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

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<tr>
<th>Folder Title:</th>
<th>Whiteman AFB [Air Force Base], Missouri [June 10, 1999] [2]</th>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Office-Individual:</td>
<td>Speechwriting-Widmer, Edward</td>
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<td>Original OA/ID Number:</td>
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<td>001. speech</td>
<td>re: President William Jefferson Clinton Remarks to Base Community Whitman AFB, Missouri - with handwritten notes (partial) (1 page)</td>
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<tr>
<td>002. email</td>
<td>Robert Bell to Samuel Berger; re: Look-Ahead Calendar (1 page)</td>
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<td>003. email</td>
<td>Roderick K. Von Lipsey to Edward Widmer; re: Whiteman (1 page)</td>
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**COLLECTION:**
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Ted Widmer (Speechwriting)
OA/Box Number: 2192

**FOLDER TITLE:**
Whiteman AFB, MO [2]

**RESTRICTION CODES**

- Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]
  - P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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Sutphen, Mona K.

From: Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 1999 5:43 PM
To: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @SPEECH - NSC Speechwriters; @DEFENSE - Defense Policy
Subject: Whiteman AFB [UNCLASSIFIED]

For SRB/JS Review. Comments to Widmer.

Ted -
Very good. Need one more page to cut by 1 page

[Handwritten note]

(8)
6/10/99 9 pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS TO BASE COMMUNITY
WHITEMAN AFB, MISSOURI
JUNE 10, 1999

[BG Leroy Berndt, Jr.]

I came here to say thanks to the men and women of Whiteman Air Force Base and to all our
men and women if uniform, for a job well done. Brilliantly planned - flawlessly executed -
now, proudly remembered. I came here to honor all of you - but in truth, it is you who honor me.

Today is a good day to be American.

Our nation faced an extraordinary challenge over the past few months. In March, a humanitarian
catastrophe deepened in Kosovo when Serbian troops and police evicted over a million people
from homes they had lived in for generations. It was an act of horrific barbarism - a challenge
to our security interests in Europe and to our moral responsibility as a great power.

We made every possible effort to avert this tragedy, but the when the violence escalated, we
knew better than to waste time appealing to reason in the face of evil. There was only one
solution. For a problem of this magnitude and urgency, you have to act in the very best. That is
what I did. I asked the United States armed forces and our NATO allies to help the Kosovars by
breaking the will of their tormentors. Milosevic did not listen to the force of argument, but
he understood the argument of force. Thanks to you, he now understands that argument
better than ever. I'd say you broadened his horizons considerably.
We persisted for 78 days with three simple goals: the refugees had to return with security and self-government. Serbian forces had to leave Kosovo. And an international security force led by NATO had to deploy to protect all the people of that troubled land. Today, we were accepted. He bowed. You made him. You put the steel behind our diplomacy. Thanks to you, he ran out of room, he ran out of time, and he ran out of gas. Literally. The ethnic cleansing is over. The refugees will go home. The twentieth century is ending, not with helpless indignation, but rather with its opposite: a ringing affirmation of human dignity.

No one ever said it would be easy, and it was not. Kosovo is a long way from Whiteman. We had to coordinate every detail with 18 NATO allies. The Serbs placed innocent civilians around military targets. The weather is terrible – and that’s in the springtime. But the United States military has an unusual dictionary. It does not include the word impossible. Every day we asked you to do what no other military can do. Every day you came back and reported it was done. For nearly eighty days, with remarkable precision, you raised destruction on Milosevic’s military machine. You brought force to bear on every element of his capacity to make war, from his tanks to his fuel supply to his antiaircraft weapons. By degrading this capacity, you uplifted everything he opposes: tolerance ... respect ... and the restraint that must guide all peoples who live in areas of historic conflict.

Most Americans will never know how hard you worked. Not just the pilots and crews, but the people who made it happen. We are so proud of you. I’d like to single out a few groups for thanks today. The pilots and crews and weaponeers and maintenance personnel
who are part of the B-2 teams should take special pride in proving what that remarkable aircraft can do. Flying thirty hour sorties, dropping ordinance and returning to base, night after night. You only flew 3% of the missions, but you dropped 30% of the bombs. We should never forget that for every two-man mission, about sixty guys from the MPC [Mission Planning Cell] work two or three days to make sure nothing goes wrong. That's what I call teamwork. You put real confidence into the words "follow us" [509th's motto].

I'd also like to thank the reservists of the 442nd for all they do. I know how badly some of you wanted to take your Warthogs over to Serbia, but I assure you, you're doing a superb job protecting us just by being ready to drop everything at a moment's notice. And let me thank the people who make Whiteman such a fine place to live and work – including the Missouri National Guard. Finally, please take a moment with me to honor the families who give you the strength and support to do a difficult job. No one knows better than you all that the children and wives and husbands of our military personnel serve their country in a special way.

The statistics of Operation Allied Force tell the story better than I can. There were over 30,000 sorties. All of the crews returned safely. Think about those numbers. They are extraordinary.

This team has the highest winning percentage in history. A perfect game only requires 27 outs – you pitched a perfect season. But let us never forget that this historic victory did not come without a price. Please join me in tribute to the two Army airmen who perished in a helicopter crash while training in Albania: Chief Warrant Officer David Gibbs, and Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Reichert.
I am proud to be at Whiteman today for many reasons. For over half a century, the brave airmen of this base and this state have been crucial to our efforts to build peace and expand freedom. Here in the heartland, we may be far from Europe, and it's unlikely Knob Noster will ever be invaded [FYI: the closest town]. But Whiteman and the units attached to it have always been close to the front lines. The 442nd Fighter Wing supported the D-Day landings, fifty-five 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, who would have thought that a former President of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, would come here to have you sing "happy birthday" to him – or that he would accuse General Barnidge of singing off-key! [FYI: this happened three months ago]

In this decade, as we have built a safer world in the wake of the Cold War, our men and women in uniform have played a crucial role. From Bosnia to Iraq and now to Kosovo, you have shown dictators that they cannot destroy their peoples and threaten their neighbors with impunity. Anyone who seeks to disrupt the peace that so many Americans gave their lives to build will have you all to account to.

This spring, you put the lie to Milosevic's campaign of hatred in two ways: the bombing campaign destroyed his will to fight, and it did so while embodying the idea that most frightens him: the belief that different people can work and thrive together. He claimed people should be separated – you showed him what people working as a team can do. The services cooperated seamlessly – and I know how much you in the Air Force appreciated the radar jamming provided by Navy and Marine aircraft, or the Navy TLAMs [tee-lams] fired from ships in the
Mediterranean to make the environment safer, or the Army and Marine units helping to take care of refugees on the ground.

I'd also like to talk about a different kind of cooperation. This multi-ethnic military embodies everything that is right about America. Look at each other. Your families came to America from all over the world. Your uniforms have every ethnic surname you could ever imagine. We have Asian Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, Albanian Americans, Serb Americans. But for all those differences, your uniforms also share something important. Each carries the emblem of a nation whose ideals are big enough to unite us all. This was not just a victory for NATO. It was a vindication of the belief that traces back to our origin: a conviction that all people are created equal, and that they have a right to live lives free of fear.

