



# Ironhorse Desert News



## New reenlistment bonus begins

**Story by Spc. Bronwyn M. Meyer**  
FORWARD OPERATING BASE IRONHORSE, TIKRIT, Iraq – Soldiers deployed to certain areas of the world may be eligible for a new lump-sum bonus designed to retain active-duty soldiers.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld originally approved the bonus Dec. 17, but according to a military personnel message released Dec. 31, changes to the Targeted Selective Reenlistment Bonus will get more money to eligible servicemembers.



Photo illustration by Spc. Bronwyn M. Meyer

New guidelines for the bonus ensure that soldiers who reenlist for

three additional years should receive at least \$5,000, said Sgt. Maj. Mike Massey, the command career counselor for Task Force Ironhorse.

The lump-sum reenlistment incentive takes into account a soldier's base pay, a bonus multiplier, and number of years of the new contract. The bonus is retroactive to Oct. 1.

Changes to the bonus involve the bonus multiplier, which has been raised in an effort to make sure

**--BONUS continued on page 5**

## Camp Speicher fuel reaches villages

**Story by Staff Sgt. David Bennett**

IL SAKOR, Iraq – Carrying olive oil cans, pitchers, rusty pails and anything else that would hold a gallon or two, the Iraqis came out of their homes long before the tanker truck arrived with its precious cargo.



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Bennett

Bedouin villagers near Tikrit, Iraq attempt to place a container in a car after obtaining fuel from Task Force Ironhorse soldiers, who shuttle the fuel from nearby Camp Speicher two or three times per week.

The villagers clamored on the dirt road, waiting for the soldiers to begin filling the empty storage tank that's contents would soon be distributed to families needing fuel for cooking and for heating their houses. The high-grade kerosene didn't come by way of a long distance convoy, which

traverse northern Iraqi highways regularly, but from a fuel reserve site located a few miles away at Coalition-operated Camp Speicher.

Heading the fuel deliveries two or three times per week is Maj. Howard Geck, public affairs officer for the 64<sup>th</sup> Command Support Group of Fort Hood, Texas. A native of Albuquerque, N.M., Geck said once the fuel reserve was discovered it wasn't difficult to shuttle the fuel to needy residents.

Residents, in turn, have reacted with open arms, though demand usually exceeds supply.

"I'm not complaining," he said. "It's been rewarding to take part in the culture."

Because of a current shortage of kerosene in the area, the fuel distribution is a welcome routine in the small village of Il Sakor, which is located outside Tikrit. The truck, which can only be half filled because of holes in the tanker body, makes the rounds to the two villages two or three times per week.

According to Geck, there was about 100,000 gallons of fuel in underground storage tanks at Camp Speicher, a former Iraqi Air Force academy. Thus far, more than 14,000 gallons have been extracted and

**--FUEL continued on page 5**



# Coalition aids Iraqi drug company

**Story by Spc. Bronwyn M. Meyer**  
SAMARRA, Iraq – A partnership forged between Coalition forces and an Iraqi business during the war may now spur the rejuvenation of Samarra's economy.

“When we first came to Samarra we were looking for a place to stay, and we temporarily occupied the grounds,” said Capt. Dave Fujimoto, a 418<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion team chief. “That is when our relationship with State Drug Industry started.”

The large walls that encompass SDI, an Iraqi pharmaceutical company, provided protection for troops when Coalition forces entered Samarra during the early phase of the war.

Now the Army Reserve civil affairs unit, which is based in Belton, Mo., is working with company managers to bolster the

pharmaceutical manufacturer, which employs 2,500 Iraqis.

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***“When we first got here, (SDI) didn't have any raw materials, nor did they have any financing.”***

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**--Capt. Dave Fujimoto**

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“It is the largest employer in the city,” said Fujimoto. “If you allow one of the largest employers to shut down you will increase the unemployment and the number of people that are dissatisfied with the current government,” he said.

The company has worked through a host of problems during

the past few months, including lack of capital and supplies, as well as the resignation of its general director.

“When we first got here, (SDI) didn't have any raw materials, nor did they have any financing,” said Fujimoto.

The pharmaceutical company, formed in the 1960s, mixes, produces, and packages almost 300 prescription drugs, from health vaccines to antibiotics, he said.

