

Combat Team, from the Volunteer State of Tennessee. I want to tell you, sir, that we appreciate you coming with us today for this interview and hearing us express our confidence in the Iraqi security forces' role in the upcoming referendum. Sir, we are prepared to do whatever it takes to make this thing a success. But the important thing here is that the Iraqi army and the Iraqi security forces, they're ready, and they're committed. They're going to make this thing happen.

Back in January, when we were preparing for that election, we had to lead the way. We set up the coordination. We made the plan. We're really happy to see, during the preparation for this one, sir, they're doing everything. They're making the plans. They're calling each other. They've got it laid out. So on Saturday, sir, we're going to be beside them. We're going to be there to support them through anything. But we can't wait to share in their success with them on Sunday.

Sir, from all of us here at Task Force Liberty here in Tikrit, we want to express our gratitude to you for spending a little time with us this morning, and thank you, sir, for hearing our assessment of the current situation here in Tikrit, Iraq.

The President. Well, Lieutenant, thanks. It's been my honor. And you know, I wish I could be there to see you face to face, to thank you personally. It's probably a little early for me to go to Tikrit, but one of these days perhaps the situation will be such that I'll be able to get back to Iraq to not only thank our troops but to thank those brave Iraqis who are standing strong in the face of these foreign fighters and these radicals that are trying to stop the march of freedom.

Again, I want to thank you all for being so courageous and for stepping up when the United States of America needed you. I repeat what I said earlier: Please give your loved ones my deepest respect. And you've got to know, the American people are standing strong with you. We're proud of you. May God bless you all in your work, and when you get back to the States, you know, if I'm hanging around, come by and say hello. *[Laughter]*

Thank you all.

NOTE: The teleconference began at 9:54 a.m. The President spoke from Room 350 of the Dwight

D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building to troops in Tikrit, Iraq. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Participating in the teleconference were Capt. Brent Kennedy, USA, Capt. David J. Smith, USA, Capt. Stephen N. Pratt, USA, Capt. David Williams, USA, M. Sgt. Corine Lombardo, USA, 1st Lt. Gregg A. Murphy, USA, S. Sgt. David Smith-Barry, USA, Sfc. Jerry R. Munoz, USA, Sgt. Dustin Giesbrecht, USA, and Sgt. Ronald E. Long, Jr., USA, 42d Infantry Division; and Sgt. Maj. Akeel Shaker Nassir, 4th Iraqi Army Division.

Remarks After Signing the Book of Condolences at the Embassy of Pakistan

October 14, 2005

Mr. Ambassador, thank you for having us. I'm here to express the condolences of the American people to those who suffered mightily as a result of the earthquake that struck your country. There's been a lot of loss of life, and Americans pray for those families who have lost a loved one.

There's been a lot of damage, and we want to help in any way we can. I told the Ambassador that—reminded him what I told President Musharraf—I said when I spoke to him, I said, "Pakistan is a friend, and America will help." We've moved a lot of military equipment in there. We're helping with humanitarian aid as well. And so not only will we offer our prayers, but we'll offer our help and help the people and help the Government, help this great nation get back on its feet.

Thank you for having us.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:46 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Jehangir Karamat, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan.

Executive Order 13387—2005 Amendments to the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States

October 14, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including chapter