

FOIA Marker

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Records Management, White House Office of Subject Files - TR486

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:	NARA Number:	OA Number:
W	12	26	11	1	12947	25810	12642	12533

Folder Title:

729891

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Letter	[Letter to Richard J. August] - To: Richard J. August - From: POTUS	2	06/28/2002	P5;
002	Letter	[Letter from Richard J. August] - To: POTUS - From: Richard J. August	2	06/28/2007	P6/b6;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Records Management, White House Office of

SERIES:

Subject Files - TR486 (The Naval War College, Newport, RI 06/28/2007)

FOLDER TITLE:

729891

FRC ID:

12947

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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- 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]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

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ROACH_CL

729891

TR486

Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: **CTRACK**

Staff Name:

Document Date: **06/28/2007**

Correspondent: **MR. RICHARD J. AUGUST**

Subject/Description: **THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY. I APPRECIATED THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH GOLD STAR FAMILIES.**

SCANNED
BY
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Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

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**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the
Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet at the front of the folder.**

COLLECTION:

Records Management, White House Office of

SERIES:

Subject Files - TR486 (The Naval War College, Newport, RI 06/28/2007)

FOLDER TITLE:

729891

FRC ID:

12947

FOIA IDs and Segments:

2014-0234-F

OA Num.:

12533

NARA Num.:

12642

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6-28-07

THE PRESIDENT
HAS SEEN

Richard J. August

(b)(6)

June 28, 2007

Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
Hand Delivered at the Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for meeting with the area Gold Star families during your visit to Rhode Island. To be a Gold Star family is to belong to a club no one wants to be a member of and whose members want no one else to join. The one feeling I think we all share is that our son or daughter, husband or wife, father or mother, brother or sister will not have died in vain.

Mr. President, I believe you recognize that the war against fundamentalist Islamic terrorism is in fact a clash of civilizations. The fanatics do not want to negotiate with us; they want to dominate us. If they cannot dominate us, they want to annihilate us for who we are, where we live, how we live and what we believe. Their apocalyptic leaders have told us so. Unfortunately, the war against terrorism, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan, is being fought in a politically correct manner in which every battlefield is treated as a crime scene with every service man or woman viewed by the anti-war movement as a potential war criminal. Accordingly, you have kept the dogs of war on a short leash.

There are many in Congress, the media and academe who are calling for the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq because over 3,500 have died and tens of thousands wounded. In other words, we must retreat from the battlefield and, in effect, surrender because we have taken casualties. This position implies that those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq have died for nothing. Moreover, our enemy's belief that Americans are adverse to casualties is reinforced by such statements.

All parents who lose a child to an unexpected illness or sudden accident handle their grief in different ways. But parents whose son or daughter makes the ultimate sacrifice in a war far away share a special grief. It is the grief that comes from knowing that you taught your child to love this country so much he or she was willing to volunteer to go in harm's way and make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of those freedoms we all share.

I have read many books on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, both personal accounts and analyses by generals and "experts". I have come to the conclusion that the war in Iraq was designed to prove Secretary Rumsfeld's theory that speed and maneuver trumps mass and surprise. He wanted to show the military leaders, particularly in the Army, that information becomes the great force multiplier requiring fewer boots on the ground. You were ill-served by him and his deputies particularly Paul Wolfowitz, Douglas Feith, Steve Cambone and the vice president's chief of staff, Scooter Libby. All of them, in turn, were misled by Richard Perle who was under the spell of Ahmed Chalabi who had not been in his native country in 40 years.

Planning for the post-combat and rebuilding phases of the war was ill conceived at best and non-existent at worst. When you first ran for the presidency you promised not to use our military in nation-building missions. Yet that is precisely what you have called upon these brave and obedient men and women to do in Iraq and Afghanistan. If the war in Vietnam should have taught us anything it is that conventional forces cannot defeat guerrillas or insurgents who are supported by a significant number of the native population and supplied by outside countries – Gen. Petraeus's theories notwithstanding.

Permit me to comment on two other matters. Your stubborn support for the so-called comprehensive immigration reform act that 80% of Americans oppose is baffling. Now, for some inexplicable reason you are allying yourself with Sen. Kennedy again on immigration as you did on the No Child Left Behind Act. As the old saying goes, "screw me once, shame on you; screw me twice, shame on me."

Finally, the conviction of Scooter Libby was a travesty of justice of the highest degree. You should go to the people, explain what happened and the egregious errors committed and pardon Mr. Libby before he spends one day in jail.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us.

Sincerely,



Father of Army CPT Matthew J. August,
B Co. 1st EN BNKIA Iraq January 27, 2004
U. S. Military Academy Class of 1997

Mr. Richard J. August

(b)(6)

JUL 6 2007