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Staff Secretary, White House Office of the Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

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Folder Title:

09/12/2003 - Visit to Fort Stewart, Georgia [767273]

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Speech	Visit to Fort Stewart, Georgia [page 6]	1	09/12/2003	P6/b6;
002	Speech	[Speech Cards]; "Our third goal"	2	N.D.	P5; Transferred
002	Speech	Visit to Fort Stewart, GA	37	09/12/2003	P5; Transferred
003	Speech	[Speech Cards]; "When I addressed"	4	09/12/2003	P5; Transferred

COLLECTION TITLE:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

FOLDER TITLE:

09/12/2003 - Visit to Fort Stewart, Georgia [767273]

FRC ID:

10055

RESTRICTION CODES

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

Deed of Gift Restrictions

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767273

SP850-01

Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: **SECLOG**

Staff Name: **PRESIDENT**

Document Date: **9/12/2003**

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VISIT TO FORT STEWART,
GEORGIA SEP 12 03**

SCANNED
BY
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Visit to Fort Stewart, Georgia
Friday, September 12, 2003
Draft #5

9/14/03
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

Thank you. It is a fine Georgia afternoon, and a great day to visit the soldiers and families of the Third Infantry Division and Fort Stewart. When I came here in February of 2001, it was one of my first official trips ... my first visit to an Army post as Commander-in-Chief ... and my first chance as President to say: Hooah.

Since we last met, soldiers of the Third Infantry Division have fought in Afghanistan and hunted terrorists in Pakistan. You launched the coalition offensive into Iraq ... fought back Iraqi fighters in Najaf ... took the Saddam Hussein International Airport and seized palaces ... and you led the fighting in Baghdad the day the statue of the dictator was pulled down.

Following that day of liberation, Third ID soldiers have helped the Iraqi people to recover from years of oppression, and to begin the work of building a free Iraq. Two months ago, the Sergeant Major of the Army, Jack Tilley, spoke to Third ID troops in Fallujah. He said, "Be proud of who you are. Stand up straight. You made history." As Commander-in-Chief, I second those words. You did make history. You have made our nation proud. And you have earned the Presidential Unit Citation.

After a long deployment, the Third ID is now home. America is grateful for your devoted service in hard conditions. America is grateful to the men and women right here on base who supported your mission. And America is especially grateful to our military families. The military life is not easy. It's been a tough nine months for Fort Stewart families. But you have been loyal, and patient, and you have looked out for one another. Thank you for the support you have given to your loved ones, and to your country.

Acknowledgements

- TBD
- Senator Zell Miller (D-GA)
- Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
- Congressman Jack Kingston (R-GA)
- Congressman Max Burns (R-GA)

Two years ago, this Nation came under enemy attack. On a single morning, we suffered the highest casualties on our own soil since the Civil War. America saw the face of a new adversary – an enemy that plots in secret, rejects the rules of war, and rejoices in the murder of the innocent. We made a pledge that day, and we have kept it: We are bringing the guilty to justice, and taking the fight to the enemy.

In this new kind of war, America has followed a new strategy. We are not waiting for further attacks on our citizens. We are striking our enemies before they can strike us again. As all of you know, wars are won on the offensive – and America and our friends are staying on the offensive. We are rolling back the terrorist threat, not on the fringes of its influence, but at the heart of its power.

In Afghanistan, America and our broad coalition acted against a regime that harbored al-Qaida and ruled by terror. We have sent a message understood throughout the world: If you harbor a terrorist, if you support a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the terrorists – and the Taliban found out what we meant. Thanks to our men and women in uniform, Afghanistan is no longer a haven for terror, and the people of America are safer from attack.

We are hunting the al-Qaida terrorists wherever they still hide, from Pakistan, to the Philippines, to the Horn of Africa. And we are making progress. Nearly two-thirds of al-Qaida's known leaders have been captured or killed. Our resolve is firm, and clear: No matter how long it takes, we will bring to justice those who plot against America.

And we have pursued the war on terror in Iraq. Our coalition enforced the demands of the UN Security Council, in one of the swiftest and most humane military campaigns in history. Because of our military, catastrophic weapons will no longer be in the hands of a reckless, unstable dictator. Because of our military, Middle Eastern countries no longer fear subversion and attack by Saddam Hussein. Because of our military, the torture chambers in Iraq are closed, and people who speak their minds need not fear execution. Because of our men and women in uniform, the Iraqi people are free.

Now we are working with the Iraqi people to build a decent and democratic society – a country that is an example of peace, not an exporter of violence. This undertaking is difficult and costly. Yet it is worthy of our country, and critical to our security. You have seen how Saddam holdouts and foreign terrorists are trying desperately to undermine Iraq's progress and throw the country in chaos. They know that a free Iraq will be free of them – free of assassins, and torturers, and secret police. As democracy rises in Iraq, their ambitions will fall like the statues of the former dictator.

The terrorists also have a strategic goal. They want America to leave Iraq before our work is done. They believe their attacks on innocent people will shake the will of the civilized world. They believe that America will run from a challenge. But they are mistaken. Iraq is now the central front in the war on terror. And this Nation will do whatever is necessary to complete our work, and win this essential victory.

The people of our military have faced many hardships in Iraq, and faced them with courage. And you know the names of some who fought for our country, and died in the line of duty. You remember them as comrades and friends. This Nation will remember them for their unselfish courage, and for their sacrifice in a time of danger to America. We honor their memory, and we ask God's comfort for their families.

