

**December 5**

In the morning, the President had breakfast with Secretary of Defense-designate Robert M. Gates. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with James A. Baker III, cochair, Iraq Study Group.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a dinner for Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations and his wife, Nane Maria Annan.

**December 6**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael J. Burns to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rosemary E. Rodriguez to be a member of the Election Assistance Commission.

**December 7**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Thomas Yayi Boni of Benin to the White House on December 14.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to attend the 60th anniversary of King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, December 11: George H.W. Bush (head of delegation); Barbara Bush; and Ralph Boyce.

**December 8**

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey and President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, in the Yellow Oval Room, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an interview with *People* magazine.

Then, in the Oval Office, he had a meeting with Democrat Members of the House of Representatives.

In the evening, on the State Floor, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a holiday reception.

The President declared a major disaster in Alaska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides on October 8–13.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**


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

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**Submitted December 4**

Robert M. Gates,  
of Texas, to be Secretary of Defense, vice Donald Henry Rumsfeld, resigned.

**Submitted December 5**

Jeffrey Robert Brown,  
of Illinois, to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2008, vice Bradley D. Belt, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Gregory B. Cade,  
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security, vice R. David Paulison, resigned.

Sam Fox,  
of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belgium.

Frederick J. Kapala,  
of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Philip G. Reinhard, retiring.

Heidi M. Pasichow,  
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, elevated.

Stanley Davis Phillips,  
of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

Jill E. Sommers,  
of Kansas, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring April 13, 2009, vice Sharon Brown-Hruska, resigned.

Michael W. Tankersley,  
of Texas, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank (new position).

**Submitted December 6**

Michael J. Burns,  
of New Mexico, to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, vice Dale Klein, resigned.

Beryl A. Howell,  
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2011 (reappointment).

Rosemary E. Rodriguez,  
of Colorado, to be a member of the Election Assistance Commission for the remainder of the term expiring December 12, 2007, vice Raymundo Martinez III, resigned.

John R. Steer,  
of Virginia, to be a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2011 (reappointment).

**Withdrawn December 6**

Tracy A. Henke,  
of Missouri, to be Executive Director of the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security, vice C. Suzanne Mencer, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on September 5, 2006.

David H. Laufman,  
of Texas, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense, vice Joseph E. Schmitz, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on June 5, 2006.

**Submitted December 7**

Thomas Alvin Farr,  
of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, vice Malcolm J. Howard, retired.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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**Released December 4**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of British Prime Minister Tony Blair

**Released December 5**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

**Released December 6**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

**Released December 7**

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Welcome President Thomas Yayi Boni of the Republic of Benin to the White House

Text of citations for the Presidential Medal of Freedom

**Released December 8**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alaska