



Merry Christmas

CENTCOM sends holiday message to Coalition servicemembers

To the men and women of U.S. Central Command:

As the holidays approach, our thoughts naturally turn to home and family. During this time of unity and season of giving, many members of U.S. Central Command will be separated from their loved ones — defending our nation in the global war on terrorism.

Know that in your absence, you are giving your family and our nation a great gift, the assurance of

peace and freedom. Your commitment and sacrifice are keys to a victory in our battle against terrorism and only in that victory can there truly begin to be “Peace on earth and good will to all men.”

It’s an honor to serve with you and our coalition partners as we strive to eliminate terrorism and bring peace to our family of nations. At this special time of the year, Cathy and I extend our warmest wishes to you and your families for a safe and joyous holiday season.

God bless you and God bless America.

*Gen. Tommy Franks
U.S. CENTCOM commander*



Bagram Air Base holiday chapel hours

- ❖ Liturgical protestant — 0530Z
- ❖ Polish mass — 0730Z
- ❖ Protestant service — 1000Z
- ❖ Mass — 1130Z
- ❖ Gospel — 1300Z



A Christmas Poem

'Twas The Night Before Christmas,
He Lived All Alone,
In a One Bedroom House
Made Of Plaster And Stone.

I Had Come Down The Chimney
With Presents To Give,
And To See Just Who
In This Home Did Live.

I Looked All About,
A Strange Sight I Did See,
No Tinsel, No Presents,
Not Even A Tree.

No Stocking By Mantle,
Just Boots Filled With Sand,
On The Wall Hung Pictures
Of Far Distant Lands.

With Medals And Badges,
Awards Of All Kinds,
A Sober Thought
Came Through My Mind.

For This House Was Different,
It Was Dark And Dreary,
I Found The Home Of A Soldier,
Once I Could See Clearly.

The Soldier Lay Sleeping,
Silent, Alone,
Curled Up On The Floor
In This One Bedroom Home.

The Face Was So Gentle,
The Room In Such Disorder,
Not How I Pictured
A United States Soldier.

Was This The Hero
Of Whom I'd Just Read?
Curled Up On A Poncho,
The Floor For A Bed?

I Realized The Families
That I Saw This Night,
Owed Their Lives To These Soldiers
Who Were Willing To Fight.

Soon Round The World,
The Children Would Play,
And Grownups Would Celebrate
A Bright Christmas Day.

They All Enjoyed Freedom
Each Month Of The Year,
Because Of The Soldiers,
Like The One Lying Here.

I Couldn't Help Wonder
How Many Lay Alone,
On a Cold Christmas Eve
In A Land Far From Home.

The Very Thought
Brought A Tear To My Eye,
I Dropped To My Knees
And Started To Cry.

The Soldier Awakened
And I Heard A Rough Voice,
"Santa Don't Cry,
This Life Is My Choice;

I Fight For Freedom,
I Don't Ask For More,
My Life is My God
My Country, My Corps."

The Soldier Rolled Over
And Drifted To Sleep,
I Couldn't Control It,
I Continued To Weep.

I Kept Watch For Hours,
So Silent And Still
And We Both Shivered
From The Cold Night's



Chill.

I Didn't Want To Leave
On
That Cold, Dark, Night,
This Guardian Of Honor
So Willing To Fight.

Then The Soldier Rolled Over,
With A Voice Soft And Pure,
Whispered, "Carry On Santa,
It's Christmas Day, All Is Secure."