Let me also salute the cooperation exemplified by this alliance. The past few months were a moment of truth for NATO. This was the longest and most difficult military engagement in its fifty years. Milosevic did not think the alliance would hold. He thought our open societies were weak, that dissent would cripple our resolve. He was wrong. NATO has emerged from Allied Force stronger than ever. Europe is more peaceful than ever. America is safer than ever. When I spoke to airmen at Spangdahlem Base in Germany, they told me how good it felt to look and a British Tornado on the left wing, or a French Mirage on the right wing, or a Spanish F-18, or a Dutch F-16. Our air armada included aircraft from twelve other air forces. Nothing could more clearly say: we are in this together – and that is why we are in it.
Had we not persevered, the world would be a darker place on the eve of a new century. Milosevic’s victory would have been a license for petty dictators and despots around the world to deal with ethnic religious minorities simply by murdering or expelling them from their land. We would have ended the 20th century the same way we began it— with hatred, leading to aggression, leading to the destruction of whole peoples because of their heritage or faith. Now, we are ending the century the right way. This is not our first—or our last—victory over tyranny. But it is a moment to savor the knowledge that we are equal to the challenges that lie ahead. America has stayed true to its ideals. NATO has proven its mettle. Free people everywhere are asserting control of their destiny. The peace our parents built rests on firm foundations.

As we celebrate victory, we must not minimize those challenges. A long road lies ahead before the people of the Balkans. The Kosovars will not soon forget what they have lived through. Our security presence in Kosovo will be difficult and dangerous. Winter will be cold for everyone. But beyond a doubt, we have turned a corner. I am more confident than ever that we will finally see a Europe that is united, peaceful and free for the first time in history, with Southeastern Europe part of it.

NATO’s action has also sent a message to other parts of the world. Think of the millions of innocent people who perished in this bloody century because democracies did not stand up to evil soon enough. Now, thanks to you, we can say: this is what happens when dictators try to remove and destroy people, and America’s interests are threatened.
Not too far from here, to the west, is the home of Harry Truman, the man from Independence. I'm glad that Representative Ike Skelton, is with us today, not only because he has represented this district so well, but because he knew President Truman well in his childhood. President Truman knew a few things about standing up for what he believed in. He would be proud of you today. Here in the Show Me State, you have shown the entire world what Americans will do to build a better world for their children.

At the closing session of the conference that created the UN, in the closing days of World War Two, 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, the decent peoples of the earth must remain determined to strike down the evil spirit which has hung over the world for the last decade.”

That evil spirit killed too many Americans this past century – a fact I was reminded of on Memorial Day, as I looked across the rows of white stones at Arlington Cemetery. But the decent peoples of the earth have spoken, again, and tomorrow’s world will be safer for what they have said and done. Thanks to you, and to all the men and women of this campaign, we start a new century on higher ground. God bless you, and God bless America.

###
I came here to say thanks to the men and women of Whiteman Air Force Base, and to all our men and women in uniform, for a job well done. Brilliantly planned—flawlessly executed—and now, proudly remembered. I came here to honor all of you—but in truth, it is you who honor all of us. Today is a good day to be American.

Our nation faced an extraordinary challenge over the past few months. In March, a humanitarian catastrophe began in Kosovo when Serbian troops and police evicted over a million people from homes they had lived in for generations. It was an act of horrific barbarism—a challenge both to our security interests in Europe and to our moral responsibility as a great power.

We had made every possible diplomatic effort to avert this tragedy, but when the violence escalated, our diplomatic efforts were exhausted, and we knew better than to waste time in fruitless appeals to reason in the face of evil. There was only one solution. For a problem of this magnitude and urgency, you have to call in the very best. That is what I did. I asked the United States armed forces and our NATO allies to help the Kosovars by breaking the will of their tormentors. Milosevic did not listen to the force of argument, but we knew he understood the argument—of force. Thanks to you, he now understands that argument better than ever. I'd say you broadened his horizons considerably.
We persisted for XX days with three simple goals: the refugees had to return with security and self-government. Serbian forces had to leave Kosovo. And an international security force with NATO at its core had to deploy to protect all the people of that troubled land. Today, we have a realistic peace plan in place that achieves all of our goals. And there was only one reason Milosevic accepted it "kept coming back to the table." He had to. You made him. You put the steel behind our diplomacy. When he saw what you were capable of doing to his military, he came to see the wisdom of our position. Thanks to you, he ran out of room, he ran out of time, and he ran out of gas. Literally. The ethnic cleansing is over and soon it will be reversed. The refugees will go home. The twentieth century is ending, not with helpless indignation, but rather with its opposite: a ringing affirmation of human dignity.

No one ever said it would be easy, and it was not. not the right point – talk to betsy and see if there is a point about the terrain making air operations difficult and dangerous. Kosovo is difficult to fly to. The weather is terrible – and that's in the springtime. We had to coordinate every detail with 18 NATO allies. The Serbs placed innocent civilians around military targets. But the United States military has an unusual dictionary. It does not include the word impossible. Every day we asked you to do what no other military can do. Every day you came back and reported it was done.

For nearly eighty days, with remarkable precision, you rained destruction on Milosevic's military machine. You brought force to bear on every element of his capacity to make war, from his tanks to his fuel supply to his antiaircraft weapons. By degrading this capacity, you uplifted
everything he opposes: tolerance ... respect ... pluralism ... and the wisdom and restraint that must guide all peoples who live in areas of historic conflict.

Most Americans will never know how hard you worked to secure this result. Not just the pilots and crews, but the people who take care of things on the ground. We are so proud of you. I'd like to single out a few groups for thanks today. The pilots and crews and maintenance personnel who are part of the B-2 teams should take special pride in proving what that remarkable aircraft can do. Flying – hour flights, dropping ordinance and returning to base, night after night. The A-10 Warthogs never performed better. I'd like to thank the base personnel who make this such a fine place to live and work. And I'd like you all to take a moment with me to honor the families who give you the strength and support to do a difficult job. No one knows better than you that the children and wives and husbands of our military personnel serve their country in a special way.

The statistics of Operation Allied Force tell the story better than I can. There were over 22,000 sorties. All of them returned safely. Think about those numbers. They are extraordinary. This team has the highest winning percentage in history. A perfect game only requires 27 outs – you pitched a perfect season. But let us never forget that this historic victory did not come without a price. Please join me in tribute to the two Army airmen who perished in a helicopter crash while training in Albania: Chief Warrant Officer David Gibbs, and Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Reichert.
I am proud to be at Whiteman today for many reasons. You have written another chapter in a history already filled with glory. For over half a century, the brave airmen of this state and this base have been crucial to our efforts to build peace and expand freedom. Here in the heartland, we may be far from Europe, but Whiteman and the units attached to it have always been close to the front lines. The 442nd Fighter Wing supported the D-Day landings, fifty-five years ago last Sunday. The 509th Bomber Wing distinguished itself in the Pacific. Whiteman was a bastion of strength throughout the Cold War.

And in this decade, as we have worked to create a safer world in the wake of the Cold War, the men and women here have played a crucial role. From Bosnia to Iraq and now to Kosovo, you have shown dictators that they cannot destroy their peoples and threaten their neighbors with impunity. Anyone who seeks to disrupt the peace that so many Americans have given their lives to build will have you all to account to.