All who serve understand what this fight is about. Our military is confronting terrorists in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places, so that our people will not have to confront terrorist violence in the streets of our own cities.

Our strategy in Iraq has three objectives. First, we are destroying the terrorists, by swift and decisive action. We continue to launch raids against these enemies, rounding them up and seizing their weapons. And as for leaders of the former regime, we are working our way through that famous deck of cards. The Iraqi people are helping with critical leads – and with each new capture the word gets out. In a letter home this summer, an American soldier described the following scene in Baghdad after two of those cards were dealt with. He wrote: "The whole city was erupting in gunfire. There were tracer rounds flying through the air all over ... Everyone was hyped to the max. Then we got the call over the radio – it was celebration fire because we caught Saddam's sons." Altogether, 42 of the 55 most wanted former Iraqi leaders have been captured or killed.

Anyone who seeks to harm our soldiers can know that our soldiers are hunting for them.

Our second objective is to bring in other nations to help Iraq build a free country, which will make us all more secure. Already two multinational divisions, led by the British and the Poles, are sharing the responsibility with our forces. And it is time for others to join us. Tomorrow Secretary of State Powell will be in Geneva, consulting with friends and allies, and officials of the UN. And he will carry a message: No free nation can be neutral in the fight between civilization and chaos. Terrorists in Iraq have attacked representatives of the civilized world, and opposing them must be the cause of the civilized world.

Our third goal is to encourage the orderly transfer of sovereignty and authority to the Iraqi people. We are helping to train Iraqi civil defense forces, police, and border guards. In these and other roles, more than 60,000 Iraqis are now helping to secure their country. Iraq's new Governing Council represents the nation's diverse groups. Ninety percent of communities have local councils. In Baghdad, a new city council is at work, chosen by all the neighborhoods of the city. In the months ahead, Iraqis will begin drafting a new constitution, and this will prepare the way for elections. With our help, and with the great strength of its own people, Iraq is moving toward a future of stability and freedom.

Life is returning to normal for a lot of citizens in Iraq. The day the regime fell, only 30 percent of hospitals in Iraq were functioning. Now almost every hospital in Iraq is open. American and our coalition have provided more than 22 million doses of vaccine to over four million children and nearly 700,000 pregnant women. We are refurbishing more than 1,000 schools, many for the start of the school year.

checking number

One school in Baghdad is called the Hiba School. It was founded by a woman named Sarahiah [sarr-EE-ya] for children with Down Syndrome. The old regime gave the Hiba School no help, and viewed Down Syndrome children as hopeless and useless. But now a unit of American soldiers has taken the Hiba School under its wing. They have been collecting donations from home to pay for supplies, clothing for the children, and salaries for the teachers. This effort has been led by Lieutenant Colonel Bowyer of the First Armored Division, whose own son, Samuel, has Down Syndrome.

Sarahiah calls Colonel Bowyer "Our first friend and our best friend." And in the Hiba School, the Iraqi children have put up a picture of Sam Bowyer, to thank his dad and the Nation he represents.

The Iraqi people are coming to know the kind of men and women we sent to liberate their country. In your courage and your compassion, the people of America's Armed Forces represent the best of America's character.

When I addressed the Nation a few nights ago from the White House, I read from a letter I'd received from an Army captain serving in Baghdad. Some of you know the man, and they tell me he's here today. Can anyone tell me where I can find Captain Vern Tubbs? Captain Tubbs wrote about his pride in serving a just cause, and about the deep desire of Iraqis for liberty. "I see it," he said, "in the eyes of a hungry people every day here. They are starved for freedom and opportunity." Captain Tubbs and all of you have helped to put Iraq on the path to freedom and opportunity. And every man, woman, and child in Iraq can be certain: The old regime is gone, and that regime is never coming back.

As America carries out a strategy for security and reconstruction, we need the resources to do the job in Iraq. Soon I will send Congress a request for additional money we need to keep America's commitments. In this time of challenge for America, as we ask so much of our military, we in government have a responsibility to give you every tool you need for victory.

This base, and all of you serving here, are critical to the defense of the United States. You have shown that once again by enduring a long deployment, and performing brilliantly every day under difficult and dangerous circumstances. And our whole Nation has been reminded that we can never take our military for granted. This was the message of President John F. Kennedy when he visited Fort Stewart in 1962, and spoke to troops on Donovan Field. President Kennedy said, "Regardless of how persistent our diplomacy may be in activities stretching all around the globe, in the final analysis it rests upon the power of the United States, and that power rests upon the will and courage of our citizens, and upon you here in this field."

Soldiers and families of Fort Stewart: Those words are still true today. In meeting the dangers of a new era, the world looks to America for leadership. And America counts on the men and women who have stepped forward as volunteers in freedom's cause. Thank you all for your good service. Thank you for the credit and honor you bring to this country every day.

God bless you, and God bless America.

Drafted by: John McConnell, Office of Speechwriting

Office: 202/456-2816

Cell: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Matthew Scully

Office: 202/456-7289

Cell: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Speech	Visit to Fort Stewart, GA	37	09/12/2003	P5; Transferred

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet at the front of the folder.**

COLLECTION:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

FOLDER TITLE:

09/12/2003 - Visit to Fort Stewart, Georgia [767273]

FRC ID:

10055

FOIA IDs and Segments:

2014-0215-F 1

OA Num.:

2574

NARA Num.:

6443

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