

a critical combat role, as well as in later conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, Haiti, Somalia, and the Balkans. Most recently, Airborne forces were vital to liberating the people of Afghanistan from the repressive and violent Taliban regime; and these soldiers continue to serve proudly around the world in the global coalition against terrorism.

The elite Airborne ranks include prestigious groups such as the 82nd Airborne Division, “America’s Guard of Honor,” and the “Screaming Eagles” of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Airborne forces have also been represented in the former 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions and numerous other Airborne, glider and air assault units and regiments. Paratroopers in the Army’s XVIII Airborne Corps, the 75th Infantry (Ranger) Regiment and other Special Forces units conduct swift and effective operations in defense of peace and freedom.

Airborne combat continues to be driven by the bravery and daring spirit of sky soldiers. Often called into action with little notice, these forces have earned an enduring reputation for dedication, excellence, and honor. As we face the challenges of a new era, I encourage all people to recognize the contributions of these courageous soldiers to our Nation and the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 16, 2002, as National Airborne Day. As we commemorate the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring the thousands of soldiers, past and present, who have served in an Airborne capacity. I call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 16, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on August 19.

Memorandum on Military Drawdown for Tunisia

August 14, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–28

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Presidential Determination on Military Drawdown for Tunisia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including title III (Foreign Military Financing) of the Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–115), I hereby direct the drawdown of defense articles and services from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and military education and training of the aggregate value of \$5 million for Tunisia, for the purposes of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks at a Dinner for Gubernatorial Candidate Doug Gross and the Republican Party of Iowa in Des Moines

August 14, 2002

Thanks for such a warm welcome. It seems like only yesterday I was at the Ames Straw Poll. [*Laughter*] I guess you could say I cut my Presidential teeth right here in the State of Iowa.

I want to thank you all for coming today. I’m honored to be here to proudly support the next Governor of the State of Iowa, Doug Gross. They tell me he grew up on a farm with nine brothers and sisters, so many kids they didn’t need any machinery. [*Laughter*]