This spring, you put the lie to Milosevic’s campaign of ethnic hatred in two ways: the bombing campaign destroyed his will to fight, and it did so while embodying the idea that most frightens him: the belief that different people can work together and thrive together. He claimed people should be separated – you showed him what people working together can do.

This multi-ethnic military embodies everything that is right about America. Look at each other. Your families came to America from different parts of the globe. Your uniforms have every ethnic surname you could ever imagine. We have Asian Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, Arab Americans, Jewish Americans, Albanian Americans, Serb Americans. But for
all those differences, your uniforms also share something important. Each carries the emblem of a nation whose ideals are big enough to unite all of us.

We ask a lot from our military. You never let us down. I have made it my highest priority to get you the pay and benefits you deserve. When I look at the brave men and women of this community, I have to say the American taxpayers are getting a mighty good deal. We must make sure that you get just as good a deal.

I’d also like to salute the members of our alliance. The past few months were a moment of truth for NATO. This was the longest and most difficult military engagement in its fifty years. Milosevic did not think the alliance would hold. He thought our open societies were weak, that dissent would cripple our resolve. He was wrong. NATO has emerged from Allied Force stronger than ever. Europe is more peaceful than ever. America is safer than ever.

Had we not persevered, the world would be a darker place on the eve of a new century. Milosevic’s victory would have been a license for petty dictators to deal with ethnic religious minorities simply by murdering or expelling them from their land. And despots around the world would have treated their citizens with contempt. We would have ended the 20th century the same way we began it—with hatred, leading to aggression, leading to the destruction of whole peoples because of their heritage or faith, instability and jealousy, leading to violence and bigger conflicts.

Thanks to you, we are ending the century the right way. We are asserting control of our destiny. We are saying that we are not content merely to hope for peace—we are ready to make it happen. This is not our first—or our last—victory over tyranny. But it is a moment to savor.
the knowledge that we are equal to the challenges that lie ahead. America has met a test. NATO has proven its mettle. Humanity is asserting control of its destiny. The peace our parents built rests on firm foundations.

As we celebrate victory, we must take care not to minimize those challenges. A long road lies ahead before the people of the Balkans. They have hard decisions to make. The Kosovars will not soon forget what they have lived through. Our security presence in Kosovo will be difficult and dangerous. Winter will be cold for everyone. But beyond a doubt, we have turned a corner. I am more confident than ever that we will finally see a Europe that is united, peaceful and free for the first time in history, with Southeastern Europe part of it.

And NATO’s action has send a clear warning to other parts of the world. Think of the hundreds of millions of innocent people who perished in this bloody century because democracies did not stand up to evil soon enough. For decades, historians pondered what might have happened if the nations of the world had responded sooner and better to Nazi aggression. A year ago, I visited Rwanda and said that we must do more, earlier, to stop patterns of genocide when we see them. Thanks to you, we can now move beyond promises and speculation. Now, thanks to you, with resolve and precision, we can say: this is what happens when dictators try to remove and destroy people, and America’s interests are threatened.

Not too far from here, to the west, is the home of Harry Truman, the man from Independence. I’m glad that his friend, Representative Skelton, is with us today. President Truman knew a few things about standing up for what he believed in. He would be proud of you today. Here in the
Show Me State, you have shown the entire world what Americans will do to build a better world for their children.

At the closing session of the conference that created the UN in 1945, in the closing days of World War II, Harry Truman predicted the crisis we have just come through. He 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, the decent peoples of the earth must remain determined to strike down the evil spirit which has hung over the world for the last decade."

That evil spirit killed too many Americans this past century – a fact I was reminded of last week, on Memorial Day, as I looked across the rows of white stones at Arlington Cemetery. But the decent peoples of the earth have spoken, again, and tomorrow's world will be safer and more humane for what they have said and done. Thanks to you, and all the men and women of this remarkable air campaign, we start a new century on higher ground. God bless you, and God bless America.

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- Ted Widmer (Speechwriting)

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Our nation faced an extraordinary challenge over the past few months, a challenge both to our security interests in Europe and to our moral responsibility as a great power. In March, a humanitarian catastrophe began in Kosovo when Serbian troops and police evicted over a million people from homes they had lived in for generations. It was clearly an act of horrific barbarism — a challenge both to our security interests in Europe and to our moral responsibility as a great power. It was less clear how to reverse it. Diplomacy was difficult. Time was of the essence.

Our diplomatic efforts were exhausted, and we knew better than to waste time in fruitless appeals to reason in the face of evil. There was only one solution. For a problem of this magnitude and urgency, you have to call in the very best. That is what I did. I asked the United States armed forces and our NATO allies to help the Kosovars by breaking the will of their tormentors. The strongest force on earth stood up against those who had used their strength to bully others.

Milosevic understood one argument — force. Thanks to you, he now understands that argument better than ever. I’d say you broadened his horizons considerably.

We persisted for XX days with three simple goals: the refugees had to return, with security and self-government. Serbian forces had to leave Kosovo. And an international security force with NATO at its core had to deploy to protect all the people of that troubled land. Today, we have a realistic peace plan in place that achieves all of our goals. And there was only one reason Milosevic kept coming back to the table. He had to. You made him. You put the steel behind our diplomacy. When he saw what you were capable of doing to his military, he quickly formed a brand new worldview. He ran out of room, he ran out of time, and he ran out of gas.

Literally. The ethnic cleansing is over and soon it will be reversed. The refugees will soon be home. The twentieth century is ending, not with helpless indignation, but rather with its opposite: a ringing affirmation of human dignity.

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For nearly eighty days, with remarkable precision, you rained destruction on Milosevic’s military machine. You brought force to bear on every element of his capacity to make war, from his
tanks to his fuel supply to his antiaircraft weapons. By degrading this capacity, you uplifted everything he opposes: tolerance ... respect ... pluralism and the wisdom and restraint that must guide all peoples who live in areas of historic conflict.

Most Americans will never know how hard you worked to secure this result. Not just the pilots and crews, but the people who take care of things on the ground. We are so proud of you. We’re proud of the B-2s flying – hour flights out of Whiteman night after night. We’re proud of the Warthogs and – flying from bases around Europe, covering long distances, refueling in mid-air. We’re proud of – flying from carriers in the Mediterranean.

The statistics tell the story better than I can. There were XX sorties. All of them returned safely. [careful – we lost two planes, but recovered their pilots. you need to reflect that somehow, while preserving your essential point] Think about those numbers. They are extraordinary. This team has the highest winning percentage in history. A perfect game only requires 27 outs – you pitched a perfect season.

You put the lie to Milosevic’s campaign of ethnic hatred in two ways: the bombing campaign destroyed his will to fight, and our grand alliance did so while embodying the idea that most frightens him: the idea that different people can work together and thrive together. He claimed people should be separated – you showed him what a community of people working together can do.

You proved more than your strength of arms – you proved your strength of character. This multi-ethnic military embodies everything that is right about America. Look at each other. Your families came to America from different parts of the globe. Your uniforms have every ethnic surname you could ever imagine. We have Asian Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, Arab Americans, Jewish Americans, Albanian Americans, Serb Americans. But for all those differences, your uniforms also share something important. Each carries the emblem of a nation whose ideals are big enough to unite all of us.

