

Statement on the Appointment of Lieutenant General Douglas Lute as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan

May 15, 2007

I have chosen Lieutenant General Douglas Lute to serve as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan. General Lute is a tremendously accomplished military leader who understands war and government and knows how to get things done. While serving at Central Command, General Lute played an integral role in implementing combat operation plans in Iraq and Afghanistan, and gained a critical understanding of the challenges we face in the global war on terror. He has already earned the respect and trust of the officials with whom he will be working in his new role.

In his new position, General Lute will be the full-time manager for the implementation and execution of our strategies for Iraq and Afghanistan and will manage the

interagency policy development process for these two theaters, working closely with my National Security Adviser, Steve Hadley, members of my Cabinet, and me. Nothing is more important than getting Admiral Fallon, General Petraeus, American commanders in Afghanistan, and Ambassadors Crocker and Wood what they need, and Douglas Lute can make sure that happens quickly and reliably.

NOTE: The statement referred to Adm. William J. "Fox" Fallon, USN, commander, U.S. Central Command; Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker; and U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan William B. Wood.

Statement on the Death of Jerry L. Falwell, Sr.

May 15, 2007

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of Jerry Falwell, a man who cherished faith, family, and freedom. As the founder of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, Jerry lived a life of faith and called upon men and women of all backgrounds to believe in God and serve their communities. One of his lasting contributions was the establishment of Lib-

erty University, where he taught young people to remain true to their convictions and rely upon God's word throughout each stage of their lives.

Today our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Macel and the rest of the Falwell family.

Message to the Congress Certifying Exports to the People's Republic of China

May 15, 2007

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify that the export to the People's Republic of China of the following items is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China:

- A four-axis filament winding machine for production of spare parts for Chi-

na's water purification and treatment industries;

- A computer control system upgrade to a three-axis filament winding machine for production of spare parts for China's water purification and treatment industries;
- An isostatic press for manufacturing automotive spare parts; and
- A four-axis filament winding machine to be used in production of graphite or glass composite golf clubs.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
May 15, 2007.

Remarks Following a Discussion on the Employment Eligibility Verification System

May 16, 2007

I appreciate the discussion we just had on immigration. With us are people who are employers, people who provide work for citizens who are in our country legally. They know full well it's against the law to hire somebody who is here illegally. They need help from the Government to make sure the person they hire is here legally, that they're not dealing with forged documents.

And so we've been reviewing the upgrading of the Basic Pilot program, which is the Government's attempt to help small-business owners and larger business owners make sure that the people they're finding work for are not breaking the law. In other words, we can't ask our employers to verify somebody here unless we help them. And the reason why we're talking about this subject is that holding employers to account

for violating the law is an integral part of a comprehensive immigration reform package.

I thank members of my Cabinet, Secretaries Gutierrez and Chertoff, for taking the White House lead in working with Members of the United States Senate to get a comprehensive immigration bill to the floor as quickly as possible, that can pass the Senate. And it's been hard work. This is a very emotional issue. I firmly believe that the bill needs to be comprehensive. In other words, you can't have one aspect of immigration reform pass and not other aspects; otherwise, we'll be back to where we were in the past, and that is, reform efforts have failed because it hadn't been comprehensive enough.

The best way and frankly only way to get a comprehensive bill done that will