

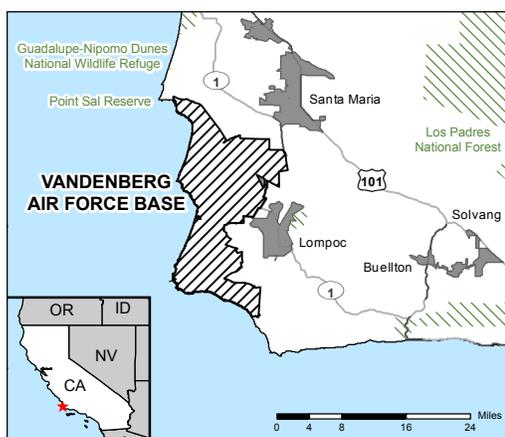


U.S. AIR FORCE :

# VANDENBERG AFB : CALIFORNIA



**V**andenberg Air Force Base (AFB) is one of the primary west coast tactical Air Force locations. Operated by the 30<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, Vandenberg houses silos and launch sites to test and launch Minuteman nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles, Delta rockets, and government and commercial satellites. With launches coming at a cost of \$213 million, the base supports a valuable test and training mission. Located along the coast north of Santa Barbara, Vandenberg is surrounded by grazing lands and open beaches, providing compatible



uses under the base's special use airspace.

In partnership with the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County and others, Vandenberg is protecting land within the base's airspace and also within the Impact Limit Line for missile launches. Land purchased by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo limits incompatible development

and lowers potential issues related to possible falling debris within the Impact Line. Non-launch-essential personnel and the general public are evacuated from the area for launches, and any delays resulting from the presence of nearby incompatible uses could cost as much as \$500,000 a day.

As part of this project, the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo deeded the land to Santa Barbara County for use as a passive recreational center and to expand the Point Sal Reserve area. Additionally, the base's partners are building off these efforts to protect 20 miles of the Guadalupe-Nipomo dunes ecosystem, which sustains coastal dune shrub, freshwater ponds and lakes while providing a buffer for the community adjacent to Air Force flight and missile testing.

## BENEFIT SUMMARY

### COMMUNITY

- Preserves habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Protects water resources
- Provides recreational opportunities
- Maintains local character

### MILITARY

- Improves operational safety
- Prevents costly workarounds that would otherwise limit test and training capacity



The Delta IV Heavy rocket stands 235 feet tall and is America's most powerful liquid-fueled rocket (top). Point Sal Reserve area was preserved for use as a passive recreational center (bottom).

## KEY PARTNERS

- California State Coastal Conservancy
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Coastal Estuarine and Land Conservation Program
- Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo
- Santa Barbara County
- The Nature Conservancy

## FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 12

- » Acres preserved: **172**
- » Transactions conducted: **1**
- » Partner cost share: **76%**
- » Project status: **Completed**

## CONTACT

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