

May 16 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2003

prepared by my Administration, covering the 6-month period since November 20, 2002, on the national emergency with re-

spect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
May 16, 2003.

The President's Radio Address *May 17, 2003*

Good morning. May 17th is Armed Forces Day, when America honors the men and women who serve in every branch of the service. Here in the Oval Office, I'm joined by some distinguished Americans, eight members of the military who fought bravely during the battle of Iraq. All of them were wounded in battle and are recovering from their injuries. All of them have earned the respect and the gratitude of our Nation.

Americans are proud of every man and woman who has faced the risks of war in the cause of freedom. Many still face dangerous duty in Iraq and Afghanistan as they provide order and stability in liberated countries. Many are fighting on other fronts in the war against terror, and some brave Americans have given their lives to protect our country and to keep the peace. Our whole Nation honors their memory, and our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones they left behind.

The world has seen the tremendous capabilities of the United States military. With fine allies at their side, American soldiers and sailors, airmen, and marines used advanced technology to gain historic victories in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unmanned Predator aircraft carried out bombing missions deep behind enemy lines, keeping more of our pilots out of harm's way. Satellites high above the Earth, at any time of day or night, provided detailed images of individual targets and whole battlefields. At least two-thirds of the bombs used by

coalition forces in Iraq were precision-guided by lasers or global positioning satellites, compared with just 13 percent of the bombs we used in the 1991 Gulf war.

For all the contributions of technology, however, the battles of Iraq and Afghanistan were won by the skill and courage of well-trained, highly motivated men and women. In the recent fighting, marines and soldiers charged to Baghdad across 350 miles of hostile ground in one of the swiftest advances of heavy arms in history. Pilots flew through blinding sandstorms; soldiers and marines ran into the face of gunfire, at times ignoring their own injuries to save wounded comrades. Special Operations forces conducted daring raids to seize airfields and missile launch sites. Every branch of the service worked in united purpose and displayed the highest standards of professionalism and honor.

With the liberation of Iraq and Afghanistan, we have removed allies of Al Qaida, cut off sources of terrorist funding, and made certain that no terrorist network will gain weapons of mass destruction from Saddam Hussein's regime.

These two battles were important victories in the larger war on terror. Yet the terrorist attacks this week in Saudi Arabia, which killed innocent civilians from more than half a dozen countries, including our own, provide a stark reminder that the war on terror continues.

The enemies of freedom are not idle, and neither are we. Our Government is

taking unprecedented measures to defend the homeland. And from Pakistan to the Philippines to the Horn of Africa, we are hunting down Al Qaida killers. So far, nearly one-half of Al Qaida's senior operatives have been captured or killed. And we will remain on the hunt until they are all brought to justice.

This Nation accepts the responsibilities of keeping the peace. And the best way to keep the peace is to make sure that our military remains second to none. On this Armed Forces Day, we are grateful to all who serve and sacrifice as members

of the United States Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Marines.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:55 p.m. on May 16 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 17. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Terrorist Bombings in Casablanca, Morocco *May 17, 2003*

I strongly condemn the terrorist bombings in Casablanca, Morocco, that have taken many innocent lives. On behalf of the American people, I extend condolences to the families of the victims and our hopes for a quick recovery to those injured.

These acts of murder show, once again, that terrorism respects no boundaries nor borders. Casablanca is a city well-known

for its tolerance and its diverse range of religious and ethnic communities.

These acts demonstrate that the war against terror goes on. Morocco is a close friend of the United States, and we offer assistance to the Government of Morocco to help track down and bring to justice those responsible.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines *May 19, 2003*

President Bush. Madam President, Attorney Arroyo, members of the Philippine delegation, Members of Congress, and distinguished guests: On behalf of the American people, Laura and I welcome you to the United States.

This is the first state visit by the leader of an Asian country during my administration. You honor the American people with your visit, because our two nations share

special ties of history and friendship and family. And we share a commitment to the defense of democracy and the advance of freedom.

Just over a century ago, Americans and Filipinos worked side by side to liberate the Philippines. Nearly half a century later, in a World War, our soldiers fought and died together in places like Bataan and