One major problem the company faces is locating suppliers of raw materials and other medical products. Fujimoto's team has provided business strategies to SDI to help them expand their operations.

“We worked closely with them and explained to them how to submit business loan requests,”

**--DRUG continued on page 6**

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Soldiers with a SIPRnet connection and valid user ID and log-on can access the Ironhorse Desert News.

Most SIPRnet computers have the 4<sup>th</sup> ID splash-page set as their homepage. From there, soldiers can select the **digital dashboard** link.

After entering their user-name and password, soldiers are presented with different section selections.

Click on the link, “**Division Staff**” and then “**PAO**”.

From there, a heading labeled “**News-paper**” will appear. By right clicking the link and opening the link in a new window, soldiers can read the latest edition.

## Steadfast and Loyal



Photo by Spc. Benjamin R. Kibbey

Sgt. Brent Walker, an optic fiber cable installer with A Company, 124<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion of Fort Hood, Texas, and a native of Gulfport, Miss., stands guard at Forward Operating Base Ironhorse, Tikrit, Iraq.



# Dental techs keep soldiers smiling

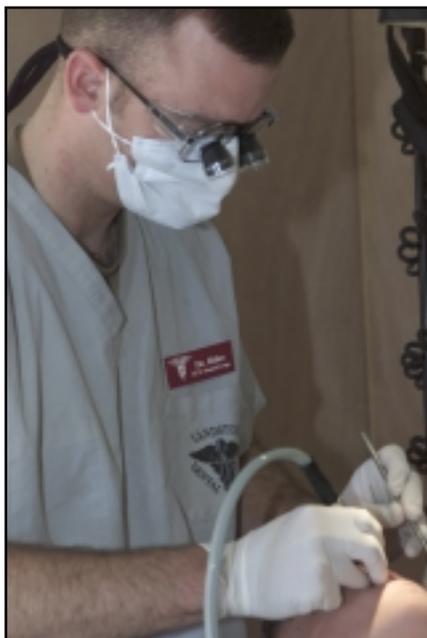


Photo by Spc. Samuel A. Soza

Concentrating fully, Capt. Hal C. Rider III, general dentist for the 561st Medical Company, and a native of New Orleans, fills a cavity for a patient at Forward Operating Base Ironhorse, Tikrit, Iraq.

**Story by Spc. Samuel A. Soza**  
**FORWARD OPERATING BASE IRONHORSE, TIKRIT, Iraq** – Part of keeping Task Force Ironhorse soldiers mission-ready is maintenance – from the most sophisticated weapon systems to their pearly whites.

The most complete dental care is being conducted right here at Forward Operating Base Ironhorse.

The dental office is located at the base medical clinic, where dental technicians are adept at getting to the root of the problem.

“Everybody gets seen that shows up,” said Capt. Hal C. Rider III, who hails from New Orleans, La. Ordinarily stationed at Logistics Supply Area Anaconda, Rider is the general dentist

for the 561<sup>st</sup> Medical Company (Dental Services) based in Vilseck, Germany.

Specialists from Task Force Ironhorse offer emergency-type services that include tooth extractions, basic root canals, and fillings. The office, however, doesn’t offer maintenance services such as cleaning and exams. Emergency dental sick call hours are 8 a.m. through 11 a.m., Monday through Saturday.

Aside from treating servicemembers, the dental specialists have done their part for the Iraqi people.

Partnering with civil affairs teams, Rider and associates have conducted several humanitarian aid missions, known as Task Force Neighborhood, in cities such as Baghdad and Balad.

The humanitarian effort was designed to help impoverished

Iraqis who wouldn’t otherwise receive dental care such as tooth extractions, fillings or lessons on oral hygiene, because of a lack of transportation or money.

One mission to Balad provided dental screenings to more than 300 children, while treatment was given to the most pressing cases.

The number of those trips has decreased since November, when attacks against Coalition forces were on the rise.

However, there are tentative plans to visit areas where dental treatment remains unavailable.

“I think this is something that we would like to do,” he said.

Though helping Iraqis with dental problems is satisfying to Rider and his dental team, helping the troops is equally gratifying.

