



MEDIA RELEASE

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Lompoc Airport To Be Official Launch Viewing Site For Mission To Mars *Insight will be first planetary spacecraft to launch from Space Launch Complex-3 on VAFB*

LOMPOC, CA, April 19, 2018 – The Lompoc Airport is proud to be the official viewing location for the upcoming, much-anticipated NASA launch of the InSight on its **Mission to Mars**.

The launch is slated for **4:05 a.m.** on **May 5** from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Space Launch Complex-3 on an Atlas V-401. The launch date and time are subject to change due to technical or weather issues. This will be the first planetary spacecraft to launch from this west coast launch facility.

The official public viewing location for the launch is at the Lompoc Airport, 1801 North H St. in Lompoc, starting at 2:30 a.m. Visitors will be able to see the launch, watch NASA TV commentary from the tarmac, and meet NASA/InSight mission team members and city representatives. A second public viewing location is at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 2800 Harris Grade Road, Lompoc, where visitors are welcome to see the launch from the church parking lot, and interact with NASA/InSight mission team members in attendance, starting at 2:30 a.m. For more information visit: <http://explorelompoc.com/vandenberg-air-force-base/>

“The City of Lompoc is honored to host the official launch viewing location at our very own Lompoc Airport,” said Interim City Manager Teresa Gallavan. “Explore Lompoc, NASA and Vandenberg Air Force Base have worked in partnership with us to really make this a special experience in Lompoc, and we look forward to hosting visitors from near and far to witness this first-of-its kind launch.”

Prior to the launch, scientists and engineers with NASA's Mission to Mars will be bring the **The Mars InSight Roadshow** to the Lompoc area May 2-4, 2018. The traveling show is designed to engage the public about the Mission with family-friendly, hands-on science activities, seismometer demonstrations, table-top exhibits and models, and public talks.

- **May 2, 3 to 8 p.m.:** Exhibit at Dick DeWees Community & Senior Center, 1120 W Ocean Ave., Lompoc
- **May 3, 6:30 to 8 p.m.:** Public Talk at Lompoc Public Library, 501 E North Ave, Lompoc
- **May 4, 1 to 8 p.m.:** Exhibit and Public Talk at Allan Hancock College, Main Campus, 800 South College Dr., Santa Maria

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City of Lompoc

The City of Lompoc was founded as a town in 1874 and incorporated as a city on Aug. 13, 1888. Prior to the City's establishment, the building of La Purisima Mission in 1787 marked the earliest European settlement in the Lompoc Valley. Growth in the Lompoc Valley was sparked by the 1901 completion of the coastal railroad between San Francisco and Los Angeles, which included the extension of a spur into Lompoc. The Lompoc Valley is home to Vandenberg Air Force Base, the first missile base of the United States Air Force. Today, the City of Lompoc is a travel destination known for its O mural program, local wines and acclaimed cuisine, historic landmarks, parks and nearby beaches. For more information, visit:

<http://www.cityoflompoc.com/>