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Folder Title:
Bosnia-Address to Troops/Germany 12/2/95.

Staff Office-Individual:
Speechwriting-Blinken

Original OA/ID Number:
3382

Row: 48  Section: 5  Shelf: 10  Position: 3  Stack: V
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**COLLECTION:**
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Anthony Blinken (Speechwriting)
OA/Box Number: 3382

**FOLDER TITLE:**
-Bosnia-Address to Troops/Germany, 12/2/95

**RESTRICION CODES**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Baumholder, Germany)

For Immediate Release

December 2, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE TROOPS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

U.S. Army Base/Smith Barracks
Baumholder, Germany

12:35 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: General Joulwan, General Nash, General Crouch, Secretary West. A special word of greeting to America's good friend, Chancellor Kohl, who has been a wonderful partner to our country, with great thanks to Germany for their partnership with this fine unit.

I am immensely proud to be here today with the men and women of the 1st Armored Division. You truly are America's Iron Soldiers. Previous generations of Iron Soldiers have answered our nation's call with legendary skill and bravery. Each time before, it was a call to war. From North Africa to Italy, they helped freedom triumph over tyranny in World War II. Then for 20 years, their powerful presence here stood down the Soviet threat and helped to bring victory in the Cold War. And just four years ago, when Saddam Hussein attacked Kuwait, the 1st Armored Division's awesome power turned back Iraq and protected the security of the Persian Gulf.

I know many of you were there. But I would like to remind you that in just 89 hours of combat, you destroyed 440 enemy tanks, 485 armored personnel carriers, 190 pieces of artillery, and 137 air defense guns. You should be very proud of that remarkable record. (Applause.)

Now America summons you to service again. This time, not with a call to war, but a call to peace. The leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia have agreed to end four long years of war and atrocities. They have asked for our help to implement their peace agreement. It is in our nation's interest and consistent with our values to see that this peace succeeds and endures. And
we are counting on you, the men and women of Task Force Eagle, to get that job done.

For three years I refused to send our American forces into Bosnia where they could have been pulled into war. But I do want you to go there on a mission of peace. After speaking to your commanders and looking at all of you and listening to you, there is not a doubt in my mind this task force is ready to roll. (Applause.)

Your mission: To help people exhausted from war make good on the peace they have chosen, the peace they have asked you to help them uphold.

Just two weeks ago in Dayton, Ohio, the warring parties in Bosnia agreed to put down their arms, to pull back their armies and their heavy weapons, to hold free elections, to start rebuilding their homes, their towns and their lives. But they need help to do that, and they have asked America and our NATO allies and other willing countries to provide it.

They need that help because after nearly four years of terrible brutality trust is in short supply in Bosnia, and they all trust you to do the job right. Each side wants NATO to help them live up to the commitments they've made, to make sure each army withdraws behind the separation line and stays there, to maintain the cease-fire so that the war does not start again, and give all the parties the confidence they need to keep their word -- and also to give them the trust that the other side will keep its word, as well.

I pledged to the American people that I would not send you to Bosnia unless I was absolutely sure that the goals we set for you are clear, realistic and achievable in about a year. This mission meets those essential standards. I also vowed that you would not go to Bosnia until I was sure that we had done everything we could to minimize the risks to your safety.

You know better than anyone that every deployment has risks. There could be accidents. In a formerly hostile environment, there could be incidents with people who have still not given up their hatred. As President I take full responsibility for your well-being. But I also take pride in the knowledge that we are making this mission as safe as it can be.

You will take your orders from General Joulwan, who commands NATO. There will be no confusing chain of command. You are superbly prepared; you will be heavily armed. The reputation
that you -- (applause) -- I didn't want anyone to think there was a division of the house on that point. (Laughter.)

Perhaps even more important, you will be heavily armed with the reputation that proceeds you. That and the technology and training that protect you will make those who might wish to attack think twice. But you will also have very clear rules of engagement that spell out the most important rule of all in big, bold letters: If you are threatened with attack, you may respond immediately and with decisive force. (Applause.) Everyone should know that when America comes to help make the peace, America will still look after its own. (Applause.)

Your presence will help to create the climate of security Bosnia needs. It will allow the international community to begin a massive program of humanitarian relief and reconstruction. It will bring the people of Bosnia the food, the medicine, the shelter, the clothing they have been denied for too long. It will help them rebuild their roads and their towns, open their schools and their hospitals, their factories and their shops. It will reunite families torn apart by war and return refugees to their homes. It will help people recover the quiet blessings of normal life.

This morning, after two days of working for peace in Northern Ireland, I met at the airport in Dublin with Zlata Filopovic, the young Bosnian girl whose now famous diary of her wartime experience in Sarajevo has moved so many millions of people around the world. She's my daughter's age -- just 15. But she has seen things that no one three of four times her age should ever have to witness. I thanked her for a powerful letter of support for our efforts for peace in Bosnia that she wrote me just a few days ago. And then I told her I was on my way to visit with all of you.

This is what she said: "Mr. President, when you're in Germany, please thank the American soldiers for me. I want to go home." She also asked me to thank you and all the American people for, in her words, "opening the door of the future for her and for all the children of Bosnia."

Without you, the door will close, the peace will collapse, the war will return, the atrocities will begin again. The conflict then could spread throughout the region, weaken our partnership with Europe and undermine our leadership in other areas critical to our security. I know that you will not let that happen. (Applause.)
As you prepare for your mission, I ask you to remember what we have all seen in Bosnia for the last four years -- ethnic cleansing, mass executions, the rape of women and young girls as a tool of war, young men forced to dig their own graves and then shot down in the ground like animals, endless lines of desperate refugees, starving people in concentration camps. Images of these terrible wrongs have flooded our living rooms all over the world for almost four years. Now the violence has ended. We must not let it return.

For decades, our people in America have recognized the importance of a stable, strong and free Europe to our own security. That's why we fought two world wars. That's why after World War II we made commitments that kept Europe free and at peace and created unparalleled prosperity for us and for the Europeans as well. And that's why you are still here, even after the Cold War.

Europe can be our strongest partners in fighting the things that will threaten the security of your children -- the terrorism, the organized crime, the drug trafficking, the spread of weapons of mass destruction. But it can only be a strong partner if we get rid of the war that rages in the heart of Europe in Bosnia. We have to work with the Europeans on this if we're going to work on all those other problems that will be the security problems of the future.

When people ask -- as they sometimes do back home because they're so concerned about you -- well, why can't the Europeans do this without us, just remember that when you went to Desert Storm we asked for help from a lot of nations who could have taken a pass, but they stood up with us. And when we led in Haiti we were supported by a lot of other nations who had no direct interest in Haiti, but they answered our call and they stood up with us. Now in Bosnia we are needed. You are needed.

Men and women of Task Force Eagle, I know the burden of our country's leadership now weighs most heavily on you and your families. Each and every one of you who have volunteered to serve this country makes hard sacrifices. We send you a long way from home for a long time. We take you away from your children and your loved ones. These are the burdens that you assume for America, to stand up for our values, to serve our interests, to keep our country strong in this time of challenge and change.

In Bosnia your mission is clear. You are strong, you are well-prepared, and the stakes demand American leadership that you will provide. You don't have to take it just from me. I have gotten it myself from the words of your own children. A
seventh-grade English teacher at Baumholder High School, Patricia Dengel, asked her students to write letters to their parents who are preparing to go to Bosnia. I've seen a few of those letters and I was moved. I was moved by the fears they expressed, but even more by the pride and confidence they showed in you.

Justin Zimmerman's father, Captain Ronald Zimmerman, is a company commander with the 40th Engineering Battalion. (Applause.) This is what Justin wrote: "Dad, I know you'll be fine in Bosnia because of all the training you've had. I'll miss you and count the days until we see you again." And Rachel Bybee, whose father, Major Leon Bybee, is a doctor with the Medical Corps tells him, "I'm proud of your job, which is to help others. It must make you feel great to know you save lives."

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God bless you all, and God bless America. (Applause.)

END

12:48 P.M. (L)
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Office of the Press Secretary
(Baumholder, Germany)

For Immediate Release December 2, 1995

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As you prepare for your mission, I ask you to remember what we have all seen in Bosnia for the last four years -- ethnic cleansing, mass executions, the rape of women and young girls as a tool of war, young men forced to dig their own graves and then shot down in the ground like animals, endless lines of desperate refugees, starving people in concentration camps. Images of these terrible wrongs have flooded our living rooms all over the world for almost four years. Now the violence has ended. We must not let it return.