“It’s always a fulfilling day when you get to treat the troops that protect us,” Rider said.



Photo by Spc. Samuel A. Soza

Opening wide, Pfc. Jason D. Hysell, a mechanic for the 1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment, and a native of Gurley, Ala. gets a cavity filled at Forward Operating Base Ironhorse, Tikrit, Iraq, where dental specialists have honed their skills on troops and Iraqi citizens.



# Taxing situation, or is it really?

## Deployed troops have options

Story by Spc. Benjamin R. Kibbey

FORWARD OPERATING BASE IRONHORSE, TIKRIT, Iraq – Going to the doctor, public speaking and doing taxes: these are a few nightmares that might cause one to wake up screaming in the night.

However, those deployed in Iraq with Task Force Ironhorse

should not have much to fear.

In addition to a tax exemption on military pay earned in a combat zone, there are other benefits being extended to soldiers to make the tax process easier.

For those serving in theater, there will be at least a 180-day extension from the time they return to the states before they must have their tax return filed, according to Capt. Matt Ward, a tax attorney with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Staff Judge Advocate office, and native of Pleasantville, N. Y.

Ward said this is regardless of the April 15 tax deadline.

This extension also applies to spouses of deployed soldiers – even if they aren't filing jointly – as well as dependent children of deployed soldiers who file their own tax returns.

Ward encourages soldiers to file as soon as possible in order to take full advantage of their returns, adding however, "the soldier may file well-past the (April 15, 2004) deadline without any penalties or interest assessed."

Soldiers returning to Fort Hood, Texas may take advantage of the Fort Hood Tax Center. Services at the center, which is open from Jan. 26 through May 31, are free and accessible to spouses of deployed soldiers as well.

"A benefit of using the tax center is that a trained preparer can assist in maximizing your combat zone benefits," said Ward. "The tax preparer can work through your form and determine the best way to file your return, taking advantage of many benefits, such as the Earned Income Credit."

For those soldiers not returning to Fort Hood or a post with similar assistance programs, soldiers should explore free electronic filing via the IRS website.

The 1040EZ is for those who have made less than \$50,000 in wages and \$1,500 in interest.

Having a trusted family member or attorney file taxes is an option available to those who have filled out a general or limited power of attorney specifying authority to file taxes. However, a power of attorney created during pre-deployment may not give holders authority to file taxes for the 2003 tax year, according to Ward.

Those requiring a new power of attorney for this tax season can obtain one through the brigade legal office.

One important detail to remember in filing taxes is that only military pay earned in the combat zone is tax exempt. All other income for the year, including accrued interest or income earned before deployment, are still taxable, said Ward.

### Where to go for help

Servicemembers may be able to file electronically at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), but details have yet to be posted. The details should be available by Jan. 15, and information can be found on the above website by clicking the link "e-file" in the bottom right corner of the page.

A good source of information on state tax procedures can be found at [www.taxadmin.org/fta/link/forms.html](http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/link/forms.html).

Although the IRS has been working with the Department of Defense to identify taxpayers deployed to a combat zone and eligible for the time extension for filing, soldiers may use the email address [combatzone@irs.gov](mailto:combatzone@irs.gov) to notify the IRS of their status.

Servicemembers can obtain a copy of their W-2s by accessing [mypay.dfas.mil](http://mypay.dfas.mil).

Forms and instructions for form 1040EZ, as well as other information for OIF soldiers, can be found on SIPRNET in Daily Tactical Frago 1703.

-- TAX continued on page 6



**--BONUS from page 1**

each soldier receives more money. The multiplier fits into an equation to determine a soldier's bonus.

The amount of bonus money can vary with the length of the new contract, coupled with the amount of time remaining on the individual's current service contract, said Massey, who is from Missoula, Mont. A soldier with eight months remaining on an existing contract would have to sign a four-year contract in order to receive the full \$5,000.

The eight months that the soldier has left on the current enlistment agreement is considered "previously obligated service" and the bonus is only paid for "additionally obligated service." Soldiers reenlisting for less time would receive less than \$5,000.

The difference between this incentive and other bonuses is that the payment is paid in one lump sum and isn't based on Military Occupational Specialty, said Master Sgt. Kelvin Raibon, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's retention opera-

tions noncommissioned officer from Tyler, Texas.

