Base**

Four years later the military returned to Camp Cooke. With the advent of the missile age in the 1950s, an urgent need arose for an adequate training site that could also serve as America's first combat ready missile base. In January 1956, a select committee was formed that examined more than 200 potential sites before Camp Cooke was chosen, essentially for the same characteristics the Army found desirable in 1941. Besides its size, remoteness from heavily populated areas, and having a moderate climate that afforded year-round operations, most importantly, Cooke's coastal location allowed missiles to be launched into the Pacific Ocean without population overflights. This same geographic feature also enabled satellites to be launched into polar orbit directly toward the South Pole without overflying any land mass until reaching Antarctica.

In September 1956, [Secretary of the Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secretary_of_the_Air_Force), [Donald A. Quarles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_A._Quarles) accepted the committee's recommendation. A few weeks later, on November 16, 1956, Secretary of Defense [Charles E. Wilson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_E._Wilson) directed the Army to transfer 64,000 acres (260 km2) of North Camp Cooke to the [United States Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force) for use as a missile launch and training base. In June 1957, North Camp Cooke was renamed **Cooke Air Force Base**, and on 21 June 1957 was transferred to the Air Force. In January, however, the Air Force, had received access to the camp, and with the arrival of the first airman in February, established on the 15th the 6591st Support Squadron. The initial mission of Cooke AFB was to serve both as a training site for the [PGM-17 Thor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PGM-17_Thor), [SM-65 Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65_Atlas), and [HGM-25A Titan I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HGM-25A_Titan_I) missiles, and as an emergency operational facility for Atlas ICBM.

The scene that met the first airmen to the base was a cluttered mass of dilapidated World War II buildings amid weeds and brush growing everywhere. Roads-mostly gravel and dirt trails-were in need of extensive repair. In late April 1957, parallel renovation and construction programs started. Over the next two years, missile launch and control facilities began to appear as tons of concrete and steel transformed the landscape. Old buildings were renovated and new ones built, including Capehart military family housing. The work was already in process when the Air Force hosted the official ground breaking ceremonies on 8 May 1957.

To operate Cooke AFB, the 392d Air Base Group was activated, replacing the 6591st Support Squadron on April 15, 1957. With the activation of the [704th Strategic Missile Wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/704th_Strategic_Missile_Wing) (Atlas) at Cooke on July 1, the 392d was assigned to the wing. This was the first Air Force ballistic missile wing. On July 16, the [1st Missile Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Missile_Division), activated three months earlier in [Inglewood, California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inglewood,_California), relocated to Cooke AFB to supervise wing operations. During this formative period, the work of these latter two organizations involved planning for missile operations and training. The Division was assigned to Air Force Ballistic Missile Division (AFBMD) in Inglewood, which in turn reported to [Air Research and Development Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Research_and_Development_Command) (ARDC) at [Andrews AFB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrews_AFB), Maryland.

The launching of the Russian [Sputnik 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sputnik_1) satellite into orbit on October 4, 1957, followed a month later by [Sputnik 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sputnik_2) that carried a dog into space, had military implications and caused an immediate acceleration of the United States Air Force's missile program. As part of the acceleration, on 23 November 1957, the Department of Defense authorized the peacetime launching of ballistic, missiles from Cooke AFB. The Air Force transferred management responsibilities for Cooke AFB from ARDC to the [Strategic Air Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_Air_Command) (SAC) on January 1, 1958. Along with the transfer, SAC acquired the three ARDC base organizations and responsibility for attaining initial operational capability (IOC) for the nascent U.S. missile force. Their mission also included training missile launch crews.

The reorganization allowed ARDC to retain responsibility for site activation as well as research and development testing of ballistic missiles, also known as Category II testing. These activities were carried out by an AFBMD field office established at Cooke shortly after the transfers of January 1958. Space launches were to be conducted by ARDC and SAC. However, the vast majority of these operations were later handled by ARDC. Sharing the mission at Cooke, the two commands cultivated a close relationship that was to flourish for the next 35 years.

On 12 February 1958, the Department, of Defense transferred executive responsibility for the Jupiter IRBM from the Department of the Army to the Air Force. Headquarters SAC transferred the 864th Strategic Missile Squadron (IRBM-Jupiter) from Huntsville, Alabama, to Cooke AFB. In April, Headquarters SAC activated the 576th Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Atlas) at Cooke AFB. It was SAC's first ICBM squadron and first Atlas squadron. Initially, it consisted of two "soft" Series D Atlas complexes (576A and 576B). The first had three gantries while the second had three above ground coffin launchers (The term "coffin launcher" is used because the missile was laid on its side horizontally with the enclosure door or coffin-lid situated above. This configuration offered enhanced protection for the launcher.) similar to those planned for the first squadron in the field. Each complex had one launch control center. Thus, the squadron had a 3x2 configuration. In July, Construction began at Cooke AFB on the Operational System Test Facility (OSTF) for the Titan I ICBM. This was the prototype of the hardened Titan I launch control facility and consisted of one silo-lift launcher, blockhouse, and associated equipment. The first Thor IRBM arrived at Cooke AFB in August.

**Base expansion**

The southern portion of Cooke AFB (Formerly Camp Cooke), consisting of more than 19,800 acres (80 km2), was transferred to the [U.S. Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Navy) in May 1958. The Navy was in the process of establishing a Pacific Missile Range (PMR) with a headquarters 100 miles (160 km) south of Cooke at [Point Mugu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point_Mugu), and instrumentation sites along the California coast and at various islands down range in the Pacific Ocean. The property it acquired was renamed the Naval Missile Facility at Point Arguello. It became a major launch head and range safety center for all missile and satellite launch operations conducted within the PMR.

On November 16, 1963, Secretary of Defense [Robert S. McNamara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_S._McNamara) ordered a restructuring in the way the Department of Defense managed and operated its missile ranges and flight test facilities across the nation. Part of the force restructuring had the Navy transfer major sections of its Pacific Missile Range, including its Point Arguello installation, to the Air Force in two parts. The first transfer occurred on July 1, 1964. In the second part of the transfer, remote properties and mobile resources, explained in detail in the next section, were handed over to Vandenberg on February 1, 1965.

With the Navy's missile program and range authorities scaled back to the area around Point Mugu, the Air Force now assumed full responsibility for missile range safety at Vandenberg and over much of the Pacific Ocean. The Air Force renamed this geographical area the Air Force Western Test Range. The designation remained until 1979 when it was shortened to the Western Test Range.

The final land acquisition at Vandenberg occurred on March 1, 1966, after the Air Force had announced plans to construct Space Launch Complex 6 for its [Manned Orbiting Laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manned_Orbiting_Laboratory) (MOL) program. Flight safety corridors for the Titan III MOL vehicle reportedly extended south of Point Arguello and inland to an area known as Sudden Ranch. The Air Force sought to purchase this property, but when negotiations with the Sudden Estate Company failed to reach a compromise purchase price, the government turned to condemnation proceedings (under the power of eminent domain). By filing a Declaration of Taking with the federal court in Los Angeles, it obtained almost 15,000 acres (61 km2) of Sudden Ranch. Finalized on December 20, 1968, the federal court established $9,002,500 as the purchase price for the land. The total amount paid to the company with interest was $9,842,700.

The annexation of Sudden Ranch increased the size of the base to its present 99,099 acres (401.04 km2). Today, Vandenberg stands as the third largest Air Force base after [Eglin AFB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eglin_AFB) in Florida, and [Edwards AFB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwards_AFB) in California.

**Vandenberg Air Force Base**



Vandenberg AFB Main gate



PGM-17 Thor IRBM



Atlas missiles on alert, 1960



Titan I missile emerges from its silo at Vandenberg Operational System Test Facility in 1960



Titan II test launch from Vandenberg



Minuteman 3 missile launch



Test launch of LGM-118 Peacekeeper



Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) interceptor in launch silo at Vandenberg

On 4 October 1958, Cooke AFB was renamed Vandenberg AFB in honor of the late General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, the Air Force's second Chief of Staff.

**Ballistic missile testing**

**PGM-17 Thor**

The transition from Army camp to missile base solidified on 15 December 1958 when Vandenberg AFB successfully launched its first missile, a PGM-17 Thor IRBM ([Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intermediate_Range_Ballistic_Missile)) The launch from Vandenberg inaugurated the intermediate-range ballistic missile portion of the Pacific Missile Range and was fired by a crew from the [1st Missile Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Missile_Division). The first successful launch of a Thor IRBM by a [Royal Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Air_Force) crew took place at Vandenberg AFB on 16 April 1959. This launch was part of integrated weapon system training. In October, the first combat training launch of a Thor IRBM by a Royal Air Force crew was successful.

On 22 April 1960, the fourth and final British-based Thor IRBM squadron was turned over to the Royal Air Force by the Strategic Air Command, thus completing the deployment of this weapon system in the United Kingdom. The next month, the first missile to be removed from an operational unit and sent to Vandenberg AFB for confidence firing arrived from a Thor IRBM squadron (98th RAF Strategic Missile Squadron) in the United Kingdom. Confidence firing was the predecessor of SAC's operational test program.

