

Israeli troops pull back

around the world

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL
BETHLEHEM, West Bank — The Israeli army pulled its troops back to the outskirts of Bethlehem today, maintaining a low profile in the biblical city to allow pilgrims to celebrate the Christmas holiday.
 Still, the city known as the traditional birthplace of Jesus was cheerless and subdued: The municipality refused to put a Christmas tree in Manger Square across from the Church of the Nativity to protest the Israeli troop presence. There were no glistening lights, no bells, no holly — and few if any tourists.
 This year marks the first Christmas since 1994 that Bethlehem has been under Israeli occupation during the holiday, and Palestinian Christians — who make up nearly half the city's 27,000 population — said they could not recall a worse Christmas.
 "The people of Bethlehem do not have the spirit of celebrating Christmas. There is no joy in people's hearts," said Raed Zarrouk, 26. "I see no decorations, no fireworks and no tourists."
 The Israeli army said it redeployed troops to the outskirts of the city to allow celebrations to take place without hindrance. Israeli-Arab Christians will be allowed to enter the city on public transportation, and Christian residents of the West Bank will be allowed in with special permits.

guns sold three years after the state attorney general determines the so-called smart gun prototype is safe and commercially available.
 "This is common sense legislation. There are safety regulations on cars, on toys. It's clearly time we have safety regulations on handguns," Gov. James E. McGreevey said the bill signing ceremony.
 But opponents argued that it makes little sense to legislate a technology that does not yet exist and have raised questions about its reliability.

brother-in-law was a terrorist linked to al-Qaida and "was getting ready to bomb you guys" has triggered the arrest of a Yemeni man in Michigan.
 Agents who raided the home of Mohamed Nasser Alajji found a number of anti-American tapes and documents, the U.S. Justice Department said Monday.
 State police and federal agents arrested the 31-year-old Detroit resident Thursday near Springfield, a Battle Creek-area community about 120 miles west of Detroit.
 Alajji appeared in U.S. District Court on Monday on charges of possessing two social security cards.
 He is to appear again Friday before a U.S. magistrate.
 Alajji's attorney, Nabih Ayad, said his client was only accused of having two social security cards and was being targeted because of his ethnicity.

INDIANAPOLIS — Olgen Williams was feeding a drug habit when he swiped \$10.90 from the mail while employed as a postal worker.
 After spending a year in prison, Williams became a born-again Christian, earned three collegiate degrees and became executive director of Christamore House, an Indianapolis community center.
 More than 30 years after his conviction, Williams was among seven people pardoned by President Bush. The pardons, the first by the president, were all granted to people convicted of relatively minor crimes. None were major political donors.
 "It's one of those things, a validation, that a person in my situation wanted to have," said Williams, who first applied for a pardon about two years ago, filling out a lengthy application and providing letters of reference from friends and co-workers.
 Also pardoned was a Tennessee man convicted of selling moonshine 40 years ago, a Mississippi man fined in 1993 for altering an odometer, and a Jehovah's Witness sentenced to two years in jail in 1957 for failing to report for military induction.

NEW YORK — The dust that gathered in lower Manhattan after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks was not likely toxic enough to cause serious long-term health problems, a new report has concluded.
 The study, reported today in The New York Times, found that most dust particles collected in the week after the attacks were large enough to be expelled from the lungs.
 Of the millions of tons of dust collected by a team of environmental scientists, only 1 percent was composed of finer particles that could more easily remain in the lungs after being inhaled.
 "That means, in terms of potential lifetime exposures, we're probably going to be very lucky in that these may not be exposures of significant health risk," said Paul Liroy, one of the authors of the report. Liroy is associate director of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute.

BEIJING — A leading Chinese pro-democracy activist, Xu Wenli, was released from prison today and left aboard a flight to the United States, an American activist announced.
 Xu was released early from a 13-year prison term on subversion charges, said John Kamm, who has played a role in the release of several Chinese prisoners.
 Xu was arrested in 1998 after trying to set up the opposition China Democracy Party with other activists. The communist government quickly crushed the party and sent dozens of members to prison.
 The release came a week after U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lorne Craner said he had appealed to Chinese officials in human rights talks in Beijing to free Xu.
 Xu, who suffers from hepatitis B, was granted medical parole, Kamm said. He said Chinese officials had authorized him to announce Xu's release.

TRENTON, N.J. — Handgun buyers in New Jersey may eventually have another step to take to meet state regulations — getting their gun grips programmed at a shop or police firing range.
 In an attempt to prevent accidental gun deaths and suicides, New Jersey is requiring handgrips of the future to have a special mechanism that will allow only their owners to fire them.
 It's the first law of its kind in the nation. Similar bills have been introduced in other states, including New York, Ohio, Tennessee and in Congress.
 Although the state enacted the legislation Monday, the law will not go into effect immediately because the technology is still under development and it could be years before it becomes a reality.
 It will be required in all new hand-

DETROIT — A tip to New York police from a man who said his ex-

Prime time TV schedule

Channel guide									
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Tuesday Evening December 24, 2002										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KLBY/ABC	Life with Less Than	NYPD Blue	Local	Nightline	Up Close	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
KBSL/CBS	The Guardian	Judging Amy	Local	Late Show				Late Late	Local	Local
KSNW/NBC	It's A Wonderful Life						Tonight S	Conan	Local	Local
KUSA/NBC	It's A Wonderful Life						Local	Tonight Show	Conan	Local
KDVR/FOX	Santa Baby	Funniest Holiday	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local