I am glad to be at Whiteman today for many reasons. You have written another chapter in a history already filled with glory. For over half a century, the brave airmen of this state and this base have been crucial to our efforts to build peace and expand freedom. Here in the heartland, we may be far from Europe, but Whiteman and the units attached to it have always been close to the front lines. The 442nd supported the D-Day landings, fifty-five years ago last Sunday. The 509th distinguished itself in the Pacific. Whiteman was a bastion of strength throughout the long twilight struggle of the Cold War.

And in this decade, as we have worked to create a safer world in the wake of that struggle, the men and women of this base have played a crucial role. From Bosnia to Iraq and now to Kosovo, you have shown dictators that they cannot destroy their peoples and threaten their neighbors with impunity. Anyone who seeks to disrupt the peace that so many Americans have given their lives to build will have you all to account to.

I’d like to single out a few groups for thanks today. The pilots and crews and maintenance personnel who are part of the B-2 teams should take special pride in proving what that remarkable aircraft can do. The Warthogs never performed better. I’d like to thank all the base personnel who make this such a fine place to live and work. And I’d like you all to take a
moment with me to honor the families who give all of you the strength and support to do a
difficult job, often very far away from them. All the children and wives and husbands of our
military personnel serve their country in a special way. [is it repetitive to list these aircraft
again?]

We ask a lot from our military. You never let us down. I have made it my highest priority to get
you the pay and benefits you deserve. When I look at the brave men and women of this
community, I have to say the American taxpayers are getting a pretty good deal. We must make
sure that you are getting just as good a deal.

I’d also like to salute the members of our alliance. The past few months were a moment of truth
for NATO. This was the longest and most difficult military engagement in its 50 year history. We
had never fought a war. Milosevic did not think the alliance would hold. He thought our open
societies and democracies were weak, and our open societies so tolerant that dissent would cripple
our resolve. He was wrong. NATO has emerged from Allied Force stronger than ever. The sun
has never shined more brightly over Europe than it did when the fighting stopped yesterday.

Had we not persevered, the world would be a darker place on the eve of a new century.
Milosevic’s victory would have been a license for petty dictators and despots around the world to
treat their citizens with contempt. We would have ended the 20th century the same way we
began it – with instability and jealousy, leading to violence and bigger conflicts.

Thanks to you, we are ending the century the right way. [We are asserting control of our destiny.
We are saying that we are not content merely to hope for peace – we are ready to make it
happen. Today is a new day for America. This is not the first or last victory against tyranny in
our country’s history. But it is a moment to savor, and to rededicate ourselves. In a few months,
will celebrate a historic change in the calendar. Today is every bit as historic. NATO has
proven its mettle. The peace we all worked so hard to create rests on firm foundations. This is a
bit repetitive and a bit much – new day for America? Also need to be a bit humble – lots of
innocent people died in this victory. Maybe move your century ending line from the top down
here?]

There will be other challenges, of course. A long road lies ahead before the people of the
Balkans. They have hard decisions to make. The Kosovars will not soon forget what they have
lived through. Neither will the Serbs. Our security presence in Kosovo will be difficult and not
without danger at times. Winter will be cold for everyone. But beyond a doubt, we have turned a
corner. I am more confident than ever that we will finally see a Europe that is united, peaceful
and free for the first time in history, with Southeastern Europe part of it.

And NATO’s action has send a clear warning to other parts of the world. For decades, historians
pondered what might have happened if the nations of the world had responded sooner and better
to Nazi aggression. A year ago, I visited Rwanda and said that we must do more, earlier, to stop
patterns of genocide when we see them. Thanks to you, we can now move beyond promises and
speculation. With resolve and precision, we can say: this is what happens when dictators try to
remove and destroy people, and America’s interests are threatened.

Whiteman AFB Information
For further information on Whiteman AFB please contact Public Affairs at (660) 687-6123.

Courtesy of the 509th Communications Squadron LAN team, send e-mail to Webmaster.

Updated April 17, 1999
The 442nd Fighter Wing is an Air Force Reserve (AFRC) unit located at Whiteman Air Force Base, Johnson County, Missouri. This wing is the only AFRC fighter unit in Missouri and its eight adjoining states.

The 442nd Fighter Wing is equipped with the A-10 Thunderbolt II (nicknamed the WartHog), the first Air Force aircraft designed specifically for close-air support of ground forces in combat.

There are approximately 1,000 active reservists assigned to the 442nd.

The A-10 and OA-10 Thunderbolt IIs are the first Air Force aircraft specially designed for close air support of ground forces. They are simple, effective and survivable twin-engine jet aircraft that can be used against all ground targets, including tanks and other armored vehicles.
The 442nd Fighter Wing's A-10 Thunderbolt II is flown by some of the most highly qualified pilots in the Air Force Reserve. The average 442nd pilot has more than 2,900 flying hours with more than 1,500 hours in the A-10. He has flown combat missions from Vietnam to Desert Storm to Bosnia and in aircraft as diverse as the F-100, the C-130, and the F-117.

The pilot's level of experience is representative of the rest of the 442nd Fighter Wing, too.

The wing has deployed in support of Operation Deny Flight/Decisive Endeavor over Bosnia-Herzegovina four times in the last two and a half years. It stands ready at a moment's notice to deploy world wide and perform fighter operations day and night.
The 442nd Fighter Wing has a long and distinguished service record. Tracing its roots to World War II, the 442nd was constituted the 442nd Troop Carrier Group on May 28, 1943 and activated September 1, 1943 at Sedalia Army Air Field, Missouri (what is now Whiteman Air Force Base). Assigned to the 61st Troop Carrier Wing, 442nd personnel flew C-47 Skytrain and C-53 Skytrooper aircraft. In January 1944, the Group was transferred to the 60th Troop Carrier Wing. During March 1944, the unit deployed with Ninth Air Force to England.

**442nd Supports Normandy Invasion**

The 442nd's missions in Europe supported the invasion of the continent, D-Day, June 6, 1944. On March 8, 1944 the Group departed Baer Field, Chicago for England, The following month the Group was reassigned to the 50th Troop Carrier Wing. Nine months and six days after the 442nd's activation, the group's assignment on D-Day was a paradrop of the First Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division in the vicinity of St. Mere Eglise, France, approximately four hours in advance of the first landing of seaborne forces on the European continent. In the same month, the Group flew three combat resupply missions and moved its base of operations from Fulbeck, England to Westonzoyland.

http://442fw.whiteman.af.mil/history.htm

6/8/99
The second major airborne operation in which the 442nd Troop Carrier Group took part was the invasion of Southern France in August 1944. In order to mount the operations, the Group--together with other elements of the First Provisional Troop Carrier Division--flew from England to the Italian peninsula in the latter part of July. An operating base at Fallonica, Italy, south of Liverno, was occupied by the 442nd's air echelon on 19 July.

Prior to launching its airborne operations, aircraft of the Group were used to evacuate wounded and ferry supplies in support of the Fifth and Eighth Armies. For this work, the Group received credit for participation in the Rome-Arno Campaign.