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Men and women of Task Force Eagle, I know the burden of our country's leadership now weighs most heavily on you and your families. Each and every one of you who have volunteered to serve this country makes hard sacrifices. We send you a long way from home for a long time. We take you away from your children and your loved ones. These are the burdens that you assume for America, to stand up for our values, to serve our interests, to keep our country strong in this time of challenge and change.

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Justin Zimmerman's father, Captain Ronald Zimmerman, is a company commander with the 40th Engineering Battalion. (Applause.) This is what Justin wrote: "Dad, I know you'll be fine in Bosnia because of all the training you've had. I'll miss you and count the days until we see you again." And Rachel Bybee, whose father, Major Leon Bybee, is a doctor with the Medical Corps tells him, "I'm proud of your job, which is to help others. It must make you feel great to know you save lives."

Your children know you are heroes for peace, and soon so will the children of Bosnia. Your country and I salute you. We wish you Gods speed in the days and months ahead. You are about to do something very important for your nation, very important for the world, very important for the future that you want your own children to have.

God bless you all, and God bless America. (Applause.)

END

12:48 P.M. (L)
12/2/95  11 p.m.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON
ADDRESS TO U.S. TROOPS
BAUMHOLDER, GERMANY
DECEMBER 2, 1995
Chancellor Kohl; General Shalikashvili; Secretary West; General Joulwan; General Crouch; General Nash:

I am so glad to be here at Baumholder -- the Home of Champions. And I am proud to stand with the men and women of the First Armored Division -- America’s Iron Soldiers.
Previous generations of Iron Soldiers answered their nation’s call with legendary skill and bravery. Each time, it was a call to war. From North Africa to Italy, they helped freedom triumph over tyranny in World War II. For twenty years, their powerful presence here -- on what used to be the front line of democracy -- stood down the Soviet threat and helped bring victory in the Cold War.
And just four years ago, when Saddam Hussein made a very... big... mistake and attacked Kuwait, the First AD’s awesome power turned back Iraq and protected the security of the Persian Gulf. Many of you were there. Let me remind you of a few numbers. In just 89 hours of combat, you destroyed 440 enemy tanks, 485 armored personnel carriers, 190 pieces of artillery and 137 air defense guns. Saddam Hussein found out the hard way -- you don’t mess with the Iron Soldiers.
Yours is a remarkable record of achievement. Now, America summons you to service again. This time, not with a call to war -- but a call to peace. Our country has asked you to help the people of Bosnia make good on their commitment to peace so that it takes hold and lasts. We are counting on you, the men and women of Task Force Eagle, to get the job done.

After speaking to your commanders and looking out at all of you, there is not a doubt in my mind: this task force is ready... to... roll.
I am here, too, because you should know from me what you can expect in Bosnia -- and what your nation expects of you. And I want you to hear from me why the mission you are about to undertake is so important to America -- to our most cherished values and our important security interests.

Your mission is to help people exhausted from war make good on the peace they have chosen.
Two weeks ago, in Dayton, Ohio, the warring parties in Bosnia agreed to put down their guns... to pull back their armies and their heavy weapons... to hold free elections... to start rebuilding their homes, their towns and their lives.

Now, they need help in making the full turn from the savagery of war to security for peace -- and they have asked America and our NATO allies to provide it.
After nearly four years of terrible brutality, trust is in short supply in Bosnia. Each side wants NATO to police their agreement -- to make sure each army withdraws behind the separation line and stays there... to maintain the cease fire so that war does not start again and thus to give all the parties the confidence they need to keep their word -- and faith that the other side will too.
I pledged to the American people that I would not send you to Bosnia unless I was absolutely sure the goals we set for you are clear, realistic and achievable within about one year. The goals I outlined a moment ago meet these essential criteria.

I also vowed that you would not set foot in Bosnia until I was sure the risks to your safety were minimized.
You know better than anyone that every deployment has risks. There could be accidents. And in a formerly hostile environment, there could be incidents with people who have not given up their hatred. As President, I take full responsibility for your well-being.

But I also take pride in the knowledge that we are making this mission as safe as it can possibly be. You will take your orders from the American general who commands NATO -- there will be no confusing chain of command. You are already superbly prepared -- and you will be heavily armed.
The reputation that precedes you and the technology and training that protect you will make those who might attack you think twice. But you will also have very clear rules of engagement that spell out the most important rule of all in big, bold letters: If you are threatened with attack, you may respond immediately -- and with decisive force. As you look out for each other, America will look out for you.
Your presence will help create a climate of security in Bosnia -- and allow the international community to begin a massive program of humanitarian relief and reconstruction, largely paid for by our partners in Europe and around the world. This effort will bring the people of Bosnia the food, medicine, shelter and clothing so many have been denied for so long. It will help them rebuild their roads and their towns... their schools and their hospitals... their factories and their shops. It will reunite families torn apart by the war and return refugees to their homes.
It will help the people of Bosnia rediscover the quiet blessings of a normal life -- and give them a much greater stake in peace than in war.

Today, in Dublin, I met with Zlata Filopovic, the young Bosnian girl whose diary of her wartime experience in Sarajevo moved millions of people around the world. I thanked her for a powerful letter she recently wrote me. And then I told her I was on my way to visit with all of you. She said, “Mr. President, please tell them thank you for me and all the children of Bosnia for opening the door of the future.”
Without you, that door will close. The peace agreement will collapse. The war will reignite. The atrocities that have so troubled our souls will begin again. And the conflict could spread throughout the region and weaken our partnership with Europe.

We must not allow that to happen.
Remember what we have seen in Bosnia. Ethnic cleansing. Mass executions. The rape of women and young girls as a tool of war. Young men forced to dig their own graves and then shot down into the ground like animals. Endless lines of desperate refugees. Images of these terrible wrongs have flooded our living rooms for nearly four years. Because America stood up and led -- through the NATO air strikes that brought the parties back to the negotiating table and through our diplomatic determination which clinched the peace agreement -- the violence in Bosnia has ended. We must not let it return.
And remember how important Europe's stability is to our own security. For decades, the American people have recognized that reality. That's why we fought two world wars in Europe. That's why, after World War II, we made the commitments that kept Europe free and at peace... that created unparalleled prosperity... and that helped bring victory in the Cold War.
Europe can be our strongest partner in confronting the difficult challenges of a new era: terrorism... organized crime and international drug trafficking... the spread of weapons of mass destruction. But it won’t be a strong partner as long as a war rages at its very heart. And it won’t follow our lead in dealing with common problems if we fail to lead for peace in Bosnia. When America’s partnerships are weak and our leadership is questioned, it makes it a lot tougher to protect our national interests.
Men and women of Task Force Eagle, I know that the burden of American leadership weighs heavily on you and your families. Each and every one of you who volunteers to serve your country makes hard sacrifices. We send you far from home for months at a time. We take you away from your children and loved ones. These are the burdens America assumes -- the burdens you assume -- to stand up for our values and serve our interests in this time of challenge and change.
Because you are the best trained, the best equipped and the best prepared soldiers in the world, we know you will succeed. And because your work is so important, we know you will take great pride in it. In Bosnia, the mission is clear. You are strong and very well prepared. And the stakes demand American leadership.

But don’t take it from me. Take it from the words of your own children. Patricia Dengel, a 7th Grade English teacher at Baumholder High School, asked her students to write letters to their parents who are preparing to go to Bosnia.
I’ve seen a few of the letters and I was moved: by the fears they expressed -- but even more by the pride and confidence they demonstrated.

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And just four years ago, when Saddam Hussein made a very... big... mistake and attacked Kuwait, the First AD’s awesome power turned back Iraq and protected the security of the Persian Gulf. Many of you were there. Let me remind you of a few numbers. In just 89 hours of combat, you destroyed 440 enemy tanks, 485 armored personnel carriers, 190 pieces of artillery and 137 air defense guns. Saddam Hussein found out the hard way -- you don’t mess with the Iron Soldiers.
Yours is a remarkable record of achievement. Now, America summons you to service again. This time, not with a call to war -- but a call to peace. Our country has asked you to help the people of Bosnia make good on their commitment to peace so that it takes hold and lasts. We are counting on you, the men and women of Task Force Eagle, to get the job done.

After speaking to your commanders and looking out at all of you, there is not a doubt in my mind: this task force is ready... to... roll.