Under the new incentive program, soldiers entitled to a MOS-specific bonus and the new Targeted Selective Reenlistment Bonus are not allowed to receive both bonus entitlements, but rather the entitlement that is worth more.

Soldiers with the rank of specialist through staff sergeant are eligible for the bonus.

Soldiers with the rank of private first class with an initial enlistment contract of three or fewer years may also be eligible if they reenlist before they have 24 months of service, Massey said.

However, these soldiers wouldn't normally be inside of the 12-month reenlistment window, and rarely qualify for the bonus, according to Massey.

Soldiers eligible for the bonus must stay in their unit for a year after they reenlist, said Raibon. Soldiers must also meet the reenlistment requirements outlined in AR 601-280.

Because the bonus is based

partially on a soldier's base pay, troops will benefit more from 2004 pay increases, which took effect Jan. 1.

The new bonus should help the retention rate, but the involvement of the command plays an important part in retaining soldiers, Raibon said.

"Retention doesn't start when soldiers hit their 12-month window," he said. "Retention starts the day a soldier enters the unit."

Massey stressed the importance for all soldiers interested in reenlistment and the lump-sum bonus to contact their unit level retention NCOs and their servicing career counselors.

Leaders such as a soldier's first-line supervisor, first sergeant, and commander should discuss career goals with each soldier, said Raibon.

"While the bonus will assist us in our retention efforts and provide soldiers with a monetary incentive, command involvement is the key ingredient to the retention program," he said.

**--FUEL from page 1**

distributed in Il Sakor, as well a nearby village of 1,400 Bedouins who occupy a former Republican Guard encampment.

The rural villages have little in the way of regular fuel services, and many of the residents are too impoverished to dicker for fuel on the black market. In the end, the Camp Speicher soldiers and the weary tanker truck are the residents' most dependable resource.

"The response is always overwhelming," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Matthew Barnard, a fuel handler with the 475<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company (Petroleum), an Army Reserve unit from Beaver Falls, Pa. "There is never enough. We give what we got and go back."



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Bennett

A local man pumps fuel provided by soldiers, who deliver the high-grade kerosene from Camp Speicher, Iraq, at least two times per week.



**--DRUG from page 2**

said Fujimoto.

A few months ago, the general director of SDI resigned, leaving the company without guidance or leadership.

Other company managers began to take more control. One was Abraham Abbas.

After the liberation of Iraq, managers of SDI voted Abbas to be the new general director of the company.

Abbas sees the future of the company as an opportunity to bring quality medicine to Iraqis.

"I work to give them a good

medicine, and give them a good quality," said Abbas through a translator. "I work seriously to improve medicine, especially for kids."

In Iraq's struggling economy, Abbas will have to learn all the aspects of business, to include dealing with competitors, monitoring production levels, and managing expenses, which were not priorities under the former regime, said Fujimoto.

"The biggest challenge they are going to face is competition in a free market economy," he said.

In Samarra, maintaining healthy

employment figures is important to turning the tide of anti-Coalition sentiment that runs through some sections of the city.

The ranks of insurgents may swell if Iraqis are laid off, said Fujimoto. Many Iraqis could blame Coalition forces if the unemployment rate increases.

With this in mind, Fujimoto and his civil affairs team is working to make SDI more successful.

"The overall goal is to build a better life for the people of Samarra, Iraq, so that (Iraqis) have more to lose than they have to gain by joining the insurgency," he said.

**--TAX from page 4**

Ward said servicemembers should be familiar with state tax procedures as well. Some states may still tax combat zone pay, and though most follow the same schedule as the IRS, some states may not allow the same extension of time for filing taxes.

A rule that applies to almost any situation certainly applies here: if you're not sure, ask. For those unfamiliar with tax returns, a good direction to go with questions and requests for help is through the legal assistance office at the Division Support Element at Camp Speicher, or Division Main at Forward Operating Base Ironhorse.

Many questions regarding taxes can simply be answered by reading the instructions that come with your tax documents, said Ward. These documents can be downloaded from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Ward said he has requested paper forms from the IRS for those filing the 1040EZ, and they should hopefully arrive within the next month. However,

forms retrieved from the Internet are the same as standard paper forms.

