

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Speech	Remarks on the War on Terror to the Idaho National Guard, Draft 21	10	08/24/2005	P5; P6/b6; Transferred
002	Speech	Remarks on the War on Terror to the Idaho National Guard, Draft 16	9	08/24/2005	P5; P6/b6;
003	Speech	Remarks on the War on Terror to the Idaho National Guard, Draft 12	9	08/24/2005	P5; P6/b6;
004	Speech	Remarks on the War on Terror to the Idaho National Guard, Draft 24 [page 10]	1	08/24/2005	P6/b6;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

FOLDER TITLE:

08/24/2005 - Remarks on the War on Terror to the Idaho National Guard [768899][2]

FRC ID:

10472

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

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2014-0215-F 1

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Various remarks from
8/05 and 9/05 -
already have files @
ORKM thx - Kristen

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8/23 - 8/24

Remarks on the War on Terror to the Idaho National Guard – Boise, ID
Wednesday, August 24, 2005
Draft #2224

Thank you all for that warm welcome. I am pleased to be in the great State of Idaho. One of the best parts of my job as President is getting out of Washington to visit the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces. I appreciate having the chance to look you in the eye and say: Thank you for your service.

I am honored to stand with the brave men and women of the Idaho National Guard. Nineteen individuals have served both as Guardsmen and as President of the United States – and I am proud to be one of them. In times of crisis, our Nation depends on the courage and determination of the Guard. You know that the call to active duty can come at any time. You stand ready to put your lives on hold, and answer that call – because you love your country and your state. America appreciates your courageous decision to serve – and we appreciate your families and employers who support you in your vital work. Together, you are showing that patriotism and public service are alive and well in Idaho. Thank you for your sacrifice in freedom's cause.

I am also proud to be with the "gunfighters" of Mountain Home Air Force Base. After our Nation was attacked on September 11, 2001, aircrews from the 366th Wing flew more than one thousand combat missions over the skies of Afghanistan. In the war on terror, you are bringing justice to our enemies, and honor to the uniform – and America is grateful for your service.

Acknowledgments

- Mrs. Laura Bush
- Governor Dirk Kempthorne (R) and wife, Patricia and family
- Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), and wife, Suzanne and family
- Senator Mike Craypo (R-ID)
- Congressman Butch Otter (R-ID) (event in his district)
- Congressman Mike Simpson (R-ID) and wife, Kathy and family
- Bob Geddes [GED-dis] (R), President Pro Tem, Idaho Senate
- Bruce Newcomb (R), Speaker, Idaho House of Representatives
- Bart Davis (R), Majority Leader, Idaho Senate

- Mayor Tom Dale (non-partisan), City of Nampa
- Mayor David Beeter (non-partisan), City of Boise
- Other state and local officials here today
- Lieutenant General Steve Blum, Chief, National Guard Bureau
- Major General Larry Lafrenz [luh-FRENZ], Commanding General, Idaho National Guard
- Brigadier General Gary Sayler, Deputy Commanding General, Idaho Air National Guard
- Colonel Bill Shawver, Chief of Staff, Idaho National Guard
- Colonel Charlie Shugg, Commander, 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

Our Nation is engaged in a global war on terror that affects the safety and security of every American. In Iraq, Afghanistan, and across the world, we face dangerous enemies who want to harm our people and destroy our way of life. And throughout our Nation's history, whenever freedom has been threatened, America has turned to the National Guard. From our War of Independence to today's War on Terror, the Guard has defended this country with courage and devotion. I am proud to be your Commander-in-Chief, and I respect and honor all those who serve in the United States Armed Forces – active, Guard, and Reserve.

The role of the Guard in our military is unique. You are the only part of the Armed Forces that serves both your state and your country. And here in Idaho, the 4,300 soldiers and airmen of the Guard are meeting their state and federal responsibilities with courage and distinction. The Idaho Guard has been called up to provide disaster relief eight times in the past decade. You have helped your fellow citizens through fires, and floods, and snow emergencies. The people of this state take comfort knowing you are on call – and when tragedy strikes, they know they can count on the Idaho National Guard.

As you protect your neighbors from natural disasters, you are helping to protect all Americans from terrorist threats. A special WMD response team of Idaho Guard members is based at Gowen [GAW-en] Field – ready to mobilize within hours in case of a terrorist attack. You are not only protecting the American homeland, and you are taking the fight to the enemy. Since September 11, 2001, more than 243,000 members of the National Guard have been mobilized for various missions in the war on

terror. Idaho now has a higher percentage of its Guard forces mobilized than any other state. At this moment, more than 1,700 soldiers of the Idaho Guard are serving in Iraq – the largest Guard mobilization in the history of Idaho. ~~Since September 11, 2001, more than 243,000 members of the National Guard have been mobilized for various missions in the war on terror.~~ You are standing between our people and the worst dangers in the world – and I thank you for the important role you play in defending our Nation.

