

military personnel, or approximately 10 percent of KFOR's total strength of approximately 15,498 personnel.

The U.S. forces have been assigned to the eastern region of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. The KFOR operates under NATO command and control and rules of engagement. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels; provides a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside; and organizes checkpoints and patrols in key areas to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence.

In accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244, UNMIK continues to transfer additional competencies to the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, which includes the President, Prime Minister, multiple ministries, and the Kosovo Assembly. The UNMIK retains ultimate authority in some sensitive areas such as police, justice, and ethnic-minority affairs.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. NATO has adopted the Joint Operations Area plan to regionalize and rationalize its force structure in the Balkans. The UNMIK international police and the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) have full responsibility for public safety and policing throughout Kosovo. The UNMIK international police and KPS also have begun to assume responsibility for guarding patrimonial sites and established border-crossing checkpoints. The KFOR augments security in particularly sensitive areas or in response to particular threats as needed.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in all of these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. Officials of my Administration and I communicate regularly with the leadership and other

Members of Congress with regard to these deployments, and we will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

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.

June 9

In the morning, in Rome, Italy, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush went to Quirinale Palace. He then met with President Giorgio Napolitano of Italy.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Vatican City where he met with Pope Benedict XVI. Later, he and Mrs. Bush and members of the U.S. delegation met with the Pope. The President then met with Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of the Holy See.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Rome, Italy, where they toured the Basilica of Santa Maria. Later, he went to Chigi Palace where he met with Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy. They then had a working lunch.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Villa Taverna where they met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. Later, he met with former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy.

June 10

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Tirana, Albania, where, at the Palace of Brigades, they participated in an arrival ceremony with President Alfred Moisiu of Albania. He then met with President Moisiu.

Later in the morning, the President met with Albanian military personnel who served in Iraq. He then went to the Council of Ministers where he met with Prime Minister Sali Berisha of Albania.

In the afternoon, at the Tirana-Rinas Airport, the President and Mrs. Bush met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. They then traveled to Sofia, Bulgaria, arriving in the evening.

June 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush went to Nevsky Square where they participated in an arrival ceremony. Then, in Plenary Hall, he met with President Georgi Parvanov of Bulgaria.

Later in the morning, the President went to the Council of Ministers where he met with Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev of Bulgaria.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the American Embassy Sofia and met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. Later, they returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

June 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President went to the U.S. Capitol where he participated in a Senate Republican Policy Committee lunch.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lisa E. Epifani to be Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

The President announced his intention to nominate Gracia M. Hillman to be a member of the Election Assistance Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gail Dennise Mathieu to be Ambassador to Namibia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harry K. Thomas, Jr., to be Director General of the Foreign Service and, upon confirmation, appoint him as Chairman of

the Board of the Foreign Service at the Department of State.

The President announced his intention to appoint Bonnie McElveen-Hunter to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the American National Red Cross.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on May 5–18.

June 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President met with the Congressional Global War on Terror Consultative Group.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland, on June 26: Tevi Troy (head of delegation); Victor Henderson Ashe; Cheryl Feldman Halpern; and Michael M. Kaiser.

June 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Wichita, KS, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Alex Robinson.

In the afternoon, at a private residence, the President made remarks at a luncheon for senatorial candidate Pat Roberts. He then traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Montebello, Quebec, Canada, to meet with Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada and President Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico at the North American Leaders' Summit on August 20–21.

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 June 11

Thomas J. Barrett,
of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, vice Maria Cino, resigned.

Withdrawn June 11

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, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007.

Submitted June 13

Lisa E. Epifani,
of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs), vice Jill L. Sigal, resigned.

Gracia M. Hillman,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2009 (re-appointment).

Joseph N. Laplante, Jr.,
of New Hampshire, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Hampshire, vice Joseph A. Diclerico, Jr., retired.

Gail Dennise Mathieu,
of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia.

Gustavus Adolphus Puryear IV,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, vice Robert L. Echols, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

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.

Released June 10

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Released June 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Missouri

Released June 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Transcript of remarks by Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt after presentation of the "Report to the President on Issues Raised by the Virginia Tech Tragedy"

Fact sheet: The Consequences of Inaction

Released June 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Meet With CARICOM Leaders

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 214

Released June 15

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott M. Stanzel

Statement by the Press Secretary: USNS *Comfort* Deployment to Latin America and the Caribbean

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Attend North American Leaders' Summit in Canada

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1675 and S. 1104