

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. at McConnell Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Vicki Tiahart, wife of Representative Todd Tiahart of Kansas.

Remarks at the Boys & Girls Club of South Central Kansas—21st Street Club in Wichita

June 15, 2007

The President. I have come to this fantastic facility to, first of all, thank the people that have supported the programs that exist here. I like the idea of mentors reaching out to children to set good examples and to encourage them to achieve big goals in life. And that's what happens here in this Boys and Girls Club in Wichita. This is a place where dreams are fostered and skills are given so that people can realize their dreams.

This is a community-based program. It gets some help from the government, but it gets a lot of help from the local community. And I think it's very important for the people of Wichita to support program such as this—after all, we can change our country one heart and one soul at a time. So I'm really pleased to be here. It's a beautiful facility full of beautiful people.

And so thank you for giving me a chance to come by and say hello. Yes, you won an award didn't you?

Ciera Ivy. Yes.

The President. What award did you win?

Ms. Ivy. Youth of the Month.

The President. Youth of the Month. That's good. Congratulations to you.

Ms. Ivy. Thank you.

The President. I want to thank the counselors who are here and all the adults that are working with the boys and girls.

Anyway, nice to see you all. Thanks for coming by. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployments of United States Combat-Equipped Armed Forces Around the World

June 15, 2007

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am providing this supplemental consolidated report, prepared by my Administration and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed about deployments of U.S. combat-equipped Armed Forces around the world. This supplemental report covers operations in support of the war on terror and Kosovo.

THE WAR ON TERROR

Since September 24, 2001, I have reported, consistent with Public Law 107-40 and the War Powers Resolution, on the combat operations in Afghanistan against al-Qaida terrorists and their Taliban supporters, which began on October 7, 2001, and the deployment of various combat-equipped and combat-support forces to a number of locations in the Central, Pacific, European (KFOR), and Southern Command areas of operation in support of those operations and of other operations in our war on terror.

I will direct additional measures as necessary in the exercise of the U.S. right to self-defense and to protect U.S. citizens and interests. Such measures may include short-notice deployments of special operations and other forces for sensitive operations in various locations throughout the world. It is not possible to know at this time either the precise scope or duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States.

United States Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, continue to conduct the U.S. campaign to pursue al-Qaida terrorists and to eliminate support to al-Qaida. These operations have been successful in seriously degrading al-Qaida's training capabilities. United States Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, ended the Taliban regime and are actively pursuing and engaging remnant al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in Afghanistan.