I am here, too, because you should know from me what you can expect in Bosnia -- and what your nation expects of you. And I want you to hear from me why the mission you are about to undertake is so important to America -- to our most cherished values and our important security interests.

Your mission is to help people exhausted from war make good on the peace they have chosen. Two weeks ago, in Dayton, Ohio, the warring parties in Bosnia agreed to put down their guns... to pull back their armies and their heavy weapons... to hold free elections... to start rebuilding their homes, their towns and their lives.

Now, they need help in making the full turn from the savagery of war to security for peace -- and they have asked America and our NATO allies to provide it. After nearly four years
of terrible brutality, trust is in short supply in Bosnia. Each side wants NATO to police their agreement -- to make sure each army withdraws behind the separation line and stays there... to maintain the cease fire so that war does not start again and thus to give all the parties the confidence they need to keep their word -- and faith that the other side will too.

I pledged to the American people that I would not send you to Bosnia unless I was absolutely sure the goals we set for you are clear, realistic and achievable within about one year. The goals I outlined a moment ago meet these essential criteria.

I also vowed that you would not set foot in Bosnia until I was sure the risks to your safety were minimized. You know better than anyone that every deployment has risks. There could be accidents. And in a formerly hostile environment, there could be incidents with people who have not given up their hatred. As President, I take full responsibility for your well-being.

But I also take pride in the knowledge that we are making this mission as safe as it can possibly be. You will take your orders from the American general who commands NATO -- there will be no confusing chain of command. You are already superbly prepared -- and you will be heavily armed. The reputation that precedes you and the technology and training that protect you will make those who might attack you think twice. But you will also have very clear rules of engagement that spell out the most important rule of all in
big, bold letters: If you are threatened with attack, you may respond immediately -- and
with decisive force. As you look out for each other, America will look out for you.

Your presence will help create a climate of security in Bosnia -- and allow the international
community to begin a massive program of humanitarian relief and reconstruction, largely
paid for by our partners in Europe and around the world. This effort will bring the people
of Bosnia the food, medicine, shelter and clothing so many have been denied for so long.
It will help them rebuild their roads and their towns... their schools and their hospitals...
their factories and their shops. It will reunite families torn apart by the war and return
refugees to their homes. It will help the people of Bosnia rediscover the quiet blessings of
a normal life -- and give them a much greater stake in peace than in war.

Today, in Dublin, I met with Zlata Filopovic, the young Bosnian girl whose diary of her
wartime experience in Sarajevo moved millions of people around the world. I thanked her
for a powerful letter she recently wrote me. And then I told her I was on my way to visit
with all of you. She said, “Mr. President, please tell them thank you for me and all the
children of Bosnia for opening the door of the future.”

Without you, that door will close. The peace agreement will collapse. The war will
reignite. The atrocities that have so troubled our souls will begin again. And the conflict
could spread throughout the region and weaken our partnership with Europe.
We must not allow that to happen.

Remember what we have seen in Bosnia. Ethnic cleansing. Mass executions. The rape of women and young girls as a tool of war. Young men forced to dig their own graves and then shot down into the ground like animals. Endless lines of desperate refugees. Images of these terrible wrongs have flooded our living rooms for nearly four years. Because America stood up and led -- through the NATO air strikes that brought the parties back to the negotiating table and through our diplomatic determination which clinched the peace agreement -- the violence in Bosnia has ended. We must not let it return.

And remember how important Europe's stability is to our own security. For decades, the American people have recognized that reality. That's why we fought two world wars in Europe. That's why, after World War II, we made the commitments that kept Europe free and at peace... that created unparalleled prosperity... and that helped bring victory in the Cold War.

Europe can be our strongest partner in confronting the difficult challenges of a new era: terrorism... organized crime and international drug trafficking... the spread of weapons of mass destruction. But it won't be a strong partner as long as a war rages at its very heart. And it won't follow our lead in dealing with common problems if we fail to lead for peace in Bosnia. When America's partnerships are weak and our leadership is questioned, it makes it a lot tougher to protect our national interests.
Men and women of Task Force Eagle, I know that the burden of American leadership weighs heavily on you and your families. Each and every one of you who volunteers to serve your country makes hard sacrifices. We send you far from home for months at a time. We take you away from your children and loved ones. These are the burdens America assumes -- the burdens you assume -- to stand up for our values and serve our interests in this time of challenge and change.

Because you are the best trained, the best equipped and the best prepared soldiers in the world, we know you will succeed. And because your work is so important, we know you will take great pride in it. In Bosnia, the mission is clear. You are strong and very well prepared. And the stakes demand American leadership.

But don’t take it from me. Take it from the words of your own children. Patricia Dengel, a 7th Grade English teacher at Baumholder High School, asked her students to write letters to their parents who are preparing to go to Bosnia. I’ve seen a few of them and I was moved: by the fears they expressed -- but even more by the pride and confidence they demonstrated.

Justin Zimmerman’s father, Captain Ronald Zimmerman, is a company commander with the 40th Engineering Battalion. He writes: “Dad, I know you’ll be fine in Bosnia because of all the training you’ve had. I’ll miss you and count the days until we see you again.”
And Rachel Bybee, whose father, Major Leon Bybee, is a doctor with the Medical Corps, tells him: “I’m proud of your job which is to help others. It must make you feel great to know you’ve saved lives.”

These children know that you are heroes for peace. And soon, so will the children of Bosnia. Your country and I salute you -- and we wish you Godspeed in the days and months ahead.

God bless you. And God bless America.
**TIME OF TRANSMISSION**

**WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM**

**PRECEDENCE:** IMMEDIATE

**RELEASER:**

**DTG:** 301952

**MESSAGE NO.:** 30

**CLASSIFICATION:** UNCLASSIFIED

**TOTAL:** 9

**PAGES INCLUDING COVER**

**FROM:**

**NAME:** Tim Seaton

**PHONE NUMBER:** 6-9191

**ROOM NO.:**

**MESSAGE DESCRIPTION:** Info for Baumholder trip visit

**TO (AGENCY):** Trip Site

**DEPT/ROOM NO.:** NSC OFC

**PHONE NUMBER:**

**REMARKS:**

Deliver Immediately!
More Information for Baumholder speech to troops

FAMILIES

It is imperative that the President recognize the families of Baumholder's soldiers and how important they are to the overall mission. Related to this,

- Last year Baumholder was recognized as the U.S. Army Europe "Community of Excellence."
- In 1995 Baumholder was recognized as a Department of Defense "Model Community for Children and Families."

USO

When working the idea of "support for our troops" into the speech, please make mention of the USO and its long support for our men and women in uniform. (The Chief of Staff of the Air Force specifically asked that the President do this.)

Revolutionary War Connection to Baumholder

There will be local Germans in the audience (as well as Chancellor Kohl), so the following may serve as a good "link."

- Two Baumholder natives, George Metzger and Jean Simon, fought in the Battle of Yorktown in October 1781 as members of the French Expeditionary Force that supported George Washington's forces. One Baumholder soldier, George Metzger, was killed in that battle,
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WILLIAM J. PERRY
Remarks to Family Members
NOV. 24, 1995
1st Armored Division
Bad Kreuznach, Germany

SECRETARY PERRY: The idea of taking family support seriously is relatively new and we have not always done it very well. I was really quite concerned about family support preparations for this deployment. However, based on what I've seen and heard, I'm impressed and relieved. I want to find out more about the planning and I want to talk to some of you individually.

Providing adequate family support is important for two different reasons. It's important, first of all, because it's the right thing to do. We care about our whole military family. We owe it to the family members of our military personnel to provide family support when they deploy. But, that's not enough motivation. In the past, even with that motivation family support was often pushed off to the side, given a low priority, and treated as window dressing. Responsibility was assigned to someone out of the chain of command. The second reason for doing it, though, one that we're just beginning to understand in the last few years, is that good family support is critical to mission success.

With that change of view, family support is no longer window dressing. It is no longer something that a commander can assign to somebody and forget. Mission success requires the attention of all commanders in the chain of command, to the division commander, to General [William] Crouch, to the Secretary of Defense, and all the way up to the President. As a result, when the President comes here next Saturday, he's going to be briefed on the family support arrangements for the deployment.

