This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Folder Title:
[POTUS] Troop Speech [1]

Staff Office-Individual:
Speechwriting-Rosshirt, Thomas

Original OA/ID Number:
4020

Row: 48  Section: 6  Shelf: 8  Position: 3  Stack: V
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<th>DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE</th>
<th>SUBJECT/TITLE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<td>U.S. Government Report: CIA Act (1 page)</td>
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**COLLECTION:**
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Speechwriting (Thomas Rosshirt)
OA/Box Number: 4021

**FOLDER TITLE:**
[POTUS] Troop Speech [1]

**RESTRICTION CODES**

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
- PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]
Below is a compilation of the many good things that the Marines et al do in Okinawa. Doesn’t quite get the same press coverage, but people in the White House might want to get a flavor of the rest of the story.

John

---------- Forwarded by John Hill/ISA/policy on 07/12/2000 09:30 AM
----------

Deweese LtCol Jeffrey L <DeweeseJL@hqmc.usmc.mil> on 07/10/2000 05:44:43 PM

To: John Hill/ISA/policy@policy
cc:
Subject: FW: Okinawa Question

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Rann Col David P
> Sent: Friday, July 07, 2000 7:12 PM
> To: Deweese LtCol Jeffrey L
> Subject: RE: Okinawa Question
> > Glad you asked! April 1st we put together a document outlining all the
> > off-base efforts for the preceeding 6 mos for LtGen Hailston... its
> > attached and its impressive! Just added an exciting new item: English
> > Language Volunteer Program which we hope will, long term, change the way
> > the US military is viewed on Okinawa. Hope this helps. vr, David
> > <<USMC GOOD NEIGHBOR EFFORTS ON OKINAWA.doc>>
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> From: Deweese LtCol Jeffrey L
> Sent: Saturday, July 08, 2000 5:28 AM
> To: Rann Col David P
> Subject: FW: Okinawa Question
> > Sir;
> > Do you have anything on this subject in addition to the "Good Things
> > List" that you sent to me before??
> >
> > V/R
> >
> > Jeff
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> From: Andersen Maj David C
> Sent: Friday, July 07, 2000 3:43 PM
> To: Owermohle LtCol Kurt S
> Cc: Gibbons Maj PatrickG; Murray Col Sheryl E; Deweese LtCol Jeffrey L
> Subject: Okinawa Question
Sir,

Assistant Sec. Def. Bacon is looking for information concerning the historical "good programs" that have taken place on Oki since the 1995 rape. Col Murray needs the info/confirmation on Monday. LtCol Dewese (PP&O Plans) is also writing Col Rann to see if there is anything else that he knows of. I have attached below what we have so far - I received this from PP&O - do you have anything to update the below doc or is this good-to-go.

Thanks

<< File: Good things.doc >>

Major D. C. Andersen, U.S. Marine Corps
Deputy Head, Media Operations Branch
Division of Public Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps
The Pentagon
DSN: 224-2019
Comm: 703-614-2019
GENERAL

ENGLISH LANGUAGE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. On 1 May 2000, the US military, in coordination with the Okinawa Prefecture Government’s Education Department, began the English Language Volunteer Program. This project is designed to introduce English language instruction to Okinawan children during their elementary school years. The US military and their family members are assigned to various Okinawan elementary schools throughout the island in order to supplement their English language instruction. Over 100 volunteers (approximately 70 USMC) are involved in the program. This is the first year of the program and this project will be expanded next year as more schools are added.

LIBERTY CAMPAIGN PLAN. A Marine Corps Bases, Japan/III MEF policy established to place more preventive control measures into liberty policies, raise standards of discipline, and to deal more aggressively with alcohol abuse problems.

REDUCTION IN CRIME. On June 28, 1999, Pacific Stars and Stripes ran an article that said Okinawan Police officials said that the crime rate has been going down among SOFA personnel, dropping some 77.8% in the past 10 years. Governor Inamine thanked the U.S. Military for taking positive action and specifically cited the Marines’ Liberty Campaign Plan.

OKINAWA CITY (GATE 2 STREET) CURFEW LIFTED. At the behest of Okinawa City, the Okinawa Area Coordinator (LtGen Hailston) lifted the curfew imposed on U.S. military personnel outside of Kadena, Gate 2, to enhance economic opportunity and relations with Okinawa City.

REVITALIZATION OF THE TLC. The Tripartite Liaison Committee (TLC) resumed after a 4-year hiatus. This committee is designed to facilitate discussion between the local prefecture government, local Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Defense Facilities Administration Bureau (DFAB), and U.S. Military leadership.

COOPERATION/COORDINATION. During the fall of 1999, in preparation for Y2K, detailed coordination was conducted between the Okinawa Government and U.S. Military to ensure support facilities were able to support each other in case of system failure during the transition to the year 2000. In addition, our Naval hospital, fire departments, environmental division, emergency services, and other technical-military organizations have formed partnerships with their respective Okinawa counterparts for information sharing, improved cooperation and service.

NHK’S FACES OF OUR NEIGHBORS. In an ongoing attempt to “demystify” the US Military on Okinawa... PAO, in cooperation with the local affiliate of NHK (Japan National Broadcasting Corp.) has, for the past year and a half, aired a series of
balanced and informational features of the various aspects of the US Military and its mission on Okinawa. The series began weekly national broadcasting this month.

KIN-CHO CEREMONIAL ROCK AND TOMB. U.S. Marines and Navy supported a request from the Mayor of Kin-cho to move a ceremonial rock and Okinawan Tomb from Okinawa to Hawaii as a gift for the Hawaii United Okinawa Center. The rock, which came from Camp Hansen, weighted 18 tons and the tomb weighted 4.8 tons. The Navy-Marine Corps team was the only organization capable of the feat on Okinawa. The rock was dedicated in Hawaii on Jan. 11, 2000.

HYDROSEEDING. The vegetation in the training ranges in the CTA has been worn down from years of use. Red soil runoff is a big environmental issue here. When red soil erodes and gets into the ocean, it kills coral. To prevent this, our Environmental Division worked with local civilian contractors to create a way to re-seed the worn areas and rapidly grow thick grass in the area. The first full-scale application of this was October 22 and widely covered by the media. The local contractor paid for the test runs, but the U.S Marine Corps paid for the full-scale applications.

ORGAN DONOR PROJECT. Under Japanese law, an American organ donor card will not allow Japanese people to benefit from organs donated by American citizens. The USNH, in conjunction with local authorities, developed a Japanese approved donor card for the use by the U.S. Military to make their organs available to Japanese citizens.

DISASTER/EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES. The USNH Hospital and the Local Healthcare Community have made major progress in the area of disaster response. From the Naval Hospital, Chubu Hospital, JSDF, as well as Fire Department and Ryukyu University officials and Emergency Medicine Technicians have met on a monthly basis to discuss emergency response procedures. They have held five different training exercises over the past year, including a joint disaster training exercise on Torii Station. The local Healthcare community has adopted many of the techniques in disaster/emergency response as a result of this joint training.

AMERICAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

1. American Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) is the umbrella organization established in 1972 to coordinate charitable contributions by six military spouses' groups to American and Japanese charities. AWWA represents:
   - Army Women's Group (AWG)
   - Kadena Enlisted Spouses Club (KESC)
   - Kadena Officers' Spouses Club (KOSC)
   - Marine Enlisted Spouses Club (MESC)
   - Marine Officers' Spouses Club (MOSC)
   - Naval Officers' Spouses Club of Okinawa (NOSCO)
Since 1992 AWWA has coordinated following contributions ($US):

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<th>Year</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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**US MILITARY DEPENDENT SCHOOLS’ ACTIVITIES**

**DODDS PROGRAMS.** Our Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) has partnered with 6 local Okinawan schools (sister schools) to enhance educational efforts and cross-cultural events. This past year DoDDS hosted over 800 Japanese students, 230 educators, and 700 additional Japanese visitors as a part of the educational exchange program.

General Activities include:

- District Superintendent guest speaker for the Municipal Superintendents’ association.
- School principal and District Communications Liaison provided training for local businessmen and women in “Volunteerism”.
- Host Nation School exchanges and participation in craft, computer, holiday, field days, language immersion and other grade level or classroom activities.
- Home Stay Programs.
- Participation in the Okinawa Power and Electric Company sponsored Science exposition.
- Hosting of Okinawa school system teacher visits sponsored by the US consulate and the OPG Department of Education.
- American and Okinawa students explore caves, clean beaches and interact in numerous Science ocean units of study.
- Children’s Day Cultural Program exchanges.
• Participation in local Okinawa island-wide and local festivals on and off base.

• Artist-in-Residence such as kite making, kimono wearing, tea ceremony, Shisa dog making, Okinawa dance, Origami papermaking, Soroban (Abacus), Taiko Drummers, dried or acrylic flowers, Bingata and wheel pottery.

• Combined American and Okinawa student art exhibits.

• Exchanges with Okinawa Boy & Girl Scouts and Parent Teacher Assoc.

Elementary School Activities

• Participation in island-wide UN Conference sponsored by UNESCO.

• Learning about Okinawa agriculture by Yomitan farmer teaching harvesting techniques.

• Attended 7, 5, 3 (years of life) Festival in Naha

• Special Educators from University of Ryukyus observed and learned about American Special Education Program.

• 5 days stay on Yoron Island experiencing Japanese way of life.

• American Eisa Dancers and Taiko Drummers groups perform at festivals.

• Exchange Asian/Pacific dinner hosted by elementary school.

• Attendance of Okinawa theatre productions at the Ginowan Convention and Okinawa Civic Centers.

• Okinawa camera crew coverage on American parent involvement with school.

Secondary School Activities

• Interview of American Host Nation classes by Okinawa high school students.

• Present American dramatic readings to Okinawa middle school.

• Student Council visits to the Green Home to provide traditional holiday meal and entertainment.

• Local Okinawa community invited to Booster Club Fashion Show.

• Cross-cultural participation in Special Olympics.
• Food drives and visitations to Okinawa orphanages and elderly homes.

• American high school bands and choirs perform at various Okinawa functions, such as, opening of new mall, festivals, and celebrations.

• Host Nation exchanges with classrooms and language clubs.

• Competition with Okinawa sports teams in volleyball, football and soccer.

• American cheerleaders perform for Okinawa community.

• JROTC volunteerism in Okinawa community.

• Student exchanges with Okinawa middle and high schools.
MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

ARTILLERY RELOCATION COMMUNITY RELATIONS EFFORTS. Although these events occur off-island, they represent local Marines efforts. For example, there are 4 to 8 community relations projects per shoot. They traditionally support local children and adults at the surrounding orphanages, schools, and nursing Homes.

THE III MEF BAND participated in over 16 civilian events on Okinawa or mainland Japan during 1999. Some of their performances include:

- MEF Band participated in the annual island-wide Jr. Chamber of Commerce Meeting, which was held in Gushikawa City.
- MEF Band participated in Nago City Cherry Blossom Festival.
- MEF Band performed in Kin Town Festival in Aug. 1999.
- MEF Band performed in Hikariga-Oka Nursing Home Festival in 11 Sep, 1999.
- MEF Band was invited to Shinaino-Oka Nursing Home Festival in 18 Sep. 1999.
- MEF Band held a Summer Concert at Okinawa Convention Center in June 1999.
- MEF Band held joint concert with JSGSDF at Ginowan Civic Hall in Oct. 1999.

This fall, the Band is planning Concerts and musical interaction with the surrounding Okinawa School Districts.
CONTINUING VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS. Commanders are authorized to release their Marines and Sailors for up to 4 hours per month DURING working hours to participate in community relations projects. Marines and Sailors also spend weekends and after-working hours to support various volunteer programs in Okinawa. The following is a partial listing of our various camps/facilities on-going volunteer programs:

Children’s Christmas Day Activities.

- Though our camps do many community relations projects throughout the year, the Camp Schwab Children’s Christmas Day got a lot of media attention last year. It was one month after the announcement of the Camp Schwab area as the intended Futenma relocation site. The Annual Christmas Children’s Day (11 Dec. 1999) – 130 children from Henoko were invited to take part in the event. 60 Marines and Sailors participated in and celebrated Christmas with the children.

- 19 Dec 1999 – Christmas Party for the students of Awase School for the Physically Challenged. Volunteers from the US Naval Hospital donated soft drinks, served holiday meals, presented gifts and provided entertainment to over 300 students, parents and teachers.

- 18 Dec 1999 – Christmas Party for the students of Haebaru School for the Blind. Volunteers from the US Naval Hospital donated and served snacks and soft drinks, presented gifts, and provided entertainment to over 50 students of the school.

- 15 Dec 1999 – Christmas Party for the students of Urasoe School for the Physically Handicapped. Volunteers from the US Naval Hospital donated soft drinks, presented gifts and provided entertainment to 35 students of the school.

- 11 Dec 1999 – Christmas party for the students of Kagamigaoka Physically Challenged School. Volunteers from the US Naval Hospital donated soft drinks, served holiday meal, presented gifts, and provided entertainment to over 300 students, parents and teachers.

- Camp Foster’s H&S Bn (Col. Favors, members of his Battalion, and members of the Foster’s Protestant Chapel congregation) hosted a group of about 50 Amer-Asian children for a Christmas party.

- 3D FSSG 9th Engineer Battalion visited to share the Christmas spirit with the Amer-Asian School children.

- 100 Marines and Sailors from MACG-18 hosted a Christmas Party at Shimazo-no-Oka orphanage.
Donation Projects

- **American Women's Welfare Association (AWWA).** The Marine gift Shop, sponsored by the Marine Officers Spouses' Club donated over $180,000 to the AWWA to distribute to local Okinawa charities.

- **Toys-for-Tots.** Various units on the island collected over 2000 toys during our Christmas holiday which were then distributed to over 900 deserving Okinawa children.

- **Clothes Donation.** Misato Jido-En; Akebono workshop; Tamaki Hospital; Rakujuen Senior Citizen's Home; Okinawa Single Parents Association; Tanpopo workshop; JUSCO Chatan for their charity bazaar; etc.

- **Book donation project.** Itoman City Library

- **The Hansen Protestant Service** will present $800.00 to the Kin Town Single Mothers Association this year.

- **3D FSSG Headquarters and Service Battalion** donated school materials to Amer-Asian School.

- Dec 1999, volunteers from MACG-18 escorted Key Volunteers to Shimazoe Children’s Home to deliver 60 Hygiene gift bags.

- Dec 14, 1999, 3RD MED BN sent Christmas Presents to Misato Orphanage.