On August 15, 1944, the 442nd Troop Carrier Group carried the 509th Parachute Battalion, First Airborne Task Force, from Fallonica to a drop zone at Le Muy, France. The Group spearheaded the aerial invasion, being the first of the Troop Carrier elements--except for pathfinder teams--to cross into enemy territory. The drop, made in the early morning hours of darkness through a dense ground fog, was reported highly successful. The 442nd suffered no losses. Later the same day the Group performed a glider tow mission while carrying the 509th Airborne Infantry Battalion to the landing area near Le Muy.

While the air echelon was in Italy, the 306th Troop Carrier Squadron, which had remained in England, took part in a combat resupply mission of Patton's Third Army, which was then opening its drive on Paris. A paradrop, the aerial invasion of Holland, was staged in conjunction with the British Second Army. The Group's Holland missions, designated "Operation Market," began on
September 17 and continued four days. The operation was launched with two paradrop serials of 1,400 troops of the 101st Airborne Division near Eindhoven, Holland. A glider tow on the second day delivered the 306th Engineer Battalion to the Eindhoven landing area. On the third day, 81 gliders carrying the 327th Glider Infantry and the 907th Field Artillery were dispatched. Fog, weather conditions, and enemy fire severely hampered the mission. Only 27 gliders reached the landing zone. On September 20, the final day of the operation, the Group staged a combined paradrop and aerial resupply mission near Eindhoven.

As the ground campaign on the European continent moved closer to Germany during the latter part of the summer of 1944, the 442nd Troop Carrier Group found itself alerted for movement to France. Early in October, the Group headquarters moved to Strip A-44 near Bonnetable, France.

The principal tasks of the Group over the winter months of 1944-45 were the evacuation of wounded and the delivery of supplies to forward battle areas. Strip A-44 was inadequate for the Group's heavy aircraft, necessitating a move to Station B-24 at St. Andre de l'Eure, France, about 50 miles west of Paris.

Other missions included a resupply of units snowbound in the Alps near Bonneval, France, and the evacuation of wounded soldiers from the Remagen bridgehead by means of glider pick-up. The latter mission was the first of its kind east of the Rhine.

The fourth and final airborne operation in which the 442nd Troop Carrier Group played a role was the crossing of the Rhine near
Wesel, Germany. The Group flew two glider-tow serials on March 24, 1945, one from its base at St. Andre, France, and a second in cooperation with the 441st Troop Carrier Group from the airfield at Chartres, France. The units transported were the 517th Signal Company, HQ Division Artillery, and the 224th Medical Company, 17th Airborne Division.

During the last three months of the war, the Group's primary mission was to fly gasoline and other critical supplies to the ground forces which were driving deep into the heart of Germany. Forward landing fields, often within range of enemy lines, were used as delivery points for the 15,068,036 pounds of supplies which were ferried by the Group. Airfield Y-34 at Metz, France, was used as the operational base for most of the missions flown during this period.

VE-Day on May 8, 1945 was followed by significant change in the history of the 442nd Troop Carrier Group. The organization would remain in Europe as part of the Occupation Forces, with its eventual base designated as R-82 at Munich, Germany. The Group was also transferred to the IX Air Force Service Command. The 301st Troop Carrier Squadron, formerly part of the 441st Troop Carrier Group, was assigned to the 442nd Troop Carrier Group under the Occupational setup.

The type of work accomplished by the 442nd following Victory in Europe consisted chiefly of ferrying displaced persons, allied POWs and redeployment personnel. In May and June, 45,525 passengers in these categories were lifted by aircraft of the Group.

Next Page
A brief history of Whiteman AFB, Mo.

Whiteman Air Force Base is located in Johnson County, Missouri, 65 miles southeast of Kansas City. The base is two miles south of Knob Noster, just off U.S. Highway 50. Whiteman is about 10 miles east of Warrensburg and 20 miles west of Sedalia.

The base had its beginnings in 1942 during the U.S.' mobilization following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It was originally activated on Aug. 6, 1942, as Sedalia Glider Base.

In November 1942, the installation became Sedalia Army Air Field and was assigned to the 12th Troop Carrier Command of the Army Air Force. The field served as a training site for glider tactics and paratroopers. Assigned aircraft included the Douglas C-46s, C-47s and the Waco CG-4A glider. During the massive demobilization in the mid-1940s, the base closed and most of the buildings were abandoned.

In August 1951, however, the base returned to life again and became a part of Strategic Air Command. SAC activated the 4224th Air Base Squadron to supervise the rehabilitation and construction of a new base, Sedalia AFB.

The 4224th continued its activities until Oct. 20, 1952, when it inactivated while turning over the base to the 340th Bombardment Wing. SAC scheduled the 340th to receive the command's newest aircraft systems, the B-47 Stratojet and KC-97 tanker. Construction workers soon completed runway repairs and other projects in November 1953, paving the way for the arrival of the first B-47 in March 1954.

On Dec. 3, 1955, Sedalia AFB became Whiteman AFB in honor of 2nd Lt. George A. Whiteman. Lieutenant Whiteman, a native of Sedalia, was one of the first American airmen killed in World War II when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941.

During the attack of Bellows Air Field, Oahu, Lieutenant Whiteman managed to reach his fighter aircraft. While attempting to take off, enemy fighters attacked his plane. Sadly, Lieutenant Whiteman's P-40 crashed, fatally injuring the mid-Missouri native. By the time rescue teams reached the aircraft, Whiteman had died.

Construction on Whiteman continued throughout the 1950s. During this period, the Air Force built military family housing units as well as a base pool and gymnasium. However, a project on a much grander scale soon overshadowed this flurry of construction.

In June 1961, the Department of Defense chose Whiteman to host the fourth Minuteman ICBM wing. On Jan. 17, 1962, the firm of Morrison, Hardeman, Perrini, and Level received the prime contract for construction of hardened, underground launch facilities and 15 launch control centers. The project called for the excavation of 867,000 cubic yards of earth and rock.

The contractors used 168,000 yards of concrete, 25,355 tons of reinforcing steel and 15,120 tons of structural steel. In addition, the project called for the installation of a vast underground intersite cable network. If laid end to end in a straight line, this cable would stretch from Whiteman AFB to 100
miles beyond Los Angeles. Construction of the complex was officially completed in June 1964.

Before completion of the construction, SAC activated the 351st Strategic Missile Wing at Whiteman on Feb. 1, 1963. The 340th BMW gradually phased out operations during the same year with its remnants transferring to Bergstrom AFB, Texas, on Sept. 1, 1963.

After the mission change in 1963, life on Whiteman remained relatively stable throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Still, there were programs to continually update and improve the base's weapons systems. Whiteman initially employed the Minuteman I weapons system until the mid-1960s when a force modernization program converted the Minuteman I to the Minuteman II. Throughout the ICBM's tenure at Whiteman, it went through a variety of modifications to keep it at the forefront of America's defense.

Several new buildings emerged from time to time as the base matured. However, with the beginning of the 1980s, a new construction phase started. New missile operations, maintenance and security police facilities as well as several enlisted dormitories marked the start of a new era.

Meanwhile, the base continued to lead the way. In the late 1980s, the 351st fielded the first female Minuteman missile crew, the first male and female Minuteman crew, and the first squadron commander to pull alert in the Minuteman system. Under the provisions of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the Minuteman II system is being inactivated.