Because we believe family support is critical to the success of the mission, we take it seriously. We want to do it right this time. If we don't do it 100 percent right, it will not be from lack of trying. We will have the full chain of command interested and involved in its success. That is the fundamental message I wanted to give you. I would like to learn more about the specifics of the program and get more feedback from you. But I wanted first to give you a frame of reference and explain why [Major] General [William] Nash cares about family support; why General Crouch cares about it; why I care about it; and why the President cares about it. It is because we believe it is vital to the success of our mission.

Thank you for being here and thank you for helping us with this program. Mrs. Perry and I look forward to talking with you more during the day.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: U.S. Troops for Bosnia

While I was in Europe this week I took the opportunity to meet with Major General William Nash and his staff and review their preparations for Bosnia. In addition, I gave a talk to all of the leaders of the 1st Armored Division, the 700 Battalion and Company officers and NCO's. I am enclosing a copy of my speech as I believe it may be of value to you in preparing your address to the American people, and your own comments to the soldiers of this division when you meet with them next Saturday.

I am also enclosing a copy of some short remarks I gave to the personnel staffing the Family Assistance Center. This is an essential stop for you when you visit the Division next week and these short remarks explain why this is such an important activity.

Attachments

a/s

cc: Vice President Gore/Leon/Fuerth
Secretary Christopher/Strobe Talbot
Director, CIA John Deutch
Assistant to the President, Lake/Sandy Berger
CJCS Shalikashvili/VCJCS Owens
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WILLIAM J. PERRY
Remarks to 1st Armored Division Officers and NCOs
November 24, 1995
Bad Kreuznach, Germany

SECRETARY PERRY: The Bosnia peace agreement that was initialed in Dayton will require a NATO force of about 60,000 troops for its implementation. We expect the United States will provide 20,000 of those 60,000 and the 1st Armored Division will be the backbone of this force.

I asked to talk to you today to answer for you the following important questions: “Why are we going to Bosnia? What are we going to do when we get there? Who is going with us? When are we going to go? When are we going to get back?” I cannot give you final, definitive answers on all of those questions, but I can give you my best judgment on each of them.

Why are we asking you to go to Bosnia? I believe that the reasons are compelling, and I want to share with you why I find them so compelling. I believe that you will find them compelling also. I’m going to do this by describing what I call the “iron logic.”

The United States has vital political, economic and security interests in Europe.

The war in Bosnia threatens these interests.

We now have an opportunity -- the first real opportunity in four years -- to end this war.

To seize this opportunity, a NATO force is required to implement the peace and the United States must be a leader in that force.

Although there will be risks associated with this operation, the risks to the United States of allowing this war to continue are even greater. It is this “iron logic” which has driven the United States to commit troops to IFOR. Let me cover each of those points very briefly.

The United States does have vital political, economic and security interests in Europe. For many audiences I would stop to explain that, but for this audience I don’t need to. You know very well what our interests in Europe are.

It is clear that the war in Bosnia threatens those interests. I’m not referring to the actual war itself and the direct consequences of the war, as appalling as those are. I’m talking instead about the danger of this war spreading to a wider war in Europe. This is not an academic concern. Only two months ago, I would have given you even odds that a war was going to break out between Serbia and Croatia. And all during the last three and a half years, the danger has been palpable that this war would spread south into Kosovo.
and Macedonia, and involve Albania and Greece and Turkey. It is that danger of a wider war that is the most significant threat to U.S. vital interests. The best way of avoiding the spread of the war is to seize this opportunity to stop it.

We now have such an opportunity. It's the first time in four years that we really have gotten all of the parties to step forward to sign an agreement. I have talked with each of the presidents involved and their delegations. Just a week ago I was in Dayton meeting and talking with them. I can tell you that there were two factors that brought them reluctantly to this agreement. First of all, a war weariness -- four years of fighting, 200,000 people killed, 2 million refugees. They are just sick of the war. The second factor was that they were impressed and awed at the military capability of the United States and NATO. They got a sample of that during the bombing raids. They saw our military power, but they also believed that it would be used constructively, not to harm them, but to enforce the peace. That was the solid foundation which allowed them to step forward and make the necessary compromises to reach this peace agreement. Compromises, by the way, for which the Presidents will be criticized in their own countries.

Therefore, in order to seize this opportunity for peace, we must make an American commitment to participate. None of the parties, certainly not the Bosnian Federation, and also surprisingly, neither the Croatians or Serbians, would have been willing to sign the peace agreement without an American commitment. And one of the parties has already publicly stated that they would withdraw from the agreement if that commitment is not met.

So the real alternative to this peace agreement, is the war starting up again. Failure to meet the American commitment could lead to another six months, another year, another two years of war -- resulting in humanitarian tragedies in Bosnia and risking the danger of the war spreading.

We will be taking every action to minimize the risks necessarily entailed in IFOR. We are going in with a large force. Some have argued that we could get by with a force half this size. But if we err, it will be on the side of sending in too many. If it turns out we don't need that many, we can pull some of them out. That's a lot better than not sending enough and scrambling to put more in later. And we're going in with a well-armed and well-trained force. Nobody doubts that the 1st Armored Division is well-armed and well-trained.

IFOR will be an impressive force that will intimidate anybody in the area. And it's going to be a force that has robust rules of engagement. I really want to emphasize that point. We would not be a participant in this operation if that were not true.

We do not expect organized opposition. The parties to the peace agreement not only agreed to a cessation of hostilities, but they invited the NATO force in, and offered to assist it. We do expect there will be rogue individuals or gangs who might want to harass
the peace enforcement mission. If they do, your rules of engagement will permit the immediate and effective use of deadly force. You have a well-trained and well-disciplined force, so we know you will not go in as cowboys. But you will have full authority to use deadly force if you need to. If you use it, you will be fully supported by your commanders, by myself and by the President.

We're not going in alone. I told you there would be 20,000 Americans. As of today, more than 25 nations have stated an intent to join this force. Every NATO nation except Iceland has stepped forward and offered troops. The British 12,000 to 14,000; the French 7,000 to 9,000; the Germans 4,000; Italians and Spanish about 2,000 each; and nine other nations about 1,000 each. In addition to that, there are more than a dozen non-NATO nations that have said they want to participate in IFOR and have offered forces. In fact, we are oversubscribed. If you add all of this up, turns out to be more than the 60,000 force level.

We expect that [Major] General [William L.] Nash will have under his command soldiers from seven to ten countries. This is really going to be a challenge for him in some respects but an opportunity in many other respects. He will have a Nordic brigade of 4,500 troops which are well-trained and well disciplined, and know the terrain. This brigade will consist of Norwegians, Finns, Danes, Swedes, and perhaps a Polish battalion. He will have a Turkish task force, one or two battalions. And we expect there will be a Russian brigade operating under the tactical control of General Nash. This poses some challenges to General Nash, but it's also a historic opportunity. I've spent most of my life as a "Cold Warrior," and as recently as a few years ago I could not have imagined the prospect of a Russian brigade serving under an American division commander.

These 25 countries operating together to bring about better security and stability in Europe, are truly a symbol of the new Europe. This effort will define how security in Europe is going to be handled for decades to come. This is defining what post-Cold War Europe is all about and how its security will be assured. We will be creating new relationships with these military leaders of other countries, not just NATO countries, that will effect the security of the United States for decades to come.

As of next Tuesday, I will have met with General [Pavel] Grachev four times in the last six weeks, trying to hammer out the agreement for Russian participation. I have invested so much time in this not because we need that brigade so much, but because of the effect of Russian participation on the future security in Europe. In the Europe of the future, we do not want to isolate or exclude Russia. We want to find a way to include them because they'll be easier to deal with inside a circle working with us, rather than outside the circle confronting us.

I talked to some of you two weeks ago, and speculated on whether we would get a peace agreement and what it would call for. Now we have a peace agreement and it's pretty much what I speculated. IFOR will be tasked to enforce the peace agreement. It will be a unitary command, no dual keys. It will be operating under NATO military and
political control, not under UN control. We do expect the U.N. to give a mandate to a whole set of military and civil operations in Bosnia. So there will be very important civil programs that will be going on in parallel with the IFOR operation.

The civilian programs will include rebuilding the infrastructure, revitalizing the economy, bringing refugees back for resettlement, and providing for free elections. Those tasks will not be your job, but none of them can be done without your mission. Your mission is to provide the security environment that allows all those other things to be done.