- Courtney Chapel made donation to a local facility for handicapped persons.

- 7th COMM Bn presented Christmas cake to Hikari-ga-Oka Nursing Home in 21 Dec 1999.

- Navy Federal Credit Union group present a lawn mower to Hikari-ga-Oka Nursing Home in 21 Dec 1999.

- 3RD MED BN presents a Christmas cake to Shinaino-Oka Nursing Home.

Community Events

- **Special Olympics, Marathons and Dragon Boat Races.** Each year Marines assist the Air Force with the Okinawan Special Olympics; two Marathons (Okinawa Marathon and the Naha Marathon), and assist/participate in the Okinawan Dragon Boat Races.
- Boy Scouts (Japanese & American scouts) – Joint camping project on Camp Kinser.


- Marines from Camp Foster supported the Eisa Festival in Okinawa City in Aug. 1999.

- Marines from Camp Courtney supported the Okinawa Marathon with traffic control at Camp McTureous in Feb 2000.

- Marines from Camp Hansen participated in the Kin-Cho Dragon Boat Race Festival at Kin Blue Beach.

- 25 Marines from 2/3 participated in Kin-cho Chamber of Commerce Sports day in 4 July 1999.

- Annual Henoko Sports Day – Approx. 300 Marines, Sailors and their families took part in several events at the Henoko athletic field.

- Camp Hansen Marines supported the Kin-Town Festival in 28-29 Aug. 1999.

- 20 Marines and Sailors from H&S Bn and 7th COMM supported Hikariga Oka Nursing Home festival.

- 23 Oct 1999, Annual Sun Rise Kushi Cup Tug-O-War Tournament. 13 teams representing Camp Schwab participated in the tournament. 4th Marines placed the second

- Intercultural Exchange Program. Camp HQ personnel and ComRel Spec volunteered to teach English to the local tour guides at the Hokubu Bus Company.

- Annual Student Exchange Program. 28 children from Hokkaido’s Takigawa City and their counterparts from Nago visited Camp Schwab, and were given an observation tour. Nago Junior Chamber sponsored the event in cooperation with Camp HQ.

- Annual Big Brother’s (Sister’s) Day. 90 children, their chaperons and the members of Nago City Single, or Solo Parent’s Association were invited to
interact with their one-day Marine and Sailor brothers and sisters at Oura Wan Beach.

- Annual Base Open House – every base in Okinawa open its base to local nationals for food, fun, and fellowship.

**Clean-up projects**

- **Beach Clean Up.** During International Beach Clean-up day (Sept), USMC units participate in an island-wide beach clean up on Okinawa.

- **Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day** (Sept. 1999). Approx 60 Marines and Sailors participated in cleanup work at Matsuda-hama Beach, which borders of Henoko and Schwab.

- Volunteers from MCB, G-6 participated in Seawall shore and Underwater clean up.

- 31st MEU, helped clean-up Ishikawa’s beaches.

- MAG-36 participated in Tamari Warf Cemetery Clean-up.

- 40 Volunteers from MCAS Futenma participated in 1999 International Beach Clean-up Day. They cleaned Seawalls along the Okinawa Convention Center area - 19 Sep 1999

- Marines from Camp Courtney participated in the annual Tengan River Clean up – Aug 1999

- Marines from Camp Courtney participated in International Clean Beach Day – Sep 1999

- Volunteers from 3/12 cleaned Kin-Cho Memorial Stone Area in Feb 1999.

- 3rd MED BN repaired the sandbox in good condition at Kin Ward Children’s Park.

- 3/12 and Reimei-no-Sato joint Ishikawa Beach Cleaning and Lunch in March 1999.

- 24 Sep. 1999, 17 Marines from 1st Bn, 2nd Marines conducted a clean-up around the Henoko Children’s park

- 2Bn, 4th Marines participated in the Kin Port Clean up in April 1999.

- Marines participated in the Holland Park clean-up in July 1999.
• 3RD MED BN and Kin Cho Mayor's Staff cut grass along Hwy 104 on 29 April 1999.

• 5 June 1999, 10 Marines and Sailors from 2nd BN, 7th Marines gathered with the Henoko Dragon Boat Race Executive Committee to conduct beach cleanup at Matsudahama Beach.

• 60 Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines constructed a mountain path to Igei district.

• H & S BN and Kin-Cho staff conducted Hamada park cleaning on 4 June 1999.

• 31 MEU and Ishikawa Reimei-no-Sato (Sheltered Workshop) Ishikawa, cleaned the beach and participated in a picnic.


• 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines Cleaned Kin Town Memorial Tower in 7 Dec 1999.

School Programs

Volunteer English Language Program. A TLC initiative that will place military service members from each camp into local Okinawa schools throughout the island to help teach conversational English to elementary age school children.

Other programs (ongoing):

• English Teaching and Assistant Program with Sakata Elementary School.

• Oct 1999, III MEF Headquarters Group supported the family day at Suginoko School.

• Ms. Brown from G-6 administers English Tests to 300 Okinawan Students (Ages 4-18) and Provides English Classes to Okinawan Teachers.

• Volunteers from 3D FSSG Headquarter and Service Battalion taught English at Amer-Asian School.

• Volunteers from 3D FSSG 3D Medical Battalian taught English at Kin Preschool.
• Volunteers from 3D FSSG 9th Engineer Battalion support the Amer-Asian School children in Oyama, Ginowan City.

• Marines from MWHS-1 conduct periodic visits to the Okinawa Children's Development Center to interface/work with the children.

• Marines from Camp Hansen provided English Conversation Class at Kin-Cho Suginoko Kindergarten and Nursery School.

• Children's Day Celebration. – The Marines and Sailors from Camp Hansen and schwab were invited to interact with 55 children of the Kanna Nursery School by observing Japanese Children's Day Kakazu Junior High School Band (Ginowan City) practices and performs on Camp Kinser.

October 1999 – Biannual Sports Fest for the students of Awase School for the Physically Challenged. Volunteers from the Naval Hospital (Ancillary Services) collectively spent over 1000 hours of personal time; assisted in the events and donated soft drinks and served lunch to over 300 participants and spectators.

August 1999 – Grounds upkeep at Awase School for the physically challenged. Volunteers from the US Naval Hospital collectively spent over 60 hours of personal time in beautifying the facility's compound.

July 1999 – Summer fest at Awase School for the physically challenged. Volunteers from the US Naval Hospital collectively spent over 50 hours of personal time; provided entertainment and refreshment to approximately 200 students, family members and friends.

The First Class Petty Officers Association adopted the local Amer-Asian School. Their efforts included:

• Hosting a book drive to help support Amerasian Schools need for textbooks.
• Raised/donated $1000.00 worth of goods and money including (TV, VCR, and TV stand). ($600.00 cash) to be given.
• Provided support for the schools Halloween party by providing food and cooking.
• Donated ham and turkey dinner.

Marines from MWSG-17 supported Okinawa Christian School International in May and July of 1999, to paint 11 rooms and to tile 3 rooms. Total of 107 volunteers and 900 man-hours are invested in this project.
Dec 1999, MAG-36 collected 37 gifts and 16 Marine visited Amer-Asian School to distribute gifts.

Suginoko Nursery School Sports Day Support – Camp Hansen Marines played games with the nursery school children at the Kin-Cho Gym.


Children from Courtney Child Development Center visited local kindergarten for cultural exchange.

Provided a Santa to an Ishikawa preschool.

Universities

- Friendship party held at Bay View Club with Mayo University students and members of G-8 Summit Citizen's Council.
- Schwab Marines help Meio University Students to improve their English speaking skills.
- English conversational class between students of Okinawa University and Americans on Camp Foster - 18 Dec 1999.
- Intercultural Exchange Program – Marines and Sailors from Camp Schwab and Courtney interacted with local students at Meio University.

Orphanages

- Several Members of the USNH Staff spent a weekend painting the Misato En Orphanage.
- Painting project at the Misato Orphans Home. A group of Navy, AF, and USMC service members spent 2 days painting the outside of all (5) buildings, and portions of the interior. The story was covered in the local press.
- Volunteers from 3D FSSG, 3D Materiel Readiness Battalion supported The Tai Chu En Orphanage in Naha for Christmas Party and ground maintenance.
- 3D FSSG 3D Medical Battalion supported the Misato Orphanage – visitation and grounds repair.
• 17 Marines and Sailors from MACG-18 visited Shimazo-no-Oka Orphanage to interface with children in April 1999.


• 13 Marines visited Shimazo-no-Oka Orphanage to interface with children in October 16 1999.

• 16 Oct 99, children from Misato Children’s Home were invited to attend Futenma Flight line Fair 99.

• Volunteers from Camp Foster conducted a volunteer painting project at Misato children’s home in Okinawa City in 19-20 Nov. 1999.

Hospitals

• Senior Citizens Hospital – monthly visitation to interface with patients.

Institutions/Sanitariums

• Airakuen leper Colony – Marines and Sailors from Camp Kinser had a Christmas Party for the residents.

• Monsanto (Elderly Workshop for the challenged) – Marines from G-6 on Camp Foster built playground

• 3D FSSG 3D Materiel Readiness Battalion supported the Tedako Home for mentally handicapped – Christmas Party and grounds maintenance.

• Volunteers from 3D FSSG 3D Medial Battalion visited Raemai-no-sato home for mentally challenged adults.

• 3D FSSG 3D MRB constructed 150 ft. of gravel road at Tedako Home for the mentally challenged.

Nursing Homes

• Ariake no Sato (Nursing Home) monthly cleaning volunteer service with G3 troops

• The 7th Communication Battalion has been supporting the Hikariga-Oka Nursing Home for five years. The Battalion has sent 20-40 Marines to conduct yard maintenance and beautification monthly. The Battalion
also attends their annual Christmas Party. This past year we had over 30+ Marines sing Christmas Carols and enjoy a joint luncheon together.

- **3D FSSG 3D Medical Battalion** Supported the **Shin Ai-no Oka** (Retirement Home in Ishikawa) – visitation and grounds repair.

- **18 Mar 2000, Volunteers from 3D FSSG H & S Battalion** visited Ariake-no-Sato Nursing Home for Ground clean up.

- **Aino Mura Retirement Home:** Dec. 1999, 25 Marines from MAG-36 distributed cookies, sang Christmas carols and visited the residents.

- **Marines and Sailors from Camp Foster visited Shinsei-En in Nakagasaki Village** and conducted a volunteer clean up in 21 June 1999.

- **7th Comm Bn** conduct monthly window washing at Hikari-ga-Oka Nursing Home.

- **17 Mar 1999, 3RD MED BN**, garden weeding and clean-up at Shinai-no-Oka Nursing Home.

- **3D MED BN, Shinai-no-Oka** cleaning and ground golf with the Senior Citizens in Home.

- **3RD MED BN** supported the Shinaino–Oka Nursing Home Festival.

- **20 Marines and Sailors of 3d Bn, 7th Marines** conducted general cleanup work at the Deigo-en retirement Home in Ginoza Village.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Volunteers from 3D FSSG 3D Medical Battalion cut Sugar Cane for local farmers in Kin Town.

- Volunteers from 3D FSSG 9th Engineer Battalion harvested sugar cane with local farmers of Igei District in Kin.

- On 24 Mar 2000, volunteers from 3D FSSG 9th ESB assisted Kin Mayor’s office in trimming cherry trees and bushes in Yaka District.

- Camp Courtney opened its gate for locals on Halloween night. Children from Izumi Single Mother’s Shelter in Okinawa City and students from Nago City were invited to the Camp.
• Weekly English classes for the Nago Women’s Association began in Oct 1999.
• Invited local church to Courtney Chapel for a friendship service and dinner.
• 3rd MED BN, invited 45 Kin-cho single mothers and children to Camp Hansen to have softball game and Bar-B-Q.
• Cultural Exchange – Navy Federal Credit Union Group at Camp Hansen brought holiday decoration to the Kin-Town Women’s Society.
• Thanksgiving Dinner – Camp HQ hosted a Thanksgiving lunch for the Kin-Cho single mothers and children at Mountain View Club.

**SAMPLING OF AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

- **HMCS Redhill**, the staff member of USNH Okinawa, received 1999 Nippon Zenkoku Inc. Japan Association of Good Deeds Commendation Award, which was founded in 1951 and is presented to individuals whose great or benevolent acts are remarkably beneficial to their neighbors or general public.
- Volunteers from USNH Okinawa received certificates of Appreciation from school principal and PTA president of Awase School for the physically challenged.
- Awase School for the physically challenged presented the Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital with a framed certificate of appreciation from the school principal and the PTA president.
- 2 Battalion, 3rd Marines received a letter of appreciating from Igei District Chief.
- **Mayor Yoshida** presented a letter of appreciation to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines.
- A Letter of Appreciation was presented to 7th COMM BN from the Director of Ginoza.
- Superintendent, Hayashi from Shinaino-Oka Nursing Home presented a Letter of Appreciation to 3rd MED BN on 18 Sep 1999.
- Col Rushworth and Maj Bohman were presented with certificates of appreciation from the Nago City Junior Chamber.
- ComRel specialist from Camp Hansen was awarded with a certificate of appreciation from Nago Police Chief in 26 Feb 1999.
ARMY COMMUNITY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

- More than 150 volunteers from U.S. Army on Okinawa joined people in Yomitan Village adjacent to Torii Station in a community cleanup effort on 29 February 00. The day was designated as "Make a Difference Day" by Commander, 10th Area Support Group, and the volunteers assisted people in Yomitan Village as they prepare for the Summit 2000 in July. The mayor of Yomitan Village would like our volunteers to join his people in one more cleanup prior to the summit.

- U.S. Army on Okinawa will send volunteers to Furugen Elementary School in Yomitan Village to help the students with their English every other Thursday starting on 11 May 00. This is a part of the four-service Volunteer English Teaching Assistants Program, which was proposed at a Tripartite Liaison Committee Meeting.

- U.S. Army on Okinawa send volunteers to a senior citizens home in Yomitan Village for a cleanup quarterly. The last cleanup was held during the Christmas Holiday Season, and the volunteers donated donuts and Christmas cards to the senior citizens and sang Christmas carols to them.

- U.S. Army on Okinawa holds a joint concert with Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) once a year and invite people from Yomitan Village including a handicapped children's school.

- U.S. Army on Okinawa provided parking space at Naha Military Port for local community events.

