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Technology

SPACE NEWS

## Activists rail against military in space

**23 arrested  
in protest at  
Vandenberg base,  
including  
Martin Sheen**

Actor Martin Sheen is arrested by Vandenberg Air Force security police Saturday.



Phil Klein / AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., Oct. 7 — Authorities arrested 23 peace activists, including actor Martin Sheen, during a protest Saturday against military space technology. The 23 people arrested were cited for misdemeanor trespassing and failure to disperse, warned in writing not to return to the base for at least one year, then released, said sheriff's Lt. Mike Burrige.

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VANDENBERG ACTION COALITION, an alliance of peace organizations, sponsored the "Stop Star Wars" rally outside Vandenberg Air Force Base's main gate. Sheen and Green Party U.S. Senate candidate Medea Benjamin spoke at the event, which drew about 200 demonstrators, said Lawrence Turk of Greenpeace USA.

The event was part of an international day to speak out against military space technology. Protests were being held in 16 countries and 60 cities, organizers said.

"We are protesting everything from Star Wars (the proposed national space defense system), to hunter-killer satellites, to space surveillance systems," Turk said.

Base officials increased security at Vandenberg's entrance during the rally and rerouted vehicles to other gates. "There have been general threats of activities against the base," said Air Force Capt. Tom Knowles.

In July, seven Greenpeace activists were arrested for trespassing at Vandenberg during the launch of an unsuccessful national missile defense system test. Five other protesters were cited for trespassing at the launch of a Minuteman II missile but they were not detained.

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