You have all trained extensively on this mission. You will have robust ROE and you will be trained and disciplined in how to apply the ROE. This mission will be even-handed. If you get any provocations, either by the Bosnian Serbs or the Bosnian Federation forces, you will respond. You will have the authority to move anywhere in Bosnia. You will be based primarily in the Federation, but you will be enforcing a zone of separation which goes several kilometers into Bosnian Serb territory and you have to maintain lines of communication that pass through Bosnian Serb territory. Therefore in the peace agreement, we insisted on and got the authority to carry out our mission.

You will run into risks in this operation. I told you there may be individuals or gangs who challenge your authority. You will be well-armed, well-equipped, well-trained, and authorized to deal with that. You need to be especially concerned about accidents, since the roads are bad and the weather will be daunting. There are mines all over the regions you will be patrolling. Some experts say there are 6 million mines in the country. Those are risks for which you have trained. The biggest danger is complacency.

Your commanders are responsible not only for training your soldiers, which is a key to their success, but for keeping them from falling into complacency. It could be that you go in there and for two or three months nothing will happen. That's what breeds complacency. So it will be a real challenge to your leadership.

When are you going? My best estimate is we'll pull the trigger in mid-December and the first units will start going in. General Nash will direct a flow of people after that, but the deployments will start in mid-December. That's based on when we expect the peace treaty to be signed, which is two or three weeks from now and when we get the enabling resolutions from the NAC -- the North Atlantic Council.

As we begin the deployment, we will have one great advantage. The Nordic Brigade is going to be part of our division and many of their personnel are already on the ground. They've been there for a year or two and they're familiar with the territory. We can learn from them; in fact, our survey teams that have been there already are benefiting from the experience of the Nordic forces.
When are you coming home? The plan involves a build-up over the first couple of months. By the end of the second month, we will have our entire force in and we will maintain that until the sixth or seventh month. Then if the security environment still holds, which I expect it will, we’ll start phasing down. So for individual units, some will go in very close to the mid-December date. Others will phase in over the next month or two. All the units will stay for six or seven months and then some will start coming out. By the end of the first year, the eleventh or twelfth month, I think we’ll be down to a small fraction of the 20,000. In other words, most of our forces will be back in Germany by then. Our plan is to withdraw the rest of the units at the end of the first year.

There may be a requirement for some peacekeeping operations after that time. The Europeans may put together a team to meet that requirement. The American commitment and the NATO commitment is for one year. Obviously, for this mission to be successful by the end of the first year, we need to have achieved some months of a stable security environment, and I believe we’ll succeed in doing that. It will also require other things to happen that are not under our control. There should be a successful beginning to the long term mission of rebuilding the infrastructure and the economy, for example. We are not responsible for these missions, but we provide the environment that allows them to happen.

I’d like to conclude my comments by telling you about a painting which is outside my office at the Pentagon. As you come up the steps from the River Entrance, just before you enter the Secretary of Defense office, there is a large painting on the wall. It shows a soldier in a church praying, just before a deployment. Underneath the painting is a verse from Isaiah, in which the people of Israel ask, “Whom shall I send. Who will go for us?” Isaiah answers, “Here am I. Send me.” The American people will be asking the question, “Who will go for us?” And I expect the 1st Armored Division will answer, “Here am I. Send me.”

God Bless you.
Tony

From

Dublin

3.45 08
November 30, 1995

TO: The Baumholder Headquarters Publicity Office

FROM: Patricia Dengel, 7th Grade English teacher, Baumholder High School

RE: Letters to President Clinton and letters to parents deploying to Bosnia

Since speaking with you on November 28th, all 7th grade students have written a letter either to President Clinton or to their parents who will deploy to Bosnia. In our conversation, you assured me that letters for President Clinton would be handed to one of his assistants. Could you also see that these letters are given to the commanders of the parents named on the envelope and distributed by the commanders to deploying parents of 7th graders? It has helped student morale tremendously to be considered an important part of the ceremonies on Saturday. We thank you for the opportunity to assist in the process of this send off for deploying parents.

Below are several quotes from the letters to parents that President Clinton might wish to include in his address to the troops:

1. Erin Gainey: "I'll try not to be worried about you Dad because I know you are trained to handle this."

2. Dianne Engler: "Daddy, the people of the world should respect you and all our soldiers for their bravery."

3. Cerise Lake: "Mom and Dad, I love you both and want you to take good care of each other in Bosnia."

4. Courtney Lumpkin: "I'm proud to have a brave and honest father like you."

5. Jeremy Green: "Not only are you a great father, but also a great soldier."

6. Rachael Bybee: "I'm proud of your job which is to help others. It must make you feel great to know you've saved lives."

7. Justin Zimmerman: "Dad, I know you'll be fine in Bosnia because of all the training you've had. I'll miss you and count the days until we see you again."
**White House Situation Room**

**Message No.: 20**  
**Classification:** Unclassified  
**Total:** 14 pages (including cover)

**From:** NSC West Wing Desk  
**(Name)**  
**(Phone Number):** (202) 456-9425  
**WH SitRoom**  
**(Room No.)**

**Message Description:** Visit w/ U.S. troops in Germany

**To (Agency):** Belfast  
**Deliver To:** Tony Lake  
**Bass**

**Remarks:**

**DTG:** 30/6/12
MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: ROBERT BELL

FROM: JIM SEATON

SUBJECT: Visit With U.S. Troops in Germany

The attached Tabs provide background and talking points for the President's visit to Baumholder, Germany.

Concurrence by: John Feeley

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward Tab I to the President.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Remarks (provided by staff on AF-One)
Tab B Talking Points for Lunch with Troops
Tab C Background and Questions for Operational Brief
Tab D Background Material and Talking Points for Meeting with Chancellor Kohl (provided by staff on AF-One)
I. PURPOSE

To visit and address soldiers deploying to Bosnia; to talk with TASK FORCE EAGLE senior commanders; and to meet with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

II. BACKGROUND

You will meet with members of the U.S. Army’s TASK FORCE EAGLE. The task force has trained continuously since September for its impending Bosnia deployment. Consisting of the 1st Armored Division (AD) and attached units, TASK FORCE EAGLE comprises the bulk of the U.S. land force contribution to IFOR. The 1st AD and its brigades have long histories -- the division dates back to the Second World War; some of its brigades to the Civil War. Most recently, the division served with distinction in the Gulf War. Major General William Nash is dual-hatted as the commander of TASK FORCE EAGLE and the 1st AD. The 1st AD’s motto is “Iron Soldier.”

Within the U.S. military community, Baumholder is known as the "Home of Champions" because of its winning tradition in a variety of military, athletic and other competitive activities. It is located in the wooded hills of western Germany, about 30 miles from the French and Luxembourg borders. The Division’s headquarters is actually at Bad Kreuznach (a 90-minute drive), but a brigade and other division elements are at Baumholder.

You will address approximately 6,000 soldiers, family members and German base employees/local residents. (In case of inclement weather you will address an audience of 1,500 indoors.) Following the speech you will lunch with about 200 soldiers and family members at a base dining facility.

Some advance elements have already deployed to Bosnia and surrounding countries as part of survey teams. The TASK FORCE main body is expected to depart in mid-December. Your visit is a key opportunity to reassure the troops (and their families) of America’s support and reiterate themes you have expressed in your Monday evening television address and meetings on the Hill.
You will have an opportunity to discuss bilateral issues with Chancellor Kohl on Marine One en route to and from Baumholder.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Germany
Charles Redman, U.S. Ambassador to Germany
Togo West, Secretary of the Army
General John Shalikashvili, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
General George Joulwan, Commander-in-Chief, European Command
General William Crouch, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Army Europe
Major General William Nash, Commanding General, TASK FORCE EAGLE

IV. PRESS PLAN

Address: Open Press
Lunch: Pool Press
Briefing: Closed Press
Radio Address: Closed Press
Kohl Meeting: Closed Press; Pool Spray afterwards

V. SEQUENCE

Provided by Scheduling

Attachments
Tab A Remarks
Tab B Talking Points for Lunch with Troops
Tab C Background and Questions for Operational Brief
Tab D Background Material and Talking Points for Meeting with Chancellor Kohl
TO BE PROVIDED BY AIR FORCE ONE STAFF
Proposed Luncheon Comments

- Honor to be with you this afternoon.

- Talked with General Joulwan and General Shalikashvili several times over the past few weeks. This afternoon will meet with Major General Nash and other senior leaders in TASK FORCE EAGLE.