- Every April, U.S. Army on Okinawa holds Friendship Festival on Torii Station, and it is a three-day open-post event.
• Every May, members of U.S. Army on Okinawa participate in Naha Dragon Boat Race.

• In December 1999, U.S. Army on Okinawa hosted a picnic for tacit farmers on Torii Station. Approximately 58% of Torii Station is cultivated by tacit farmers, and there are 965 plots being utilized to benefit the local community.

• In June 1999, members of U.S. Army on Okinawa joined members of Yomitan Chamber of Commerce in a cleanup of a highway outside of the main gate of Torii Station.

• U.S. Army on Okinawa provides a command brief and a tour to various JGSDF members and supporters from Mainland Japan.

• U.S. Army on Okinawa invites local officials to various functions such as New Year’s Social, Army Ball and Army Navy Football Game on Okinawa every year.

• Members of U.S. Army on Okinawa attend and participate in various local functions and festivals hosted by Okinawa Prefectural Government, Okinawa Office of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau, Yomitan Village, Yomitan Chamber of Commerce, Okinawa City, Naha.
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Seoul, Republic of Korea)

For Immediate Release November 22, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BASE PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES
Osan Air Force Base
Republic of Korea

3:46 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Sergeant did a fine job under unusual circumstances. Let's give him another hand here. (Applause.) He did tell Congressman Abercrombie not to make his introduction too short, but I think he was a little bit embarrassed by having the truth told.

Sergeant, we thank you for your heroism and your service. We thank two of your fellow airmen who helped you in that rescue mission, Staff Sergeant Thomas Metheny and Brian Stump. (Applause.) And we thank all of you for your service. And we thank all of you for your service. (Applause.)

I want to thank Congressman Abercrombie for his fine remarks. He's here with a delegation that includes Senator Max Baucus of Montana, Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii, Congressman Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota. Anybody here from North Dakota? There is one man up there with his hand up. Another one. The reason I introduce them is it's very warm here, for them, compared to North Dakota. (Laughter.) And Delegate Robert Underwood from Guam. (Applause.)

General Tilelli, General Hurd, General Dordal, General Dierker; members of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces; Ambassador and Mrs. Bosworth; our Secretary of Commerce Bill Daley and the National Security Advisor Sandy Berger, and all the other members of our administration who are here; the family members and the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, I am honored to be here with you. I'm glad to see you out here in good spirits. I'm sorry you've had to wait a while in the cold wind, and I'm glad we're starting early. (Applause.)

Let me say that I know that supply is an area of great expertise and importance -- (applause) -- but just looking around the crowd today, it seems to me that the parkas are a little unevenly distributed. (Laughter.) So I'll try to give a fairly brief speech.

What I have to say to you is simple. I am very proud of the work you do -- U.S. Forces Korea, the 7th Air Force, the 51st Fighter wing, all the 607th Group, the 631st Air Mobility Support Squadron, the soldiers and airmen, the sailors, and Marines, the Korean military personnel who are here -- all of you. And I came, more than anything else, to say on behalf of all the American people, we thank you for your service to the United States. (Applause.)

As I also look at this vast sea of highly representative and diverse faces, I am reminded that it was 50 years ago this year, in 1948, when President Harry Truman courageously ordered the integration of America's Armed Forces. Now our Armed Forces are a model of unity and diversity...
for the entire world -- people of different origins coming together, working together, for the common good.

I am proud of that, and so should you be, because though Harry Truman made the decision 50 years ago, it is you 50 years later who have fulfilled his vision and made it work. Osan Air Base is a community with stores and restaurants, homes, and classrooms. In fact, back at the White House, we looked on the Internet and found the page of the Osan American High-School. Listen to this. This is what the students modestly described their website as. They said it is, "the most masterfully designed high-school website of them all." (Applause.) I want to commend the designer for his or her extraordinary confidence. (Laughter.)

I'd also like to commend the Department of Defense school system, one of the unsung heroes of our military service. I thank the teachers and the administrators here and throughout the world for your commitment to our children's future.

Osan Air Base is an important symbol of our commitment to liberty. It was just a few miles from here that United States soldiers first engaged enemy forces in the ground combat of the summer of 1950. And Americans gave their lives in the Korean War on the very grounds of this base. And Osan Air Base is a vital post in our ongoing determined effort to protect that liberty, shoulder to shoulder with our strong Korean allies.

No one should doubt today our joint commitment to freedom. It is stronger than ever. And Korea under the leadership of President Kim Dae-Jung, embodies that, for he as well as any person alive knows that the struggle for freedom requires strength, courage, and a lifetime of dedication.

President Kim faced prison and persecution, death threats and death sentences, because he stood up for his belief in democracy and because he would not give up his hope that true democracy could flourish here in Korea. Now our countries work together more closely than ever before for peace and human rights around the world. And none of that could happen without you, the American and Korean military forces. (Applause.)

You have maintained the peace for 45 years. And let me say, again not so much to you because you know it, but through you and the media here to all of the American people back home -- sometimes it's easy to forget that even in peacetime, military work is difficult and dangerous. Tensions have gone up and down on this peninsula over the years, but always there are risks.

I talked about just a moment ago the distinguished gentleman who introduced me and his fellow airmen who risked their lives to aid others. Just a few weeks ago, 50 miles from here, four Americans and one Korean soldier lost their lives returning from important training missions. Let me say their names: Private Joseph Biondo, Private First Class Joey Brantley, Specialist James Buis, Sergeant Brian Walshxx, Corporal Kim Yong Ku.

We honor their service. We mourn their loss in the cause of peace and security. May the American people never forget this work is difficult and dangerous, and we owe you a lot for doing it.

America strongly supports President Kim's strategy of engagement with North Korea. In the five years since I last met with our troops along the DMZ, we have seen some hopeful signs. There have been peace talks, and over the summer, for the very first time, United States Command and
the North Korean military began General Officer talks aimed at preventing problems along the DMZ.

But, unfortunately, not all has gone well. Lately, signs of danger have intensified, with incursions from the North, provocative missile tests, and the question of a "suspect" underground installation. So we must remain vigilant. And thanks to you, we are.

One of the greatest threats the world now faces is weapons of mass destruction. And though our attention lately has been focused on Iraq's efforts in that area, North Korea is also a major concern. Here at Osan, you are critical to this most dangerous battleground, deterring and, if necessary, defending against chemical and biological attacks.

Let me reaffirm the view of the United States: North Korea must maintain its freeze on and move ahead to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, as it has agreed to do. It must comply with its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It must halt its efforts to develop and proliferate chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missiles.

We will continue to press North Korea to take these steps for peace and security. But until it fully commits itself to a constructive role on this peninsula, we must remain ready. And thanks to you, we will. America will continue to do what it takes to promote the security of our citizens and our friends and allies, to be a force for peace as we have been in Haiti, in Northern Ireland, in Bosnia, in Kosovo in the Middle East.

Our ability to succeed in promoting peace is uniquely due to the fact that we can back up our diplomatic efforts when necessary with military strength. And that depends on you, the finest Armed Forces in the world.

We ask so much of you, to travel far from home, to work long hours, to risk your lives. We ask so much of you families -- lengthy separations, career and school transitions. We owe an awful lot in return -- at least the training and support you need, the tools to do your job, from high-tech equipment to the most basic spare parts, and the quality of life you deserve.

I spend a lot of time addressing these issues with Secretary of Defense Cohen, with General Shelton of the Joint Chiefs, with other leaders of our military. While our current state of readiness is sound, we have to ensure we're prepared for the future. To move us in the right direction I asked the Congress to approve $1.1 billion in additional funds for readiness and recruitment in this year's budget. And I'm happy to say the Congress came through. (Applause.)

We obtained almost $2 billion in emergency funds to cover unanticipated operations in Bosnia. We shifted another $1 billion in existing defense funds to readiness needs. I've asked Secretary Cohen to prepare budget and policy proposals aimed at addressing these needs for the long-term, and I've approved pay raises that will significantly reduce the gap between military and civilian pay. (Applause.) I ought to quit while I'm ahead. (Laughter.)

I want you to know that, working with Congress and the Joint Chiefs, we will continue to make our top priority your readiness -- readiness for our first-to-fight forces like the soldiers I met earlier today from the Second Infantry Division -- (applause) -- readiness for our sailors in ships at sea so vital to our efforts, particularly now, to contain the weapons of mass destruction threat of Saddam Hussein; readiness for our strategic and tactical air forces, crucial in meeting our security
challenges in the Gulf, in Bosnia, here in Korea, indeed all around the world.

Thursday is Thanksgiving. (Applause.) I know that your loved ones back home are thinking about you here -- proud of your accomplishments, your service, your kindness, and your strength. I'm happy today to be bringing to you some prepaid phone cards generously provided by AT&T -- (applause) -- so you can call your families and friends across the ocean for free. (Applause.)

I hope that all Americans -- all Americans, not just those who receive a call on Thanksgiving Day -- as they sit down to their turkey and give thanks for all our blessings, will consider the debt of gratitude we all owe to our men and women in uniform. You have made the world a better place and you will continue to do so. You have made us very proud and we will continue to be very proud.

I thank you. I wish you well. God bless you and God bless America. (Applause.)

END

3:58 P.M. (L)
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Staff Sergeant Shane Wohunt, USAF

UNIT: 1st Special Operations Squadron

HOMETOWN:

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Developed load plans and then assisted in the delivery of more than 20,000 lbs. of relief supplies for Hue City, Republic of Viet Nam. Worked with more than 50 Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers in the distribution of this supplies.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACT(S): While in Viet Nam, met with Ambassador Pete Williams and his wife.
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: GySgt. Michael C. Davis, USMC

UNIT: III MEF, G-3, Current Operations Center

HOMETOWN: Yosemite, California

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Served as Operations Chief, United States Forces, International Forces East Timor from 24 September to 18 December 1999. His embarkation and computer expertise ensured the commander had access to vital information and secure communications in the confusing first days in Darwin.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACT(S): GySgt. Davis deployed to East Timor only three days after his wife gave birth. His personal awards include the Bronze Star w/combatt V Device. He is a former drill instructor.
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Sergeant Sancha D. Sudbrock, USMC

UNIT: III MEF

HOMETOWN: Fall River, Massachusetts (Spent her formative years in Caracas, Venezuela, with her family)

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Sergeant Sudbrock was the only female Marine deployed as part of U.S. Forces, International Force East Timor. While she deployed as an administrative clerk, and played an important role in this function, she proved invaluable for her written and verbal Portuguese language skills.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACT(S): Sgt. Sudbrock is married to a Marine who is also stationed in Okinawa. Her previous tour of duty was here in Okinawa, serving with MCAS Futenma.
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Petty Officer First Class Maximo M. Chico, USN

UNIT: COMPFEACTS, Okinawa

HOMETOWN: Manila, Republic of the Philippines

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Petty Officer Chico served as the Command Career Counselor for the USS Belleau wood in Sasebo, Japan. During his tenure with the Belleau wood, he participated in operations and exercises in the Persian Gulf, East Timor, and Russia. Because of Petty Officer Chico’s efforts, the USS Belleau wood received the CICPACFLT Retention Excellence award for 1999.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACT(S): Petty Officer Chico is very active in the local community. He is a volunteer English teacher at a local elementary school. He recently participated with the U.S. Navy’s Dragon boat race team here in Okinawa.
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Master Sergeant Kenneth Young, USA

UNIT: 1/1 Special Forces Group

HOMETOWN:

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Master Sergeant Young and his wife, Sergeant Young, deployed to the Philippines during EXERCISE BALIKATAN and subsequently both participated in humanitarian assistance efforts following the eruption of a volcano on the island of Luzon.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACT(S):
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Sergeant Lynne Young, USA

UNIT: HHC 10th ASG

HOMETOWN:

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Sergeant Young and her husband, Master Sergeant Young, deployed to the Philippines during EXERCISE BALIKATAN and subsequently both participated in humanitarian assistance efforts following the eruption of a volcano on the island of Luzon.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACT(S):
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Capt. Gregory D. Thomas, USAF

UNIT: 44TH Fighter Squadron

HOMETOWN: Columbus, Ohio

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Served in Operation SOUTHERN WATCH where he planned and flew missions involving strikes on Iraqi targets.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACT(S): Graduate of Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. Capt Thomas and his wife Michell have three small children: Emily (6), Jennifer (4), and Ryan (2).
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Ms. Safiyyah Ballard, daughter of GySgt. & Mrs. Syvestor Ballard, USMC

UNIT: USMC Youth of the Year

HOMETOWN:

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Boys & Girls Club of America, Asian Region Youth of the Year; Finalist Boys & Girls Club of America, Pacific Region Youth of the Year. Rising senior at Kubasaki High School with a 3.32 GPA, and she was recently elected President of the student council.

IMPORTANT FACT(S): Ms. Ballard enjoys writing poetry and short stories. She has won several poetry and creative performance competitions, and she has been published in several magazines. Volunteer for Special Olympics.
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Ms. Kimberly Desiderio

UNIT: USMC Key Volunteer, MSSG-31

HOMETOWN: Born in Arkansas, (raised in Texas)

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Active with Key Volunteers, USMC supported volunteer assist group; volunteers with L.I.N.K.S., organization providing assistance and information to families and spouses newly arriving to the command or military. Also active in local church and the American Red Cross.

IMPORTANT FACT(S): Texas A&M graduate, currently serves in the Marine Corps reserve. Two brothers also in the Marine Corps. Formerly worked for Senator Phil Gram, Texas, and interned in Washington in Political Campaign Management. Married to Warrant Officer Thomas Desiderio, MSSG-31.
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Ms. Jonette Ayubi

UNIT: CFAO Ombudsman, USN

HOMETOWN:

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Re-established Fleet Activities, Okinawa Ombudsman program and has assisted in several quality of life initiatives in Okinawa. Additionally, Mrs. Ayubi taught English as a Japanese High School and elementary school.

IMPORTANT FACT(S): Graduate, University of Missouri School of Journalism. Mrs. Ayubi, her husband, Navy Lt. John-Paul Ayubi, and son, Connor, will be rotating back to the states later this year.
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Mr. Christopher Ames

UNIT: Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa, Public Affairs Officer, USN

HOMETOWN: Oil City, PA

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Presently serves as the CFAO Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Ames has made numerous contributions to improved relations between the U.S. military and the Okinawan people. An expert in Japanese language and specifically Okinawan culture, Mr. Ames’ skill and knowledge have been invaluable during periods when crisis communication skills are needed.