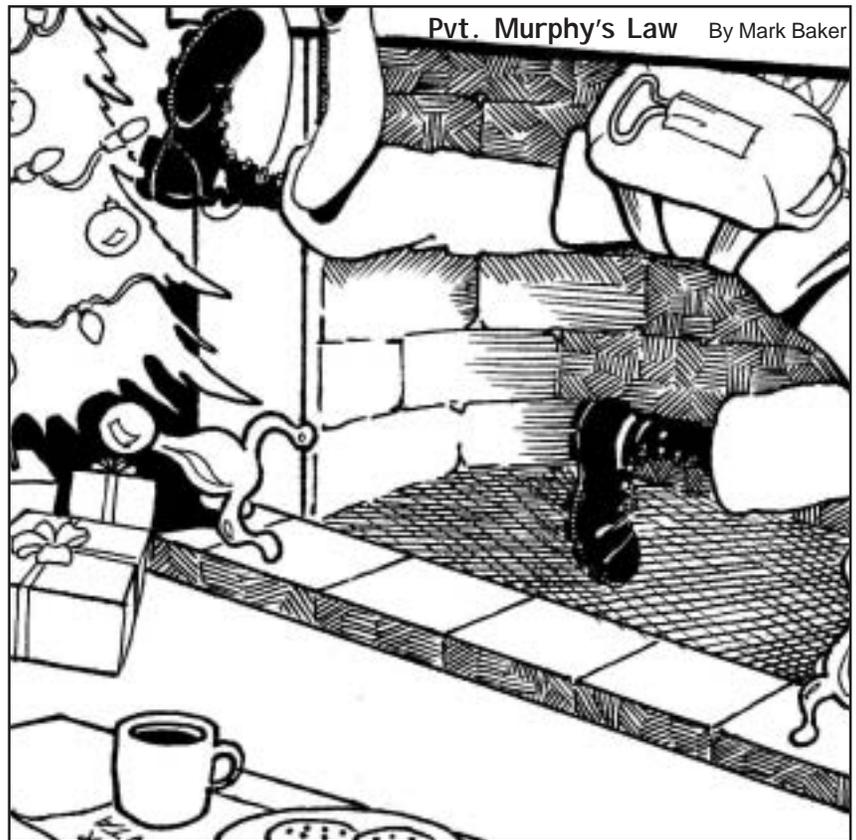
One Look At My Watch,
And I Knew He Was Right.
"Merry Christmas My Friend,
And To All A Good Night."

*This poem was written by
a Marine stationed in
Okinawa, Japan.*



Christmas around the world

- (Czech Republic) - Vesele Vanoce
 (Croatian) - Sretan Bozic
 Èestit Boia i sretna Nova godina
 (Czech) - Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce a stastny
 Novy Rok
 (Danish) - Glaedelig Jul
 (Esperanto) - Gajan Kristnaskon
 (Estonian) - Roomsaid Joulu Puhil
 Roomsaid Joulu Puhil ja Uut Aastat
 (Finnish) - Hauskaa Joulua
 Hyvää joulua ja Onnellista uutta vuotta
 (French) - Joyeux Noël et heureuse année
 (German) - Frohe Weihnachten
 (Iraqi) - Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah
 (Italian) - Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
 Buone Feste Natalizie
 Buon Natale e felice Capodanno
 (Korean) - Chuk Sung Tan
 Sung Tan Chuk Ha.
 (Norwegian) - God Jul Og Godt Nytt Aar
 (Romanian) - Sarbatori Fericite
 Sarbatori Fericite. La Multi Ani.
 (Russian) - S prazdnikom Rozdestva Hristova i s
 Novim Godom
 (Spanish) - Feliz Navidad



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 55F L: 23F	<i>Clear</i> H: 55F L: 23F
Kandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 64F L: 37F	<i>Haze</i> H: 66F L: 39F
Kabul:	<i>Rain</i> H: 48F L: 28F	<i>Rain</i> H: 48F L: 25F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Fog</i> H: 44F L: 27F	<i>Fog</i> H: 41F L: 34F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180.

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- ❖ CJTF - 180 Command Sergeant Major — Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England
- ❖ Public Affairs Officer — Col. Roger King
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Visit the CENTCOM Web site to see the latest editions of *Freedom Watch* at www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm

To be added to the daily distribution list, e-mail william.james@us.army.mil



COALITION SPORTS ZONE

2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1. Miami	2.93
2. Ohio State	3.97
3. Georgia	8.37
4. USC	10.51
5. Iowa	10.79
6. Washington St.	16.14
7. Oklahoma	16.79
8. Kansas State	20.13
9. Notre Dame	20.93
10. Texas	21.08
11. Michigan	23.91
12. Penn State	26.97
13. Colorado	33.27
14. Florida State	33.95
15. West Virginia	35.97



Harrington powers Pacers past Hawks

INDIANAPOLIS — Al Harrington was winded, and his right knee was aching. The minutes were taking a toll, but the crowd spurred him on by chanting “Al! Al! Al!”