- Also want to meet with you and your families. Unfortunately have only an hour, can only meet with your small group. Ask you to pass to fellow soldiers and families what we share today. You not only speak for yourselves, but for your fellow soldiers.

- Have top quality people we need in military today. You represent best trained, best equipped, most ready military in world. No other military could do what you are about to do. And don’t believe that any other unit in our Armed Forces is as prepared today to do what TASK FORCE EAGLE will soon do.

- Know your upcoming deployment means your families and loved ones will have to pull together on home front while you are gone. For many of you it will be first Christmas away from family. For others, it will be yet another Christmas away from loved ones. Appreciate -- America appreciates -- and soon the Bosnian people will appreciate -- special sacrifices you make during these periods of separation.

- As we approach Christmas season, you must know and believe your involvement in Bosnia crucial to generating “peace on earth and goodwill toward men.” Without America’s leadership in Bosnia, without our military presence in Bosnia, cannot expect peace and sense of security for the people of Bosnia.

- After nearly four years with 250,000 people killed, two million refugees, atrocities that have appalled people all over world, people of Bosnia finally have chance to turn from horror of war to promise of peace. You are their hope and their promise.

- Over 30 years ago former UN Secretary General (Dag Hammarskold) stated that “Peacekeeping not a job for soldiers, but only a soldier can do it.” And he was right.

- Now that warring parties have made serious commitment to peace, we must help to make it work. They have asked for strong international force to supervise separation of forces
and to give confidence that each side will live up to this agreements. Only NATO can do job.

- United States, as NATO's leader, must play essential role in that mission. Without U.S. leadership -- without TASK FORCE EAGLE -- hard-won peace would be lost, war would resume, slaughter of innocents would begin again. Without us, conflict that has already claimed so many, could, like poison, spread throughout entire region. Must not let that happen.

- Your mission will be clear, and limited. TASK FORCE EAGLE is completely within an American chain of command. You have authority to meet any threat to your safety or any violation of military provisions of peace agreement with immediate and decisive force. Hope and pray you and your fellow soldiers will not face situations where you will have to use immediate and decisive force, but if faced with one of these situations, expect you to respond accordingly. We come in peace and, for the sake of the people of Bosnia -- Serb, Croat and Muslim -- we must prevail.

- This difficult job of ensuring peace through strength, is fitting one for "IRON SOLDIERS" (division motto) of the 1st Armored Division and TASK FORCE EAGLE. You have America's support and prayers. I wish you the best. God Bless You.
Briefing from Major General Nash

The TASK FORCE EAGLE COMMANDER, Major General Nash, is assembling 17 of his senior leaders for a 15 minute briefing on "How TASK FORCE EAGLE Prepared for the Bosnia Mission." A 25 minute period for dialogue follows General Nash’s brief. The TASK FORCE staff believes that their force is fully prepared for the mission and that unit morale is extremely high.

Proposed Questions

• What special measures are being made to assist families during your deployment? How many families will remain behind?

• What special preparations are you making to deal with winter weather you likely will confront? In what ways will it affect your ability to perform your mission?

• How have your troops been training to interact with local population?

• How do you see your role in setting stage for follow-on civilian implementation plan?

• What type of local political-military interface is planned immediately following TASK FORCE’s arrival in Bosnia?

• How do we gain and maintain rapport with various civilian elements?

• How will you handle landmines in area? Do we have kinds of wide-area detection and detonation gear we need?

• How will you guarantee "evenhandedness" with various parties?

• How will you maintain command and control with so many dispersed units? To what degree do you expect language to be problem?

• How will you coordinate with Russians? Are our communications systems compatible?

• As you have characterized this mission to your troops, what has been their reaction?
• What kind of medical facilities will be available for soldiers during deployment? To what extent do you plan on air medevacs back to Germany?

• General, what else do you need before your unit deploys?
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<td>001a. briefing paper</td>
<td>Meetings with Chancellor Helmut Kohl (2 pages)</td>
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**COLLECTION:**
- Clinton Presidential Records
- National Security Council
- Anthony Blinken (Speechwriting)
- OA/Box Number: 3382

**FOLDER TITLE:**
- Bosnia-Address to Troops/Germany, 12/2/95

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<tr>
<td>001b. talking points</td>
<td>Talking Points for Meeting with Chancellor Kohl (3 pages)</td>
<td>11/29/1995</td>
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- National Security Council
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- Bosnia-Address to Troops/Germany, 12/2/95

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- 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]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]
"Dear Katherine Elizabeth

I wanted to wish you a happy birthday and let
you in on a little secret. You are one of the luckiest
little girls in the world. You have the most wonderful
mother and the greatest big sister any girl could hope
for. They both love you very much. They have both
made a tremendous effort to bring you into the world.
There are no boundaries for their love for you. Please
take good care of Mom and Erin.

"Kathy, I wish I could be with you, Erin and
Mom today. I hope that someday you will understand
why I chose this profession. I want you and your
children to live in a peaceful world with all your basic
freedoms preserved.

"I will do my best to make up for all our lost
time. "How will I do this?" you might ask. Let me make
you a promise. I promise to be your friend; to praise
you when you are deserving; to listen when you need to
talk; to hug you when you need a hug; to spank you if
you need a spanking; and to love you always. I am
anxiously awaiting the day when I first hold you in
my arms and tell you all of this in person. Love, Dad."

Marine Corps Capt. Dennis
Cunniffe addressed this letter to
his newborn daughter, Katherine
Elizabeth. They finally met when
she was seven months old.
Templemore Secondary School,  
Northland Rd,  
Londonderry,  
BT48 0AP  

3 November 1995.

Dear Mr President,

My name is Séan Mc Laughlin. I live in Londonderry in Northern Ireland, I’m 14 years old. When we were told to write a letter to the President of the United States I was quite surprised. The teacher was writing on the board. She was showing us how to set out the letter, she said that we had to write Londonderry instead of Derry. This was because the Crest and name of Londonderry was printed on our school letter. Not everyone agreed with it but it was how it was. I would have liked it to be Derry because it was the original name, and besides its too long to say! If I could have Northern Ireland any way I wanted I would make big changes to many things that were wrong. First I would change everyone’s attitudes so that everyone would be equal, Men, Women, Black people, Catholics, Protestants and all the other denominations. Then I would stop all the people who were biased or narrow minded. I would take away the image of Northern Ireland which is where people killed and shot, where people get their knees blown off, where people have to move home or can’t go in certain areas because they are the wrong religion. I wish all these things could happen overnight, but they can’t. The only thing we can do is try to be like this ourselves and hope that other people will join us. It makes me really mad when parents pass down their anger and hatred for one kind of people to their children. These children grow up believing this is good and that they are right and when they see the person or people that there parents have so much hatred for they call them names they beat them up they kill them. But why, they have no cause. I don’t want to walk down the street and be asked whether I’m catholic or protestant. We hear stories of people who have their whole family killed and you realise why they have so much hatred but if they keep on hating and keep on seeking revenge then it will happen again and again. It must seem easy for me to say but I think that if Northern Ireland wants to go on then it must forget, it must let go of its past and look to the future. Not for the Politicians or the parents or the businessmen but for the children of Northern Ireland.

When peace does come to Northern Ireland it doesn’t mean catholics can live in a protestant area without any problems or the other way around. It may take years and years for people to forgive and forget. I say to myself will I ever see a real peace in my life?

Thank you for reading my letter.

Yours Sincerely

Séan Mc Laughlin.
Reinforce
- Reinf home
  - people who know
  - could be
effective
  - help them keep
  - policy

Review strategy
- You must ensure
  - MAC plan
    - Right plan
    - how to sell job
    - how to Congress
    - people concerned

- call to peace
  - not call to war
  - Mike peace here
- effort about sign
  - live in place
  - war horrible shift
- Reinforce the peace
  - Treat peace
Background Material for Baumholder Speech

• Known as the “Home of Champions,” (NOTE: I’m checking into what this means), Baumholder is located in the wooded hills of the western area of the federal state of Rheinland-Pfalz, only 30 miles from the French and Luxemburg borders. H.D. Smith Barracks, commonly called Baumholder, is adjacent to the German city of Baumholder.

• In 1937 the German Army began training at Baumholder. After WWII the French Army occupied the installation, and in 1951 the post was turned over to the U.S.

