

Withdrawn/Redacted Material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 - Boise, ID	69	08/24/2005	Transferred
002	Speech	[Note] [with attachment]	11	08/23/2005	P5; 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][3]

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 advice 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).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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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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.

8/1/05 - 8/24/05

Remarks on the War on Terror to the Idaho National Guard – Boise, ID
Wednesday, August 24, 2005
Draft #22 **24**

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.

W/ COMRADES IN ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE,
& MARINE RESERVE!

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), mother DOROTHY
and wife, Suzanne and family
- Senator Mike Craypo (R-ID)
- Congressman Butch Otter (R-ID)
(event in his district) and mother REGINA
- 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 Saylor,
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, 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. / 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 Pruetts.
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.

still

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.

*Complete work in Afghanistan
and 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

Finding
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.

Democracies DON'T ATTACK each other.
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
will
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 Zargawi 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 491 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]
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." 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.

Withdrawal Marker

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