**SM-65 Atlas**

On 16 October 1958, the first Atlas ICBM launcher (576A-1) constructed at Vandenberg AFB, California, was accepted from the contractor by the 1st Missile Division. The first intercontinental ballistic missile, the [SM-65D Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65D_Atlas) [ICBM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ICBM), was delivered and was accepted by SAC's [576th Strategic Missile Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/576th_Strategic_Missile_Squadron) on 18 February 1959. The first Atlas-D flew on 9 September 1959, and following the successful launch, General Thomas S. Power, CINCSAC, declared the Atlas ICBM to be operational. The following month, equipped with a nuclear warhead, the Atlas at Vandenberg became the first ICBM to be placed on alert in the United States. It was an SM-69D Atlas ICBM (AFSN 58-2190) on launcher 576A-1. In April 1960, the first attempted launch of a Series D Atlas ICBM from a coffin-type launcher (576B-2) was successful. This launcher was the prototype of the ones to be used at the first operational Atlas squadron, the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron, [Francis E. Warren AFB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_E._Warren_AFB), Wyoming. Following this successful launch, Major General David Wade, Commander of the [1st Missile Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Missile_Division), declared the coffin-type launcher to be operational.

In July 1959, construction began on the first Series E Atlas ICBM coffin-type launcher (Atlas operational system test facility #1). On 28 February 1962, the first successful launch of the [SM-65E Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65E_Atlas) took place. Construction began on the first [SM-65F Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65F_Atlas) ICBM "silo-lift" launcher (Atlas operational system test facility #2) in November. The first Atlas F arrived in June 1961 and the first operationally configured Series F Atlas was successfully launched on 1 August 1962.

During its testing phase, Vandenberg would operate two Atlas-D launch complexes; two Atlas-E, and three Atlas-F silos. The Atlas-Ds were taken off alert at the 576th Strategic Missile Squadron (Complex 576B) in May 1964 as part of the phaseout of the Atlas from active ICBM service. The last Atlas F test launch was on 18 January 1965, and the 576th Strategic Missile Squadron was inactivated on 2 April 1966. The 576th SMS carried out 53 Atlas-D, 7 Atlas-E and 7 Atlas-F test launches between 1959-1965.

The Atlas would remain in use as a launch vehicle for satellites from Vandenberg as a space booster configured with an [RM-81 Agena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RM-81_Agena) upper stage rocket and the [Atlas-Agena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas-Agena) would launch many different types of satellites into orbit until its phaseout in the late 1980s.

**HGM-25A Titan I**

The [HGM-25A Titan I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HGM-25A_Titan_I) was the United States' first multistage ICBM. When designed and manufactured, the Titan I provided an additional nuclear deterrent to complement the U.S. Air Force's SM-65 Atlas missile. It was the first in a series of Titan rockets, and was an important step in building the Air Force's strategic nuclear forces.

In July 1958 construction began on the Titan I ICBM Operational System Test Facility (OSTF). This was the prototype of the hardened Titan I launch control facility at its operational sites. It consisted of one silo-lift launcher, blockhouse, and associated equipment. Designated "OSTF-8", the facility was destroyed on 3 December 1960 when the launcher elevator failed while lowering a fully fueled missile back into the silo. There were no injuries. This was the first silo accident at Vandenberg.

The first "silo-lift" launch of the Titan I was successful in September 1961, and the first SAC launch of the ICBM was successful in January 1962. As a result, the Titan I ICBM launch complex (395-A1/A2/A3) at Vandenberg was turned over to the [Strategic Air Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_Air_Command) [395th Strategic Missile Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/395th_Strategic_Missile_Squadron) to perform test launches of the missile.

The operational lifetime, however of the Titan I was short, as [Secretary of Defense McNamara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_McNamara) announced in November 1964 that all remaining first-generation ICBMs (Series E and F Atlas and Titan I) would be phased out (Project Added Effort) by the end of June 1965.

On 5 March 1965, the last test launch of a Titan I ICBM conducted by the Strategic Air Command at Vandenberg was successful. The 395th SMS performed 19 test launches between 1963-1965 before moving on to exclusively Titan II testing. During the 1980s, some Titan I second stages were used as targets for early [Strategic Defense Initiative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_Defense_Initiative) (SDI) testing.

**LGM-25C Titan II**

The [LGM-25C Titan II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-25C_Titan_II) ICBM was a second-generation ICBM with storable propellants, all inertial guidance, and in-silo launch capability. Construction of the first Titan II site began in 1962, and eventually Vandenberg operated four Titan II launch complexes.

Most of the testing of the missile was done at [Cape Canaveral AFS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Canaveral_AFS), Florida by the [6555th Aerospace Test Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6555th_Aerospace_Test_Group), and the first successful underground silo launch of a Titan II ICBM took place at Vandenberg by the 395th SMS in April 1963. The first fully operational test took place in March 1965.

On 25 March 1966, the 200th SAC missile launched from Vandenberg AFB, California was a Titan II. The operational testing of the Titan II continued until 1985. Like its predecessor the Atlas ICBM, the [Titan II GLV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_II_GLV) a derivative of that missile was used to launch [Project Gemini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_Gemini) spacecraft and the [Titan 23G](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_23G) was used as a space booster to launch satellites. The final launch of a Titan II was made in 2003 when the last Titan IIG was expended.

**LGM-30 Minuteman**

The advent of solid-propellant gave the three-stage [LGM-30 Minuteman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman) ICBM a major advantage over earlier liquid propellant ICBMs. In February 1961 Construction began on Minuteman ICBM test launch facilities at Vandenberg. Silos 394A-1 through A-7 were the first constructed for use by the SAC [394th Strategic Missile Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/394th_Strategic_Missile_Squadron).

[LGM-30A Minuteman IA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30A_Minuteman_IA) flight tests began in September 1962. The first Minuteman IB test took place in May 1963. On 24 February 1966, the first attempted salvo (simultaneous) launch of two model "A" Minuteman I ICBMs from Vandenberg silos LF-04 (394A-3) and LF-06 (394-A5) was successful. This launch demonstrated the multiple countdown and launch techniques that would be used at operational bases under actual combat conditions. Minuteman I testing continued until 1968.

[LGM-30F Minuteman II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30F_Minuteman_II) testing began in August 1965 with the first launch conducted by Air Force Systems Command, was successful. The missile flew 5,000 miles (8,000 km) down the Pacific Missile Range and its reentry vehicle impacted in the target area.

On 22 October 1970, the first attempted OT GT70F (Salvo) operational test launch (simultaneous) launch of two Minuteman II ICBMs was successful from LF-25 and LF-26. The last Minuteman II phase I operational test was performed in April 1972.

The first [LGM-30G Minuteman III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30G_Minuteman_III) phase II operational test was launched on 5 December 1972 from the LF-02 silo. The ICBM flew 800 miles (1,300 km) downrange before impacting in the Pacific Ocean. This was the beginning of Minuteman III launches which continue to this day from Vandenberg.

In July 1974, the initial training of Minuteman missile combat crews, formerly performed by Air Training Command (ATC) instructors at Vandenberg AFB, California, was incorporated into the 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron's Operational Readiness Training (ORT) program at Vandenberg. As a result of this action, the entire Minuteman missile combat training, from beginning (initial training) to end (upgrade training) became the responsibility of Strategic Air Command.

SAC launched two Minuteman III ICBMs from Vandenberg AFB during exercise Global Shield, a comprehensive exercise of SAC's nuclear forces on 10 July 1979 from LF 08 and LF 09. One of these Global Shield missions, Glory Trip 40 GM, was the last Minuteman III phase I operational test flight. The missiles were launched 12 seconds apart by a SAC task force from the [90th Strategic Missile Wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/90th_Strategic_Missile_Wing), [F. E. Warren AFB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F._E._Warren_AFB), Wyoming.

Glory Trip 77GM, a Minuteman III Operational Test in September 1980, became the longest Minuteman flight test when its payload impacted a broad ocean area target over 5,600 nautical miles (10,400 km) downrange.

**LGM-118 Peacekeeper**

The last ICBM tested from Vandenberg was the [LGM-118 Peacekeeper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-118_Peacekeeper) (MX) ICBM beginning in June 1983. In additional to having a longer range than earlier ICBMs, the Peacekeeper could deliver up to 10 reentry vehicles to separate targets. It was intended as a replacement for the LGM-30 Minuteman, but it suffered from a long development time, and was retired in 2005 before the Minuteman because of arms reduction treaties.

The first Peacekeeper ICBM was launched by Air Force Systems Command from an aboveground canister-type launch facility from TP-01 on 17 June 1983. This was the first "cold launch" of a missile at Vandenberg AFB, the missile reaching 600 mi (970 km) downrange. Two more test launches were conducted in 1983, the missile from TP-01.

The first Peacekeeper with a Mark-21 test reentry vehicle was flight-tested from TP-01 on 15 June 1984. The Mark-21 resembled the reentry vehicle intended for the Peacekeeper weapon system. Two more test launches were conducted in 1984, the missile from TP-01. Air Force Systems Command conducted the final Peacekeeper launch from the aboveground TP-01 launch pad on 30 June 1985.