• The President will address approximately 6,000 soldiers, family members and local German residents. The bulk of those present are members of TASK FORCE EAGLE, which is built around the First Armored Division (1st AD). The 1st AD has been assigned to Germany since 1971, although elements of the division have only been assigned to Baumholder since 1992. (NOTE: In Germany the bases are smaller and subordinate units are spread out amongst various installations. The 1st AD is headquartered at Bad Kreuznach, over an hour away. Units assigned to Baumholder are part of the 1st AD and TASK FORCE EAGLE.)

• In 1940, the division’s first commander nicknamed the 1st Division “Old Ironsides,” after noting similarities between the frigate USS CONSTITUTION, with its thick oak hull, and the protection afforded by armored vehicles.

• The division has a storied history. It fought in North Africa and Italy during WWII, was disbanded after the war, reactivated at Fort Hood, Texas in 1951, and assigned to Germany in 1971. The 20-year presence of the “Iron Soldiers” (division nickname) and their NATO counterparts helped bring about the Cold War’s end.

• In November 1990 the division deployed to Saudi Arabia. In 89 hours of combat in February 1991, the Iron Soldiers destroyed 440 enemy tanks, 485 armored personnel carriers, 190 pièces of artillery, and 137 air defense artillery pieces. They defeated numerous Iraqi forces and captured nearly 6,700 Iraqi soldiers.

• The Division Commander, Major General William L. Nash, is also the Commander of TASK FORCE EAGLE.
Some mention should be made of "Iron Soldiers." When members of the Division pass each other they salute and say "Iron Soldier."

The Division has spent the last several months undergoing rigorous training to prepare for the Bosnia mission. THEY ARE READY and their commanders won’t hesitate to tell you that!! They are expected to perform a broad range of tasks in Bosnia, particularly as TASK FORCE EAGLE is the chief U.S. land component to IFOR.

The following VIPs are slated to attend the speech: Chancellor Kohl, Secretary of the Army West, General Shali, General Joulwan (CINC EUCOM), General Crouch (Commander, US Army, Europe), and Major General Nash (Commander of TASK FORCE EAGLE).

BOB BELL sent the following points to Dan last week;

1. You are the best prepared, best...etc...troops in our Nation’s history.
2. I know and appreciate, and your country knows and appreciates, that you will approach this mission with professionalism, dedication and commitment.
3. We know and appreciate how hard you have been training and preparing for this mission.
4. We know and appreciate how hard your commanders have been working to lead this mission.
5. We know and appreciate that you will be away from your families for some time, beginning at a time of year when separation is especially difficult.
6. We know and appreciate that there are risks involved in this operation (but we are doing x,y and z to minimize them).
7. We know and appreciate that now, as throughout our history, when our Nation calls, our Armed Forces respond with courage, commitment, and a dedication to mission accomplishment.
8. And we know and appreciate that YOU know why it is so essential that the US as the leader of NATO take this mission
November 30, 1995

TO: The Baumholder Headquarters Publicity Office

FROM: Patricia Dengel, 7th Grade English teacher, Baumholder High School

RE: Letters to President Clinton and letters to parents deploying to Bosnia

Since speaking with you on November 28th, all 7th grade students have written a letter either to President Clinton or to their parents who will deploy to Bosnia. In our conversation, you assured me that letters for President Clinton would be handed to one of his assistants. Could you also see that these letters are given to the commanders of the parents named on the envelope and distributed by the commanders to deploying parents of 7th graders? It has helped student morale tremendously to be considered an important part of the ceremonies on Saturday. We thank you for the opportunity to assist in the process of this 'send off' for deploying parents.

Below are several quotes from the letters to parents that President Clinton might wish to include in his address to the troops:

1. Erin Gainey: "I'll try not to be worried about you Dad because I know you are trained to handle this."

2. Dionne Englert: "Daddy, the people of the world should respect you and all our soldiers for their bravery."

3. Cerise Lake: (Both parents are deploying!!) "Mom and Dad, I love you both and want you to take good care of each other in Bosnia."

4. Courtney Lumpkin: "I'm proud to have a brave and honest father like you."

5. Jeremy Green: "Not only are you a great father, but also a great soldier."

6. Rachel Bybee: "I'm proud of your job which is to help others. It must make you feel great to know you've saved lives."

7. Justin Zimmerman: "Dad, I know you'll be fine in Bosnia because of all the training you've had. I'll miss you and count the days until we see you again."

Dr. Major Bybee - Doctor with the Medical Corps.

Captain Zimmerman - Camp Commander
Shirnan, Illinois
for 40th Eng. Bn.
12/2/95 11 p.m.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON
ADDRESS TO U.S. TROOPS
BAUMHOLDER, GERMANY
DECEMBER 2, 1995
Chancellor Kohl; General Shalikashvili; Secretary West; General Joulwan; General Crouch; General Nash:

I am so glad to be here at Baumholder -- the Home of Champions. And I am proud to stand with the men and women of the First Armored Division -- America's Iron Soldiers.
Previous generations of Iron Soldiers answered their nation’s call with legendary skill and bravery. Each time, it was a call to war. From North Africa to Italy, they helped freedom triumph over tyranny in World War II. For twenty years, their powerful presence here -- on what used to be the front line of democracy -- stood down the Soviet threat and helped bring victory in the Cold War.
And just four years ago, when Saddam Hussein made a very... big... mistake and attacked Kuwait, the First AD's awesome power turned back Iraq and protected the security of the Persian Gulf. Many of you were there. Let me remind you of a few numbers. In just 89 hours of combat, you destroyed 440 enemy tanks, 485 armored personnel carriers, 190 pieces of artillery and 137 air defense guns. Saddam Hussein found out the hard way -- you don't mess with the Iron Soldiers.
Yours is a remarkable record of achievement. Now, America summons you to service again. This time, not with a call to war -- but a call to peace. Our country has asked you to help the people of Bosnia make good on their commitment to peace so that it takes hold and lasts. We are counting on you, the men and women of Task Force Eagle, to get the job done.

After speaking to your commanders and looking out at all of you, there is not a doubt in my mind: this task force is ready... to... roll.
I am here, too, because you should know from me what you can expect in Bosnia -- and what your nation expects of you. And I want you to hear from me why the mission you are about to undertake is so important to America -- to our most cherished values and our important security interests.

Your mission is to help people exhausted from war make good on the peace they have chosen.
Two weeks ago, in Dayton, Ohio, the warring parties in Bosnia agreed to put down their guns... to pull back their armies and their heavy weapons... to hold free elections... to start rebuilding their homes, their towns and their lives.

Now, they need help in making the full turn from the savagery of war to security for peace -- and they have asked America and our NATO allies to provide it.
After nearly four years of terrible brutality, trust is in short supply in Bosnia. Each side wants NATO to police their agreement -- to make sure each army withdraws behind the separation line and stays there... to maintain the cease fire so that war does not start again and thus to give all the parties the confidence they need to keep their word -- and faith that the other side will too.
I pledged to the American people that I would not send you to Bosnia unless I was absolutely sure the goals we set for you are clear, realistic and achievable within about one year. The goals I outlined a moment ago meet these essential criteria.

I also vowed that you would not set foot in Bosnia until I was sure the risks to your safety were minimized.
You know better than anyone that every deployment has risks. There could be accidents. And in a formerly hostile environment, there could be incidents with people who have not given up their hatred. As President, I take full responsibility for your well-being.

But I also take pride in the knowledge that we are making this mission as safe as it can possibly be. You will take your orders from the American general who commands NATO -- there will be no confusing chain of command. You are already superbly prepared -- and you will be heavily armed.
The reputation that precedes you and the technology and training that protect you will make those who might attack you think twice. But you will also have very clear rules of engagement that spell out the most important rule of all in big, bold letters: If you are threatened with attack, you may respond immediately -- and with decisive force. As you look out for each other, America will look out for you.
Your presence will help create a climate of security in Bosnia -- and allow the international community to begin a massive program of humanitarian relief and reconstruction, largely paid for by our partners in Europe and around the world. This effort will bring the people of Bosnia the food, medicine, shelter and clothing so many have been denied for so long. It will help them rebuild their roads and their towns... their schools and their hospitals... their factories and their shops. It will reunite families torn apart by the war and return refugees to their homes.
It will help the people of Bosnia rediscover the quiet blessings of a normal life -- and give them a much greater stake in peace than in war.

