

Q. We would love to get some video of you up here sometime, sir.

Q. What does it say, Blake?

The President. —something like this.

Q. Did you really pull it down that low?

The President. No. We had pretty tinted windows. We went through a gate where—

Q. They thought, “Who in the world is that?”

The President. Eddie said, “We’re coming to a gate.”

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Well, I’m telling you, this is—again, had this been jeopardized in any way, we wouldn’t put myself and/or you all in this position. And we were very—we were cautious, and we needed to be. And I want to thank you for honoring that. This is an historic trip. And it’ll reverberate in such positive ways for these kids who are—and these soldiers who are far away from home serving us. And it’s exactly what I wanted to do.

Q. Thank you.

Historic Presidential Visits to Combat Areas

Q. Did you look back at any precedents of any other President’s trips?

The President. There is no precedent in the war on terror. This is the first war of the 21st century, unique in its nature. But I don’t know. I guess you all need to do that. I don’t know whether or not—I think Lyndon Johnson went as a Vice President or as President. I don’t know.

Q. He was in Asia, and he made an unscheduled trip.

The President. Into Vietnam as President?

Q. Eisenhower went to Korea as a—

The President. Franklin Roosevelt went to north Africa, but the front was in Tunisia, I think, but maybe not.

Q. Abraham Lincoln went to Richmond a couple of days after—

The President. He sure did. I got the picture of the White House of the—Lincoln with his generals and Admiral Porter talking about the peace. I think that’s what you’re talking about.

Q. But he was mobbed by people when he went to—this was a couple of days after he fell.

The President. Right. And he was on a boat outside of Richmond, unfortunately called “The Peacemakers.” It had a wonderful rainbow behind he and his generals. That’s where he’s talking about making sure the peace was fair and generous so that the United States would stay united.

And, interestingly enough, the original is in the—upstairs in the Treaty Room in the White House. And it is in the Pentagon as well, a copy of it, which I found to be very—so I remember going into the Pentagon and—somebody took—[laughter].

But thanks for honoring it.

Q. I appreciate it.

The President. You’re a credit to your Nation, a credit to your profession.

NOTE: The President spoke aboard Air Force One en route to Andrews Air Force Base following his departure from Baghdad at approximately 8 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Mark Tillman, USAF, commander, Presidential Airlift Group; Ahmad Chalabi, Jalal Talabani, and Raja Habib al-Khuzai, members, Iraqi Governing Council; L. Paul Bremer III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command; Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, USA, commander, Coalition Joint Task Force Seven; and Joe Hagin, Assistant to the President and White House Deputy Chief of Staff. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

November 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Colorado Springs, CO. Upon his arrival in the afternoon at Peterson Air Force Base, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Diane Campbell.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Fort Carson, CO, where he had lunch with members of the U.S. military. Later, he met with families of U.S. servicemembers who died in Iraq.

Later in the afternoon, the President returned to Peterson Air Force Base and then traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 25

In the morning, the President traveled to Las Vegas, NV. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing. Upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Maria Konold-Soto. Later, at Spring Valley Hospital, he met with health care professionals and seniors to discuss Medicare and medical liability reform.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Phoenix, AZ, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Maybelle Harris. Later, at the Los Olivos Senior Center, he met with seniors to discuss Medicare reform.

In the evening, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dennis C. Shea to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Policy, Development, and Research.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark J. Warshawsky to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roger W. Wallace to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jack Edwin McGregor and Scott Kevin Walker to be members of the Advisory Board of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

The President announced the appointment of James R. Wilkinson as Deputy As-

sistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Communications.

The President announced the appointment of Sean McCormack as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director of the National Security Council Press Office.

November 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with interim President Nino Burjanadze of Georgia to discuss political reforms in Georgia.

In the evening, the President traveled to Baghdad, Iraq, arriving the following afternoon.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Premier Wen Jiabao of China to the White House for an official visit on December 9.

November 27

In the late afternoon, at Baghdad International Airport, the President had Thanksgiving dinner with members of the U.S. military stationed in Baghdad. Later, he met with four members of the Iraqi Governing Council and then senior U.S. military personnel stationed in Baghdad.

In the evening, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, arriving early the next morning.

November 28

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 24

Jane J. Boyle,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, vice Jerry L. Buchmeyer, retired.