Anyone who has a myPay PIN number will not receive a paper W-2 this year unless one was re-

quested from the website prior to Dec. 1, 2003. The W-2s should be available on myPay by mid-January.

Reservists and National Guard members checking the website may find their W-2s now.

Whether a soldier files electronically or through a representative with power of attorney, or waits until redeployment, he or she can take advantage of what could be a fairly substantial tax refund to improve their financial situation home or abroad, said Ward.

"Filing as soon as possible will allow the

soldier to take advantage of a potentially substantial refund," said Ward. "Strive to obtain any refund as soon as possible to reduce debt, pay off high interest loans or a credit card bill, or to earn 10 percent interest by depositing your refund into the Savings Deposit Program available at your finance office."

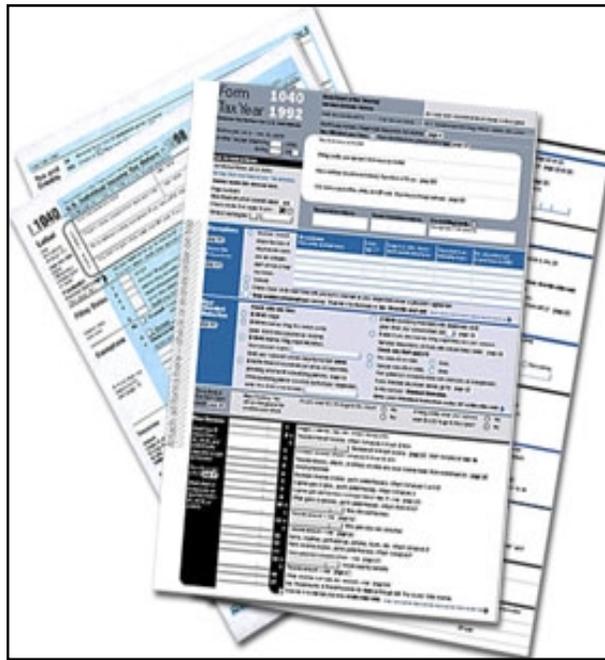


Photo illustration courtesy of IRS



# Local News

## Religious Services at FOB Ironhorse

Sunday:  
 0930 -- Protestant  
 1100 -- Gospel  
 1300 -- Catholic  
 1800 -- Praise and Worship  
 1800 -- LDS

Wednesday:  
 1900 -- Bible Study  
 1900 -- Family Home Evening (LDS in CMOC)

Friday:  
 1230 -- Muslim  
 1900 -- Bible Study (124th Signal Battalion palace)

## Sick Call Hours

Sick call is held every Monday through Friday, 0800-1000 and Saturday, 0800-1200 at the aid station.

The aid station is closed Saturday afternoon and Sunday, except for emergencies.

Dental appointments can be made during sick call on Mondays.

For emergencies, call 534-0161.

## Aerobics Classes

Aerobics classes being are offered at the Ironhorse Resort Sports Bar.

The classes will take place Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 0600-0730.

For more information, contact 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richardson at 534-9865.

### Weather Forecast

**Monday:** High: 64 F  
 Low: 43 F  
 Partly cloudy

**Tuesday:** High: 65 F  
 Low: 45 F  
 Partly cloudy

**Wednesday:** High: 63 F  
 Low: 43 F  
 Partly cloudy

**Thursday:** High: 52 F  
 Low: 41 F  
 Mostly Cloudy

**Friday:** High: 50 F  
 Low: 37 F  
 Partly Cloudy

## Freedom Radio

Armed Forces Radio and Television Service can now be heard on 93.3 FM, playing the hits of yesterday and today.

### Movie Schedule

Movies at the Task Force Ironhorse Resort are shown at 1100, 1400 and 2000.

**Movies listed below are for the 2000 showing only.**

05 Jan.: Ocean's 11  
 06 Jan.: Bedazzled  
 07 Jan.: Mr. Deeds  
 08 Jan.: The Score  
 09 Jan.: Master of Disguise  
 10 Jan.: Kill Bill  
 11 Jan.: Haunted Mansion\*

*\*Sunday's movies are shown at 1400 and 2000 only.*

## Reunion/Suicide Prevention Briefs

Briefs will now be held once a

week, Wednesday at 1000 in the Chapel/Movie Theater at the Task Force Ironhorse Resort.