A time of war is a time of sacrifice – and a heavy burden falls on our military families. They miss you and worry about you. By standing behind you, they are standing up for America – and America appreciates their service as well. There are few things in life more difficult than seeing a loved one go off to war – and here in Idaho, a mom named Tammy Pruett [present] knows that feeling six times over. Tammy has four sons serving in Iraq right now with the Idaho National Guard: Eric, Evan, Greg, and Jeff. Last year, her husband, Leon [present], and another son, Eren [present], returned from Iraq, where they helped train Iraqi firefighters in Mosul. Tammy says: “I know that if something happens to one of the boys, they would leave this world doing what they believe, what they think is right for our country. And I guess you couldn't ask for a better way of life than giving it for something that you believe in.” Americans live in freedom because of families like the Puetts. Thank you for your courage – and your selfless devotion to our country.

Our Nation depends on our Guard families – and we depend on the understanding and support of your employers. Your service would not be possible without them. In offices, and schools, and factories across Idaho, your colleagues do without your talents so that you can serve our Nation. These businesses are putting patriotism ahead of profit – because they know that our prosperity and way of life depend on the freedom you defend. Guard employers are also serving our country – and they have the gratitude of all Americans.

In this time of call ups, alerts, mobilizations, and deployments, your employers are standing behind you – and so is your government. Each of you has stepped forward to defend your country, and your country owes you some things in return. We have taken a number of steps to improve the call up process, so that it is more respectful of you and your families. In most cases, we are now giving you at least 30 days notification before you

mobilize – so you and your families have time to make arrangements. We are working to give you as much certainty as possible about the length of your mobilization – so you can know when you will be able resume civilian life. We are working to minimize the number of extensions and repeat mobilizations. We are working to ensure that you and your families are treated with the dignity you deserve – and the respect you have earned.

We are also taking steps to improve your quality of life. We have expanded health care benefits for Guard and Reserve forces and their families – giving you access to the military's TRICARE system for up to 90 days before you report, and 180 days after deactivation. We are also expanding access to education for those who serve as citizen-soldiers. Last year, I was proud to sign legislation providing our Guard and Reserve forces between 40 and 80 percent of the education benefit available to active duty forces – depending on the length of their mobilization in the war on terror. We have also tripled the amount that can be paid for re-enlisting in the National Guard or Reserve – and I have asked Congress to authorize a new retention bonus for Guardsmen and Reservists with critical skills we need in the struggle against the terrorists. Our Guardsmen and Reservists are standing up for America – and my Administration is standing behind our Guard and Reserve.

Your service is needed in these dangerous times. We remain a Nation at war. The war reached our shores on September 11, 2001, when terrorists murdered nearly three thousand people in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. And since then, they have continued to kill – in Madrid, Istanbul, Jakarta, Casablanca, Riyadh, Bali, Baghdad, London, Sharm el-Sheikh and elsewhere.

Our enemies murder because they despise our freedom and our way of life. We believe in the human rights and human dignity of every man, woman and child on this earth. The terrorists believe that all human life is expendable. They share a hateful ideology that rejects tolerance, and crushes all dissent. They envision a world where women are beaten ... children are indoctrinated ... and all who reject their ideology of violence and extremism are murdered.

During the last few decades, the terrorists also grew to believe that if they hit America hard – as in Lebanon and Somalia – America would retreat and back down. Before September 11th, Osama bin Laden said that

an attack could make America run in less than 24 hours. So now they are trying to break our will with acts of violence. They kill women and children, knowing that the images of their brutality will horrify civilized peoples. Their goal is to force us to retreat, so they can topple governments in the Middle East, and turn that region into a safe haven for terrorism. We saw the terrible harm that terrorists did when they took effective control of a failed state in Afghanistan – a terrorist victory that led directly to the attacks of September the 11th. We will not allow the terrorists to establish new places of refuge in failed states, from which they can recruit, and train, and plan new attacks on our citizens.

On September 11, 2001, we saw the future the terrorists intend for our country and the lengths they are willing to go to achieve their aims. And we faced a clear choice: We could hunker down – retreating behind a false sense of security. Or we could bring the war to the terrorists – striking them before they kill more of our people. That day, I made the decision: America will not wait to be attacked again. Our doctrine is clear: We will confront emerging threats before they fully materialize. And if you harbor a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the terrorists. We will stay on the offense ... we will complete our work in Iraq. An immediate withdrawal of our troops in Iraq or the broader Middle East – as some have called for – would only embolden the terrorists and create a staging ground to launch more attacks against America and other free nations. So long as I am President, we will stay ... we will fight ... and we will win the War on Terror.