The first silo launch from LF-05 took place on 24 August 1985 from LF-08. LF-02 began to be used in 1986 for additional launches. On 23 August 1986 the first launch of a completely operational hardware configured missile and launch facility, and also the first Peacekeeper launch by a SAC combat crew under the control of Air Force Systems Command took place from silo LF-02.

A new Peacekeeper Missile Procedures Trainer was dedicated in March 1987. The $17 million facility featured a state-of-the-art computer based simulator which would be used to train and evaluate missile crew members. The first LGM-118 Peacekeepers were deployed to [F.E. Warren AFB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F.E._Warren_AFB), Wyoming that year.

LGM-118 Peacekeeper test launches continued from Vandenberg with a third silo, LF-05 becoming operational in March 1990. The final launch of a LGM-118 Peacekeeper 33PA took place on 21 July 2004 before the missile was retired from service.

**Ground Based Midcourse Defense Interceptor**

The latest missile deployed at Vandenberg in 2005 is the [Ground-based Interceptor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground-Based_Midcourse_Defense) (GBI) missile Suborbital booster for the US Missile Defense Agency's Ground-based Midcourse Defense system's EKV ballistic missile kill vehicle. It is part of a [National missile defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_missile_defense) System advocated by President [George W. Bush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush). The OBV is under development by Orbital Sciences; for every interceptor missile there is a missile silo and a Silo Interface Vault (SIV), which is an underground electronics room adjacent to the silo. The basic OBV consists of the upper three stages and guidance system from the Taurus orbital launch vehicle (essentially a wingless Pegasus-XL). The developmental OBV is launched from an open pad; the operational version is to be silo-launched.

The first test firing of the OVB took place from a former Atlas-F pad, 576-E on 6-February 2003. Launch silo LF-23 is used for ongoing silo testing, with target missiles consisting of surplus inert Minuteman ICBM second and third stages being launched from the Kwajalein Meck launch site in the Pacific Range.

**Space exploration**

Vandenberg launched the world's first polar orbiting satellite, [Discoverer I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corona_(satellite)) on 28 February 1959. The launch vehicle for this mission consisted of a [Thor-Agena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thor-Agena) combination.

The Discoverer series of satellites provided other significant firsts for Vandenberg. For instance, in August 1960, the data capsule was ejected from [Discoverer XIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corona_(satellite)) in orbit and recovered from the [Pacific Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Ocean) to become the first man-made object ever retrieved from space. A week later, on 19 August, the descending capsule from [Discoverer XIV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corona_(satellite)) was snared by an aircraft in flight for the first air recovery in history.

Shrouded in a cover story of scientific research, Discoverer was actually the cover name for Corona, America's first photo reconnaissance satellite program. The publicized Discoverer series came to an end on 13 January 1962. After 37 launches or launch attempts, the cover story for Discoverer had simply worn out.

Over the years, unmanned satellites of every description and purpose, including international satellites, were placed in orbit from Vandenberg by a widening variety of boosters. Among the parade of newer space boosters are the [Titan IV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_IV) (March 1991), [Taurus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taurus_(rocket)) (March 1994), [Pegasus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pegasus_(rocket))(April 1995), [Delta II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_II) (February 1996), [Atlas IIAS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas_IIAS) (December 1999), [Minotaur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minotaur_(rocket_family)) (2000), and beginning in late 2005, the [Falcon 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_1), the [Delta IV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_IV), and [Atlas V](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas_V) vehicles.

The most ambitious Air Force endeavors at Vandenberg were the [Manned Orbiting Laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manned_Orbiting_Laboratory) (MOL) and the Space Shuttle programs. The MOL vehicle consisted of a [Titan III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_III) booster carrying a modified [Gemini space capsule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gemini_space_capsule) (Gemini B) attached to a space laboratory. Construction work for MOL began at Space Launch Complex 6 (SLC-6) on South Vandenberg in March 1966. President [Richard Nixon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Nixon) canceled the estimated $3 billion program in June 1969, as a result of cost overruns, completion delays, emerging new technologies, and the expense of fighting the [Vietnam War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War). SLC-6 remained closed for the next decade.

**Space Shuttle**



1985 photo of Space Shuttle Enterprise (OV-101) moving toward the shuttle assembly building at Vandenberg AFB Space Launch Complex 6 aboard its specially designed Cometto 76-wheel transporter. In the background are the payload changeout room and the payload preparation room.

In 1972, Vandenberg was selected as the West Coast [Space Shuttle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle) launch and landing site, but it was never used as such.

[Space Launch Complex 6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_6) (SLC-6, pronounced as "Slick Six"), originally built for the abandoned [Manned Orbital Laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manned_Orbital_Laboratory) project, was extensively modified for shuttle operations. Over $4 billion was spent on the modifications to the complex and construction of associated infrastructure. The original Mobile Service Tower (MST) was lowered in height and two new flame ducts were added for the shuttle's Solid Rocket Boosters. Additional modifications or improvements included liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen storage tanks, a payload preparation room, payload changeout room, a new launch tower with escape system for the shuttle crewmembers, sound suppression system and water reclamation area and a Shuttle Assembly Building were added to the original complex.

Additionally, the existing 8,500 foot (2,590 m) runway and overruns on the North Base flight line were lengthened to 15,000 feet (4580 m) to accommodate end-of-mission landings, along with construction of the Precision Approach and Path Indicator (PAPI) lights/large triangle arrows at both ends of the runway. Turn-around servicing and refurbishing of the Orbiter would be accomplished in the adjacent Orbiter Maintenance and Checkout Facility (OMCF). The Mate-Demate Facility, to load and unload the Orbiter from the 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft (SCA), was changed from the large structure found at Dryden Flight Research Center and Kennedy Space Center, to a transportable "erector set-like" Orbiter Lifting Frame (OLF). This facility design change was due to the possibility of needing to support a landing at a location where there was no facility to upload onto the SCA. The OLF could be disassembled, loaded onto two C-5 aircraft, shipped to the overseas Orbiter landing site, and reassembled to upload the Orbiter onto the 747. To transport the Orbiter from the OMCF (on North Vandenberg AFB) to SLC-6, the 22-mile (35 km) route was upgraded to accommodate a 76-wheeled vehicle built specifically to carry the Orbiter on its large flat deck utilizing the three external tank interface points (built by Commetto, Italy), versus towing the Orbiter on its landing gear that long distance.

Modification of SLC-6 to support polar missions had been problematic and expensive. SLC-6 was still being prepared for its first Shuttle launch, mission [STS-62-A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-62-A) targeted for October 15, 1986, when the [*Challenger* disaster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-51-L) grounded the Shuttle fleet and set in motion a chain of events that finally led to the decision to cancel all West Coast shuttle launches. The orbiter transporter was sent to KSC after the Vandenberg AFB launch site was abandoned and was used to transport the Orbiter from the Orbiter Processing Facility to the Vehicle Assembly Building.

Persistent site technical problems, however, and a joint decision by the Air Force and NASA to consolidate Shuttle operations at the [Kennedy Space Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kennedy_Space_Center) in Florida, following the Challenger tragedy in 1986, resulted in the official termination of the Shuttle program at Vandenberg on December 26, 1989.

Had the space shuttle program been successful at [SLC-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SLC-6), the West Coast operation would have contrasted with that at the Kennedy Space Center by creating the orbiter stack directly on the launch pad, rather than assembling it and then moving it. Three movable buildings on rails, the Launch Tower, Mobile Service Building and Payload Changeout Room were used to assemble the Shuttle orbiter, external tank and SRBs. These buildings were designed to protect the shuttle "stack" from high winds in the area and were used during a series of "fit tests" utilizing the space shuttle [*Enterprise*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle_Enterprise) in 1985.

**California Spaceport**

In 1995 the California Spaceport, operated by Spaceport Systems International was created at Vandenberg. The U.S. Air Force awarded a 25 year lease which included a payload processing facility and more than 100 acres (0.40 km2) of land for commercial launch facility construction.

The FAA-certified California Spaceport took advantage of Vandenberg's existing launch pads, runways, payload processing facilities, telemetry and tracking equipment. Work was completed in 2004 to build a rolling access gantry to support Minuteman and future Peacekeeper space booster derivatives. A new SLC 8 gantry was installed in 2005.

The Spaceport Systems International Commercial Launch Facility (CLF) Site was located just south of SLC 6 next to the evaporation ponds. The concern's Integrated Processing Facility (IPF) was originally built for the Space Shuttle Program at a cost in excess of $300 million. The building was designed to process three shuttle-class payloads simultaneously. The vertical sliding doors were modified to allow the transfer of encapsulated payloads from the IPF in support of EELV and other launch programs.

