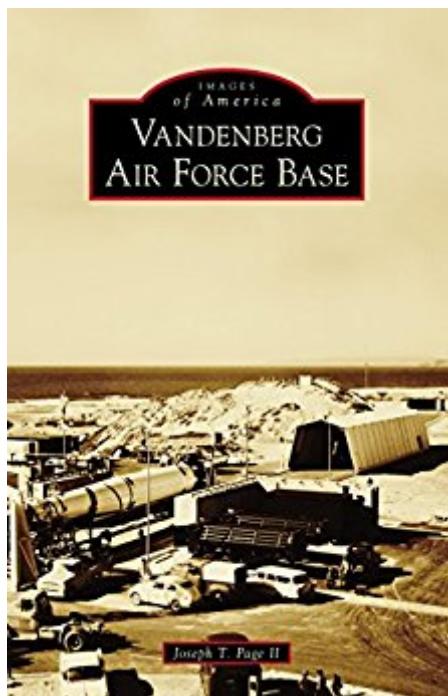


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# Vandenberg Air Force Base (Images Of America)



## **Synopsis**

A historical cornucopia ranging from native tribal lands and ranch living to infantry training grounds and missile launch site, the location currently known as Vandenberg Air Force Base has held an amazing legacy that continues today. Stretching over 45 miles of pristine California coastline and covering over 99,000 acres, the base has been the vanguard for the United States' space and missile program. Showcasing over 1,900 launches since 1957, Vandenberg put the world's first photoreconnaissance (spy) satellite into orbit and is the only launch location for America's operational intercontinental ballistic missile force. Within Vandenberg's lands are ancient rock drawings from the native Chumash tribe, hundreds of species of plants, insects, and animals, and untouched beaches--protected and thriving under the military's stewardship of the lands. Within these pages are stories and photographs that highlight Vandenberg Air Force Base's legacy as the free world's first missile base.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I was very disappointed in this book. I expected a history of Vandenberg AFB but instead I got a few

paragraphs of the historic background of the geographic area, central coast of California, a little bit about the acquisition of land by the Army in the 1940s for Camp Cooke and very, very little on how the Air Force took over the base, what its condition was and how it was developed. It seemed 95 percent of the book consists of photos of missiles, missile launches, missile launch equipment. Nothing about the establishment and early training efforts for Air Force launch crew members; curriculum development, missile procedure trainer development and acquisition, organization and manning of the 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron. Too sketchy, too brief, too pictorial and not at all a balanced history of Vandenberg. I sent my copy back for a refund.

Excellent review of Vandenberg. I worked at VAFB from 1967-1974 and found all the descriptions brought back memories of how it used to be when electronics were made of discrete components. It also reminded me that the satellite launches at VAFB were responsible for the first SALT arms limitation treaty and also for the second SALT treaty. It was these satellites that made possible the doctrine of "trust, but inspect" that have slowly eased international tensions. Now if we could just find a way to contain the idiots of the world who still think that possessing a nuclear weapon makes their nation "one of the big boys", the world would be a whole lot safer. I would definitely buy the book again and recommend it to anyone interested in the history of our missile program.

I have really enjoyed this book! I recently spent about four months on VAFB as part of a NASA launch campaign, and had ample down time to explore the base. Traveling by motorcycle, I think my friends and I got to pretty much every corner of the place, often stumbling across ruins of old facilities way way way off the beaten path. It's been great to peruse this book to see them all in their former glory and learn all the backstories. This is a very well researched, well written history with endless great photos. Thanks!

Great book !

it was lacking the sixties, living conditions of the enlisted men. also the support aircraft for those missile launches and the flight line in general.

They should quit publishing this. It is obsolete.

Save your money.....this is a very poorly researched book with virtually no mention of the Titan I

and Titan II squadrons. I served in the 395th Strategic Missile Squadron from 8/67 through 10/68. The book is mostly a collection of newspaper clippings and AF PR handouts. Wish I could give it a "no star" rating.

Serving as an NCO at Vandenberg AFB one of my troops purchased this book to discover more about the base they are trained at. As I asked him for a review he stated that he greatly enjoyed not just reading, but seeing the history of this base through the eyes of a camera lens. This book does its best to not tell you what happened, but show you what happened. The days are gone when a grandparent or parent sits down with their grandchildren to flip through their photo album, and that is exactly what you have. "Steve" an employee from the base who had the book with him on a lunch break was asked what he thought of it. "I greatly enjoy it! It is very eye opening to what all took place here. I am really looking forward to getting out to the heritage center to see it for myself." I believe Mr. Page did a really great job with helping us remember that this arm of the Air Force is slowly slipping away from us. There is a huge amount of pilot stories. However, the space mission was not fought with bullets and dog fights, but rather men who saw beyond the current science of their day and went out to create the science of tomorrow. Mr. Page helped remind us that there are very few veterans and retired men and woman who built this technology still around to tell this story to us, and he did his best to bring it to us.

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