IMPORTANT FACT(S): Mr. Ames will soon be leaving Okinawa to attend the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor’s Ph.D. program in cultural anthropology. His research will focus on tourism and ethnic identity in Okinawa.
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<tr>
<th>DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE</th>
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<td>U.S. Government Report: CIA Act (1 page)</td>
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**COLLECTION:**
- Clinton Presidential Records
- National Security Council
- Speechwriting (Thomas Rosshirt)
- OA/Box Number: 4021

**FOLDER TITLE:**
- [POTUS] Troop Speech [1]

**RESTRICTION CODES**

- Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]
- Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- b(5) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(5) of the FOIA]

P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.
SERVICEMEMBER DATA FOR POTUS INTRODUCTION

NAME: Mrs. Marsha Harvell

UNIT: President, Protestant Women of the Chapel, USAF

HOMETOWN:

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT: Served as President of the largest Protestant Women of the Chapel Program in the Air Force. Also, she teaches Bible studies and ministers to a local nursing home and for parents of children hospitalized at Lester Hospital.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACT(S): Mrs. Harvell is married to Chaplain Ron Harvell with the 18th Wing here in Okinawa. In addition to her work with the church, she volunteers with the Okinawa Dolphins Swim Team and assists with Youth Spring Break Retreats.
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Norfolk, Virginia)

For Immediate Release
April 1, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO HAMPTON ROADS MILITARY COMMUNITY

Norfolk Naval Station
Norfolk, Virginia

1:17 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I'm just curious, can you all hear me out there?

AUDIENCE: No.

THE PRESIDENT: The echo is pretty bad, isn't it. Well, if I speak louder, is it better or worse? No difference. I'll do the best I can.

First, I'd like to thank Secretary Cohen and General Shelton for their truly outstanding service in our administration at a difficult time. I'd like to thank Admiral Gehman, Admiral Reason, General Pace, General Keck, and the other leaders of all the forces represented here.

I thank Secretary Danzig, National Security Advisor Berger, and others who came with me from the White House. Mayor Oberndorf, thank you for welcoming me to Virginia Beach.

I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to the members of Congress who are here -- your representatives, Congressman Scott and Sisisky; Senator Levin, our ranking member of the Armed Services Committee; and a special thanks to my longtime friend, Senator Chuck Robb, who is one of the most courageous members of the United States Congress and Virginia is very fortunate to be represented by him.

Let me say to all of you, I came here today primarily to thank two groups of people -- our men and women in uniform, and their families, for the service and sacrifice that makes America strong.

I just met a few moments ago with several members of families -- spouses and children of members of four different services who are deployed away from here now. They're all over here to my right. And whatever it is you would like to say to me today, I think there's a very good chance they said it. They did a very good job for you, and I'm very proud of them. (Applause.)

I heard about the financial sacrifices and I heard about human sacrifices. I don't think that anyone could say it better than this lady over here with this beautiful baby in the red hat, with the "I miss you, Daddy" sign. I thank you. And this sign, "I love my TR sailor, support our troops."

I wanted to come here today because I want America to know that the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform are fully mirrored by
their families back home, by the opportunities that are missed to be with wives and husbands and children on birthdays and holidays, and just being there for the kids when they're needed at night and in the morning as they go off to school. They are fully felt in terms of the financial sacrifices of the family members left at home to pay the bills and see to the health care and other needs of the children.

And America should know that and should be very, very grateful to all of you. We are grateful and we think all Americans will be grateful as they know what you do.

Let me also say I had a chance to speak just before I came out here with the 510th Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base in Italy, part of our Operation Allied Force in Kosovo, to thank them and to hear of their immense pride and determination in their mission.

I know that many, many people here have friends or family members who are working hard in our mission in Kosovo. I know this port is home to 100 ships, not only the powerful battle groups now at sea led by the Enterprise and the Theodore Roosevelt, but also ships in the Adriatic -- guided missile destroyers like the Gonzalez; fast-attack submarines like the Norfolk. (Applause.) Yes, you can clap for your ships, that's okay. (Applause.)

I can't name every ship or every unit, but I know that all of you are proud of all of them. Again, let me say, too, a special word of thanks to the family members of those who are deployed in the Kosovo operation now.

And let me say to all of you, we spend a lot of time -- perhaps more time than you would think -- in the White House, and at the Pentagon, talking about our obligations to the families of our service members. We know that we are asking more and more of you as we have downsized the military, and diversified and increased the number of our operations around the world. We know that the more we ask of you, the greater our responsibilities to you.

We know that we owe you the support, the training, the equipment you need to get the job done. We know we owe you fair pay, decent housing, and other support. Our new defense budget contains not only a substantial pay raise, but increased funding to keep our readiness razor sharp. It is our solemn obligation to those of you who accept the dangers and hardships of our common security.

Since the Cold War ended, we have asked more and more from our Armed Forces -- from the Persian Gulf to Korea, to Central America to Africa -- today to stand with our allies in NATO against the unspeakable brutality in Kosovo.

Now, this is not an easy challenge with a simple answer. If it were, it would have been resolved a long time ago. The mission I have asked our Armed Forces to carry out with our NATO allies is a dangerous one, as I have repeatedly said. Danger is something the brave men and women of our country's Armed Forces understand because you live with it every day, even in routine training exercises.

Now, we all know that yesterday three Army infantrymen were seized as they were carrying out a peaceful mission in Macedonia -- protecting that country from the violence in neighboring Kosovo. There was absolutely no basis for them to be taken. There is no basis for them to be held. There is certainly no basis for them to be tried. All Americans are concerned about their welfare.

President Milosevic should make no mistake: The United States takes
care of its own. (Applause.) And President Milosevic should make no mistake: We will hold him and his government responsible for their safety and for their well-being.

But I ask you also to resolve that we will continue to carry out our mission with determination and resolve.

Over the past few weeks I have been talking with the American people about why we're involved with our NATO allies in Kosovo, and the risks of our mission and why they're justified. It's especially important that I speak to you and, through you, to all men and women in uniform about these matters.

The roots of this conflict lie in the policies of Mr. Milosevic, the dictator of Serbia. For more than 10 years now, he has been using ethnic and religious hatred as a path to personal power and a justification for the ethnic cleansing and murder of innocent civilians. That is what he did first in Bosnia and Croatia, where the United States with our allies did so much to end the war. And that is what he is doing in Kosovo today. That is what he will continue to do to his own people and his neighbors unless we and our allies stand in the way.

For months, we tried and tried and tried every conceivable peaceful alternative. We did everything we could through diplomacy to solve this problem. With diplomacy backed by the threat of NATO force, we forged a cease-fire last October that rescued from cold and hunger hundreds of thousands of people in Kosovo whom he had driven from their homes.

In February, with our allies and with Russia, we proposed a peace agreement that would have given the people of Kosovo the autonomy they were guaranteed under their constitution before Mr. Milosevic came to power, and ended the fighting for good.

Now, the Kosovar leaders, they signed that agreement -- even though it didn't give them the independence they said they wanted, and that they had been fighting for. But Mr. Milosevic refused. In fact, while pretending to negotiate for peace, he massed 40,000 troops and hundreds of tanks in and around Kosovo, planning a new campaign of destruction and defiance. He started carrying out that campaign the moment the peace talks ended.

Now the troops and police of the Serbian dictator are rampaging through tiny Kosovo -- separating men from their families, executing many of them in cold blood; burning homes -- sometimes, we now hear, with people inside; forcing survivors to leave everything behind, confiscating their identity papers, destroying their records so their history and their property is erased forever.

Yesterday, Mr. Milosevic actually said, this problem can only be solved by negotiations. But yesterday, as he said that, his forces continued to hunt down the very Kosovar leaders with whom he was supposed to be negotiating.

Altogether now, more than half a million Kosovars have been pushed from their homes since the conflict began. They are arriving at the borders of the country, shaken by what they have seen and been through. But they also say -- as a delegation of Albanian Americans, many of whom have relatives in Kosovo, told me personally in the White House yesterday -- that NATO's military action has at least given them some hope that they have not been completely abandoned in their suffering.

Had we not acted, the Serbian offensive would have been carried out with impunity. We are determined that it will carry a very high price, indeed. We also act to prevent a wider war. If you saw my address to
the country the other night and the maps that I showed, you know that Kosovo is a very small place. But it sits right at the dividing line of Europe, Asia and the Middle East; the dividing line between Islam and Christianity; close to our Turkish and Greek allies to the south, our new allies, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic to the north; surrounded by small and struggling democracies that easily could be overwhelmed by the flood of refugees Mr. Milosevic is creating.

Already, Macedonia is so threatened. Already, Serbian forces have made forays into Albania, which borders Kosovo. If we were to do nothing, eventually our allies and then the United States would be drawn into a larger conflict at far greater risks to our people and far greater costs.

Now, we can't respond to every tragedy in every corner of the world. But just because we can't do everything for everyone doesn't mean that for the sake of consistency we should do nothing for no one.

Remember now, these atrocities are happening at the door step of NATO, which has preserved the security of Europe for 50 years because of the alliance between the United States and our allies. They are happening in violation of specific commitments Mr. Milosevic gave to us, to our NATO allies, to other European countries and to Russia. They are happening to people who embrace peace and promise to lay down their own arms. They put their trust in us, and we can't let them down.

Our objective is to restore the Kosovars to their homes with security and self-government. Our bombing campaign is designed to exact an unacceptably high price for Mr. Milosevic's present policy of repression and ethnic cleansing, and to seriously diminish his military capacity to maintain that policy.

We've been doing this for seven days now -- just seven days. Our pilots have performed bravely and well, in the face of dangerous conditions and often abysmal weather. But we must be determined and patient. Remember, the Serbs had 40,000 troops in and around Kosovo, and nearly 300 tanks, when they began this, before the first NATO plane got in the air. They had a sophisticated air-defense system. They also have a problem which has been festering for a decade, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Milosevic to make people hate each other in the former Yugoslavia because they are Muslims instead of Orthodox Christians or Catholics; because they're Albanians instead of Serbians or Croatians, or Bosnian Muslims, or Macedonians, or you have -- whatever. It is appalling.

For decades, those people lived in peace with one another. For ten years and more, now, a dictator has sought to make himself powerful by convincing the largest group, the Serbs, that the only way they can amount to anything is to uproot, disrupt, destroy and kill other people who don't have the same means of destruction -- no matter what the consequences are to everybody around them; no matter how many innocent children and their parents die; no matter how much it disrupts other countries.

Why? Because they want power, and they want to base it on the kind of ethnic and religious hatred that is bedeviling the whole world today. You can see it in the Middle East, in Northern Ireland. You can see it in the tribal wars in Africa. You can see that it is one of the dominant problems the whole world faces. And this is right in the underbelly of Europe.

We have to decide whether we are going to take a stand with our NATO allies, and whether we are prepared to pay the price of time to make him pay the price of aggression and murder. Are we, in the last year of the
20th century, going to look the other way as entire peoples in Europe are forced to abandon their homelands or die? Are we going to impose a price on that kind of conduct and seek to end it?

Mr. Milosevic often justifies his behavior by talking about the history of the Serbs going back to the 14th century. Well, I value the history of this country, and I value what happened here in the 18th century. But I don't want to take America back to the 18th century. And he acts like he wants to take Serbia back to the 14th century -- to 14th century values, 14th century ways of looking at other human beings.

We are on the edge of a new century and a new millennium, where the people in poor countries all over the world, because of technology and the Internet and the spreading of information will have unprecedented opportunities to share prosperity, and to give their kids an education, and have a decent future, if only they will live in peace with the basic human regard for other people -- that is absolutely anathetical to everything that Mr. Milosevic has done. anathetical

So I ask you -- you say, what has this got to do with America? Remember, we fought two world wars in Europe. Remember that the unity, the freedom, the prosperity, the peace of Europe is important to the future of the children in this room today. That is, in the end, what this is about.

We're not doing this on our own. We could not have undertaken it on our own. This is something we're doing with our NATO allies. They're up there in the air, too. If there's a peace agreement, they've agreed to provide 85 percent of the troops on the ground to help to monitor the peace agreement and protect all the ethnic groups, including the Serbs.

This is something we are doing to try to avoid in the 21st century the kind of widespread war, large American casualties and heartbreak that we saw too much of in the century we are about to leave.

So this is not just about a small peace of the Balkans. But let me ask you something. When we are moved by the plight of three servicemen, when we stay up half the night hoping that our rescue teams find that fine pilot who went down when his plane was hit, when we see a sign that says, "I love my TR sailor" or "I miss my Daddy," we remember that all political and military decisions ultimately have a human component that is highly individualized.

Think how you would feel if you were part of the half million people who lived peaceably in a place, just wanted to be let alone to practice your religion and educate your children and do your work -- if people came to your house and your village and said, pack up your belongings and go; we're going to burn your property records, we're going to burn your identity records. And if your husband or your son is of military service age, we might take them out behind the barn and shoot them dead -- just because you have a different religion, just because you have a different ethnic background. Is that really what we want the 21st century to be about for our children?

Now, that is what is at stake here. We cannot do everything in the world, but we must do what we can. We can never forget the Holocaust, the genocide, the carnage of the 20th century. We don't want the new century to bring us the same nightmares in a different guise.

We also want to say again how proud the United States is that each of NATO's 19 members is supporting the mission in Kosovo in some way -- France and Germany, Turkey and Greece, Poland and Hungary, the Czech Republic, Britain, Canada -- all the others. And this is also important.
Let me finally say -- I'd like to read you something. Near the end of the second world war, President Roosevelt prepared a speech to give at a holiday honoring Virginia's famous son, Thomas Jefferson. He never got to give the speech. But it still speaks to us, his last words. And to those of you who wear the uniform of our nation and to those of you who are part of the families of our uniformed service members, I ask you to heed these words.

After the long war was almost drawing to a close, these were Franklin Roosevelt's last words that he never got to deliver: "We as Americans do not choose to deny our responsibilities. Nor do we intend to abandon our determination that within the lives of our children and our children's children, there will not be a third world war. We seek peace, enduring peace. More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars."

That is what we are trying to achieve in Kosovo. That is what many of you in this room, perhaps, and your colleagues, did achieve in Bosnia. We want to end a war that has begun in Europe, and prevent a larger war. And we want to alleviate the burdens and the killing of defenseless people. Let us heed President Roosevelt's last words.

Let me say again, for those of you who serve and for those of you who serve as family members, and who sacrifice as wives and husbands and children: I thank you for your service and your sacrifice, and America thanks you.

God bless you. (Applause.)