Cable Channels										
A & E	Shackleton						Biography		Shackleton	
AMC	Cross Creek			Valmont					Cross Cre	
CMT	Let It Be Christmas	Most Wanted Christm	Most Wanted Christm	Inside Fame				CMT 3rd Shift		
CNN	Larry King Live	Newsnight	Connie Lou Dobb	Larry King	Newsnight					
DISC	Path of the Reindeer	Navy Seals Training	New Detectives	New Detectives	FBI Files					
E!	Curse of Little Rascal	AnnaNicol	Star Dates	Wild On Hawaii	Howard Stern			Wild On Ibiza		
ESPN	Jimmy V Classic			SportsCenter				SportsCenter		
ESPN2	Harlem Globetrotters		Brian Boitano's Skatin	NFL2Nigh	NFL's			SportsCenter		
FAM	Santa Claus is Comin'	Year Without Santa	700 Club	The Caroline Rhea Sh	Paid Prog	Paid Prog				
FX	Grumpier Old Men		Grumpy Old Men		Grumpier Old Men					
HGTV	Christmas Across America 2002			Christmas Across America 2002						
HIST	Biblical Disasters #1	Runaways	Organized Crime	The Christmas Truce	Biblical Disasters #1					
LIFE	Something About Amelia		Golden Gr	Golden Gr	Nanny	Nanny	Mad About	Chicago H		

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NICK	TBA	Rckt Pwr	Arnold!	Rugrats	TBA
SCI	The X-Files	The X-Files	J Edward	J Edward	Twilight Z
TBS	Trading Places		Another 48 Hours	Trading Places	
TCM	Christmas in July	Since You Went Away		Christmas in Connecticut	
TLC	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out	While You Were Out
TNN	You Only Live Twice			On Her Majesty's Secret Service	
TNT	A Christmas Story		A Christmas Story	A Christmas Story	
TRAV	Secrets	Secrets	Top Ten Toylands	Secrets	Secrets
TV LAND	Gilligan's	Munsters	Andy Griff	Beaver	Bev Hill
USA	The Waterboy		Tommy Boy	Black Sheep	
VH1	Best of Classic VH1				
WGN	Twins		Scrooge		Midnight Mass

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Thursday Evening December 26, 2002										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KLBY/ABC	TBA		Primetime Thursday	Local	Nightline	Up Close	Local	Local	Local	Local
KBSL/CBS	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace	Local	Late Show	Late Late Show	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
KSNW/NBC	Will & G	Miami	ER	Local	Tonight Show	Conan	Local	Local	Local	Local
KUSA/NBC	Friends	Scrubs	Will & G	Miami	ER	Local	Local	Tonight Show	Conan	Local
KDVR/FOX	Trial & Error		Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local

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MTV	Primetime Players	3 South	All Things Rock	MTV After Hours	
NICK	TBA	Rckt Pwr	Arnold!	Rugrats	Rugrats
SCI	The 13th Warrior		No Escape		Universal
TBS	Licence to Kill		The Quick and The D	The Hitman	
TCM	Saraband for Dead Lovers	Lease of Life	The Shiralee		
TLC	Labor & Delivery	Med Date	Med Date	Biggest Supership	Hunt for Amazing Treasures
TNN	Goldfinger		Thunderball		
TNT	NBA Mavericks @ Hornets		NBA Raptors @ Supe	Inside the NBA	American
TRAV	Times Square	Gut Busters	Great Zoos	Times Square	Gut Busters
TV LAND	Gilligan's	Munsters	Andy Griff	Beaver	Archie B
USA	Dante's Peak		JAG	Nash Bridges	Martin
VH1	Best of All Access/TV Moments				Liv Single
WGN	Kundun	Celebrity	Heat of the Night	Matlock	Susan

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Wednesday Evening December 25, 2002										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KLBY/ABC	NBA on ABC				Nightline	Up Close	Local	World Ne	World Ne	World Ne
KBSL/CBS	Amazing Race	Presidio Med	Local	Late Show	Late Late Show	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
KSNW/NBC	The West Wing	Law & Order	Local	Tonight Show	Conan	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
KUSA/NBC	ED	The West Wing	Law & Order	Local	Tonight Show	Conan	Local	Local	Local	Local
KDVR/FOX	Anastasia		Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local

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MTV	Primetime Players	Cribs	Suspect	All Things Rock	MTV After Hours
NICK	TBA	Rckt Pwr	Arnold!	Rugrats	Tiny Toon
SCI	Gremlins 2		Gremlins		Gremlins 2
TBS	Big Jake		Hondo	Chisum	
TCM	Fiddler on the Roof				Yentl
TLC	Trading Spaces	Trading Spaces	Trading Spaces	Trading Spaces	Trading Spaces
TNN	Moonraker				For Your Eyes Only
TNT	My Dog Skip		My Dog Skip		Three Wishes
TRAV	World's Best	World's Best	Quest for the Holy Gr	World's Best	World's Best
TV LAND	Gilligan's	Munsters	Andy Griff	Beaver	Bev Hill
USA	Billy Madison		Beverly Hills Cop III	Major Payne	
VH1	Best of Classic VH1				
WGN	A Different Kind of Christmas		Celebrity	Heat of the Night	Matlock

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