Briefs must be given before a soldier goes on mid-tour leave.

Emergency individual briefings can be arranged through the chaplain's office.

## Sports Bar Happenings

Mondays: Country and Western  
 Tuesdays: Football  
 Wednesdays: Oldies but Goodies  
 Thursdays: Variety Night  
 Fridays: R&B  
 Saturdays: Latin Night  
 Sundays: Live Football

*Open Sun. - Thurs.: 2000-2400  
 Fri. - Sat.: 2000-0100*

## Update DEERS info

Reservists and members of the National Guard who were deployed or extended in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, should update their information for their family members in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

As many as 55,000 soldiers and more than 95,000 family members will be affected when current identification cards expire. Along with renewing ID cards, members should update DEERS information to reflect service extensions.

Families can confirm eligibility by calling 1-800-538-9552; or 1-800-334-4162 in California; or 1-800-527-5602 in Alaska and Hawaii.

Families can find card issuing facilities at the Rapids Site locator web page:

<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl>



# World News

**ISLAMABAD (Reuters)** - The leaders of India and Pakistan held their first meeting in more than two years on Monday, seeking to cast aside the enmity that took their nuclear-armed countries to the brink of war in 2002.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf started their meeting at 10.40 a.m. on the sidelines of a South Asian summit, according to Pakistan's Information Minister Sheikh Rashid.

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** - Pop star Britney Spears made arrangements to annul her Las Vegas marriage to childhood friend Jason Allen Alexander just hours after the two were wed in a chapel there on Saturday,

friends and relatives said on Sunday.

**PASADENA, Calif. (AP)** - Thrilled by the apparently flawless landing of the Spirit rover on Mars, NASA scientists pored over photos and other information Sunday, awaited a stream of even more tantalizing data and worked on the days-long process of getting the robot ready to roll.

Spirit made a safe landing, on Mars late Saturday.

**ROME (Reuters)** - Four Romans braved the chill to dive 52 feet off a bridge into the muddy River Tiber to mark a New Year tradition Thursday.

A crowd of hundreds cheered the divers as they flung themselves off the Cavour Bridge into the swirling river that winds through Rome.

## Sports

### NFL Playoff Games:

**Sunday Jan. 4**  
Green Bay 33, Seattle 27  
Indianapolis 41, Denver 10  
**Saturday Jan. 3**  
Tennessee 20, Baltimore 17  
Carolina 29, Dallas 10

### NFL Playoffs

**Saturday Jan. 10**  
Carolina at St. Louis, 4:30 p.m.  
Tennessee at New England, 8:15 p.m.  
**Sunday, Jan. 11**  
Indianapolis at Kansas City, 1 p.m.  
Green Bay at Philadelphia, 4:45 p.m.  
**Sunday, Jan. 18**  
AFC Championship, 3 p.m.  
NFC Championship, 6:45 p.m.  
**Sunday, Feb. 1**  
Super Bowl XXXVIII, 6:25 p.m.

### NCAA Men's Hoops

**AP Top 25**  
1. Connecticut (37)  
2. Duke (5)  
3. Georgia Tech (21)  
4. Arizona (4)  
5. Stanford (3)  
6. Wake Forest (1)  
7. Oklahoma  
8. Kentucky  
9. North Carolina  
10. St. Joseph's (Pa.)  
11. Louisville  
12. Cincinnati  
13. Kansas  
14. Florida  
15. Pittsburgh  
16. Gonzaga  
17. Syracuse  
18. Wisconsin  
19. Texas  
20. Illinois  
21. Purdue  
22. Vanderbilt  
23. Missouri  
24. Mississippi St.  
25. Marquette

### National Hockey League

(Team, W-L-T-OTL, Pts.)