Then came an announcement that would change Whiteman forever. On Jan. 5, 1987, Congressman Ike Skelton revealed that the first deployment of the B-2 Advanced Technology Bomber would be at Whiteman. Beginning in 1988, a massive construction wave that created new buildings designed for B-2 operations, maintenance and support activities swept over the base.

On July 1, 1990, the 100th Air Division activated at Whiteman and assumed host responsibilities for the base. Accordingly, the 351st Combat Support Group and the 351st Security Police Group, along with their assigned units and the squadrons under the deputy commander for resource management, inactivated at Whiteman. Concurrently, the Air Force activated equivalent squadrons bearing the 800th designator to replace the inactivated 351st units.

Several months after the air division's activation, on Sept. 30, 1990, the 509th Bomb Wing moved its headquarters to Whiteman albeit in an unmanned and non-operational state.

However, the 100th AD's tenure at Whiteman did not last long as SAC inactivated the unit on July 26, 1991. Similarly, Whiteman's host unit responsibilities reverted to the 351st.

During the next two years, Whiteman's building infrastructure continued to grow as the arrival date of the first B-2 drew nearer. Meanwhile, another change developed in the Air Force.

With the end of the Cold War, the Air Force disestablished Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command and Military Air Command on June 1, 1992. In their place arose two new organizations, one of which was Air Combat Command, the 509th's newer, higher headquarters.

On April 1, 1993, the 509th returned to operational status when people from Detachment 509, the base's B-2 overseers for the past two years, were formally assigned to the wing. Then, on July 1, 1993, the 509th accepted the host responsibilities for Whiteman from the 351st and a new era dawned.

for the base. Several days later, on July 20, 1993, flying operations returned to the base after a 30-year hiatus when the first permanently assigned T-38 landed at Whiteman.

Then, on Dec. 17, 1993, the event that Whiteman had long awaited finally arrived. On that day, at approximately 2 p.m., a dark jet bomber swooped from the sky and landed on the Whiteman runway. Amid much fanfare, the first operational B-2, The Spirit of Missouri, had arrived. Less than a week later, on Dec. 22, 1993, Whiteman again made history as it generated the first B-2 sortie from the base.

On June 12, 1994, the base welcomed the 442nd Fighter Wing. The 442nd, an Air Force Reserve unit previously assigned to Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo., transferred to Whiteman after the closure of that installation.

Yet, the 442nd was not really a newcomer to the base. On Sept. 1, 1943, the then-called 442nd Troop Carrier Group activated at Sedalia Army Air Field. It subsequently remained at the base until December 1943.

In 1995 the base also lost one of its long-time resident units. On July 31, 1995, the 351st Missile Wing officially inactivated, ending its 33-year association with Whiteman AFB.

Throughout its history, the base has always been at the forefront of national defense. With the arrival of the first B-2 and the subsequent assignment of others, the future for the installation does, indeed, look bright for many years to come.
B-2 Spirit

Mission

The B-2 Spirit is a multi-role bomber capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear munitions. A dramatic leap forward in technology, the bomber represents a major milestone in the U.S. bomber modernization program. The B-2 brings massive firepower to bear, in a short time, anywhere on the globe through previously impenetrable defenses.

Features

Along with the B-52 and B-1B, the B-2 provides the penetrating flexibility and effectiveness inherent in manned bombers. Its low-observable, or "stealth," characteristics give it the unique ability to penetrate an enemy's most sophisticated defenses and threaten its most-valued, and heavily defended, targets. Its capability to penetrate air defenses and threaten effective retaliation provide a strong, effective deterrent and combat force well into the 21st century.

The revolutionary blending of low-observable technologies with high aerodynamic efficiency and large payload gives the B-2 important advantages over existing bombers. Its low-observability provides it greater freedom of action at high altitudes, thus increasing its range and a better field of view for the aircraft's sensors. Its unfueled range is approximately 6,000 nautical miles (9,600 kilometers). The B-2's low observability is derived from a combination of reduced infrared, acoustic, electromagnetic, visual and radar signatures. These signatures make it difficult for the sophisticated defensive systems to detect, track and engage the B-2. Many aspects of the low-observability process remain classified; however, the B-2's composite materials, special coatings and flying-wing design all contribute to its "stealthiness."

The B-2 has a crew of two pilots, an aircraft commander in the left seat and mission commander in the right, compared to the B-1B's crew of four and the B-52's crew of five.

http://www.whiteman.af.mil/b2.html
Background

The first B-2 was publicly displayed on Nov. 22, 1988, when it was rolled out of its hangar at Air Force Plant 42, Palmdale, Calif. Its first flight was July 17, 1989. The B-2 Combined Test Force, Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, Calif., is responsible for flight testing the Engineering, Manufacturing, and Development aircraft as they are produced. Five of the six developmental aircraft delivered to Edwards are still involved in continuing flight testing. The first test aircraft is currently kept in flyable storage.

Whiteman AFB, Mo., is the B-2's only operational base. The first aircraft, Spirit of Missouri, was delivered Dec. 17, 1993. Primary maintenance responsibility for the B-2 is divided between Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker AFB, Okla. for avionics software (contractor); Ogden Air Logistics Center, Hill AFB, Utah for landing gear and trainers (contractor); and the Northrop-Grumman facility at Air Force Plant 42 at Palmdale for periodic depot maintenance.

The prime contractor, responsible for overall system design and integration, is Northrop Grumman's B-2 Division. Boeing Military Airplanes Co., Vought Aircraft Co., Hughes Radar Systems Group and General Electric Aircraft Engine Group are key members of the aircraft contractor team. Another major contractor, responsible for aircrew training devices (weapon system trainer and mission trainer) is Hughes Training Inc. (HTI) - Link Division, formerly known as C.A.E. - Link Flight Simulation Corp. Northrop-Grumman and its major subcontractor HTI, excluding Link Division, is responsible for developing and integrating all aircrew and maintenance training programs.

General Characteristics

Primary function: Multi-role heavy bomber.

Prime Contractor: Northrop B-2 Division.

Contractor Team: Boeing Military Airplanes Co., Vought Aircraft Co., and General Electric Aircraft Engine Group and Hughes Training Inc. -- Link Division

Power Plant/Manufacturer: Four General Electric F-118-GE-100 engines

Thrust: 17,300 pounds each engine (7,847 kilograms)

Length: 69 feet (20.9 meters)

Height: 17 feet (5.1 meters)

Wingspan: 172 feet (52.12 meters)

Speed: High subsonic

Ceiling: 50,000 feet (15,152 meters)

Takeoff Weight (Typical): 336,500 pounds (152,635 kilograms)
At the closing session of the UN conference in San Francisco, 1945:

"All fascism did not die with Mussolini. Hitler is finished -- but the seeds spread by his disordered mind have firm root in too many fanatical brains. [Probably best to start here:] 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, the decent peoples of the earth must remain determined to strike down the evil spirit which has hung over the world for the last decade."
Whiteman AFB is located in Johnson County, 65 miles southeast of Kansas City. The base is two miles south of Knob Noster, just off U.S. Highway 50.

By my look in the Congressional Handbook, that puts it in Skelton's district (Leg, can you confirm?).