END 1:42 P.M. EST
For Immediate Release

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Bossier City, Louisiana)

April 12, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE PERSONNEL AT BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE

Barksdale Air Force Base
Bossier City, Louisiana

9:55 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Let me begin by thanking Secretary Cohen and General Shelton for their truly outstanding leadership on behalf of our nation's military. They are eloquent and profound representatives of what is best about this country, and I thank them.

I want to thank Senator Breaux, Senator Landrieu, Representative McCrery for their support for you and for our country. I would like to acknowledge in the audience today or here with us are other members of Congress -- Congressman Bill Jefferson and Chris John from Louisiana; and Congressman Thornberry and Congressman Sandlin who come from the neighboring state of Texas to be with us. So I thank all of them for their support.

I would like to thank the Air Force Chief of Staff, General Mike Ryan, for coming down here with me; the Acting Secretary of the Air Force Whitt Peters; my National Security Advisor Sandy Berger. We also have the FEMA Director here, James Lee Witt, because, you know, you've had some pretty tough natural disasters here recently, and we're here doing double duty.

And General Marcotte and General Smoak, thank you for welcoming me here and for giving me the chance to meet with some of the fine people with whom you work who have also been involved in our work over Kosovo.

I this the Adjacent General Bennett Landreneau, who is representing Governor Foster; Treasurer Ken Duncan; and the Mayor of Bossier City, George Dement, and the Mayor of Shreveport, Keith Hightower, for coming to meet me as well.

Now, the nice thing about speaking last is that everything that needs to be said has been said, but not everyone has said it.

(Laughter.)

What I would like to do is to be just serious for a moment and first thank all the previous speakers for what they have said, and try to put this in some larger context.

The conflict in Kosovo in which we are involved is really about two things: first, what you know and see every night -- all those hundreds and thousands of innocent people uprooted, many of them killed, some of them dying from disease in refugee camps, some families divided forever -- not because of anything they did, but because they happen to be Albanian instead of Serbian; Muslim instead of Orthodox Christian. It is a human tragedy that touches everyone.
But there is a second issue here as well. And that is whether we and our allies in Europe are going to allow that kind of problem -- hatred based on race or ethnicity or religion -- to be the defining force of the next 20 or 30 years. In other words, whether we're going to go into the 21st century, this great modern time, where all our kids can do amazing things on the Internet, where all of our planes can do amazing things with high technology, and have all of the tools of the modern world put at the service of the most primitive hatreds known to man. Or whether our European allies -- 18 other countries in NATO, and their friends and sympathizers across Europe -- will stay united with us, and with our neighbors to the north in Canada, and say, we would like the 21st century to be different for our children; we would like to nip this conflict in the bud before it destabilizes all of Europe; we would like to see us make a statement that we don't want the 21st century to be defined, and we don't want American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, to die on distant battlefields in large numbers because we walked away from these ethnic, religious and racial atrocities. And that's what's going on.

Now, I wanted to come here to Barksdale today for two reasons. One is, you're involved -- with the B-52s and what we're trying to achieve there. The other is, Barksdale has a rich heritage of being part of an allied effort, where America does not act alone, but with others who love freedom and are prepared to defend it.

This base was named for Lt. Eugene Barksdale of the U.S. Army Air Corps, who flew combat missions alongside British pilots in World War I with enormous skill and bravery. This base was where Jimmy Doolittle's famed bomber unit and so many others, including French pilots, trained to fight for freedom in World War II. It was from this base during the very large coalition effort in the Gulf War that crews launched the longest strike mission in the history of aerial combat, 35 nonstop hours in the air, when B-52s left Barksdale to strike at Saddam Hussein's war machine and returned safely here.

Now, you have this new mission -- one that echoes the allied achievements of the past and embodies our determination to create a better future. As I said, I met earlier with air crews who have returned from Kosovo, where, with the aircraft from other NATO countries, they struck at the Serbian forces who have so brutally attacked the civilian population of Kosovo.

The forces are working to save innocent lives, to protect the peace and freedom and stability of Europe, to stand against the notion that it's okay to uproot, destroy and murder people because of their race, ethnic background or religion.

I am grateful for your service and grateful for the sacrifice of your families. We are all -- those of us in positions of responsibility -- committed to support you. I listened very, very carefully today when the crew members talked to me about the challenges of maintaining a long-term career in the military today; about the challenges they face, the challenges their families face; the challenges that relate to income, the challenges that relate to health care, the challenges that relate to housing, the challenges that relate to operations tempo.

We are working on that. We know that, now that we have downsized the military, and the economy in the civilian sector has picked up, we're going to have to work harder to get and keep good people. Our new budget provides for an increase in pay and more money for housing and other quality-of-life supports, for more support for training and equipment. It is the first sustained increase in overall defense spending since 1985.
There's something else that, since it is now April the 12th, I think I ought to do. Our tax laws give the President the authority to issue an executive order granting tax benefits to Americans serving in a combat zone or supporting combat efforts. I want you to know that I will issue that executive order for our forces who are working to save Kosovo. (Applause.)

This will mean that for military personnel serving in the combat zone, most or all pay for each month served will be tax-free, not withheld from paychecks, not subject to IRS claims later. They will also be eligible for some additional pay for service.

There's another advantage to the executive order that will apply not only to personnel in the combat zone and others deployed overseas, but also for some civilian personnel as well, including accredited journalists and relief workers. It will suspend the time for filing tax returns and related obligations to the IRS. With our citizens working so hard to protect the people of Kosovo, they shouldn't have to worry about their taxes.

Now, Secretary Cohen will work out all the details with the Treasury Department as soon as possible -- (laughter) -- he's got 72 hours. (Laughter.) You all have to have quicker turnaround than that. So he's going to fight with the tax person for you.

Let me say again, I know I speak for all of the members of Congress here in saying they support this. We have had remarkable bipartisan support from the leadership in Congress for this -- Congressman Archer and Rangel, Senators Roth and Moynihan who have made it quite clear that they support what we are doing.

Let me just say one other word or two about this mission, because more of you will be going in the days ahead. Hundreds of thousands of these Kosovars are now refugees. There have been thousands of innocent victims. Many are just dying because they're stuck in these refugee camps and can't get adequate health care or support, some of them from severe dehydration. There is also the possibility that Albania, Macedonia and other countries around there receiving these refugees will be destabilized because they have ethnic problems of their own. There are also countries, believe it or not, in the Balkans that have worked hard to resolve their ethnic differences and they have things going pretty well. Pretty soon, their malcontents may wonder whether they could have gotten a better deal by behaving in a more constructive way.

We've learned the hard way through two world wars and through what we saw in Bosnia that with these kinds of conflicts, if you don't halt them, they spread, to be stopped later at greater cost and greater risk.

I have worked hard for the last six years to build in the aftermath of the Cold War a Europe that is united, democratic and at peace for the first time in history. The two great world wars of the 20th century started in Europe. We have learned that so much of our liberty, our safety, our prosperity depends upon an alliance with a democratic Europe. That's what NATO has been all about.

We know in the years ahead when we're going to have to fight terrorism, when we're going to have to fight organized crime and drug trafficking, when we're going to have to fight the spread of weapons of mass destruction, when we're going to have to join together with countries to fight the spread of disease and environmental problems across national boundaries that we will have to work with Europe.

That is why we have taken new members into NATO. That is why we've established new partnerships with many other countries across the whole
expanse of Europe. That's why we are adopting new missions, to be ready when somewhere, someone again challenges the peace and stability of Europe. That is what Mr. Milosevic has done.

Keep in mind, before Kosovo, he started wars of ethnic hatred in Croatia and in Bosnia, with a quarter of a million killed and more than 2 million refugees. And the fighting there did not end until we and our allies acted.

Now, we did everything we could possibly do to avoid the conflict which is now occurring. We worked and worked and worked for a peaceful solution. Last year, we stopped the threatened assault in October. We had a peace agreement. The Kosovar Albanians agreed to sign it, even though it didn't give them everything they wanted. Mr. Milosevic rejected it because he had 40,000 troops and nearly 300 tanks on the border and already in Kosovo, and he knew that he could move his troops and his tanks at will, and do to the Kosovars what he had supported being done to the other ethnic minorities in the former Yugoslavia.

The stories we are hearing now are truly chilling: Serb security forces herding Albanian villagers together, gunning them down with automatic weapons and setting them on fire. Telling villagers, leave or we will kill you. Separating family members. Loading up buses and trains, carrying some to the borders and some to be slaughtered. Confiscating identity papers and property records, seeking, literally, to erase the presence of these people in their own land forever.

We must not let that happen. We must stand against that. As I speak, Secretary Albright and the other NATO foreign ministers are in Brussels, reaffirming our common commitment to do what is necessary to prevail.

There are a lot of people who didn't think that an alliance of 19 countries could do what we have done and could stay together as we have stayed together, would have the patience to endure the inevitable progress that the tanks and the prepositioned troops would make, and the patience to deal with the bad weather and the patience to deal with all the questions to stay the course. But when American B-52s like the ones here at Barksdale take to the skies, they're joined by British Harrier jets, German and Italian Tornadoes, French Mirages, Canadian and Spanish F-18s, Dutch, Danish, Belgian, Norwegian, Portuguese and Turkish F-16s. We are united in this effort.

And we are united in our humanitarian effort. And I say to all of you: I am very proud of you. I hope you are proud of your mission. This is America at its best. We seek no territorial gain; we seek no political advantage. We have promised, if we are a part of a multinational force in Kosovo, we will protect the Serb minority with exactly the same vigilance as we stand up for the Kosovar Albanian majority. This is America trying to get the world to live on human terms, so we can have peace and freedom in Europe, and our people will not be called to fight a wider war for someone else's madness.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

I also want to thank the American people for their work in the humanitarian relief effort, and I thank our forces for their support. Thousands and thousands of Americans have called the number I announced a week ago, the 1-800-USAID-RELIEF. It's hard to believe, it's an 11-digit 1-800 number, but it works.

A pastor friend of mine called me the other day to say, just spontaneously, his church had taken up a donation for the relief in Kosovo and had collected $15,000 last Sunday. This kind of thing is happening all over America, and I am very grateful for that.
As I said, our government is doing its part there, and when I introduced Mr. Witt I said that we are trying to do our part in helping Louisiana deal with its disaster, as well -- expanding aid and individual assistance for families in affected parishes. It's ironic, but I think it's appropriate that under the leadership of Mr. Witt, our Federal Emergency Management Agency is playing a vital role in both the Kosovo relief efforts and the work here in Louisiana today.

Let me say one final word. Mr. Milosevic can end this tragedy tomorrow. What has to be done is clear: Withdraw the forces, as he, himself, promised to do last October; have the refugees come home freely and in security; establish an international force to protect all the people of Kosovo, of whatever ethnic or religious group; and let the people begin to work toward the self-government that they were promised and then robbed of years ago.

This is not complicated. The United States seeks no territorial advantage. I will say again: Europe seeks only stability, security, freedom and democracy for those people. He can end it tomorrow. But until he does, he should be under no illusions that we will end it from weariness. We are determined to continue on this mission. And we will prevail -- because of you and people like you. (Applause.)

The last thing I want to say is something you know very well here at Barksdale. You are the proud heirs of a great tradition -- a tradition of serving the United States, and a tradition, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, of doing it in cooperation with freedom-loving allies from other nations. You are doing it again. Make no mistake about it: You are doing two things. You are trying to save the lives of innocent people, and you are trying to do it in a way that creates a 21st century world that you can be proud to have your children live in.

Thank you, and God bless America. (Applause.)
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Ramstein Air Base, Germany)

For Immediate Release

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AFTER DINNER WITH TROOPS

Ramstein Air Base, Germany

May 5, 1999

8:10 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. General Jumper, General Wooley, ladies and gentlemen, let me, first of all, say that I know I speak for all the people in our group -- the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, General Shelton and others -- in saying that we are delighted to be here and very proud of you.

I have been to Ramstein at least three times since I've been President. I was trying to think, it may be four. But I feel a special affinity for this base. I flew from here into Bosnia in 1995, when the people who were stationed here then did so much to restore freedom and peace to the people there.

There are a lot of things I'd like to say, as briefly as I can. First of all, I'd like to tell you I had a real good time tonight taking all the pictures and -- (laughter.) I like having the opportunity to look our men and women in uniform in the eye and see where you're from and hear a little about your views. I thank especially the people who had dinner with me at the table over there tonight. I got questions about the Middle East peace process and the situation in Iraq and the long-term prospects in Kosovo and -- Q Pay raises.

THE PRESIDENT: -- and pay raises, that's right. (Laughter.) And they did a very good job. I want you to know, the guys at the table -- they did a good job, because we talked a lot about how the Air Force and the Navy and this year probably the Army will be down on their recruitment goals, and the reenlistment problems, and how we face the converging pressures of a very, very strong economy in the private sector -- the strongest it has been maybe ever -- certainly in a generation, and a very much increased operations tempo for people in the military, taking people away from their families more frequently and often for extended periods of time. And if that results in -- those two things result in our not meeting our enlistment or reenlistment quotas, obviously, that only aggravates the op tempo problem further.

I think there is strong, overwhelming bipartisan support in the Congress this year to make some changes in pay, in retirement, in enlistment and reenlistment bonuses. And those three things plus some other things we're going to do, I hope will help to keep more of you in the service, and I hope will help to get more young people coming in.

The job market is very, very strong out there, as all of you know. And particularly after you've been in the service for a while and you've gotten the invaluable training that you get, I understand the temptations and the lures of taking those offers which wouldn't
require you to be away from home so much and so far.

But I can tell you this: The United States military, because of people like you, can do things for a troubled world that no one else can do. And I am profoundly grateful. (Applause.) You're taking those supplies into the refugees in Macedonia and Albania -- you must have talked to some of them, you must know what they have been through. And if you were involved in the operation in Bosnia, or you talked to anybody else who was, you must know what they were put through and what it is that NATO is trying to stop in the heart of Europe.

At the end of the Cold War, the question was, do we need a NATO. And the 19 allies decided that, yes, we did; that if we wanted Europe to be free and united and at peace, we needed NATO and that would be our mission. And I wish there had been nothing for us to do -- nothing for you to do. I wish none of you reservists or Guard people had to be called up or had to volunteer. But it happened. And it is truly ironic that after all the wars in the 20th century, that here in Europe we would still be fighting over religious and ethnic bigotry, being used to dehumanize people to the point of justifying killing them, burning them, looting their homes, running them out, burning their villages, eradicating every last vestige of historical, cultural records, burning their houses of worship. And that's not the world I want your children to live in.