**Delta IV**

Since the demise of the shuttle program at Vandenberg, SLC 6 was once again been reconfigured, this time to support polar-orbit satellite launches by the new Delta IV family of launch vehicles, utilizing a Common Core Booster for class sizes all the way up to and including the [Delta IV (Heavy)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_IV_rocket) launcher. As it is currently configured, the 132-acre (0.53 km2) launch site features structures similar to Boeing's Delta IV SLC-37 launch site at [Cape Canaveral Air Force Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Canaveral_Air_Force_Station) in Florida, with a Fixed Umbilical Tower, Mobile Service Tower, Fixed Pad Erector, Launch Control Center and Operations Building, and a [Horizontal Integration Facility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horizontal_Integration_Facility). SLC-6 also features a Mobile Assembly Shelter that protects the rocket from adverse weather.

The first of the Delta IV launch vehicles to fly from SLC 6 successfully lifted off at 8:33 p.m. PDT on June 27, 2006 when a Delta IV Medium+ (4,2) rocket lofted NROL-22, a classified satellite for the [National Reconnaissance Office](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Reconnaissance_Office), into orbit. The payload was successfully deployed approximately 54 minutes later.

**Atlas V**

The Atlas V was developed by Lockheed Martin as part of the US Air Force [Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EELV) (EELV) program.  
The Atlas V launches from [Space Launch Complex 3-E](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_3). Lockheed Martin Commercial Launch Services markets the Atlas V to government and commercial customers worldwide.

The first Atlas V launch vehicle to fly from SLC 3-E was launched on March 19, 2008 for the National Reconnaissance Office.   
All Atlas V launches from Vandenberg have been successful.

**SpaceX Falcon**



[Falcon 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_1) on Pad 3W.

[SpaceX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SpaceX) briefly used SLC-3W during the early development of the [Falcon 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_1) launch vehicle.

Several test firings of the Falcon 1 were accomplished before SpaceX discovered that due to the overflight risk they would not be allowed to launch from [Space Launch Complex 3-West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_3) (SLC-3W) while launch vehicles were standing on adjacent launch sites. SpaceX selected to abandon SLC-3W and instead develop their [Omelek Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omelek_Island) launch site for Falcon 1. No government compensation was paid to SpaceX over this issue.

[SpaceX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SpaceX) will reactivate [Space Launch Complex 4-East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_4) (SLC 4E) for [Falcon Heavy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_Heavy) launches following a 24 month refurbishment that started in 2011. The draft [environmental impact assessment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_impact_assessment) with a finding of "no significant impact" was published in February 2011. As of August 2011, demolition work is underway on the pad's fixed and mobile service towers, with most of the fixed tower removed and the [hammerhead crane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammerhead_crane) removed from the mobile service tower.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. on 5 April 2011, [Elon Musk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk) stated, "Falcon Heavy will arrive at our Vandenberg, California, launch complex by the end of next year (2012), with liftoff to follow soon thereafter (2013)."

