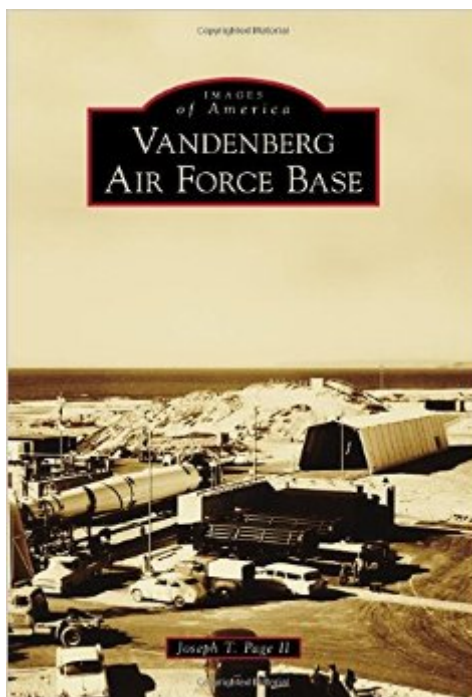


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# Vandenberg Air Force Base (Images Of America)



## 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 extremely disappointed with Joe Page's book, Vandenberg Air Force Base. What could have been an educational and interesting brief history of the base is instead a book burdened with numerous factual errors and occasional conflicting information, choppy writing, no source notes, a useless index, and a few poorly chosen topics and pictures. At other times the book proceeds with inexcusable omissions of important information thus corrupting the history of the base and the

neighboring community. It all adds up to a book that lacks credibility. During the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Vandenberg lost two of its own, Commander Dwayne G. Wolfe in 2009, and Airman Daniel Johnson a year later. The community newspapers provided extensive coverage about their deaths and later reported on the Vandenberg team honoring both men in separate public ceremonies at the base by naming the new Fitness Center after Commander Wolfe, and constructing a large concrete memorial nearby to Airman Johnson. Page mentions the memorial to Airman Johnson, but completely overlooks Commander Wolfe. He is not mentioned anywhere in the book. The omission is a disgraceful insult to the memory of an honorable man who made the ultimate sacrifice. Shame on you Mr. Page. Another vital omission from the book is the history of the U.S. Navy at the area formerly known as south Camp Cooke. Between 1958 and 1965, the U.S. Navy operated the Point Arguello Missile Facility from this location and managed the launch range used by the Air Force, which Page incorrectly calls the Western Test Range. During that time it was known as the Pacific Missile Range.

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