And if your children are wearing this uniform of our Armed Services, I don't want them to have to fight a war because we didn't nip in the bud a cancer that can never sweep across Europe again.

So this is profoundly important. And the humanitarian aid you're taking to those desperate people is profoundly important. They are good people. They have their dignity. You are enabling them to keep what they can when most of them are running out of their country with nothing but the clothes on their back.

I just want you to know that back home people do know what you're going through, they do know what a sacrifice it is. We will do everything we can to make it better. In the Congress this year, I do believe there was overwhelming bipartisan support to respond to the problems you face and the challenges you face and the private market you face.

But nothing can ever compensate or take the place of the profound sense of satisfaction you must get when you go to bed at night knowing that you did something that was good and decent, not because your country wanted to dominate another people or control land, but because we want our children and their children to live in a decent world.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

8:20 P.M. (L)
REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO AIR BASE PERSONNEL

Spangdahlem Air Base
Spangdahlem, Germany

1:36 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Secretary Cohen, thank you for your remarks and your remarkable leadership. We're glad that you and Janet are here with us today, and there for the men and women of America's military services every day.

Secretary Albright, thank you for being able to redeem the lessons of your life story by standing up for the freedom of the people in the Balkans.

To the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Hugh Shelton -- I was looking at General Shelton standing up here -- you know, he's about a head taller than I am. And I thought to myself, he not only is good, he looks good. He looks like the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (Applause.) But what I want you to know is, however good he looks, he's better than that in the job that he does.

I thank General Clark for his leadership. Ambassador Kornblum, National Security Advisor Sandy Berger. Our USAID Director Brian Atwood is doing so much for the humanitarian relief. Brigadier Scott Van Cleaf, thank you. Chief Master Sergeant Daniel Keene, thank you for making all of us feel so welcome here today.

I'd like to thank the distinguished German public officials and citizens who are here. And I'd like to thank the Spangdahlem Oom-pah Band and the Gospel Choir. (Applause.) Thank you. I thank all the men and women of Team Eifel and all your family members who are here. I am delighted to see so many children here today. (Applause.) And I hope this will be a day they will long remember.

The 52nd Air Expedition Wing is crucial to our mission in Europe. There are so many to thank -- the Stingers and Hawks, the Panthers -- (applause) -- your guests here, the crews of the Flying Knights. (Applause.) All the hundreds of base operations and support personnel here, working day after day and now night after night. We ask so much of you and you never let us down.

Ever since the end of the Cold War, this base has been busy with the challenges of a new era, training new allies, planning new missions, helping people in need like the earthquake victims in Turkey whom the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron assisted last summer. A few years ago, you helped to end the cruel war in Bosnia. And I'm sorry you have to do it all over again, but I'm proud of the job you're doing today in Kosovo.

Earlier this year, some of you in the 22nd Fighter Squadron flew
support for Operation Northern Watch. Since this conflict in Kosovo began, we have been depending on you more than ever. It's meant more hardship and more hard work for you. Many of your loved ones are right now flying out of Italy and, of course, these F-117 Stealth fighters and their crew are here from Holliman Air Force Base in New Mexico. And they're a long way from their families.

Night after night -- to Serbia, punching through enemy defenses, putting ordinance on target, returning home to debrief, rest, and then do it all over again. That takes courage and skill, and a lot of support that we must never take for granted -- refueling in midair, evading antiaircraft fire, pinpointing targets, seeking, often at great personal risk, to avoid civilian casualties, coordinating with crews from other nations, rescuing a downed pilot as one of your squadrons did just a few days ago. And for the base personnel and the loved ones, always the anxious waiting for the aircraft to return.

One thing I have tried to make sure the American people understand in the years that I have been President is that your jobs have inherent dangers, even when not directly engaged in conflict. As many of you now know, just yesterday we lost two brave Americans in a helicopter training accident in Albania. And today we grieve with their families and pray for them.

I came here more than anything else to say on behalf of your fellow Americans, we thank you for your service and your sacrifice. Though you're far from our shores, you are close to our hearts every day.

I also would like to thank the people of Germany, who are our allies in this cause and who do so very much to make all of you feel at home here in this wonderful country.

I just came from an operations briefing and a tour of the aircraft you fly from this base. I want to talk just a little bit about why you're flying. And I want all of you, particularly who have children here, who think about the world they will live in in the 21st century, to think about why you're flying.

Our mission in Kosovo has nothing to do with trying to acquire territory or dominate others. It is about something far more important -- creating the kind of world where an innocent people are not singled out for repression, for expulsion, for destruction just because of their religious and ethnic heritage.

You look around today at the people we have in uniform here. We have people from all different racial and ethnic backgrounds. We have people from all different religious heritages. And I think America's military is stronger because we try to get everybody's talents and put everybody's talents to the best possible use -- not weaker. And I can tell you for sure that our country is stronger when we reach across all the lines that divide us and celebrate our differences, but say that what unites us is more important.

All the differences that exist among people in the world, especially differences of religion, make life more interesting and more enlightening when they are limited by an understanding of our common humanity. But when people throw away that understanding of our common humanity and make differences the only thing that matter, and make them so important they justify literally dehumanizing other people so that their lives, their children, their property, their history, their culture, even their faith in God do not matter -- that makes life unbearable and it makes civilization impossible.

And that is what we are fighting against in Kosovo, the same thing we
fought to stop in Bosnia. And if we want Europe to be undivided and
democratic and at peace for the first time in history, and if we don't
want your successors to have to come to this continent and fight another
bitter war, then we must stand in Kosovo for the elemental principle of
the common humanity of every breathing, living person in this continent.
(Applause.)

The Alliance in which we are privileged to serve, NATO, is comprised
of 19 democracies with 780 million people, tied together by a respect
for human rights and the richness of all people; tied together in a
conviction that we will build a Europe that is for the first time in
history undivided, peaceful and free. Kosovo is an affront to
everything we stand for.

Two months ago there were 1.8 million ethnic Albanians living there
-- now nearly 1.5 million have been forced from their homes, their
villages burned, their men often separated from their families and
killed, some of them bundled and set on fire, the records of their
family history and property destroyed.

The number of people dislodged there in two months is equivalent to
the entire population of the state of Nebraska -- kicked out of house
and home without warning, at gunpoint. It is -- and those of you
who were involved in Bosnia will remember this very well -- it is the
culmination of a deliberate, calculated, 10-year campaign by Mr.
Milosevic to exploit the religious and ethnic differences in the former
Yugoslavia, to preserve and enhance his dictatorial power.

His so-called ethnic cleansing has included concentration camps;
murder; rape; the destruction of priceless religious, cultural and
historical sites, books and records. This is wrong. It is evil. NATO,
after the Cold War, said that we would stand for the freedom and unity
of Europe. This is occurring in the heart of Europe on NATO's doorstep.
We must repudiate it. We must reverse it. And we intend to do that.
(Applause.)

Now, when Mr. Milosevic started this campaign against unarmed people
in Kosovo, with 40,000 troops and nearly 300 tanks, he may have thought
our Alliance was too divided, our people too impatient, our democracies
too weak to stand against single-minded despotism. Every day, you prove
him wrong.

NATO is now more united. Our objectives are clear and firm.
Secretary Cohen said them; I want to say them one more time. This is
not complicated. The Kosovars must be able to go home, safe, and with
self-government. The Serbian troops must be withdrawn, and instead
there must be an international force with NATO at its core, but,
hopefully, with many other nations participating to keep the peace and
protect all the people of Kosovo, Albanians and Serbs alike.

We have no quarrel with the Serb people. I say that again: We do
not want to be guilty of the sin we are standing and speaking against.
We have no quarrel with the Serb people. America has many great Serbian
Americans. They were our allies in war. Our quarrel is with ethnic
cleansing and systematic killing and uprooting, and the bigotry and
death brought on by religious hatred. That is what we stand against and
what we seek to reverse.

But for that to happen and for those people to go home and have
self-government, there has to be an international security force with
NATO at its core that will protect everybody there. We will continue to
pursue this campaign in which we are now engaged. We will intensify it
in an unrelenting way until these objectives are met.
You know, the gentle hills of this region, the Eifel region and the Mosel Valley, are peaceful today, thanks in no small measure to 50 years of Alliance and commitment, of which you are the most recent manifestation. But we mustn't forget that here, where we now are, there was a landscape of violence for thousands of years, from the time Trier served as a Roman capital just south of here. For two millennia, Europeans fought each other in the contested terrain around this base. Two millennia.

Now, when you drive across these beautiful hills and you see these beautiful hills and you see these beautiful fields, war is unthinkable here and in most of Europe, because of what your forebears did. And you can now look forward to a day not long from now when, in the Balkans and throughout Southeastern Europe, human rights are respected and the men and women of Spang are honored for doing your part to turn the dream of peace and human rights into an everyday reality.

This base was built in the aftermath of the Second World War at the dawn of the Cold War. Because of allied vigilance, the war we then feared would occur never happened. Now, planes are actually flying into combat from this base for the very first time -- to protect the future your forebears worked so hard to build.

I know this is hard. I know too many of these pilots are flying long hours with too little rest. I know the stress and anxiety must be unbearable. But when you wonder what it is like, next time you're in a meeting of American service personnel, look around at your differences, at your racial differences, the differences of background, the men and women together, the differences of religious faith -- and thank God you live in a society that honors that, because we are united by things that are more important. And look at these little children here and think how terrible it would be for them to live in a world where a person could gain, increase and keep political power by teaching young people like them to kill other young people because of their religious faith or their ethnic background.

That has no place in Europe or any other civilized society. And you have a chance to prove the dreams of the people that fought World War II and that held together during the long Cold War to prove those dreams can be realized in Europe in your lifetime. And if you do, the people who wear the uniform of the United States military, 10 or 20 or 30 years from now will not be called upon to spill their blood in another war because of some dictator's mad schemes to dehumanize a whole people. That is what you're fighting for and that is what you will be grateful that you did for your children and the children of this continent.

Thank you so much, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END 1:53 P.M. (L)
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
Knob Noster, Missouri

For Immediate Release

June 11, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE PERSONNEL

Whiteman Air Force Base
Knob Noster, Missouri

11:50 A.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much. General Lyles, thank you for your introduction and your service. I'd like to thank General Barnidge for making me feel right at home. You can tell he's pretty proud of you -- and he makes a good speech, doesn't he? I didn't know whether he was a politician or a General the first time I met him. (Laughter.) I've got the coin, General. (Laughter.) I think I know the rules. You got yours? (Laughter and applause.)

Actually, ladies and gentlemen, when I discovered these coins I decided one way I could always remember the men and women of our military is to keep every coin I receive visible. And for as long as I have been President, I have done that. And if you saw the speech I gave last night on Kosovo, when the camera zooms in I have three racks of these coins behind me. I now have nearly 300 of these, from every unit, every enlisted person, every officer, every commander that has given me one of these, I still have the coins. And every one who comes into the Oval Office sees them all -- to remember you and what you do for our country. And this will be on that desk tonight when I get home, and I thank you for it very much. (Applause.)

I want to thank my good friend, Congressman Ike Skelton, for representing you so well and representing all of America's military families and military interests so well. I'd like to thank my National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger, who did a lot of work in planning and executing our efforts in Kosovo and others who have come here with me today.

There are a large number of congressmen here, and I want to acknowledge all of them, because I think it's important that you know you have broad support. We have four members from Missouri here -- in addition to Congressman Skelton, Congresswoman Pat Danner, Congresswoman Karen McCarthy and Congressman Kenny Hulshof from Missouri. They are all here. I'd like to ask them to stand and be recognized. (Applause.)

We have Congressman Norm Dicks from Washington and Congressman Steny Hoyer from Maryland, as you heard, two big supporters of the B-2 program. We have Congressman Leonard Boswell from Iowa and Congressman Dennis Moore from Kansas, two of your neighbors here. And we have two congressmen who came all the way from New York State -- Congressman Eliot Engel and Congressman Peter King. I'd like to ask the rest of the members of the national delegation to stand, I thank them for being here. (Applause.)

We all came down from Washington today on behalf of your fellow Americans to salute the men and women of Whiteman Air Force Base, to thank you for a job well done, to honor you for the way you honor
Over the past few months, our nation has faced an extraordinary challenge -- a decade of brutal policies in the former Yugoslavia -- and, in particular, in Kosovo -- exploded into a humanitarian catastrophe when Serbian troops evicted over 1 million people from homes they had lived in with their families for generations. It was the culmination of a long campaign by the Serbian President, Mr. Milosevic, to exploit ethnic and religious differences to strengthen his power over the people of the former Yugoslavia.

Now, in nearly every country, at some point or another there are demagogues who have tried to exploit people's ethnic, racial and religious differences. The difference here is that he wasn't just calling people names. This exploitation involved mass murder, mass rape, mass burning, mass destruction of religious and cultural institutions, and personal property records -- an attempt to erase the very presence of a people from their land, and to get rid of them dead or alive. We have come to call it ethnic cleansing. The International War Crimes Tribunal prosecutor indicted Mr. Milosevic and the leaders who worked with him for war crimes and crimes against humanity. It is that which the B-2s from Whiteman flew to reverse.

I asked you, our Armed Forces, and our NATO allies, to act when all of our diplomatic efforts failed -- after Mr. Milosevic had already put 40,000 troops and 300 tanks in and around Kosovo. I asked you to act early because the world community took four long years to mobilize itself to stop the aggression in Bosnia, and by the time it happened, there were a quarter of a million people dead, and 2.5 million refugees.

And the great dream that we all had, after World War II and after the Cold War, that finally Europe would be free and undivided and at peace, and Americans would never have to go there in large numbers to fight and die again, was threatened by the oldest demon of human society -- our fear and hatred of people who are different from us. That is what he exploited, in a systematic way, to threaten the future -- stability and peace of Europe and the security of the United States, and to do unspeakable humanitarian horrors to innocent civilians.

So when diplomacy failed, we and our NATO allies acted. We attacked the Serb forces with air power for 79 days with three goals: first, to return the refugees with security and self-government; second, to get the Serb forces out of Kosovo; and, finally, to have an international security force, with NATO at its core, to deploy to protect all the people of that troubled land -- the ethnic Albanians and the ethnic Serbs.