**Launch sites**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Active launch sites** | | |
| **Site** | **Status** | **Uses** |
| [Space Launch Complex 2E/W](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_2) (SLC 2W and SLC 2E) | Active | [34°45′05″N 120°37′09″W﻿ / ﻿34.75139°N 120.61917°W﻿ / 34.75139; -120.61917﻿ (SLC 2E)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_45_05_N_120_37_09_W_&title=SLC+2E) (SLC 2E Dec 1958-Mar 1972)  [34°45′19″N 120°37′20″W﻿ / ﻿34.75528°N 120.62222°W﻿ / 34.75528; -120.62222﻿ (SLC 2W)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_45_19_N_120_37_20_W_&title=SLC+2W) (SLC 2W Sep 1959-Active) SLC 2W is currently used for [Delta II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_II) launches. The launch sites were built in 1958 for the never activated 75th Strategic Missile Squadron [PGM-17 Thor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PGM-17_Thor) IRBM missile launches and were used by SAC for training RAF personnel in operations and launching of the missile. 2E launch pad 75-1-1, 2W launch pad 75-1-2. Upgraded to a Space Launch Complex (SLC) in 1966. Used for Thor-DM18A, Thor Able-Star, Thor-Agena USAF satellite launches. SLC 2E inactivated in 1972, last launch a Thor Delta 1A carrying a navigation satellite for European Space Agency. Landsat 1-2-3-4-5-7 American earth land resources satellites launched from SLC 2W, Global Positioning System and many communications satellites. First Thor-Delta launch 1959, Delta I, 1969, Delta II 6925 in 1990. |
| [Space Launch Complex 3-East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_3) (SLC 3E) | Active | [34°38′25″N 120°35′23″W﻿ / ﻿34.64028°N 120.58972°W﻿ / 34.64028; -120.58972﻿ (SLC 3E)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_38_25_N_120_35_23_W_&title=SLC+3E) (Jul 1961-Active)  SLC 3E is currently used for [Atlas V](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas_V) launches since March 13, 2008. Previously used for [Atlas II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas_II) (1999–2003); Atlas-H (1983–1987); Atlas-F/G, Atlas-Agena since 1961. Originally an Atlas test facility, designated PALC1-2, then LC1-2, and finally upgraded to a Space Launch Complex (SLC) in 1966. |
| [Space Launch Complex 6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_6) (SLC 6) | Active | [34°34′52″N 120°37′39″W﻿ / ﻿34.58111°N 120.6275°W﻿ / 34.58111; -120.6275﻿ (SLC 6)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_34_52_N_120_37_39_W_&title=SLC+6) (Aug 1995-Active)  SLC 6 is currently used for [**Delta IV**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_IV_rocket) launches. SLC 6 was built as a Space Launch Complex (SLC) between 1966 and 1969 for [Titan III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_III) Gemini-B [Manned Orbiting Laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manned_Orbiting_Laboratory) (MOL) flights which were canceled and was unused for 10 years. Then it was upgraded between 1979 and 1989 for [Space Shuttle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle) launches, canceled in part due to the Challenger accident and many unresolved technical issues and again was unused for several years. It was also considered for a second Titan launch facility but this was dropped in 1991. Supported [Athena 1 and 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athena_(rocket_family)) launch vehicles (1995–1999). Delta IV launches began in June 2006 for commercial and military payloads going into polar orbits. |
| [Space Launch Complex 8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_8) (SLC 8) | Active | [34°34′34″N 120°37′56″W﻿ / ﻿34.57611°N 120.63222°W﻿ / 34.57611; -120.63222﻿ (SLC 8)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_34_34_N_120_37_56_W_&title=SLC+8) (Jan 2000–Present)  SLC 8 is currently used for Commercial [**Minotaur**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minotaur_(rocket)) launches. It is known as the "California Spaceport". The facilities are operated by Spaceport Systems International. |
| [Launch Complex 576-E](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Launch_Complex_576) | Active | [34°44′22″N 120°37′08″W﻿ / ﻿34.73944°N 120.61889°W﻿ / 34.73944; -120.61889﻿ (LC 576-E)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_44_22_N_120_37_08_W_&title=LC+576-E)(Jan 1962-Dec 1964; Feb 1998-Active)  LC 576-E is used by Orbital Sciences Commercial [Taurus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taurus_(rocket)) launches and for USAF OBV [Ground Based Interceptor (GBI)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_Based_Interceptor_(GBI)) launches. Initially a 576th SMS [SM-65F Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65F_Atlas) Operational Suitability Test facility. Inactivated 1964. Reactivated in 1988 by Orbital Sciences. Also used by USAF OBV American anti-ballistic missile. Suborbital booster for the US Missile Defense Agency's Ground-based Midcourse Defense system's EKV ballistic missile kill vehicle. |
| **Inactive sites** | | |
| Space Launch Complex 1E/W (SLC 1E and SLC 1W) | Inactive | [34°45′22″N 120°37′35″W﻿ / ﻿34.75611°N 120.62639°W﻿ / 34.75611; -120.62639﻿ (SLC 1E)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_45_22_N_120_37_35_W_&title=SLC+1E) (SLC 1E Jun 1959-Sep 1968)  [34°45′26″N 120°37′50″W﻿ / ﻿34.75722°N 120.63056°W﻿ / 34.75722; -120.63056﻿ (SLC 1W)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_45_26_N_120_37_50_W_&title=SLC+1W) (SLC 1W Jan 1959-Dec 1971) Both sites were built in 1958 for the never activated 75th Strategic Missile Squadron for Thor Agena A launches. SLC-1E launch pad 75-3-5, SLC-1W launch pad 75-3-4. Both were upgraded to a Space Launch Complex (SLC) in 1966. Inactivated with phaseout of Thor-Agena. SLC-1E inactivated 1968, 45 Launches; SLC-1W inactivated in 1971, 56 launches. |
| [Space Launch Complex 3-West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_3) (SLC 3W) | Inactive | [34°38′37″N 120°35′34″W﻿ / ﻿34.64361°N 120.59278°W﻿ / 34.64361; -120.59278﻿ (SLC 3W)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_38_37_N_120_35_34_W_&title=SLC+3W) (Oct 1960-Mar 1995)  Activated in 1960. First designated LC1-1 and used to launch Atlas Agena B with Samos payloads. After Samos cancellation, rebuilt in 1963 to support launch of KH-4 Corona reconnaissance satellites atop Thor-Agena. Upgraded to a Space Launch Complex (SLC) in 1966. Used for later Thor-Agena and Delta I launches in 1960s and early 1970s. Refurbished in 1973 to accommodate surplus Atlas ICBM's in space launch role. Inactivated in 1995 with last Atlas-E launch of a weather satellite. SLC 3W's tower was demolished January 22, 2000 with no immediate plans for re-use except for speculation regarding the Atlas V under development.  [SpaceX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SpaceX) briefly used SLC-3W in 2008 during the early development of the [Falcon 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_1) launch vehicle. |
| [Space Launch Complex 4-East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_4) (SLC 4E) | Inactive | [34°37′55″N 120°36′36″W﻿ / ﻿34.63194°N 120.61°W﻿ / 34.63194; -120.61﻿ (SLC 4E)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_37_55_N_120_36_36_W_&title=SLC+4E) (Aug 1964-Oct 2005)  SLC 4E is planned for use by [SpaceX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SpaceX) for [**Falcon 9**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_9) and [**Falcon Heavy**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_Heavy) launches, date TBA.  Built in 1964 as [Atlas-Agena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas-Agena) D pad for launch of KH-7 reconnaissance satellites. First designated PALC2-4. Upgraded to a Space Launch Complex (SLC) in 1966. Redeveloped 1967-1971 for [Titan IIID](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_IIID) KH-9 and KH-11 reconnaissance satellites; [Titan 34D](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_34D) in 1983. Rebuilt 1988-1991 for [Titan IV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_IV). Inactivated in 2005 with end of Titan IV program. 68 Launches. |
| [Space Launch Complex 4-West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_4) (SLC 4W) | Inactive | [34°37′59″N 120°36′56″W﻿ / ﻿34.63306°N 120.61556°W﻿ / 34.63306; -120.61556﻿ (SLC 4W)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_37_59_N_120_36_56_W_&title=SLC+4W) (July 1963-Oct 2003)  Built in 1963 as [Atlas-Agena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas-Agena) D pad for launch of KH-7 reconnaissance satellites. First designated PALC2-3. Upgraded to a Space Launch Complex (SLC) in 1966. Rebuilt 1965-1966 for [Titan IIIB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titan_IIIB) with various military payloads. Began launching Titan 23/24B (Titan III core rocket) also Titan 34B MOL core rocket with Agena upper stage in 1971-1987. Modified to accommodate former [LGM-25C Titan II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-25C_Titan_II) ICBMs for space launch vehicles (Titan IIG), 1988. Inactivated in 2003 with last Titan IIG expended. 93 Launches |
| [Space Launch Complex 5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_5) (SLC 5) | Inactive | [34°36′28″N 120°37′27″W﻿ / ﻿34.60778°N 120.62417°W﻿ / 34.60778; -120.62417﻿ (SLC 5)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_36_28_N_120_37_27_W_&title=SLC+5) (Apr 1962-May 1994)  Dedicated [Scout](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scout_rocket) rocket launch pad, used during the life of that vehicle from 1962 to 1994. 69 launches. |
| [Space Launch Complex 10E/W](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_AFB_Space_Launch_Complex_10) (SLC 10E and SLC 10W) | Inactive | [34°45′45″N 120°37′17″W﻿ / ﻿34.7625°N 120.62139°W﻿ / 34.7625; -120.62139﻿ (SLC 10E)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_45_45_N_120_37_17_W_&title=SLC+10E) (SLC 10E Jun 1959-Mar 1962)  [34°45′49″N 120°37′29″W﻿ / ﻿34.76361°N 120.62472°W﻿ / 34.76361; -120.62472﻿ (SLC 10W)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_45_49_N_120_37_29_W_&title=SLC+10W) (SLC 10W Aug 1959-Jul 1980) [34°45′51″N 120°37′22″W﻿ / ﻿34.76417°N 120.62278°W﻿ / 34.76417; -120.62278﻿ (SLC 10 NHL)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_45_51_N_120_37_22_W_&title=SLC+10+NHL) Space and Missile Heritage Center SLC 10E (launch pad 75-2-7) and SLC 10W (75-2-6) activated as a Thor-Delta (DM-18A) pads in 1959. Upgraded to a Space Launch Complex (SLC) in 1961. From 1961 to 1962, SLC-10E was known as LE-7 (Launch Emplacement 7) 10E inactivated 1962. 10W continued launch operations with various configurations of the Thor-Delta until the phaseout of the vehicle in 1980. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1986, SLC 10 is the best surviving example of a launch complex built in the 1950s at the beginning of the American effort to explore space. It is home to the Space and Missile Heritage Center, which is open by appointment through the Base Public Affairs office for public tours. |
| **Active ICBM Testing sites** | | |
| 394-A2\* (former) LF-03 (current) | Active | [34°50′46″N 120°34′52″W﻿ / ﻿34.84611°N 120.58111°W﻿ / 34.84611; -120.58111﻿ (LF-03)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_50_46_N_120_34_52_W_&title=LF-03)  394-A2 (Apr-Dec 1963), LF-03 (Jan 1964–Present) [LGM-30 Minuteman I/II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman); [Minotaur II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minotaur_II) testing. Originally a Minuteman 394th SMS silo, first launch April 1963. Upgraded for use as a Launch Facility in 1964, Used for Minuteman testing until July 2001. Currently modified to launch the Minotaur. 97 launches. |
| 394-A3 (former) LF-04 (current) | Active | [34°51′32″N 120°36′24″W﻿ / ﻿34.85889°N 120.60667°W﻿ / 34.85889; -120.60667﻿ (LF-04)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_51_32_N_120_36_24_W_&title=LF-04)  394-A3 (Sep 1962-Dec 1963), LF-04 (Jan 1964–Present) [LGM-30 Minuteman I/II/III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman) testing; first launch, September 1962. |
| LF-10 (former) LCC-01 (Current) | Active | [34°51′39″N 120°35′00″W﻿ / ﻿34.86083°N 120.5833333°W﻿ / 34.86083; -120.5833333﻿ (LF-10)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_51_39_N_120_35_00_W_&title=LF-10) [LGM-30G Minuteman III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30G_Minuteman_III), first launch July 1987. This is now a pair of Launch Control Centers with LCC 01-A on the left, and LCC 01-B on the right. |
| LF-21 | Active | [34°51′39″N 120°35′44″W﻿ / ﻿34.86083°N 120.59556°W﻿ / 34.86083; -120.59556﻿ (LF-21)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_51_39_N_120_35_44_W_&title=LF-21) [LGM-30 Minuteman I/II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman), [Ground Based Interceptor (GBI)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_Based_Interceptor_(GBI)) testing; first launch August 1965. |
| LF-23 | Active | [34°51′20″N 120°35′49″W﻿ / ﻿34.85556°N 120.59694°W﻿ / 34.85556; -120.59694﻿ (LF-23)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_51_20_N_120_35_49_W_&title=LF-23) [LGM-30F Minuteman II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30F_Minuteman_II). Surprisingly, only one Minuteman launch, on August 26, 1966. Since 2003 it has been used for [Ground Based Interceptor (GBI)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_Based_Interceptor_(GBI)) launches. |
| LF-24 | Active | [34°51′24″N 120°36′08″W﻿ / ﻿34.85667°N 120.60222°W﻿ / 34.85667; -120.60222﻿ (LF-24)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_51_24_N_120_36_08_W_&title=LF-24) [LGM-30F Minuteman II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30F_Minuteman_II) testing; first launch December 1965. Mothballed 1971. LF-24 is currently being refurbished as a backup for Pad LF-23 missile defense launches. |
| TP-01 | Active | [34°48′15″N 120°35′20″W﻿ / ﻿34.80417°N 120.58889°W﻿ / 34.80417; -120.58889﻿ (TP-01)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_48_15_N_120_35_20_W_&title=TP-01) [LGM-118 Peacekeeper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-118_Peacekeeper), [MGM-134 Midgetman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MGM-134_Midgetman) SICBM (Small Intercontinental Ballistic Missile); first launch June 1983. Also is a candidate site for [Ground Based Interceptor (GBI)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_Based_Interceptor_(GBI)) launches. |
| **Inactive ICBM sites** | | |
