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# Pacific Stars and Stripes



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Thursday, April 16, 1981

## Columbia's home: 'We're No. 1 again'

Compiled from AP and UPI  
EDWARDS AFB, Calif. — America's rocketship Columbia swooped safely back to Earth Tuesday, surviving a blazing, white-knuckled plunge from orbit and a heart-stopping landing on a hard-sand runway in the Mojave Desert.  
"You can't believe what a flying

machine this is," Commander John Young said. "It's really something special."  
**More stories and pictures, Pages 12 and 13.**  
Young and Robert Crippen guided the 80-ton spaceship to a

wheels-down landing on runway 23 of expansive Rogers Dry Lake to cap a historic 2½-day flight.  
"This epic flight of Columbia proves once again that the United States is No. 1," said acting space agency chief Alan Lovelace, who hung medals, called The Order of California, around the pilots' heads.  
**See SHUTTLE, Page 8**



America's space shuttle Columbia rolls down the runway at Edwards AFB, Calif., after making the world's first airport landing of a spacecraft from orbit. (AP)



General of the Army Omar Bradley is buried in the nation's first full military funeral since 1968. Page 3.

## Pacific students rated at top

By SSGT. DAVE ORNAUER  
PS&S Staff Writer  
Students in Pacific military schools scored substantially higher on achievement tests than their public school counterparts in the States and slightly higher than students in overseas military schools outside the Pacific, school officials report.  
Pacific military students outscored their stateside counterparts by 11 percent and students in other overseas military schools by seven-tenths of a percent on last year's DoD Basic Skills Assessment Tests, results of which have just been released.  
Pacific students answered an average of 70.4 percent of the questions on the tests correctly.  
**See SCHOOLS, Page 8**

## Adm. Long 'heartened' by U.S. resolve to stand up to Soviets

By HAL DRAKE  
PS&S Senior Staff Writer  
SEOUL — The commander of U.S. Forces in the Pacific says the Soviet Union's recent "unprecedented" buildup of conventional equipment includes the addition of "more new fighter aircraft in their Pacific air forces than I have totally in mine."  
While pointing out that the Soviets also have been building many more times the submarines, destroyers and cruisers that America has, Adm. Robert Long said he is cheered, however, by

what he feels is a new American resolve to stand up to the Soviets.  
Long added that the Soviets, apparently deciding 10 years ago that they needed the ability to wage a two-front war, have one-third of their ground forces in the Far East. "We believe that they basically have that capability," to do battle on two fronts, Long added.  
An aide to Long declined to disclose exact figures on the Soviet air buildup.  
Long recently told Congress that the United States had held a

hairline edge in military strength over the Soviet Union, but now the situation is "too close to call."  
**THE RUSSIANS** today are at "equivalence in strategic nuclear weapons," Long said.  
While the United States still leads the Soviets in sophisticated computer and aircraft technology, he said, they have closed the gap in other fields.  
"They have certainly deployed more strategic weapons than we have," Long said. "The systems, **See LONG, Page 3**



ADM. ROBERT LONG