#### Eastern Conference

##### Atlantic

Philadelphia (20-7-9-4, 53)  
New Jersey (19-8-9-1, 48)  
NY Islanders (19-16-3-1, 42)  
NY Rangers (16-14-5-3, 40)  
Pittsburgh (9-22-5-3, 26)

##### Northeast

Toronto (21-8-8-3, 53)  
Ottawa (20-10-5-3, 48)  
Montreal (19-15-5-2, 45)  
Boston (15-11-10-4, 44)  
Buffalo (16-19-4-1, 37)

##### Southeast

Atlanta (19-17-3-2, 43)  
Tampa Bay (16-14-6-1, 39)  
Florida (13-17-9-2, 34)  
Carolina (12-17-8-2, 34)  
Washington (11-25-4-1, 27)

#### Western Conference

##### Central

Detroit (25-12-4-1, 55)  
St. Louis (22-10-4-1, 49)  
Nashville (18-14-4-2, 42)  
Chicago (10-20-7-4, 31)  
Columbus (10-22-4-3, 27)

##### Northwest

Vancouver (22-10-6-2, 52)  
Colorado (20-10-7-1, 48)  
Calgary (19-12-3-3, 44)  
Minnesota (14-16-10-0, 38)  
Edmonton (15-17-7-0, 37)

##### Pacific

San Jose (16-10-11-3, 46)  
Los Angeles (16-13-6-4, 42)  
Dallas (17-17-7-0, 41)  
Phoenix (14-12-11-2, 41)  
Anaheim (13-17-4-5, 35)

### NHL Scores:

**Sunday Jan. 4**  
Phoenix 3, Carolina 0

Montreal 4, Washington 1  
Edmonton 4, Chicago 3  
Colorado 3, Minnesota 1

### NBA Standings

#### Eastern Conference

##### Atlantic

New Jersey (18-14)  
Boston (17-18)  
Philadelphia (15-18)  
Miami (14-19)  
New York (14-20)  
Washington (9-21)  
Orlando (8-26)

##### Central

Indiana (25-10)  
Detroit (21-13)  
New Orleans (21-13)  
Toronto (16-15)  
Milwaukee (16-16)  
Chicago (10-23)  
Cleveland (10-23)  
Atlanta (10-25)

#### Western Conference

##### Midwest

San Antonio (22-11)  
Minnesota (21-11)  
Dallas (19-13)  
Denver (20-14)  
Houston (18-14)  
Utah (17-16)  
Memphis (17-17)

##### Pacific

Sacramento (22-8)  
LA Lakers (21-8)  
Seattle (16-14)  
Portland (15-16)  
LA Clippers (13-16)  
Golden State (14-18)  
Phoenix (12-21)

### NBA Scores:

**Sunday, Jan. 4**  
Toronto 83, Phoenix 73  
Milwaukee 100, Washington 94  
New Jersey 95, New York 85

Sacramento 130, Seattle 99  
LA Clippers 101, LA Lakers 98

### LSU stifles the nation's highest-scoring team

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — LSU's defense wasn't too impressed with the highest-scoring team in the country. The blitzes came from everywhere.

Heisman Trophy winner Jason White took a brutal beating. And, when 297-pound defensive end Marcus Spears rumbled to the end zone with an interception, the purple-and-gold revelers got started on their first national title celebration in 45 years.

Make no mistake: defense wins championships. Just ask Oklahoma, which came up short 21-14 in a Sugar Bowl that settled half the argument about who's No. 1.

While Chad Lavalais was willing to share the national title with Southern Cal, he wasn't going to concede anything on defense. Not to the Trojans. Not to anyone.

"There's no doubt in my mind we're the best defense in the country," said Lavalais, the prison guard-turned-star defensive tackle. "We made the plays when we needed to all year."

The Sooners, averaging 45.2 points, needed help from their special teams and defense just to score their two touchdowns. Without Brandon Shelby's blocked punt and Brodney Poole's interception, it wouldn't have been close.

LSU was not very impressed with Oklahoma's lofty numbers.

"We play in the (Southeastern Conference). We're used to playing smash-mouth football, real football," end Marquise Hill said. "They weren't just going to come in here and blow it out on us. If they thought that, they were sadly mistaken."

Oklahoma had a chance at the end when LSU's defense wilted just a bit. But the Tigers came through again, turning away the Sooners' chance at a tying touchdown with less than three minutes to go.

Oklahoma got their hands on the ball once more, but White threw three straight incompletions, then ended up on his back in his final play of the season.