Today, the three objectives have been achieved. The Serbian forces are withdrawing, an international force with NATO at its core is preparing to enter, and very soon the refugees will go home. Mr. Milosevic accepted these conditions for one reason -- you made him do it. (Applause.) Thanks to you and the others who flew and supported our air mission and those of our NATO allies, he ran out of room and he ran out of time. And thanks to you, the century is ending -- not with helpless indignation over such unspeakable cruelty, but with its opposite -- a ringing affirmation by a free people of human dignity.

It was not an easy campaign. Kosovo is a long way from Whiteman -- even in a B-2. We had to coordinate all the details with 18 NATO allies. The Serbs had sophisticated air defenses. They placed innocent civilians around military targets. The weather was often downright atrocious, especially when we began the operation.

Yet, day after day, with remarkable precision, our forces pounded...
every element of Mr. Milosevic's military machine -- from tanks to fuel
supply, to anti-aircraft weapons, to the military and political support.
Most Americans will never know how hard this was or how hard our forces
worked -- the pilots, the crews, the people who make it happen on the
ground. But I want you to know that we are very proud of you.

I'd like to single out a few groups for special thanks today -- the
pilots, the crews, the maintenance personnel, who are part of the B-2 team stationed here at Whiteman -- should take special
pride in proving what a truly remarkable aircraft can do. Flying
30-hour sorties, dropping ordnance, returning to base, night after night
-- and, as our Commander said, as far as we know, they still don't know
you were there. Listen to this: the B-2s from Whiteman flew less than
one percent of the total missions, but dropped 11 percent of the bombs.
(Applause.)

We honor the pilots and the crews, but we should never forget that
for every two-man mission, about 60 people from the mission planning
cell work two or three days to make sure nothing went wrong. That's
what I call teamwork. You put real meaning into the 509th's motto,
Follow Us. A lot of good people are about to follow you back home to
Kosovo, and I thank you for it. (Applause.)

I would also like to thank the Reservists of the 442nd for all you
do. I know how badly some of you wanted to take your Warthogs over to
Serbia. I assure you, you're doing a fine job protecting us, just by
being ready to drop everything at a moment's notice. And I want to
thank the people who make Whiteman such a fine place to live and work,
including the Missouri National Guard.

And, lastly, I want to pay special tribute to the families who give
strength and support to our airmen and women who do such a difficult
job. (Applause.) The wives, the husbands, the children of our military
personnel are a part of our military team, and they serve our country in
a very special way.

The statistics of Operation Allied Force tell the story better than
I can. There were 30,000 sorties. Two planes were lost, but every
single crew member returned safely -- an extraordinary testament to your
courage and skill. Of course, we cannot forget the two Army airmen we
lost while training in Albania, and I hope you will remember them and
their families in your prayers -- Chief Warrant Officer David Gibbs and
Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Reichert.

Let me say one other thing that I hope will try to illustrate what
this is really about. I'm proud to be in Whiteman today for many
reasons. For over half a century, the brave airmen of this base have
been crucial to our efforts to build peace and support freedom. We may
be far from Europe here in the heartland, and I suppose it's unlikely
that Knob Noster will ever be invaded by a foreign power. (Laughter.)

But you have always been close to the front lines, and the people
in that small community have supported you in being close to the front
lines. The 442nd Fighter Wing supported the D-Day landings 55 years ago
last Sunday. The 509th Bomber Wing distinguished itself in the Pacific
theater. Whiteman was a bastion of strength throughout the Cold War.
Ten years ago, for example, who would have thought that a former leader
of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, would come here to have you sing
"Happy Birthday" to him? (Laughter.) Or that he would have the gall to
accuse General Barnidge of singing off-key. (Laughter.)

In this decade, in the wake of the Cold War, our men and women and
uniform have played a crucial role, and so have you. And with the B-2,
you have been even closer to the front lines. From Iraq to Haiti to
Bosnia to Kosovo, our men and women in uniform have shown dictators they can't shatter their people and threaten their neighbors with impunity. But this is the point I want you to think about.

You helped to put the lie to Mr. Milosevic's campaign of ethnic cleansing and killing in two ways, not one. First, and most obviously, you did it with the power of the bombing campaign. But, second, you did it with the power of your example. What do I mean by that? His whole justification for power has been to tell the Serbian people that they cannot and should not have to live with the Bosnian Muslims, with the Kosovar Albanian Muslims, with the Croatian Catholics; that the only pure and great people, worthy to be part of Greater Serbia, are those who share their ethnic background and their faith; that their country can only be great when everybody's just like everybody else.

Well, look around here. You put the lie to that by the power of your example. And make no mistake about it, it is even more powerful than the power of our bombs. (Applause.)

I invite the people of this world today who say that people cannot get along across racial and ethnic and religious lines to have a good look at the members of the United States military -- to have a good look at the members of the United States Air Force in this hangar today. We have proved that when people are bound together by shared values, their differences make them stronger, and make our community stronger; that everyone has a contribution to make, and everyone is a child of God, worthy to be developed to the fullest of his or her own capacity; and that our differences make our lives more interesting, even more fun, as long as we recognize that fundamentally, what is most important is our common humanity.

Make no mistake about it: every day you get up and go to work, every day you work through a difference you're having with somebody who comes from a different part of the country or a different background than you do, every day you learn to live by performing your mission better, working together you put the lie to the idea that has driven Mr. Milosevic's power, and that of every other dictator in this century who tried to get people to hate others because they had a different color skin, because they had a different ethnic background, because they worshiped God in a different way.

And make no mistake about it -- in a world that is smaller and smaller and smaller, where we are growing closer through the Internet, through links of trade, through shared culture, where people will become more vulnerable to one another through open borders, it is a very important thing for the safety and security of the United States for us to be able to hold up for the whole world the example of our men and women in uniform and say: this is the future we should all seek in the 21st Century. (Applause.)

Yes, I am very proud of the B-2s. I am proud of the cooperation across the services. I know the Air Force is grateful for the radar jamming provided by Navy and Marine aircraft -- the Navy TLAMS fired from ships in the Mediterranean that made the flights safer. The Army and Marine units taking care of the refugees. I'm grateful for all of that cooperation; but, fundamentally, I am most grateful for the power of your example.

In our military, we have Asian Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, European Americans of every stripe, including Albanian Americans and Serbian Americans. I don't want anybody to get the idea that we have a grudge or bad feelings about the people of Serbia, they were our allies in World War II. They fill many neighborhoods in some of our largest cities. We cheer for them on professional sports teams.
Many of us know them as our friends. This is not about a people, this is about a rotten idea that needs to be wiped from the pages of history that you have helped to do.

And I say to you, we have to keep working on it. If we want to be a force for good around the world, we've got to keep working to be good at home. We've got to keep working to live up to the ideas of our founders, that we are all created equal, that we have a constant obligation throughout our lives to broaden the circle of opportunity and deepen the meaning of freedom and draw closer together as a national community.

These past months were a defining moment for the forces of freedom in our Alliance. This was the longest and most difficult military campaign NATO ever engaged in, in its entire 50 years, Mr. Milosevic, who believed that strength comes from everything being the same, thought that his campaign for a greater Serbia would break the unity of the incredible diversity of the NATO Alliance. He thought open societies with free dissent -- where, as you know, everybody in America was free to tell me I was wrong about this from the get-go -- he thought that made us weak.

But he turned out to be wrong. He turned out to be wrong, yes, because the B-2 is a great aircraft, and the people flying the fighters out of Germany and Italy did a brilliant job. And the ships firing the TLAMS were great. And because the leaders were strong and tough and they hung together, that's fine, and that had a lot to do with it.

But what made all that possible? How did we get to that moment in the first place? Because we had made a decision as a free people to respect the inherent dignity of every person, to give everybody a chance, to learn from people who are different, to be on the same team. Let me tell you, that is something money can't buy and propaganda can't erase, and it is an example that I hope the world will see all the more clearly in the aftermath of your success in Kosovo.

Think what would have happened if we hadn't done this. Mr. Milosevic's victory would have been a license for despots around the world to deal with ethnic minority simply by murdering or expelling them from their land. Whenever people had trouble with people who were different, they said, well, just get rid of them. Kill as many as you want -- nobody will do anything; and if you run them out of your country, the rich countries will take care of them, anyway; just ethnically cleanse everyplace so you will never have to think about or look at or consider the interest of anybody that's the slightest bit different from you.

But, instead, we end the 20th century and begin a new one with a respect for human rights and human dignity and international law. This is not America's first victory over tyranny and, unfortunately, it probably will not be our last. But it is a moment for all of you to thank God for the opportunity we have had to live in our country and serve our country at this moment in history, to reap the benefits of its opportunities and to have a chance to move it a little closer to its ideals.

As we celebrate the victory, I also ask you to remember this: there are challenges ahead. We still have to win the peace. Those folks have to go home, and they've got to have a roof over their head before it gets too cold to be outside. We've got land mines to take up, and businesses to rebuild, and a future to make.

That work, too, can be dangerous for those who follow in your footsteps in the peacekeeping missions. But it is very much in our
interest to help them rebuild, and to draw together -- to teach them
what we already know -- that if they have something to look forward to,
and something to work for, and something to get up in the morning and
smile about, it's a lot easier for people with superficial differences
to find common interests. And so we have to be a part of that, as well.

Whenever I come to Missouri -- a state I've always loved, since I
grew up to the south, in Arkansas -- I think of President Truman, who
was the President when I was born, and whom my family idolized.
Congressman Skelton knew Harry Truman, and I think that we would all
admit that Harry Truman knew something about standing up for what he
believed in. President Truman would be very, very proud of the Whiteman
family today. (Applause.)

In the final days of World War II, Harry Truman said, "It is easier
to remove tyrants and destroy concentration camps than it is to kill the
ideas which gave them birth and strength. Victory on the battlefield
was essential, but it was not enough. For a good peace, a lasting
peace, decent people of the earth must remain determined to strike down
the evil spirit which has hung over the world for the last decade."

Well, the decent people of the world are determined to rebuild
Kosovo and the Balkans. Think about the spirit.

If you don't remember anything else I said today, remember this:
your victory was achieved for two reasons. One, the power and skill and
courage of our pilots and our crews, and the awesome capacity of our
planes and our bombs. But, two, the power of the example that you set
in our military -- a stern rebuke, on a daily basis, to ethnic
cleansing, and a reaffirmation of the moral worth, and the sheer joy, of
working together as equal human beings for a good cause.

Thank you, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END 12:16 P.M. CDT
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Aviano, Italy)

For Immediate Release
June 22, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO OPERATION ALLIED FORCE TROOPS
Aviano Air Base, Italy

9:26 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Well, Captain Davis, you are a pretty tough act to follow -- (laughter) -- and not short of self-confidence, either. That's good. (Laughter and applause.) I'd like to begin by saying that Hillary and I are delighted to be back in Aviano. We have been here several times to thank you, but never on an occasion more important than this.

I thank the Italian Minister of Defense, Mr. Scognamiglio, and his government and his Prime Minister, for their leadership, their strength, and their support for NATO during this operation. They have been terrific, and I thank them. (Applause.)

I would like to also say a special word of appreciation to our NATO Commander, our SACEUR, General Wes Clark, who led this conflict to a successful conclusion. Thank you, General Clark. (Applause.)

I want to thank Colonel Durigon, the Italian Base Commander; Ambassador Tom Foglietta, Ambassador to Italy; Ambassador Lindy Boggs, our Ambassador to the Holy See. And, General Leaf, I want to thank you for your leadership and your remarkable statement here today. (Applause.)

We have been on a long trip to Europe. I have been, at various times, with not only Hillary and Chelsea, but with Secretary of State Albright and National Security Advisor Berger, a large number of other people, on a long, long week very important to America. But I did not want to leave without having the chance to thank those of you who protect our freedom every single day, who fought for human dignity and won its cause in Kosovo. Thank you, thank you, thank you. (Applause.)

Since the beginning of Operation Allied Force, I have actually traveled to six other bases involved in this effort in the United States -- Norfolk, Barksdale, and Whiteman, in America; Spangdahlem, Ramstein, Ingleheim in Germany. But I wanted to come here to say a special word of thanks to the 16th Air Force, the 31st Air Expeditionary Wing, because of what you have done in Kosovo, because of the role this base played in Bosnia. You have repeatedly put your lives on the line to save the lives of innocent civilians and turn back the tide of ethnic cleansing. Thank you again for this noble endeavor. (Applause.)

In 79 days you did prove that a sustained air campaign under the right conditions can stop an army on the ground. The Serb forces have withdrawn from Kosovo; 20,000 allied KFOR troops are already in. You also stopped a vicious campaign of ethnic cleansing and made it possible for us to reverse it. Protected by a peacekeeping force that includes NATO, Russia and many other nations, the refugees are going back home. They have given new meaning, and you have given new meaning, to the motto of the 31st Fighter Wing. Thanks to you, they "return with
Now that the conflict has been won, it is imperative that we and our NATO allies and the others working with us win the peace. No one thinks it will take hold without difficulty. As more and more light is shed on those burned villages and even more mass graves than we dared to imagine, we become more and more appalled by the dark vision of Mr. Milosevic, and more and more certain we were right to stop it.

We have to win the peace with the same qualities with which you won the conflict -- with determination and patience, with discipline and precision. We learned yesterday again that this, too, is a dangerous mission as we mourn the loss of two British soldiers who gave their lives trying to clear mines out of a house where they were placed solely to kill the returning refugees.

But thanks to you, the worst is already over in Kosovo. And tomorrow's dictators in other places will have to now take a harder look before they try to destroy or expel an entire people simply because of their race or religion.

General Leaf called you a championship team -- those are words well chosen. As he said, over 30,000 sorties flown, about 9,000 from here at Aviano, with zero combat fatalities; two planes down, both from here. In each case, the pilot recovered, first in six hours, the second in an hour and a half. That is a truly astonishing record. (Applause.)

And, of course, we remember our two Army airmen who died in a training exercise in Albania. But I know, and I want the American people to know, that we could have had many more losses but for your skill and courage. Because I know that there were many occasions when our pilots avoided firing back at those who were firing on them because they were firing from heavily populated civilian areas. And I am grateful for that, as well.

So many of you deserve acknowledgement. I wish I could name you all. I probably will miss someone, but I'm going to do this anyway, because I love to hear you cheer when your names are called. (Laughter.) It does me a lot of good -- you know, we've been up for a week and we're a little tired and you get my adrenaline flowing.

