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The only thing
that really needs
checking is humane
ref. I've got the rest.

Martin/Aarhus
Dec. 10, 1992
DRAFT ONE
MIL

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WHITE HOUSE MILITARY CEREMONY
 ANACOSTIA, VA
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1992

Thank you, Tim (McBride), for that kind introduction. John Gaughan. Members of the White House Military Office, it is truly a pleasure to be here with you. This is one of those rare opportunities I have to actually see you, face to face. You all may well be the White House's best kept secret -- rarely seen in photographs, seldom detected on film, and sighted only in the folds of blue pipe and drape. And because of your mastery of "low profile", you seldom receive the "thank you" you deserve.

So, I am truly pleased to have this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering service throughout the past four years. The gratitude I express today is not just mine, but Mrs. Bush's and the Vice President's, as well as members of the Cabinet and the entire Administration. Without you, our lives would have been considerably more difficult . . . and perhaps, world events would not have transpired as quickly. Each of you, no matter what your role, has a lot to be proud of. And I hope you are as proud of yourselves as your Commander-in-Chief is of you.

WHMO (pronounced WHAMO) is an integral part of the Presidency. There is not a place or a moment in time when the President's action are not affected by your efforts. And given all the time and effort invested, your quality never waivers. No

one, not even Mr. McBride or Mr. Gaughn, is more aware of this than I. I know, because I've tested you from time to time.

The HMX pilots know what I'm talking about. Occasionally I've tried to beat them to Marine One. Once -- one time out of 328 lifts -- did I manage that feat. Needless to say, I believe an Express Line has been established in the Chow Hall at Camp David solely for Pilots and Crew Chiefs.

One of my favorite tests involves simultaneous interpretation systems. I couldn't help but notice -- as I said that several trip officers shivered. Who among us can forget the Moscow Summit, when we were convinced the system was out for good? And who would have thought that gingerly playing with the switch would turn it off? Honest, all I was trying to do was to kill a little time while waiting, not kill the power. But forget the electronics or even the uncertainty of a foreign site, just strolling to the wrong lectern at Camp David is enough to rattle even the most steady of T.O.'s.

And I've challenged other WHCA (pronounced WA-CA) types as well. Although one should know better than to try and outrun a vehicle named "Roadrunner." I must admit I thought I had you last ~~September~~ ^{August} when AF1 made an unannounced right turn out of New Jersey in order to view hurricane damage in Miami. Low and behold, if we weren't met on the ground by several WHCA members and their trusty vehicle. Truly an impressive feat.

Newark
Opaloca
24 Aug.

For those of you who are not familiar with Roadrunner, it is a mobile communications center, with radio, telephone, and fax

capacity. Why the only motorcade vehicle that comes close in comparison is . . . no, not the WHCA car . . . the limo with its new cellular telephone system.

Roadrunner. That brings me to another issue. Call signs. Roadrunner. Angel. Stagecoach. These I understand. Tranquility for Mrs. Bush, I've always thought was quite appropriate. And Timberwolf, I have no problem with that. But how about that time in Branson, Missouri when you dressed me to match. Someone was thinking when they gave me that t-shirt with the wolf on it.

That too demonstrates a couple of this troop's strongest traits -- creativity and a calm sense of humor. The satellite antennas on a train trip through Wisconsin were a nice touch. Both my granddaughter, Ellie, and I were impressed by the ingenuity that transformed these functional-looking antennas into Halloween pumpkins and ghosts.

But that same creativity and sense of humor isn't restricted to actions, it is occasionally applied to verbal explanations. For instance, during a South Lawn motorcade departure, I understand a CARPET car was -- quote -- "hit by a tree". I'm not certain which is more impressive -- the explanation, or the idea of using a tree as a substitute brake. I'm pleased to report only minor casualties resulted from that incident. And today, both the driver and the tree have completely recovered.

Just as that anecdote has a happy ending, so too does 1992. This December is a little quieter than those of recent history. No summits to prepare for, no upcoming trips to advance, for the most part all us will be able to spend the holidays with our families. To your spouses and children, I want to express a very heartfelt thank you. I know the separation hasn't been easy, especially during the recent campaign. Unfortunately military families are the first to feel the burden when moms and dads are called away from home. Missed birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays are painful reminders of the sacrifices your families are called upon to make. I want everyone -- military and civilian alike -- to know I truly appreciated it.

Each man and woman gathered in this room has been a part of history. You've served a Nation at war and at peace, a Nation shaken by inner turmoil, and a Nation respected by the world. And you've helped the voice of freedom and liberty resonate through parliament halls, palaces, and city squares around the globe. It's been an honor to serve as your Commander-in-Chief. From the youngest enlisted man to the highest ranking officer -- you've all made me extremely proud. Thank you and may God bless you.

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