| 395-A 1/2/3 | Inactive | [34°48′23″N 120°32′39″W﻿ / ﻿34.80639°N 120.54417°W﻿ / 34.80639; -120.54417﻿ (395 Alpha 1)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_48_23_N_120_32_39_W_&title=395+Alpha+1) 395 Alpha 1 (Sep 1961-Dec 1964)  [34°48′19″N 120°32′42″W﻿ / ﻿34.80528°N 120.545°W﻿ / 34.80528; -120.545﻿ (395 Alpha 2)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_48_19_N_120_32_42_W_&title=395+Alpha+2) 395 Alpha 2 (Mar 1963-Mar 1965) [34°48′23″N 120°32′42″W﻿ / ﻿34.80639°N 120.545°W﻿ / 34.80639; -120.545﻿ (395 Alpha 3)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_48_23_N_120_32_42_W_&title=395+Alpha+3) 395 Alpha 3 (Jan 1962-Jan 1965) [HGM-25A Titan I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HGM-25A_Titan_I), 3 operational alert sites. First Titan I launch 3 May 1961, last 14 January 1965. Primarily used for Research and development launches. |
| 395-B | Inactive | [34°46′57″N 120°36′25″W﻿ / ﻿34.7825°N 120.60694°W﻿ / 34.7825; -120.60694﻿ (395-B)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_46_57_N_120_36_25_W_&title=395-B) [LGM-25C Titan II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-25C_Titan_II), This was a test and training facility, (1964–1969) |
| 395-C | Inactive | [34°44′02″N 120°35′47″W﻿ / ﻿34.73389°N 120.59639°W﻿ / 34.73389; -120.59639﻿ (395-C)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_44_02_N_120_35_47_W_&title=395-C) [LGM-25C Titan II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-25C_Titan_II), This was a test and training facility and was the site of the first Titan II launch at Vandenberg AFB. In December 1969 complexes B and D were deactivated and complex C was mothballed, but was occasionally used for more Titan II launches. (1963–1976) |
| 395-D | Inactive | [34°42′27″N 120°35′22″W﻿ / ﻿34.7075°N 120.58944°W﻿ / 34.7075; -120.58944﻿ (395-D)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_42_27_N_120_35_22_W_&title=395-D) [LGM-25C Titan II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-25C_Titan_II), This was a test and training facility, (1963–1969) |
| Site A - 576 Alpha 1/2/3 | Inactive | [34°46′36″N 120°36′06″W﻿ / ﻿34.77667°N 120.60167°W﻿ / 34.77667; -120.60167﻿ (576 Alpha 1)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_46_36_N_120_36_06_W_&title=576+Alpha+1) 576 Alpha 1 (Oct 1962-Sep 1974)  [34°46′51″N 120°36′00″W﻿ / ﻿34.78083°N 120.6°W﻿ / 34.78083; -120.6﻿ (576 Alpha 2)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_46_51_N_120_36_00_W_&title=576+Alpha+2) 576 Alpha 2 (Sep 1959-Aug 1971) [34°46′39″N 120°35′48″W﻿ / ﻿34.7775°N 120.59667°W﻿ / 34.7775; -120.59667﻿ (576 Alpha 3)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_46_39_N_120_35_48_W_&title=576+Alpha+3) 576 Alpha 3 (Jan 1960-Oct 1989) [SM-65D Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65D_Atlas) The very first Atlas D operational ICBM sites, these were above ground with open support towers. These missiles were on alert from 31 October 1959 until 1 May 1964. After going off alert in 1964, Alpha 1 and 2 were used by the USAF for Atlas satellite rocket launches until 1974; Alpha 3 was used by the American Rocket Corporation until 1989 developing a new rocket motor utilizing a solid fuel and liquid oxygen that was throttleable and restartable. Noted on image that 576 Alpha 3 still has a launch gantry tower. |
| Site B - 576 Baker 1/2/3 | Inactive | [34°47′36″N 120°35′41″W﻿ / ﻿34.79333°N 120.59472°W﻿ / 34.79333; -120.59472﻿ (576 Baker 1)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_47_36_N_120_35_41_W_&title=576+Baker+1) 576 Baker 1 (Jul 1960-Jun 1966)  [34°47′27″N 120°35′30″W﻿ / ﻿34.79083°N 120.59167°W﻿ / 34.79083; -120.59167﻿ (576 Baker 2)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_47_27_N_120_35_30_W_&title=576+Baker+2) 576 Baker 2 (Apr 1960-Nov 1967) [34°47′23″N 120°35′45″W﻿ / ﻿34.78972°N 120.59583°W﻿ / 34.78972; -120.59583﻿ (576 Baker 3)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_47_23_N_120_35_45_W_&title=576+Baker+3) 576 Baker 3 (Sep 1960-Oct 1967) [SM-65D Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65D_Atlas), Site 1 was active from July 22, 1960 to June 10, 1966. Site 2 was active from June 19, 1959 to November 7, 1967. Site 3 was active from September 12, 1960 to January 21, 1965, then was used for the space program from May 27, 1965 to October 11, 1967. |
| Site C - 576 Charlie | Inactive | [34°48′32″N 120°35′01″W﻿ / ﻿34.80889°N 120.58361°W﻿ / 34.80889; -120.58361﻿ (576 Charlie)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_48_32_N_120_35_01_W_&title=576+Charlie)  [SM-65E Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65E_Atlas), built 1963. The Atlas E would normally be semi-buried, but at Vandenberg it was constructed above ground for testing but resembled a normal site in most respects. 3 Atlas Demonstration and shakedown operations launches July–September 1963 then inactivated. |
| Site D - 576 Delta | Inactive | [34°49′14″N 120°33′25″W﻿ / ﻿34.82056°N 120.55694°W﻿ / 34.82056; -120.55694﻿ (576 Delta)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_49_14_N_120_33_25_W_&title=576+Delta)  [SM-65F Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65F_Atlas), Built 1963, inactivated 1964. Atlas F Operational Suitability Test facility, the second for the Atlas ICBM perhaps because of significant differences with the earlier Atlas missiles. 2 Atlas Demonstration and shakedown operations launches March–August 1963 then inactivated. |
| Site F - 576 Foxtrot (Also known as OSTF-1) | Inactive | [34°47′46″N 120°35′20″W﻿ / ﻿34.79611°N 120.58889°W﻿ / 34.79611; -120.58889﻿ (576 Foxtrot (OSTF-1))](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_47_46_N_120_35_20_W_&title=576+Foxtrot+%28OSTF-1%29)  [SM-65E Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65E_Atlas), Operational Suitability Test Facility for Atlas E missiles. 10 Atlas Research and development launches June 1961-August 1964 then inactivated. |
| Site G - 576 Golf (Also known as OSTF-2) | Inactive | [34°49′21″N 120°33′37″W﻿ / ﻿34.8225°N 120.56028°W﻿ / 34.8225; -120.56028﻿ (576 Golf (OSTF-2))](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_49_21_N_120_33_37_W_&title=576+Golf+%28OSTF-2%29)  [SM-65F Atlas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SM-65F_Atlas), Operational Suitability Test Facility for Atlas F missiles. 7 Atlas Research and development launches August 1962-January 1965 then inactivated. |
| BOM1/BOM2 | Inactive | [34°48′02″N 120°35′57″W﻿ / ﻿34.80056°N 120.59917°W﻿ / 34.80056; -120.59917﻿ (BOM1/BOM2)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_48_02_N_120_35_57_W_&title=BOM1%2FBOM2)  Used for [CIM-10 Bomarc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CIM-10_Bomarc) interceptors. 2 Bomarc launchers with a third support building in between the two shelters. [United States Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy) personnel at Vandenberg launched the missiles strictly as targets with the first launch of a CIM-10 Bomarc A taking place on 25 August 1966. The last two launches of CIM-10Bs as targets for a Navy test program occurred on 14 July 1982. BOM1 49 launches; BOM2 38 launches. |
| HP-06 | Inactive | [34°48′13″N 120°36′02″W﻿ / ﻿34.80361°N 120.60056°W﻿ / 34.80361; -120.60056﻿ (HP-06)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_48_13_N_120_36_02_W_&title=HP-06)  [BGM-109 Tomahawk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BGM-109_Tomahawk) Ground Launched Cruise Missile Used for one launch of a BGM-109 GCLM on 22 October 1985. |
| OSTF-8 | Inactive | [34°48′15″N 120°32′46″W﻿ / ﻿34.80417°N 120.54611°W﻿ / 34.80417; -120.54611﻿ (OSTF-8)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_48_15_N_120_32_46_W_&title=OSTF-8) [HGM-25A Titan I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HGM-25A_Titan_I), Operational Suitability Test Facility. This site was destroyed on December 3, 1960 when the elevator failed while lowering a fully fueled missile back into the silo. |
| 68-SLTF | Inactive | [34°48′25″N 120°32′57″W﻿ / ﻿34.80694°N 120.54917°W﻿ / 34.80694; -120.54917﻿ (68-SLTF)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_48_25_N_120_32_57_W_&title=68-SLTF) [LGM-25C Titan II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-25C_Titan_II), Silo Launch Test Facility for Titan II, though in fact the only missile launched was a Titan I on May 3, 1961. The facility was only intended to prove the design of a silo that could fire a missile, and to try out construction methods; later it became the Titan II Operations and Maintenance Missile Trainer (QMT) |
| LC-A | Inactive | [34°40′44″N 120°35′32″W﻿ / ﻿34.67889°N 120.59222°W﻿ / 34.67889; -120.59222﻿ (LC-A)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_40_44_N_120_35_32_W_&title=LC-A) Launch Complex A, Formerly Launch Complex A, Naval Missile Facility, Point Arguello (PALC-A). Used for Blue Scout Jr; Nike Javelin; Honest John; Black Brant; Astrobee 1500, Nike Asp; Seagull, and Dac Roc sounding rockets from 1959 to 1966 |
| LC-B | Inactive | [34°40′07″N 120°35′53″W﻿ / ﻿34.66861°N 120.59806°W﻿ / 34.66861; -120.59806﻿ (LC-B)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_40_07_N_120_35_53_W_&title=LC-B) Formerly Launch Complex B, Naval Missile Facility, Point Arguello (PALC-B). Used for Nike Viper I; Terrier Asp IV, Kiva/Hope; Deacon Arrow II;, Nike Cajun, and Astrobee 1500 sounding rockets from 1960 to 1963 |
| 394-A1 (former) LF-02 (current) | Inactive | [34°50′41″N 120°35′05″W﻿ / ﻿34.84472°N 120.58472°W﻿ / 34.84472; -120.58472﻿ (LF-02)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_50_41_N_120_35_05_W_&title=LF-02)  394-A1 (Apr-Dec 1963), LF-02 (Jan 1964-Jul 2004) [LGM-30 Minuteman I/II/III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman); [LGM-118 Peacekeeper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-118_Peacekeeper) testing. Originally a Minuteman 394th SMS silo, first launch April 1963. Upgraded for use as a Launch Facility in 1964, Used for Minuteman until July 1975. Modified for Peacekeeper use in 1986, Used for LGM-118 until July 2004. 76 launches. |
| 394-A4 (former) LF-05 (current) | Inactive | [34°51′44″N 120°36′34″W﻿ / ﻿34.86222°N 120.60944°W﻿ / 34.86222; -120.60944﻿ (LF-05)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_51_44_N_120_36_34_W_&title=LF-05)  394-A4 (Sep 1962-Dec 1963), LF-05 (Feb 1964-Mar 2000) [LGM-30 Minuteman I/II/III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman); [LGM-118 Peacekeeper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-118_Peacekeeper) testing; first launch December 1962. Last Minuteman launch October 1976. Modified for use by Peacekeeper in 1989, first LGM-118 launch March 1990. Last launch March 2000. |
| 394-A5 (former) LF-06 (current) | Inactive | [34°52′58″N 120°38′09″W﻿ / ﻿34.88278°N 120.63583°W﻿ / 34.88278; -120.63583﻿ (LF-06)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_52_58_N_120_38_09_W_&title=LF-06)  394-A5 (Jul-Dec 1963), LF-06 (Feb 1964-Aug 2007) [LGM-30 Minuteman I/II/III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman). First launch, April 1963, last Aug 2007. LF-06 is also is a candidate site for [Ground Based Interceptor (GBI)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_Based_Interceptor_(GBI)) launches. |
| 394-A6 (former) LF-07 (current) | Inactive | [34°53′09″N 120°38′01″W﻿ / ﻿34.88583°N 120.63361°W﻿ / 34.88583; -120.63361﻿ (LF-07)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_53_09_N_120_38_01_W_&title=LF-07)  394-A6 (May-Nov 1963), LF-07 (Jan 1964-Nov 1987) [LGM-30 Minuteman I/II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman) testing; first launch May 1963, Last Launch November 1987. |
| 394-A7 (former) LF-08 (current) | Inactive | [34°51′02″N 120°35′54″W﻿ / ﻿34.85056°N 120.59833°W﻿ / 34.85056; -120.59833﻿ (LF-08)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_51_02_N_120_35_54_W_&title=LF-08)  394-A7 (Sep 1963), LF-08 (Aug 1964-1994) [LGM-30 Minuteman I/II/III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman); [LGM-118 Peacekeeper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-118_Peacekeeper) testing. First launch September 1963. Last Minuteman Launch Jan 1984. Modified for Peacekeeper use in 1986, Used for LGM-118 until Jun 1991. Converted Astrid (a test vehicle to demonstrate laser-pumped propulsion in 1994). LF-08 is actually two launch pads. One is apparently called LF-08, and the other LF-08/Rail. The latter appears to be one of the very small pads inside the LF-08 enclosure. |
| LF-09 | Inactive | [34°52′43″N 120°38′01″W﻿ / ﻿34.87861°N 120.63361°W﻿ / 34.87861; -120.63361﻿ (LF-09)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_52_43_N_120_38_01_W_&title=LF-09) [LGM-30 Minuteman I/II/III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman) testing; first launch June 1964, Inactivated 2006 |
| LF-22 (former) LF-10 (Current) | Inactive | [34°51′02″N 120°35′38″W﻿ / ﻿34.85056°N 120.59389°W﻿ / 34.85056; -120.59389﻿ (LF-22)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_51_02_N_120_35_38_W_&title=LF-22) [LGM-30 Minuteman I/II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman) testing; first launch October 1965, Inactivated 1975 |
| LF-25 | Inactive | [34°52′56″N 120°37′47″W﻿ / ﻿34.88222°N 120.62972°W﻿ / 34.88222; -120.62972﻿ (LF-25)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_52_56_N_120_37_47_W_&title=LF-25) [Minuteman II/III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman) testing; first launch February 1966, Inactivated 1976 |
| LF-26 | Inactive | [34°53′18″N 120°38′12″W﻿ / ﻿34.88833°N 120.63667°W﻿ / 34.88833; -120.63667﻿ (LF-26)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_53_18_N_120_38_12_W_&title=LF-26) [Minuteman II/III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-30_Minuteman) testing; first launch January 1966, Inactivated 2006. |
| LE-07 | Inactive | [34°46′01″N 120°37′06″W﻿ / ﻿34.76694°N 120.61833°W﻿ / 34.76694; -120.61833﻿ (LE-07)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_46_01_N_120_37_06_W_&title=LE-07)  [PGM-17 Thor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PGM-17_Thor) Used by Royal Air Force for 2 test launches, 6 September 1961 and 19 March 1962. Inactivated afterwards. |
| LE-08 | Inactive | [34°45′54″N 120°36′58″W﻿ / ﻿34.765°N 120.61611°W﻿ / 34.765; -120.61611﻿ (LE-08)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_45_54_N_120_36_58_W_&title=LE-08)  Used by: Delta. First Launch: 1959-04-16. Last Launch: 1962-06-19. Originally a Thor 75 SMS [PGM-17 Thor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PGM-17_Thor) IRBM pad 75-2-8. Used by RAF for launch training, Number Launches: 7. Upgraded for use as a launch emplacement in 1961, inactivated in June 1962 after 2 Royal Air Force test launches. |
| PLC-C | Inactive | [34°36′34″N 120°37′42″W﻿ / ﻿34.60944°N 120.62833°W﻿ / 34.60944; -120.62833﻿ (PLC-C)](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Vandenberg_Air_Force_Base&params=34_36_34_N_120_37_42_W_&title=PLC-C) Probe Launch Complex C, used for [Aerobee-170](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aerobee) and [TE-416 Tomahawk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TE-416_Tomahawk) sounding rockets. |

