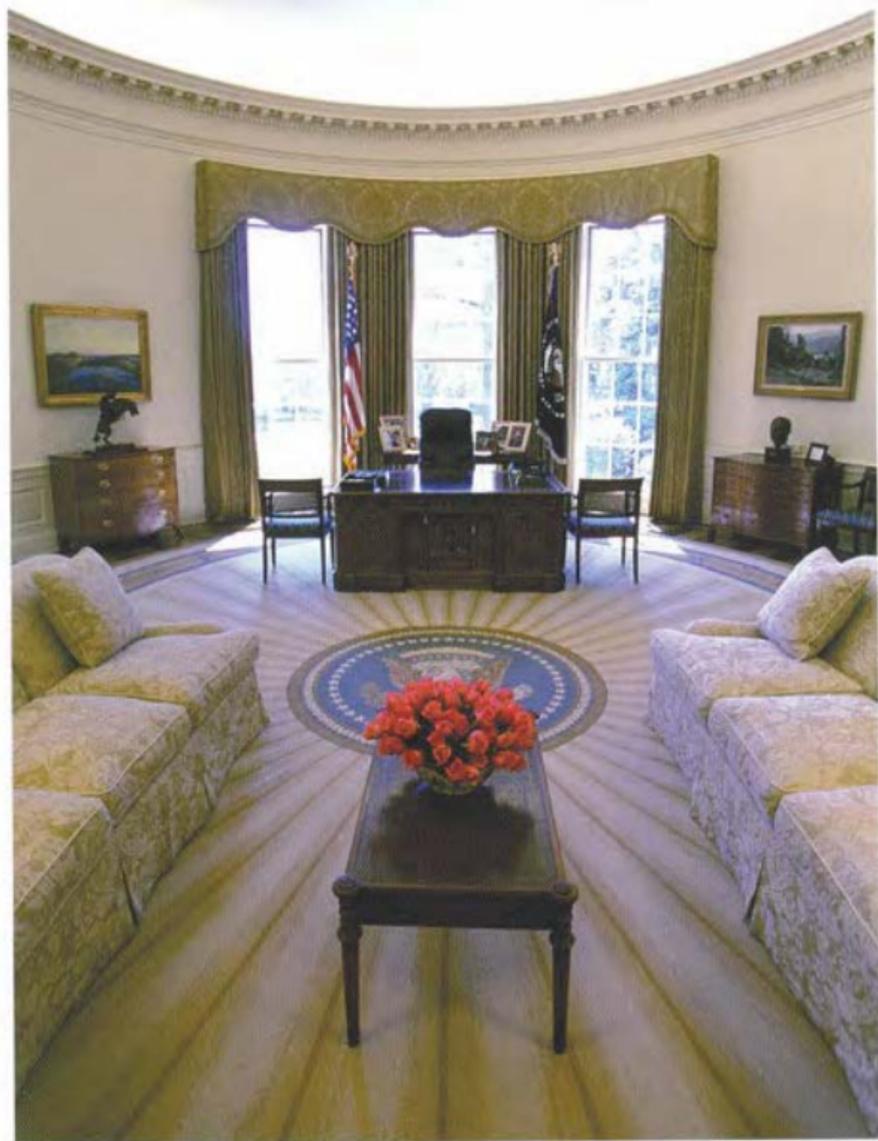


George W. Bush Presidential Library

Collection: Presidential Correspondence, Office of
of

Series: Mail Analysis – Photo/Printing Division
Files

Folder Title: Baseball cards - Assorted [Folder
2]



THE OVAL OFFICE

The Oval Office

History

The first "Oval Office" was built in 1909 in the center of the West Wing of the White House. In 1934, during the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration, the Oval Office was moved to its current location on the southeast corner of the West Wing, overlooking the Rose Garden.

Purpose

The Oval Office is the president's formal workspace where he meets with heads of state, diplomats, Congressional leaders, business representatives, government officials, and his staff. Here he addresses the American people and the world on television or radio. It is where he deals with the issues of the day.

Decorations

Each president has decorated the Oval Office to suit his personal taste. Among the features that remain constant are the white marble mantel from the original 1909 Oval Office, the Presidential seal in the ceiling, and the two flags behind the President's desk—the United States flag and the President's flag.

The Oval Office Today

President George W. Bush has chosen, like many presidents before him, to use the Resolute Desk. The desk was made from the timbers of the H.M.S. Resolute, an abandoned British ship discovered by American whalers in the Arctic. It was returned to the Queen of England by President Pierce on behalf of the American people. After the ship was retired, Queen Victoria commissioned the desk and presented it to President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1880 as a token of friendship and appreciation.

For his office, President Bush has selected several paintings of Texas scenes that remind him of his home state. One oil painting by W.H.D. Koerner depicts a horseman charging up a steep and rough trail. The painting *A Charge to Keep* is also the title of the President's autobiography. This title is taken from a hymn by Charles Wesley.



MARINE ONE

Marine One

History:

Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) was established in December 1947 as an experimental unit to test and evaluate helicopters and tactics. HMX-1 made history on May 1948, by making the first ship-to-shore helicopter lift. In September 1957, the squadron again made history when President Dwight D. Eisenhower, while vacationing in Rhode Island, was required to return to Washington, D.C., on short notice. He boarded an HMX-1UH-34 in Newport for a flight to Naval Air Station Quonset Point, marking the first time an American President had flown on a Marine helicopter.

Marine One Today:

HMX-1 continues to provide helicopter transportation for the President and Vice President, and "Marine One" is the call sign used when the President is on board one of the HMX-1 Marine helicopters. The primary presidential helicopter is a Sikorsky VH-3D (Sea King). Uniquely designed for the President's use, this aircraft has a cruising speed of 110 knots (131 miles per hour) and range of 450 miles. Marine One has flown in 48 foreign countries and has landed at such faraway places as England's Windsor Castle, Japan's Akasaka Palace, Colombia's Bolivar Square, the Demilitarized Zone of South Korea, and Kuwait's Bayan Palace. The VH-60N (Blackhawk) and CH-46E (Sea Knight) have also been used as "Marine One." Other HMX-1 helicopters are used to transport the Vice President, Cabinet members and foreign dignitaries.



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AIR FORCE ONE

Air Force One

History:

In 1944, Franklin Delano Roosevelt became the first U.S. President to travel by air. For most of the next 20 years, various four-engine propeller-driven aircraft were used for presidential air travel. In 1962, the first jet aircraft, a Boeing 707, tail number 26000, was purchased for use as Air Force One.

Air Force One Today:

The current presidential fleet consists of two specially configured Boeing 747-200B series aircraft—tail numbers 28000 and 29000—with the Air Force designation VC-25A. When the President is aboard either aircraft, or any other Air Force aircraft, the radio call sign is "Air Force One." These aircraft are maintained and operated by the Presidential Airlift Group, part of Air Mobility Command's 89th Airlift Wing, based at Andrews Air Force Base, Suitland, Maryland. The VC-25A is capable of flying 9,600 miles without refueling and can accommodate up to 70 passengers. President George W. Bush begins a new chapter in Air Force One history as the third sitting President to fly aboard the VC-25A.