So thank you to the Buzzards of the 510th Fighter Squadron. (Applause.) The Bushmasters of the 78th. (Applause.) The Black Panthers of the 494th. (Applause.) The Triple Nickle. (Applause.) The Star Warriors and Patriots and Yellowjackets from the Navy. (Applause.) Playboys and Seahawks from the Marines. (Applause.) The men and women deployed to Aviano from about 90 bases around America and Europe. (Applause.) And the crews here from Spain, Canada, Portugal and the United Kingdom. (Applause.) You have to teach them to scream with the same fervor with which you scream. (Laughter.)

I want to thank the people on the ground, the maintenance personnel, the weaponeers, the air traffic controllers and the Italian citizens who work on this base and make its success possible. (Applause.)

I do want the American press to note that some of you have demonstrated abilities that will serve you well when you return to civilian life. The 31st Civil Engineers -- (applause) -- built a tent city here in just four days. And it is the envy of all the urban planners back home in America. There's no crime. (Laughter.) Decent sanitation and extremely low unemployment -- congratulations. (Laughter and applause.)

I want to again, in front of all of you, express my profound
gratitude for our remarkable NATO Alliance of 19 nations. This was a
difficult, difficult struggle for many of our countries. It is a
tribute to their people and to their leaders. When I visited
Spangdahlem in Germany in May, I spoke with pilots who told me how good
it felt to look out of their cockpits and see aircraft from the other
NATO nations lying beside them.

Now, under the leadership of General Jackson, with all 19 NATO
nations working, with the Russians and with many other countries, we are
there in Kosovo to guarantee security, self-government and a chance for
all the people to rebuild.

Again, I want to say I am particularly grateful to Prime Minister
D’Alema and the Italian people for giving us the chance to call Aviano
home, and for their solidarity throughout this operation. All of you
now that Kosovo was not a distant crisis for the people of Italy, it was
an immediate threat and a difficult one, indeed. The threat is now
receding before a new vision of Southeastern Europe, one in which the
pull of our common humanity and the promise of shared prosperity are
more powerful than the old forces of hatred and division.

I want to say a special word of appreciation to all of you in our
Armed Forces for just being here. If you think about -- I want you to
really think about it -- you think about what Kosovo is all about.
People were taught to hate people who were from a different ethnic group
than they were, who worshiped God in a different way. They started out
by being afraid of them and misunderstanding them. Then, they came to
hate them. And then after hating them for a good while, they came to
dehumanize them. And once you decide that someone you're looking at is
no longer a human being, it's not so hard to justify killing them, or
burning them out of house and home, or torturing their children, or
doing all the other things you have heard. It all starts -- it all
starts with the inability to recognize the inherent dignity and equality
of someone who is different from ourselves.

The composition of our Armed Forces, with people from every race,
every ethnic group, every religious persuasion, from all walks of life,
that make up American society -- the fact that our military has all of
you in it is the most stunning rebuke to the claims of ethnic cleansing.
(Applause.)

Now, we're going home. (Applause.) I hope it's home you're cheering
for and not the fact that I'm about to quit speaking. (Laughter.) But
I just want to say to you, you make possible, by defending our interests
and advancing them, the work of the United States at the end of the Cold
War, at the dawn of a new century and a new millennium, that is
profoundly important.

Just think of what your country has been doing in the week. I went
to Cologne, Germany, to meet with the other large industrial powers of
the world to plan for the new century, to change the financial rules so
that we don't have other financial crises like the one we've had in Asia
which causes big problems back in America, as well as for the people who
are caught up in it; to provide dramatic increases in debt relief to the
poorest countries of the world, to lift the burden of debt off their
backs they can't pay anyway, as long as they'll put the savings into
keeping their children alive and educating them and giving them good
health care and ending the scourge of poverty in their country; to
planning for the future of Kosovo and all of Southeastern Europe.

Yesterday, I went to Slovenia, where I saw what we can build here --
a thriving nation which embraces democracy, rejects bigotry and looks
toward the future together. That's what we can do for all the Balkans,
for all of Southeastern Europe.
And I have just come from Macedonia, from the refugee camps, from the children singing and chanting "USA, USA, USA, USA," knowing they are going to go home, knowing they don't have to go to bed at night afraid, knowing you have given them a chance to reclaim their lives in their native lands.

And I met with our KFOR forces from the United States and Spain and France and Great Britain and Portugal. And they are very proud to be succeeding you to make sure that this mission is finally won. (Applause.)

Now, I know this has been difficult for many of you. To sleep 10 to a tent, work 12-hour shifts, six days a week. Hard for a young pilot to leave a wife and two young children, going off into uncertain skies. Hard for some of you to spend last Father's Day alone, waiting to hear your child's small voice a long way away on a telephone.

I want you to know that I am absolutely certain that you are building a better world for your children and that they will come to know that -- if not now, then someday -- they will understand what their fathers and their mothers who wore our uniform have done in the last year of the 20th century to save the people of Kosovo, to defeat ethnic cleansing, to start the new millennium in the right way -- as a time of human rights and human dignity, and allied confidence that together we can build a future worthy of our dreams for our children.

You have done that. I want you to know that your children will know it. And I, personally, am profoundly grateful. Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

END 9:44 P.M. (L)
REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE U.S. TROOPS
FOLLOWING THE THANKSGIVING WEEK MEAL
Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Well, the people at my table said that the speech I gave to the other troops was piped in here, which means it either was or it wasn't, and if it was, you heard it, and if it wasn't, you get relieved of hearing it. (Laughter.) Let me say to all of you how very grateful I am for your service here and for the power of your example here. As I said to the other troops, NATO won the military victory, but now the people of Kosovo have to win the peace, and you have to help them win it -- not only by doing your jobs, but by setting a good example.

This was a war caused by a man's determination to drive a whole people out of a country because of their ethnic and religious background. It's the opposite of everything we believe in, everything we live by, and everything the United States military stands for.

And you just look around this room today. We just celebrated Thanksgiving, with, I bet you, conservatively, 25 different ethnic groups represented among the American military forces here in this room -- maybe 50, maybe it's more.

We are interested and proud in and proud of our background, and we should be, but we know that our common humanity and our shared values are more important. That's the message that the children need to get here in Kosovo. And the more you work with people and the more you let children see you working together, having a good time, being proud of what you're doing, doing your job, living the American creed, you will also be fulfilling your mission by doing that.

Kids are not brought up hating each other because they're different, they have to be taught to do that. They've taught generations of people on this land, good people in both communities to do that, and now they've got to stop and you've got to help them. And I can't think of a better Thanksgiving present that you could give to them.

Let me also say that I was very honored -- I've got four members of the Congress here who voted for this, but I was very honored to sign the legislation which raised the pay and improved the retirement of members of the military. (Applause.)

But let me also say that we are well aware that in this good economy, with the training you've gotten in the military, that you're not serving for the money, but we think you ought to be properly compensated and have a good retirement, and it ought to be an incentive for-you-to-stay if you're so inclined. But we honor your service; we need you, and on Thanksgiving, those of us who came here will be home and you will be a long way from home.
But you will be in our hearts, and I hope you know that what you're doing is a great, great gift to your country. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END
The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
(Aviano, Italy)

For Immediate Release

November 23, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE TROOPS AND OFFICERS OF
U.S. TASK FORCE FALCON,
INCLUDING TROOPS OF THE 1ST INFANTRY,
"THE BIG RED ONE,"

Base Theatre/Fest Tent
Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo

1:13 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Hello.

AUDIENCE: Hello!

THE PRESIDENT: From the reception you gave my daughter, I thought he was going to say I was Chelsea's father, too. (Laughter.) Thank you.

I want to thank all of you for making us feel so welcome. I want to introduce the people who came with me: our Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. (Applause.) Our NATO Commander, General Wes Clark. (Applause.) My Chief of Staff, John Podesta. (Applause.) National Security Advisor Sandy Berger. (Applause.) And four members of the United States Congress: Representative Jack Kingston from Georgia. (Applause.) Representative Peter Deutsch from Florida. (Applause.) Representative Carolyn Maloney from New York City. (Applause.) And Representative Eliot Engel from New York City. (Applause.) And Chelsea. (Applause.)

Let me say that we are honored to be with you. We thank you for your service. We're looking forward to eating a big, early Thanksgiving dinner with the men and women of Task Force Falcon. (Applause.)

I want to salute some of the troops for what they have done at Camp Bondsteel and Camp Monteith. And also I want to thank those from other nations in our multinational Brigade East. I want to visit you now, at this season of Thanksgiving, not only because you're doing a hard job, a long way from home -- but because here we've got a lot to be thankful for.

Thanks to you we have reversed ethnic cleansing. We have a successful military mission which was brilliantly executed, with no combat casualties. And now, we have a chance -- not a guarantee, but a chance -- to work with these folks to build a lasting peace in the Balkans.

Now that Operation Allied Force is over, there is a new struggle underway, and Camp Bondsteel is on the front lines. Operation Joint Guardian will protect and deepen the peace we are working so hard to make permanent.

You certainly haven't wasted any time. The story of Bondsteel
reads like something out of the settling of the Old West. Not long ago, this was a hay field. Soon after NATO came into Kosovo, it became a beehive of activity. Between the Army engineers and the Navy Seabees -- (laughter and applause) --

AUDIENCE: (Cheer.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, anyway, somewhere -- (laughter) -- somewhere between the Army Engineers and the Navy Seabees, you move over a half a million cubic yards of Earth. You brought enough gravel to lay a two-lane road all across the state of Missouri. (Applause.) In less than five months, you built 160 sea huts, a chapel, a gym, a hospital, mess halls, a PX, a barber shop and an aviation area. (Applause.)

I want to salute a few of the responsible units. Don't be shy. The Headhunters of the Engineer Brigade First Infantry Division. (Applause.) The Blue Devils of the 3504 Parachute -- (applause) -- I just want to note for the press that the Blue Devils of the 3504 Parachute Infantry Regiment are also known as "devils in baggy pants." (Applause.) The Steel Tigers of the 177 Armor Battalion. The Bone Crushers of the 2nd Platoon Bravo Company. The Blue Spaders of the 126 Infantry Regiment. The Hellcats of the 299th Forward Support Battalion. (Applause.) The Eagles of Task Force 21 Aviation Regiment. (Applause.) The Spartans of the 793rd Military Police Battalion. (Applause.) The Dagger Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division. (Applause.) The Navy Seabees of Battalion 3. (Applause.)

You did pretty well. (Applause.)

Let me say to all of you, I know that a lot of your assignments are still dangerous. I appreciate the hard work you have done to protect all the people of Kosovo, including the Serbs. I appreciate your pursuit of local thugs, like the mad mortar-man. I appreciate your constant mediation between people who have a long way to go toward reconciliation.

I'm told that children routinely say, "We love you, United States." Well, they love the United States because they love you, because we gave them their freedom back, we gave them a chance to go home. We're giving the children a chance to have a different life than their parents have lived.

But let me just say this -- I say this every time I speak to a group of American servicemen and women overseas -- the biggest problem in the world today, with all the modern technology, all your fancy computers, everybody getting on the Internet -- (laughter) -- all the new discoveries in science, the biggest problem in the world today is the oldest problem of human society: people tend to be afraid of people who don't look like them, and don't worship God the way they do, and come from a different place.

And when you're afraid of somebody, it's just a short step to disliking them. If you dislike them, it's a short step to hating them. If you hate them, it's a short step to dehumanizing them. And once you do that, you don't feel bad about killing them. Now that's what this whole deal is about.

And you see this problem in our inability to solve the peace in the Middle East, although we're getting there. But it's been a long time coming. We may be about to have a final breakthrough in the Irish civil war -- been 30 years coming. Almost 800,000 people were killed in a hundred days in Rwanda by people of two different tribes, one hacking the other to death with machetes -- they hardly had any guns at all.
And if you strip it all away, the number one problem in this whole world today is the problem of Bosnia, the problem of Kosovo. It's racial and ethnic and religious hatred and dehumanization.

All you've got to do is look around the room today, and you see that our military is a stunning rebuke to that. This is the American idea in flesh and blood, all of you. You come from all different backgrounds, all different races, all different religious faiths, all different walks of life. And you're here working together as a team. You can appreciate your differences. You can even make fun of them. You can even make jokes about them because you know that your common humanity and your shared values are even more important than you differences. (Applause.)

Now, the most important thing you can do, besides keeping these people alive and having security, is to teach that to the children and to their parents by the power of your example and your own testimony. Because I am telling you, what they're going through here today is an example, but by no means the only example, of the worst problem the world faces on the eve of a new millennium. And it violates everything we in America stand for.

And the power of our weapons could win the military battle in Kosovo. But the peace can only be won by the human heart. And every day they see you -- every day these little old kids see you working together -- even if they don't speak our language, even if they never met any African-Americans or Hispanics before, even if they don't know any Asians before -- they can see. They have eyes. They'll get it.

You just show up and you be yourself and you do what you're supposed to do and you treat them right, the power of your example will show them that they do not have to be trapped in the pattern which led to the slaughter of a quarter of a million people in Bosnia, 2.5 million refugees there, almost 1 million refugees here, though we acted quicker, and because we acted quicker, they all came home.

But now that they came home, they've got to learn how to win the peace. And I say that to the other nations who are here represented. I want people to see Americans working with you. I want these children to know that the world is a better place when people are proud of their own race and ethnicity and religion, but respectful of others; when they are secure enough in who they are that they don't have to put anybody else down, hurt anybody else, torch anybody else's church or mosque just to feel that they matter. This is the most important issue in the whole world today.

And just by getting up every day, going to work, keeping the kind of morale that you manifested today with your cheers and your pride, you are a rebuke to the biggest problem in the world, and the power of your example can do more than anything else to help us to win the peace.

Thank you, God bless you, and Happy Thanksgiving. (Applause.)

(A gift is presented to the President.)

THE PRESIDENT: You all know I have an important job, because I'm your Commander-In-Chief, right? (Applause.) Well, tomorrow, because I'm also the President and I have broad executive authority, I get home at 10:00 p.m. tonight, we're all dog-tired, but I've got to get up and go to work tomorrow because I have to do something that every president has been doing since the 1920s. I have to pardon the Thanksgiving turkey. (Laughter.) And they bring me a big turkey and we let one go so we can eat all the others. (Laughter.) And they put this turkey in a petting zoo for children to see in the Washington area.
Anyway, it's always a great deal. I just say, when I go into the office tomorrow to pardon the turkey, I'm going to take the falcon and put it on my desk so all of America can see when my desk is on television what you're doing.

Thank you. (Applause.)

END 12:25 P.M. (L)