Organizationally, the 509th Bomb Wing is located there (flies the B-2s) and the 442nd Fighter Wing, an Air Reserve unit flying the A-10 Thunderbolt II (nicknamed the Warthog), is also located at Whiteman.

I agree with your sketch of a visit that would include time with crews and families (these families had a unique experience with their loved ones going to war and returning home in the space of 30 hours or so). Time to tour selected support elements of the B-2 operation might also be in order as there's a substantial infrastructure that is behind the two crew members that fly the missions. Of course a speech can always be worked in and a flight line backdrop is a great way to highlight the airpower.
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<th>DATE</th>
<th>RESTRICTION</th>
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<td>002. email</td>
<td>Robert Bell to Samuel Berger; re: Look-Ahead Calendar (1 page)</td>
<td>06/04/1999</td>
<td>P1/b(1), P5</td>
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**COLLECTION:**
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Ted Widmer (Speechwriting)
OA/Box Number: 2192

**FOLDER TITLE:**
Whiteman AFB, MO [2]

**RESTRICION CODES**

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- 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]

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

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.
**Withdrawal/Redaction Marker**

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<td>003. email</td>
<td>Roderick K. Von Lipsey to Edward Widmer; re: Whiteman (1 page)</td>
<td>06/10/1999</td>
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**RR.** Document will be reviewed upon request.

2006-0471-F
jp1616
Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)

From: vonLipsey, Roderick K.
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 1999 10:25 AM
To: Widmer, Edward L. (Ted); @DEFENSE - Defense Policy
Subject: RE: Whiteman [UNCLASSIFIED]

---Original Message---
From: Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 1999 9:23 PM
To: @DEFENSE - Defense Policy
Subject: FW: Whiteman [UNCLASSIFIED]

one more question: assuming this is finally on for sure, if you could give me a point of contact at the base, that would be great. Thanks.

---Original Message---
From: Widmer, Edward L. (Ted)
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 1999 8:53 PM
To: @DEFENSE - Defense Policy
Cc: @SPEECH - NSC Speechwriters
Subject: Whiteman [UNCLASSIFIED]

please check tonight or early am, so I can send to Sandy as early tomorrow as possible. Sorry for short fuse. Also, could you think about specific operational details that would appeal to the crowd, and fill in a couple TKs, and add the people who need to be acknowledged at the front? Thanks a million. << File: Whiteman.doc >>
Ted -
I understand that Ed Rice talked to you about drafting the talking points. That was after I had the cut below so feel free to lift what fits. Also, I got the following operational facts from the Air Force (you may get similar from Major Ipson if you haven't already):

• First combat employment of the B-2
• All sorties flown round-trip from Whiteman, 30 hours roundtrip with a crew of two
• Over 50 sorties flown
• 1.3 million pounds of bombs dropped
• First combat use of Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) -- 2000lb, GPS guided, precision, all weather weapon
• First combat use of GBU-37 -- 4700lb, GPS guided, precision, all weather, deep penetrating weapon
• Destroyed key, high value, heavily defended targets

Hope these help.

Betsy

---Original Message---

Given the short turn-around for this package after our 6pm telecon tonight, please take a look at the attached now for any comments.

Speech and Kosovo folks, just a quick look at the talking points should be good. Flavor of the event is to thank the military folks for their service and take pride in the airpower contributions that got us to the next phase.

Whiteman Cover.doc  Whiteman Meeting Memo.doc  Whiteman Talkers.doc

Thanks,
Betsy
POINTS TO BE MADE DURING MEETING WITH THE AIRCREWS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Opening Comments

• Appreciate the opportunity to talk to you today; know you are enjoying the great success of airpower in Kosovo and your critical role in that success.

• I came here today, in the wake of NATO’s announcement to suspend the bombing campaign, to honor you and all military personnel for your contributions to peace and justice in the world.

• We and our allies launched our campaign in the face of Serbia's brutal, systematic effort to remove ethnic Albanians from their land. From the beginning, we had three clear objectives: the withdrawal of Serb forces, the deployment of an international security force with NATO at the core, the return of the Kosovars to their home to live in security and self-government. Serbia—Belgrade now has accepted these conditions and the process of implementing them is underway.

• When I committed our forces to the NATO operation back in March, we needed a capable military force to counter Milosevic. Airpower was key to that force. You were key to that force. The success in Serbia unquestionably demonstrated what airpower can do.

• Your skills are outstanding and the airplane you fly and maintain, which I just had the opportunity to tour, is truly incredible. The technology it represents and years of development that produced an operational aircraft of its stature are equally incredible.

• I am proud of you, and our nation is proud of you.

• I understand the sacrifices you make to serve our country. During the past few months I’ve had the opportunity to meet with troops and families both in the United States and Europe who were involved in Operation Allied Force.

• Your families experienced a different situation than families whose loved ones were deployed. You weren’t stationed overseas, but left your homes each day to fly long missions to Yugoslavia, returning home to your families and friends.
• I wanted to come listen to your experiences, and personally thank you for your service.

General Barnidge will then facilitate an informal discussion with the pilots, spouses and ground support personnel.
It's a go for tomorrow. Departure in the morning around 8:30 from Andrews and return late afternoon. Good contact for you at Whiteman is the Wing Executive officer Major Ipson. Phone # is (660)687-5090.

any word from anyone yet?

I will review first thing this morning, BUT I have no indication from Execsec or anywhere else that this is on or a date. Based on that we've made no contact with either the base or the Air Force. Hence, some of your questions on who to acknowledge and specifics of their involvement aren't known at this point. Do you have information I'm missing?

one more question: assuming this is finally on for sure, if you could give me a point of contact at the base, that would be great. Thanks.

please check tonight or early am, so I can send to Sandy as early tomorrow as possible. Sorry for short fuse. Also, could you think about specific operational details that would appeal to the crowd, and fill in a couple TKs, and add the people who need to be acknowledged at the front? Thanks a million. << File: Whiteman.doc >>
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR BRIEF MEETING WITH B-2 CREWS
WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, MISSOURI
JUNE 11, 1999

• Glad to see an aircraft I've heard a lot about. You have a lot to be proud of.

• I understand the B-2's performance exceeded the most optimistic predictions, even from the people who are supposed to be optimistic.

• Over 50 sorties flown, and 1.3 million pounds of bombs dropped. Thirty hours in the air roundtrip for a crew of two.

• The B-2s flew 3% of the missions, but dropped 30% of the bombs.

• This was the first combat use of Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) – a 2000-pound, GPS guided, precision, all weather weapon.

• Also the first combat use of GBU-37, a 4700-pound, GPS guided, all weather, deep penetrating weapon.

• Destroyed heavily defended targets with high value to the Serbs.

• Congratulations not only to the crews, but to the maintenance personnel, and the people from the MPC (Mission Planning Cell) who work so hard to make every mission a success.
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 10, 1999

ADDRESS TO THE NATION BY THE PRESIDENT

The Oval Office

8:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: My fellow Americans, tonight for the first time in 79 days, the skies over Yugoslavia are silent. The Serb army and police are withdrawing from Kosovo. The one million men, women and children driven from their land are preparing to return home. The demands of an outraged and united international community have been met.

