

May 1 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

I just greeted, Northern Michigan University's hockey team, NCAA champs. And I understand that eight members of this team were named to their All American All Academic team, proving you can excel in the classroom as well as on the ice. These young men do serve as a wonderful example to us all.

And as you know, our administration has proposed this bold new education strategy which we call America 2000—our Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander, leading the way. What it does, it challenges our young people to excel in English, history, math, science, and geography. But it also encourages Americans to develop habits that lead to fuller and richer lives, to make learning a process that never ends.

And so, we're here this morning because we want to emphasize another important habit. And I'm not just talking about getting up early. We want to emphasize the importance of healthy bodies, bodies free from drugs, bodies charged with the vigor that exercise brings. No matter how old you are or what kind of shape you're in, exercise helps every one of us live longer, healthier, more enjoyable lives. And for many of us fitness is already a part of our daily routine. But too many people still look at exercise optional. And one in four adults don't exercise—one in four don't exercise at all. For the sake of our nation's health, that simply has to change.

And exercise is important for every American. But the focus this year is on youth fitness. And if we want our children to grow up strong and healthy, we've got work to do. Right now, only one State requires daily physical education from the kindergarten through 12th. And across the country only one in three students of all ages take gym every

day. If we care about our kids' future, we'll make room for fitness.

We start by teaching our kids that physical education is just like any other class—to get ahead you've got to do homework. And the good news is, is that fitness is fun. So on the weekends, after school stay away from the junk food, get up off that couch, unplug the Nintendo and turn off the TV, and go out and get some exercise. And that's what we're about to do, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, right here this morning. [Laughter]

Before we begin, let me recognize one girl who symbolizes the 10 million American children who are on the right track to good health. The 10 millionth recipient of the President's Physical Fitness Award, Andrea Stafford. You won't believe this one, but it's the truth. Andrea is from Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Where is Andrea? Right there. You come up here, Andrea. Andrea will now take on Pam Shriver in tennis. She told me that's her favorite sport. [Laughter]

But listen, it is my pleasure to declare the month of May National Fitness and Sports Month. And now, without further delay, the czar here and I will attack these workout stations. Thank you all very much for coming.

Note: The President spoke at 7:22 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Arnold Schwarzenegger, Chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and his wife, Maria Shriver; Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander; Gen. Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; student Andrea Stafford; and Pam Shriver, a professional tennis player.

Remarks at a Presentation Ceremony for the National Security Agency Worldwide Awards in Fort Meade, Maryland May 1, 1991

The President. Thank you all very, very much. Thank you for this warm welcome. I can't understand you all being in such a

good mood, being out here since 9:00 a.m. this morning. [Laughter] But you sure make me feel welcome. Hey, cut your complain-

ing, will you? [*Laughter*]

Admiral Studeman—and, please, you all be seated. Sorry about that. [*Laughter*] But let me salute Admiral Studeman, the other leaders of this great organization, and also Bill Webster, the DCI, and simply say to all the dedicated professionals here at NSA, it is my great pleasure to share with you this very special day.

I also want to salute the Congressman from this district—you can't miss him over there—Congressman McMillen standing here, who is a wonderful supporter of your work, too. Tom, we're glad you're here.

The admiral said this visit is a bit of a departure from the routine here at NSA. This isn't exactly the kind of place where you can pull off a surprise party. [*Laughter*] But I'm very pleased to be out here. In the past couple of months I've had the privilege of meeting, as they came home, with many members of Desert Storm—brave men and women who served over there, dedicating themselves to the cause of peace in the Persian Gulf.

Today, I wanted especially to come here to express my appreciation to you, the thousands of men and women, civilian and military, of the United States SIGINT system. From the time we took action to the moment the fighting stopped, the world witnessed a display of courage and competence that made every American proud. But what America and the world saw in Desert Storm was just the tip of the iceberg. Our success in the Gulf could, quite literally, never have happened without the dedication that's on display right here through all the days and all the nights of Desert Storm.

As our troops go home to friends and family, they do go home as heroes, and they've earned every parade and every pat on the back. They know and I know that

they owe a debt to you. That's why I really wanted to come out here today—to salute you, the unsung heroes of Desert Storm.

My association with NSA goes back many years. And over the years I've come to appreciate more and more the full value of SIGINT. As President and Commander in Chief, I can assure you, signals intelligence is a prime factor in the decisionmaking process by which we chart the course of this nation's foreign affairs.

Desert Storm was a team effort on many fronts—military, diplomatic, economic. NSA and the service cryptologic elements gave us the critical intelligence we had to have to operate effectively on every front. The information all of you provided enabled me and my key advisers to have a sound understanding of Saddam Hussein's capabilities and solid information about the situation on the ground.

It is the nature of your work to shun the spotlight. Where others step forward to the fanfare and public acclaim, your reward is simply quiet pride. And I am here today on behalf of the American people—the many millions who cannot know the contributions you make to their safety, security, and freedom every single day—to convey the thanks of a grateful nation.

Once again, my most sincere thanks to each and every one of you for a job well done. And may God bless the United States of America. Thank you all very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. outside the NSA building. In his opening remarks, he referred to Vice Adm. William O. Studeman, Director of the National Security Agency; William H. Webster, Director of Central Intelligence; Representative C. Thomas McMillen; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.