Since September 11th, we have followed a clear strategy to defeat the terrorists and protect our people:

First, we are defending the homeland. We have strengthened our intelligence capabilities, trained more than 800,000 first responders, and taken critical steps to protect our cities, and borders, and infrastructure. And we have taken the fight to the enemy in our midst – disrupting terrorist cells and financing networks in California, Oregon, Illinois, New Jersey, Virginia, and other states. Today's enemies do not mass armies on borders, or navies on the high seas. They blend in with the civilian population ... emerge to strike our citizens ... and then retreat back into the shadows. So we are hunting them down in the shadows where they hide – rooting them out and stopping them before they can attack our country again.

Second, we are staying on the offensive across the world – capturing and killing the terrorists in foreign lands before they can attack us here at home. In a free and open society like ours, it is impossible to protect against every threat. The only way to defend our citizens where we live is to go after the terrorists where they live. When terrorists spend their days and nights struggling to avoid death or capture, they are less capable of arming and training and plotting new attacks on America and the rest of the civilized world. So we are fighting the enemy across the globe – and we will stay on the hunt until the terrorists have nowhere to run ... and no place left to hide.

Third, we are spreading the hope of freedom across the broader Middle East. In the long run, the only way we will defeat the terrorists is by offering an alternative to their ideology of hatred and fear. By advancing the cause of liberty in the Middle East, we are bringing hope to millions, security to our citizens – and laying the foundation of peace for our children and grandchildren.

We are implementing our strategy with resilience and determination. We are using all elements of national power – military, diplomatic, financial, intelligence, and law enforcement. And we are fighting the enemy on many fronts – from the streets of Western capitals ... to the mountains of Afghanistan ... the tribal regions of Pakistan ... the islands of Southeast Asia ... and the Horn of Africa. The war on terror is a war of global scale, and to protect our people, we must prevail in every theater.

Iraq is one of the most important battlefronts of this war. Terrorists have converged on Iraq because they fear the march of freedom. Their most prominent leader is a Jordanian named Zarqawi, who has declared his allegiance to Osama bin Laden. Their ranks are filled with foreign fighters, who have come from places like Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, and Libya. They lack popular support, so they are targeting innocent Iraqis with car bombs and suicide attacks – because they know that the only way they can prevail is to break our will, and the will of the Iraqi people, before democracy takes hold. They will fail.

The stakes in Iraq could not be higher. The brutal violence in Iraq today is a clear sign of the terrorists' determination to stop democracy from taking root in the Middle East. They know that the success of a free Iraq – who can be a key ally in the War on Terror – will be a crushing blow to their

strategy to dominate that region and threaten America and the free world. They know that when their hateful ideology is defeated in Iraq, the Middle East will have a clear example of freedom, prosperity, and hope – and the terrorists will begin to lose their sponsors, lose their recruits, and lose the sanctuaries they need to plan new attacks.

So they are fighting these efforts in Iraq with all the brutality they can muster. Yet despite the violence we see each day, we are achieving our strategic objectives in Iraq. The Iraqi people are determined to build a free nation – and we have a plan to help them succeed.

American and Iraqi forces are on the hunt, side-by-side, to defeat the terrorists together. And as we hunt down our common enemies, we will continue to train more Iraqi security forces. Like free people everywhere, Iraqis desire to defend their own country – and we are helping them achieve that goal. Our approach can be summed up this way: As Iraqis stand up, we will stand down. And when Iraqi forces can defend their freedom by taking more and more of the fight to the enemy, our troops will come home with the honor they have earned.

At the same time, we are helping the Iraqi people establish a secure democracy. The people of Iraq have made a choice. In spite of threats and assassinations, eight-and-a-half million Iraqis went to the polls in January. And by casting their ballots in defiance of the terrorists, they sent a clear and unmistakable message to the world: It does not matter where you are born, or what faith you follow – embedded in every soul is the deep desire to live in freedom. The Iraqi people want to live in freedom – and we are helping them do so.

Members of the Idaho Guard know the Iraqi people's desire for liberty – because they have seen it up close. Specialist Matt Salisbury [present] of Nampa helped provide security for the elections. He describes seeing an Iraqi family helping an elderly man to the polls to vote that day. Matt says: "The pride radiating from his face was unmistakable. With one act, he recovered his dignity, which had been stolen by a tyrant. How can I possibly describe the return of hope and dignity that I saw in these people's eyes.... It is worth the sacrifice of leaving families, jobs, and a safe life ... I am proud to be a citizen-soldier in the 116th Brigade Combat Team serving in Iraq. I am proud to stand my watch." Idaho is proud of soldiers like Specialist Matt Salisbury – and so are all the American people.