I can report to the American people that we have achieved a victory for a safer world, for our democratic values and for a stronger America. Our pilots have returned to base. The air strikes have been suspended. Aggression against an innocent people has been contained, and is being turned back.

When I ordered our armed forces into combat, we had three clear goals: to enable the Kosovar people, the victims of some of the most vicious atrocities in Europe since the Second World War, to return to their homes with safety and self-government; to require Serbian forces responsible for those atrocities to leave Kosovo; and to deploy and international security force, with NATO at its core, to protect all the people of that troubled land -- Serbs and Albanians, alike. Those goals will be achieved. Unnecessary conflict has been brought to a just and honorable conclusion.

The result will be security and dignity for the people of Kosovo, achieved by an alliance that stood together in purpose and resolve, assisted by the diplomatic efforts of Russia. This victory brings a new hope that when a people are singled out for destruction because of their heritage and religious faith, and we can do something about it, the world will not look the other way.
I want to express my profound gratitude to the men and women of our Armed Forces and those of our allies. Day after day, night after night they flew, risking their lives to attack their targets and to avoid civilian casualties when they were fired upon from populated areas. I ask every American to join me in saying to them, thank you, you've made us very proud.

I'm also grateful to the American people for standing against the awful ethnic cleansing, for sending generous assistance to the refugees and for opening your hearts and your homes to the innocent victims who came here.

I want to speak with you for a few moments tonight about why we fought, what we achieved and what we have to do now to advance the peace, and together with the people of the Balkans, forge a future of freedom, progress and harmony.

We should remember that the violence we responded to in Kosovo was the culmination of a 10-year campaign by Slobodan Milosevic, the leader of Serbia, to exploit ethnic and religious differences in order to impose his will on the lands of the former Yugoslavia. That's what he tried to do in Croatia and in Bosnia, and now in Kosovo. The world saw the terrifying consequences. Five hundred villages burned. Men of all ages separated from their loved ones to be shot and buried in mass graves; women raped; children made to watch their parents die. A whole people forced to abandon, in hours, communities their families had spent generations building.

For these atrocities, Mr. Milosevic and his top aides have been indicted by the International War Crimes Tribunal for war crimes and crimes against humanity. I will never forget the Kosovar refugees I recently met. Some of them could barely talk about what they had been through. All they had left was hope that the world would not turn its back.

When our diplomatic efforts to avert this horror were rebuffed and the violence mounted, we and our allies chose to act. Mr. Milosevic continued to do terrible things to the people of Kosovo, but we were determined to turn him back. Our firmness finally as brought and end to a vicious campaign of ethnic cleansing, and we acted early enough to reverse it -- to enable the Kosovars to go home.

When they do, they will be safe. They will be able to reopen their schools, speak their language, practice their
religion, choose their leaders and shape their destiny. There'll be no more days of foraging for food in the cold of mountains and forests; no more nights of hiding in cellars, wondering if the next day will bring death or deliverance. They will know that Mr. Milosevic's army and paramilitary forces will be gone, his 10-year campaign of repression finished.

NATO has achieved this success as a united alliance, ably led by Secretary General Solana and General Clark. Nineteen democracies came together and stayed together through the stiffest military challenge in NATO's 50-year history.

We also preserved our critically important partnership with Russia, thanks to President Yeltsin, who opposed our military effort but supported diplomacy to end the conflict on terms that met our conditions. I'm grateful to Russian envoy Chernomyrdin and Finnish President Ahtisaari for their work, and to Vice President Gore for the key role he played in putting their partnership together. Now, I hope Russian troops will join us in the force that will keep the peace in Kosovo, just as they have in Bosnia.

Finally, we have averted the wider war this conflict might well have sparked. The countries of southeastern Europe backed the NATO campaign, helped the refugees and showed the world there is more compassion than cruelty in this troubled region. This victory makes it all the more likely that they will choose a future of democracy, fair treatment of minorities and peace.

Now we're entering a new phase: building that peace -- and there are formidable challenges. First, we must be sure the Serbian authorities meet their commitments. We are prepared to resume our military campaign should they fail to do so.

Next, we must get the Kosovar refugees home safely: mine fields will have to be cleared; homes destroyed by Serb forces will have to be rebuilt; homeless people in need of food and medicine will have to get them; the fate of the missing will have to be determined; the Kosovar Liberation Army will have to demilitarize, as it has agreed to do. And we in the peacekeeping force will have to ensure that Kosovo is a safe place to live for all its citizens -- ethnic Serbs, as well as ethnic Albanians.

For these things to happen, security must be established. To that end, some 50,000 troops from almost 30 countries will deploy to Kosovo. Our European allies will provide the vast
majority of them; America will contribute about 7,000. We are grateful that during NATO's air campaign we did not lose a single serviceman in combat. But this next phase also will be dangerous. Bitter memories will still be fresh -- and there may well be casualties. So we have made sure that the force going into Kosovo will have NATO command and control and rules of engagement set by NATO. It will have the means and the mandate to protect itself while doing its job.

In the meantime, the United Nations will organize a civilian administration while preparing the Kosovars to govern and police themselves. As local institutions take hold, NATO will be able to turn over increasing responsibility to them and draw down its forces.

A third challenge will be to put in place a plan for lasting peace and stability in Kosovo and through all the Balkans. For that to happen, the European Union and the United States must plan for tomorrow, not just today. We must help to give the democracies of Southeastern Europe a path to a prosperous, shared future -- a unifying magnet more powerful than the pull of hatred and destruction that has threatened to tear them apart. Our European partners must provide most of the resources for this effort, but it is in America's interest to do our part, as well. A final challenge will be to encourage Serbia to join its neighbors in this historic journey to a peaceful, democratic, united Europe.

I want to say a few words to the Serbian people tonight. I know that you, too, have suffered in Mr. Milosevic's wars. You should know that your leaders could have kept Kosovo as a part of your country without driving a single Kosovar family from its home, without killing a single adult or child, without inviting a single NATO bomb to fall on your country. You endured 79 days of bombing, not to keep Kosovo a province of Serbia, but simply because Mr. Milosevic was determined to eliminate Kosovar Albanians from Kosovo, dead or alive.

As long as he remains in power, as long as your nation is ruled by an indicted war criminal, we will provide no support for the reconstruction of Serbia. But we are ready to provide humanitarian aid now, and to help to build a better future for Serbia, too, when its government represents tolerance and freedom, not repression and terror.

My fellow Americans, all these challenges are substantial, but they are far preferable to the challenges of war and
continued instability in Europe. We have sent a message of
determination and hope to all the world. Think of all the
millions of innocent people who died in this bloody century
because democracies reacted too late to evil and aggression.
Because of our resolve, the 20th century is ending not with
helpless indignation, but with a hopeful affirmation of human
dignity and human rights for the 21st century.

In a world too divided by fear among people of different
racial, ethnic and religious groups, we have given confidence to
the friends of freedom, and pause to those who would exploit
human difference for inhuman purposes.

America still faces great challenges in this world, but we
look forward to meeting them. So, tonight, I ask you to be
proud of your country, and very proud of the men and women who
serve it in uniform -- for in Kosovo, we did the right thing.
We did it the right way. And we will finish the job.

Good night, and may God bless our wonderful United States
of America.

END

8:12 P.M. EDT