As of November 2005, 1,858 orbital and ballistic missiles had lifted off from Vandenberg AFB.

**Space and Missile Heritage Center**

The Space and Missile Heritage Center preserves and displays artifacts and memorabilia to interpret the evolution of missile and space lift activity at Vandenberg from the beginning of the [Cold War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War) through current non-classified developments in military, commercial, and scientific space endeavors.

The initial display area is made up of two exhibits, the "Chronology of the Cold War" and the "Evolution of Technology". The exhibits incorporate a combination of launch complex models, launch consoles, rocket engines, re-entry vehicles, audiovisual and computer displays as well as hands-on interaction where appropriate. The Center will evolve in stages from these initial exhibit areas as restorations of additional facilities are completed.

The Center is located at Space Launch Complex 10, site of the first [IRBM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IRBM) tests of the [Thor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thor_(rocket)) and Discoverer (aka [Corona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CORONA) [spy satellite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spy_satellite)) series of launches. It is Vandenberg's only National Historic Landmark that is open for regularly scheduled tours through the 30th Space Wing's Public Affairs office.

**Major commands to which assigned**

* [Air Research and Development Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Research_and_Development_Command), 21 June 1957
* [Strategic Air Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_Air_Command), 1 January 1958
* [Air Force Space Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Force_Space_Command), 15 January 1991 – Present

