

Remarks Following a Meeting With Cochairs of the President's  
Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors  
*March 7, 2007*

I am concerned that our soldiers and their families are not getting the treatment that they deserve, having volunteered to defend our country. Any report of medical neglect will be taken seriously by this administration, and I'm confident by the Congress, and we will address problems quickly.

I've asked two of America's fine public servants, Senator Dole and Secretary Shalala, to chair a Commission that will analyze our health care both at the Defense Department and at the Veterans Department, to ensure that not only our soldiers but their families have got complete confidence in the Government's upholding its responsibility to treat those who have been wounded.

I am concerned that there may be flaws in the system between when a soldier is on the battlefield, through the Defense Department, through the Veterans Administration, and finally to the community. I can't think of two better people to analyze the situation and to make recommendations—

two people to lead a Commission of probably nine people—and that would be Senator Dole, who is himself a veteran, and a wounded veteran at that, a former distinguished Senator, a man who knows Washington well. But more importantly, he knows the kind of questions to ask. And Secretary Shalala, who is an expert on health. She lived after 8 years in President Clinton's administration; she knows what to look for; she knows the questions to ask.

And I'm confident that this Commission will bring forth the truth. And as I assured the Chairmen, I am confident that there will be a quick response to any problems that you may find. So I can't thank you enough for taking time and to serve your nation once again. God bless. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Sen. Robert J. Dole; and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala.

Interview With Natalia Orozco of RCN TV of Colombia  
*March 7, 2007*

*President's Upcoming Visit to Central and South America*

*Ms. Orozco.* Thank you, Mr. President, for this time with RCN TV Colombia.

*The President.* Thank you. I'm really looking forward to going to Bogota.

*Ms. Orozco.* Thank you, Mr. President. I have to start by asking you this. You're arriving to Bogota when President Bush—President Uribe is facing a deep crisis because of—we've got a political scandal.

Does this affect the support, the confidence that you have always expressed to him?

*The President.* No. As a matter of fact, I've been very impressed by how he's handled this latest issue. President Uribe is a very strong leader; he's committed to justice; he believes in fairness; and he's a man who has proven he can get things done. And so my confidence in the President is very high. And I'm looking forward to expressing that confidence about—to not only