Today, in Dublin, I met with Zlata Filopovic [ZLA-ta fill-uh-Po-vitch], the young Bosnian girl whose diary of her wartime experience in Sarajevo moved millions of people around the world. I thanked her for a powerful letter she recently wrote me. And then I told her I was on my way to visit with all of you. She said, "Mr. President, when you’re in Germany, please thank the American soldiers for me. I want to go home."
She also asked me to thank the American people for, in her words, “opening the door of the future” in Bosnia. Without you, that door will close. The peace agreement will collapse. The war will reignite. The atrocities that have so troubled our souls will begin again. And the conflict could spread throughout the region and weaken our partnership with Europe.

We must not allow that to happen.
Remember what we have seen in Bosnia. Ethnic cleansing. Mass executions. The rape of women and young girls as a tool of war. Young men forced to dig their own graves and then shot down into the ground like animals. Endless lines of desperate refugees. Images of these terrible wrongs have flooded our living rooms for nearly four years.

Because America stood up and led -- through the NATO air strikes that brought the parties back to the negotiating table and through our diplomatic determination which clinched the peace agreement -- the violence in Bosnia has ended. We must not let it return.
And remember how important Europe’s stability is to our own security. For decades, the American people have recognized that reality. That’s why we fought two world wars in Europe. That’s why, after World War II, we made the commitments that kept Europe free and at peace... that created unparalleled prosperity... and that helped bring victory in the Cold War.
Europe can be our strongest partner in confronting the difficult challenges of a new era: terrorism... organized crime and international drug trafficking... the spread of weapons of mass destruction. But it won’t be a strong partner as long as a war rages at its very heart. And it won’t follow our lead in dealing with common problems if we fail to lead for peace in Bosnia. When America’s partnerships are weak and our leadership is questioned, it makes it a lot tougher to protect our national interests.
Men and women of Task Force Eagle, I know that the burden of American leadership weighs heavily on you and your families. Each and every one of you who volunteers to serve your country makes hard sacrifices. We send you far from home for months at a time. We take you away from your children and loved ones. These are the burdens America assumes - the burdens you assume -- to stand up for our values and serve our interests in this time of challenge and change.
Because you are the best trained, the best equipped and the best prepared soldiers in the world, we know you will succeed. And because your work is so important, we know you will take great pride in it. In Bosnia, the mission is clear. You are strong and very well prepared. And the stakes demand American leadership.

But don’t take it from me. Take it from the words of your own children. Patricia Dengel, a 7th Grade English teacher at Baumholder High School, asked her students to write letters to their parents who are preparing to go to Bosnia.
I’ve seen a few of the letters and I was moved: by the
fears they expressed -- but even more by the pride
and confidence they demonstrated.

Justin Zimmerman’s father, Captain Ronald
Zimmerman, is a company commander with the 40th
Engineering Battalion. Justin writes: “Dad, I know
you’ll be fine in Bosnia because of all the training
you’ve had. I’ll miss you and count the days until we
see you again.”
And Rachel Bybee, whose father, Major Leon Bybee, is a doctor with the Medical Corps, tells him: “I’m proud of your job which is to help others. It must make you feel great to know you’ve saved lives.”

Your children know that you are heroes for peace. And soon, so will the children of Bosnia. Your country and I salute you -- and we wish you Godspeed in the days and months ahead.

God bless you. And God bless America.
Clinton Reassures Bosnia-Bound Forces Mission Is ‘Safe as It Can Be’

By Ann Devroy
Washington Post Staff Writer

BAUMHOLDER, Germany, Dec. 2 — President Clinton described the U.S. military mission to Bosnia as a call to peace, not to war, and tried to reassure thousands of American soldiers today that their mission is clearly defined, limited and “as safe as it can be.”

Hours before he was to issue the final executive order that will put the first 700 of 20,000 American troops in Bosnia beginning next week, Clinton spoke to forces of the 1st Armored Division gathered in a cold, soggy mist. He hailed the departing soldiers as “heroes for peace” and described what their mission will be: “To help people exhausted from war make good on the peace they have chosen, the peace they have asked you to help them uphold.”

About 2,000 soldiers from this base will be deployed in Bosnia as part of a 60,000-strong NATO force that will enforce a Bosnian peace agreement reached last month. They and their families, many of them dubious about the mission, were gathered to get a send-off from the commander in chief before the operation begins.

Military planners said the first several hundred Americans to go to Bosnia, part of an “enabling force” to set up command and communications facilities, would depart within 24 hours. They said the first combat troops would be deployed after the peace agreement between the Bosnian Muslims, Serbs and Croats is signed on Dec. 14 in Paris.

NATO’s commander, U.S. Army Gen. George A. Joulwan, briefed Clinton on the full NATO “peace implementation” plan, which includes soldiers from two dozen countries. The president approved the overall plan last week and is to issue the final go-ahead soon, officials said.

Officials here offered conflicting accounts of when the enabling force will deploy. Military planners said they expected Clinton to sign an order allowing deployment by Sunday. But later, officials said the order had not been sent to the president and that the deployment is now likely to begin Monday.

The mood among several of the soldiers interviewed after Clinton’s speech was resigned, but they appeared skeptical of the mission and uncertain that stopping civil war in Bosnia had anything to do with the United States’ national interest.

Staff Sgt. Rod Crandall of Waterford, N.Y., echoed the comments of several when he said: “We really don’t know exactly what we are doing there just yet besides peacekeeping. So it really is shaky.”

Crandall called the situation in Bosnia “a civil affair” and said, “I really don’t think we have business there, but the Army wants us there and we’re going.” He and a group of buddies said the president had not made clear to them why the mission would be beneficial to the United States.

Spouses were even more dubious: one, holding a 2-month-old baby, called it “Clinton’s cockamamie idea.”

The woman, who asked not to be named, said: “Most of the wives think this is the pits. Why are we doing this? It’s not like Iraq. It’s their (Bosnia’s and Europe’s) problem, so why don’t they solve it? Tell the politicians in Washington to keep us out of it.”

Along a road on the base, another protester carried a sign that read “The President Who Stole Christmas”—comparing Clinton with Dr. Seuss’s holiday villain, the Grinch.

But most of the soldiers seemed stoic. Clinton is the “commander in chief,” said Capt. Ronald Zimmerman of California. “He tells us what to do. We do it.”

The mood was distinctly different from the last time a president came to send Americans into a military action—George Bush’s war to Saudi Arabia in 1990 during the buildup for the Persian Gulf War. Going into a clear battle against a known enemy, Iraq President Saddam Hussein, those soldiers were anxious but gung-ho. A combat veteran, Bush was a more comfortable commander in chief and was widely cheered and mobbed by the troops he visited.

Clinton got one sharp reminder of his lack of military service—a lone protester holding a “Draft-Dodger Go Home” sign—but overall he received a friendly and respectful reception when he spoke and later had lunch with soldiers.

After his sessions with the soldiers, Clinton said he believed “moral is high” and that those he spoke with “are committed to the humanitarian mission of saving the lives of the children and innocent civilians.”

Of his visit here, he said he had wanted to give the soldiers “straight answers” and to “look into their faces and into the faces of their wives, their husbands and their children... and directly say to them, here is why I want you to go and here is what you will be doing...”

In his speech, Clinton made the case that the United States has a responsibility to enforce the peace agreement it helped broker in Bosnia and a moral responsibility to end the killing and brutality there.

He reminded the troops that he had pledged they would not be sent “unless I was absolutely sure that the goals we set for you are clear, realistic and achievable in about a year” and that that has been accomplished. To emphasize the humanitarian nature of the mission, Clinton read a letter sent to him by Zlata Filipovic, a Bosnian girl whose diary of Sarajevo under siege helped bring the war’s tragedy home to many Americans. In the letter, she asked Clinton to “thank the American soldiers for me. I want to go home.”

The troops savored their most enthusiastic response—roars of “hoorah”—for Clinton’s description of rules of engagement that will allow them to protect themselves against perceived threats. Their orders, he said, “spell out the most important rule of all in big, bold letters: If you are threatened with attack, you may respond immediately and with decisive force. Everyone should know that when America comes to help make the peace, America will still look after its own.”
Before leaving Germany to fly to Spain this evening, Clinton met with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who had accompanied him to the base and listened as he spoke with the soldiers. Noting that Germany will contribute 4,000 troops to the Bosnian operation, Kohl praised Clinton's commitment to the effort and then added an unusual appeal for American public support.

"I would never dare to interfere in American domestic politics," Kohl said, "but I would like as many Americans as possible to know that we hope for the broadest possible support of the people of the United States of America for the president and the Army in this important mission."