**Major units assigned**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * [1st Strategic Aerospace Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Strategic_Aerospace_Division), 16 July 1957 – 1 September 1991 * [392d Strategic Missile Wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/392d_Strategic_Missile_Wing), 18 October – 20 December 1961 * Space and Missile Test Center, 1 April 1970-1 July 1980 * Air Force Space Test Center, Provisional, 2 January-15 May 1964 * Air Force Western Test Range, 5 May 1964-1 Apr 1970   Re-designated: Western Space and Missile Center, 1 Oct 1979  Re-designated [30th Space Wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Space_Wing), 1 November 1991-Present   * [704th Strategic Missile Wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/704th_Strategic_Missile_Wing) (ICBM), 1 July 1957-1 July 1959 * 6565th Test Wing, 20 October 1960   Re-designated: [6595th Aerospace Test Wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6595th_Aerospace_Test_Wing), 1 April 1961-1 October 1979   * [10th Aerospace Defense Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_Aerospace_Defense_Group), 1 January 1967-31 December 1971 (Aerospace Defense Command) * [30th Launch Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Launch_Group), 1 December 2003 – Present * [30th Operations Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Operations_Group), 19 November 1991 – Present * 6595th Missile Test Group, 1 May 1970-1 October 1990 * 6595th Space (later Satellite, later Aerospace) Test Group, 1 May 1970-1 October 1990 * 6595th Space Transportation (later Shuttle) Test Group, 21 May 1979-30 September 1987 * [2d Space Launch Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2d_Space_Launch_Squadron), 19 Nov 1991-31 Oct 2005 * [4th Space Launch Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th_Space_Launch_Squadron), 15 Apr 1994-29 Jun 1998; 1 Dec 2003–Present | * [10th Aerospace Defense Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_Aerospace_Defense_Squadron), 15 November 1963 – 1 January 1967; 31 December 1970-1 November 1979 * 394th Missile Testing Squadron (ICBM-Atlas), 1 April-15 December 1958 * [394th Strategic Missile Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/394th_Strategic_Missile_Squadron) (ICBM-Titan), 1 July 1960-30 June 1976   Re-designated: 394th Test Maintenance Squadron, 1 July 1976  Re-designated: 394th Operational Missile Maintenance Squadron, 1 September 1991  Re-designated: 394th Field Missile Maintenance Squadron, 1 September 1994-Present   * [395th Strategic Missile Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/395th_Strategic_Missile_Squadron) (ICBM-Titan), 1 February 1959-31 December 1969 * [576th Strategic Missile Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/576th_Strategic_Missile_Squadron) (ICBM-Atlas), 1 April 1958-2 April 1966   Re-designated: [576th Flight Test Squadron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/576th_Flight_Test_Squadron), 1 September 1991–Present  Assigned to [Air Force Global Strike Command](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Force_Global_Strike_Command), 1 December 2009 – present   * 644th Strategic Missile Squadron, 15 January-1 November 1959 * 670th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, 5 May 1950-2 August 1951 * 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron, 1 May 1958-15 January 1991 |

**Geography**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vandenberg Air Force Base** | |
| — [census-designated place](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Census-designated_place) — | |
| [Country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries) | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) |
| [State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_divisions_of_the_United_States) | [California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California) |
| [County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_counties_in_California) | [Santa Barbara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Barbara_County,_California) |
| Area | |
| • Total | 22.121 sq mi (57.294 km2) |
| • Land | 22.034 sq mi (57.068 km2) |
| • Water | 0.087 sq mi (0.226 km2) 0.39% |
| Elevation | 512 ft (156 m) |
| Population (2010) | |
| • Total | 3,338 |
| • Density | 150/sq mi (58/km2) |
| [Time zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [Pacific (PST)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Time_Zone) ([UTC-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC-8)) |
| • Summer ([DST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)) | PDT ([UTC-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC-7)) |
| [ZIP Code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ZIP_Code) |  |
| [GNIS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_Names_Information_System) feature ID | 2409501 |
| [U.S. Geological Survey Geographic Names Information System: Vandenberg Air Force Base](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/f?p=gnispq:3:::NO::P3_FID:2409501) | |

According to the [United States Census Bureau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau), the base has a total area of 57.3 km2 (22.1 sq mi). 57.1 km2 (22.0 sq mi) of it is land and 0.087 km2 (0.034 sq mi) of it (0.39%) is water.

Much of the base is rugged, mountainous, and undeveloped; predominant groundcover includes [chaparral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaparral) with [coastal sage scrub](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coastal_sage_scrub) and [oak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak) woodland. Because of its protected nature—none of the backcountry areas are open to the public or to any kind of development—the base contains some of the highest quality coastal habitat remaining in southern or central California. It is home to numerous threatened or endangered species, including [Gambel's watercress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasturtium_gambelii) (*Nasturtium gambelii*). The western terminus of the [Santa Ynez Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Ynez_Mountains) is on the base, and is dominated by Tranquillion Peak, which rises 2,297 feet (700 m) above sea level. An optical tracking station is located at the top of the peak, which overlooks the various space launch complexes.

**Demographics**

The United States Census Bureau has designated the base as its own census-designated place for statistical purposes.

**2010**

The [2010 United States Census](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census) reported that Vandenberg AFB had a population of 3,338. The [population density](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_density) was 150.9 people per square mile (58.3/km²). The racial makeup of Vandenberg AFB was 2,317 (69.4%) [White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_(U.S._Census)), 307 (9.2%) [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American_(U.S._Census)), 26 (0.8%) [Native American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_(U.S._Census)), 207 (6.2%) [Asian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_(U.S._Census)), 24 (0.7%) [Pacific Islander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Islander_(U.S._Census)), 140 (4.2%) from [other races](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_(United_States_Census)), and 317 (9.5%) from two or more races. [Hispanic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic_(U.S._Census)) or [Latino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latino_(U.S._Census)) of any race were 616 persons (18.5%).

The Census reported that 2,952 people (88.4% of the population) lived in households, 378 (11.3%) lived in non-institutionalized group quarters, and 8 (0.2%) were institutionalized.

There were 858 households, out of which 655 (76.3%) had children under the age of 18 living in them, 730 (85.1%) were [opposite-sex married couples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage) living together, 57 (6.6%) had a female householder with no husband present, 31 (3.6%) had a male householder with no wife present. There were 4 (0.5%) [unmarried opposite-sex partnerships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/POSSLQ), and 3 (0.3%) [same-sex married couples or partnerships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_partnerships). 38 households (4.4%) were made up of individuals and 1 (0.1%) had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 3.44. There were 818 [families](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_(U.S._Census)) (95.3% of all households); the average family size was 3.54.

The population was spread out with 1,287 people (38.6%) under the age of 18, 610 people (18.3%) aged 18 to 24, 1,338 people (40.1%) aged 25 to 44, 97 people (2.9%) aged 45 to 64, and 6 people (0.2%) who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 22.5 years. For every 100 females there were 118.0 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 124.4 males.

There were 1,035 housing units at an average density of 46.8 per square mile (18.1/km²), of which 12 (1.4%) were owner-occupied, and 846 (98.6%) were occupied by renters. The homeowner vacancy rate was 0%; the rental vacancy rate was 2.2%. 25 people (0.7% of the population) lived in owner-occupied housing units and 2,927 people (87.7%) lived in rental housing units.

**2000**

As of the [census](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Census) of 2000, there were 6,151 people, 1,707 households, and 1,601 families residing in the base. The [population density](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_density) was 107.7/km2 (278.8/mi2). There were 1,992 housing units at an average density of 34.9/km2 (90.3/mi2). The racial makeup of the base was 72.3% [White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_(U.S._Census)), 11.7% [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American_(U.S._Census)), 0.5% [Native American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_(U.S._Census)), 3.9% [Asian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_(U.S._Census)), 0.7% [Pacific Islander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Islander_(U.S._Census)), 5.0% from [other races](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_(United_States_Census)), and 6.0% from two or more races. [Hispanic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic_(U.S._Census)) or [Latino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latino_(U.S._Census)) of any race were 11.1% of the population.

There are 1,707 households, out of which 71.8% have children under the age of 18 living with them, 87.2% were [married couples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage) living together, 3.8% had a female householder with no husband present, and 6.2% were non-families. 5.4% of all households were made up of individuals and none had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 3.33 and the average family size was 3.44.

In the base, the population was spread out with 38.0% under the age of 18, 15.2% from 18 to 24, 44.7% from 25 to 44, 1.9% from 45 to 64, and 0.2% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 24 years. For every 100 females there were 109.0 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 116.2 males.

The median income for a household in the base was $39,444, and the median income for a family was $40,000. Males had a median income of $27,352 versus $22,283 for females. The [per capita income](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Per_capita_income) for the base was $13,570. About 6.0% of families and 7.1% of the population were below the [poverty line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty_line), including 10.4% of those under age 18 and none of those age 65 or over.

Vandenberg supports a population greater than 18,000 composed of military, family members, government contractors, and civilian employees.

The majority of the workforce that does not live on base resides in the immediate northern Santa Barbara county communities of [Lompoc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lompoc,_California), [Vandenberg Village](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandenberg_Village), [Santa Ynez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Ynez), [Orcutt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orcutt,_California) or [Santa Maria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Maria,_California). A small percentage commute from as far south as [Santa Barbara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Barbara,_California) and [Isla Vista](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isla_Vista) to as far north as the Five Cities area near [San Luis Obispo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Luis_Obispo), which are all roughly an hour's drive along [U.S. Route 101](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_101_(California)) and [State Route 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_State_Route_1) to the base's five access gates.

The base's [ZIP code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ZIP_code) is 93437 and its [area code 805](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Area_code_805).

In the [state legislature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_State_Legislature) Vandenberg AFB is located in the 19th [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_State_Senate) District, represented by [Republican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) [Tony Strickland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Strickland), and in the 33rd [Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_State_Assembly) District, represented by Republican [Sam Blakeslee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Blakeslee). Federally, Vandenberg AFB is located in [California's 24th congressional district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California%27s_24th_congressional_district), which has a [Cook PVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cook_Partisan_Voting_Index) of R +5 and is represented by Republican [Elton Gallegly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elton_Gallegly).