



UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER  
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Welcome and congratulations on your assignment to United States Central Command!

USCENTCOM is our Nation's premier warfighting combatant command, responsible for the planning and conduct of military operations throughout the Middle East and parts of South and Central Asia. Today, the command faces a number of difficult challenges within our Area of Responsibility (AOR), to include the ongoing Counter-ISIL campaign in Syria and Iraq, support for the Saudi-led Coalition in Yemen, heightened tensions with Iran and violent extremism and terrorism. USCENTCOM also oversees the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. It is a very complex, dynamic and volatile region and ours is a tough and demanding mission. However, I am confident that you will find it to be extremely rewarding given everything at stake in this strategically important part of the world.

Today, together with our coalition partners, the men and women of USCENTCOM are continuing to help achieve and promote increased security, stability and prosperity throughout the AOR. The area is rich in history and defined as much by cultural and ethnic diversity as it is by past and current conflicts and regional disputes. I would urge you to study the history of the command and the region, understanding that this context will prove invaluable to you as a contributing member of our team.

Of course, our priority efforts each day are in support of the many Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coastguardsmen and Civilians working under harsh conditions and in difficult and dangerous places around the world. Our shared goal should be to do all that we can to help alleviate their burden and enable them to safely and successfully conduct their missions. In the same vein, we must remember that a request from one of our component commands is never an interruption of our daily routine, but rather the reason our headquarters exists.

You will undoubtedly do important work while assigned to USCENTCOM. As such, we need you to always be at the top of your game physically and mentally. Set aside time to work out, read, study your craft, reflect and be with your family, striking the best possible balance between on-duty and off-duty pursuits in the midst of a high operational tempo. Scheduling personal leave is also essential to maintaining your health, so lead by example and ensure subordinates are doing the same.

Finally, help us to ensure that your families are cared for properly. Our loved ones support our efforts and enable our service, and in doing so, they too make enormous sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. They are incredibly inspiring and we owe them a debt of gratitude. Please pass my personal and sincere thanks and pledge of support to your families. We are glad that you are joining the USCENTCOM team and look forward to sharing what is sure to be a demanding and rewarding tour of duty!

  
JOSEPH L. VOTEL  
General, U.S. Army