Ron Artest was on the right baseline looking for an open man, and Harrington had one last play in him. He took the pass from Artest, drove down the lane and converted the layup, finishing off the best game of his NBA career.

Harrington scored a career-high 40 points, Brad Miller added 22 points and 11 rebounds and Artest had 24 points as the Indiana Pacers beat the Atlanta Hawks 112-97 Monday night to become the first Eastern Conference team to reach 20 wins.

“I did feel real good throughout, and things just came my way. Our offense was clicking,” said Harrington, who also had nine rebounds.

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Marbury improbably does in Sonics this time

PHOENIX — Stephon Marbury loves to take game-winning shots, and his latest defied the odds.

Marbury shot just 3-for-12 Monday night, but he flipped in a leaning 13-footer under intense defense with a half-second to play to give the Phoenix Suns an 89-88 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics.

After a timeout, the Sonics had one last chance to win. Brent Barry threw a perfect inbounds lob from halfcourt to the basket for Desmond Mason, but Shawn Marion blocked the shot as the buzzer sounded.

The Sonics hollered for either a foul or goaltending but got neither.

“I think any other time of the game it would have been a foul, but it’s the last play of the game,” Mason said. “They’re going to let you play, which is the way it’s supposed to be. But from the goaltending standpoint, I thought I got the ball up on the glass before he hit it. It was close.”

Marion said the Sonics would have won if he hadn’t gotten a piece of Mason’s shot.



2002 NBA standings

Western Conference

Midwest

(1) Dallas	23-4
(3) San Antonio	18-10
(6) Utah	15-12
(7) Houston	15-12
(8) Minnesota	15-13

Pacific

(2) Sacramento	22-8
(4) Phoenix	17-11
(5) Portland	15-11
Seattle	14-15
L.A. Clippers	12-16

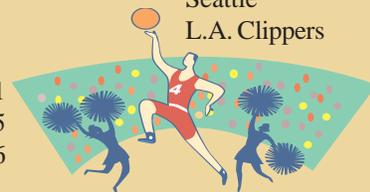
Eastern Conference

Atlantic

(2) New Jersey	19-9
(4) Boston	18-9
(5) Philadelphia	18-10
(7) Orlando	15-14
(8) Washington	12-15

Central

(1) Indiana	20-8
(3) Detroit	18-8
(6) New Orleans	18-11
Milwaukee	12-15
Atlanta	11-16



Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present “Reindeer Games” tonight at 2000 at the MWR building.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Forever Young,” showing at the same

Merry Christmas!

Christmas is the festival celebrating the birth of Christ and is observed in most countries today. Christmas is sometimes called Yule (from the Anglo-Saxon) or Noel (from the French). Christian churches throughout the world hold special services on Christmas Day to give thanks for the birth of Christ.

In addition to religious observances, Christmas is a time of merrymaking and feasting.

North American customs are a combination of those of the various European countries from which the original settlers came.

On Christmas Eve children hang stockings for Santa Claus to fill with gifts.



The Christmas tree, usually an evergreen, was first used in Germany. Topped with a star or spire and decorated with colored lights and shiny ornaments, the tree plays an important part in the celebration.

Mistletoe was sacred to the Druids, priests of ancient Britain and Gaul.

The Norse used holly and the Yule log to keep away evil spirits.

Gifts were exchanged during the Roman celebration of the Saturnalia, a feast to the god Saturn. Gift-giving came to symbolize the gifts brought to the Christ Child by the Magi.

The most popular Christmas legend however, is that of Santa Claus, whose name came from Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children. Many of the qualities that Santa Claus is known for came from Clement C. Moore's poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

Christmas at Kabul Military Training Center

❖ Christmas day party and White Elephant gift exchange — today — 1000 in the Chapel and Conference Room

"Merry Christmas!"



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support