The success of the Iraqi elections was more than a momentary victory for the Iraqi people – it was part of a series of defeats for the terrorists. The terrorists have sown havoc and destruction across Iraq – by killing innocent men, women and children they are trying to shake the will of the Iraqis and coalition forces. Yet the violence has not stopped the Iraqi people from building a free Iraq. The terrorists failed to stop the transfer of sovereignty. They failed to stop Iraqis from running for office and going to the polls. And they failed to stop a democratic government from taking power in Iraq. The terrorists can kill the innocent – but they cannot stop the political process which will ultimately lead to freedom.

Right now, the Iraqi people are achieving another important victory over the terrorists. Despite threats, intimidation, and the assassination of some of its members, Iraq's constitutional drafting committee has submitted a constitution to Iraq's Transitional National Assembly, and Iraqi negotiators are now further debating and revising the text. The establishment of a democratic constitution will be a landmark event in the history of Iraq – and the history of the Middle East. It will bring us closer to the day when Iraq is a nation that can govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself – without relying on Coalition forces. And it will send a clear signal to people across the Middle East that the future belongs to freedom.

Producing a constitution is a difficult process that involves debate and compromise. We know this from our own history. Our Constitutional Convention was home to political rivalries and regional disagreements. And the document that our founders produced in Philadelphia was not the final word – it has been amended and changed many times over the centuries. The same will be true of the Iraqi constitution. Iraqis are now at the beginning of a long process. Like our founders, they are grappling with difficult issues – such as the role of the federal government, and the proper place of religion in the life of their nation. And like our founders, they will come up with a system that respects the traditions of their country and guarantees the rights of all its citizens. What is important is that Iraqis are resolving these issues through debate and discussion – not at the barrel of a gun. Americans admire their thoughtful deliberations – and we salute their determination to lay the foundation for a lasting democracy amid the ruins of a brutal dictatorship.

The battle lines in Iraq are now clearly drawn for all the world to see – and there is no middle ground. Transforming a country that was ruled by

an oppressive dictator who sponsored terror, into a free nation that is an ally in the war on terror, will take more time, more sacrifice, and continued resolve. The terrorists will emerge from Iraq one of two ways: emboldened or defeated. Every free nation has a stake in the success of the Iraqi people. If the terrorists were to win in Iraq, the free world will be more vulnerable to attacks on innocent civilians. And that is why, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, the terrorists must be defeated.

There will be more difficult moments on the path to victory. Yet we can have confidence in the future – because we have seen freedom conquer evil and secure the peace before. In World War II, free nations came together to fight the ideology of fascism – and freedom prevailed. In the Cold War, freedom defeated the ideology of communism and led to a Europe whole, free, and at peace. Now, once again, freedom is contending with the followers of a murderous ideology. And like the hateful ideologies that came before it, the darkness of terror will be defeated – and the forces of freedom and moderation will prevail throughout the Muslim world.

In the end, the terrorists will fail because they have nothing positive to offer. The terrorist Zarqawi sums up their appeal this way: “Anyone who stands in the way of our struggle is our enemy, a target of our swords.” That is the sum of the terrorists’ grim vision. They are brutal and effective killers – but nothing more. They seek to exploit a great religion, but in truth, they are animated by nothing but their own lust for power, and their desire for dominion over others. And while they may sow death and destruction for a time, the history of the last half-century is clear: The will to power cannot withstand the will to live in freedom.

We will prevail in this struggle because freedom is the permanent hope of mankind – and because we have on our side the greatest force for freedom in the history of the world: the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces. Since the founding of our Republic, every generation has produced patriots willing to sacrifice for our freedom. And since the morning of September 11th, we have known that the war on terror would require great sacrifice, as well. In this war, we have said farewell to some very good men and women – including [289]_____ heroes of our National Guard and Reserve. We mourn the loss of every life – we pray for their loved ones. These brave men and women gave their lives for a cause that is just and necessary for the security of our country – and now we will honor their sacrifice by completing their mission.

The men and women of the Idaho Guard are serving freedom's cause with courage and distinction – and your courage is changing the world. Specialist Charles Glenn [not present]¹ of Boise has been on the front lines in Iraq, and he has seen the progress first hand. He says: "I know Idaho [has] made a big difference here We've been a part of history."

The citizen-soldiers of Idaho are making history. You are fighting to ensure that our freedom, like the State of Idaho, may "endure forever."² Americans are grateful for your devotion to duty and courage under fire – and we will live in freedom because of your determination to prevail.

Thank you for your service to our country. May God bless the people of this great state – and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

*Drafted by: Bill McGurn and Marc Thiessen, Office of Speechwriting
Office: 202/456-2553 and 202/456-2170*

(b)(6)

¹ Charles is currently in Iraq. His wife, Jackie, a member of the Air Guard, will be present.

² State motto of Idaho: "Esto perpetua" -- "May it Endure Forever."