

think he will miss hanging out with all of you, including the guys in the front row. [Laughter]

Q. Come on!

Q. Third row. Third row. [Laughter]

Q. He's holding his breath. [Laughter]

The President. But Jay has become one of my closest friends and is a great Press Secretary and a great adviser. He's got good judgment. He has a good temperament. And he's got a good heart. And I'm going to miss him a lot. I will continue to rely on him as a friend and adviser after he leaves to spend as much of the summer as he can with his kids before he decides what's next for him. Whatever it is, I know he's going to be outstanding at it.

Of course, that meant I had to make a decision, which is who succeeds Jay. And we've got enormous talent around here, but I've decided that we're going to put in this slot somebody who is also a friend and adviser. So today the flak jacket is officially passed to a new generation: Mr. Josh Earnest.

Josh is a coach's son from Kansas City. He still roots for the Royals, I guess. [Laughter]

Q. Sure, he does.

The President. As you know, his name describes his demeanor: Josh is an earnest guy, and you can't find just a nicer individual even outside of Washington.

The country, of course, knows him for his golden voice and dulcet tones on West Wing Week, the biggest viral Internet hit since "Between Two Ferns." [Laughter]

But Josh and I have an incredible history going all the way back to the Iowa caucuses. Josh was my Iowa communications director. And

even when he was in that role, you'd find him spending an extra hour or two helping young staffers make phone calls or knock on doors. There was no task that was too small, no detail too unimportant for Josh to attend to.

At the White House, he's been a mentor to many of the young people here who I know are thrilled for him today. He is of sound judgment and great temperament. He is honest and full of integrity. And I'm sure you will at some point get frustrated with him as well—[laughter]—but it's going to be hard, because he's a straight shooter and a great guy.

So my request is that, be nice to Jay on his farewell tour, and be nice to Josh during his initiation, which I'm sure will last maybe 2 days or perhaps two questions. [Laughter]

Q. Is this effective immediately?

The President. So we're going to let him hang around a little bit to milk it for all it's worth. [Laughter]

All right? Thank you, guys.

Press Secretary Carney. Thank you, sir.

Press Secretary-designate Earnest. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 2 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Claire Shipman, wife of Press Secretary Carney; and Don Earnest, father of Press Secretary-designate Earnest. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Press Secretary Carney and Press Secretary-designate Earnest.

Remarks During a Hurricane Preparedness Briefing at the Federal Emergency Management Agency

May 30, 2014

Well, we're here at FEMA's National Response Coordination Center to get an update on this year's preparations for hurricane season, which begins on Sunday. I want to thank Secretary Jeh Johnson as well as FEMA coordinator—or FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate for leading this briefing. And I also want

to thank all the hard-working employees in all the departments that are responsible for helping us prepare, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

States still have the primary role in preparing for and responding to disasters, and we'll continue to make sure that they get the full re-

sources that they need and support they need to back them up. But it's also every citizen's responsibility to make sure that we are prepared for emergencies when they come, not just hurricanes, but every emergency. And that's why I want to thank the representatives that we have from not just the Department of Energy, but also the Commonwealth of Virginia as well as the folks from Orange County, Florida, who have developed mobile apps to give residents the ability to plan, prepare for, get faster notice of, and respond to emergencies.

Before a hurricane is even on the horizon, these apps can help families develop emergency plans, figure out evacuation routes, and receive emergency alerts. After a storm, one app provides information about power outages and where gas stations might be open. Others show residents where to find shelter and water. So I encourage every American to visit ready.gov. That's our national website where you can go and get every bit of information you need to figure out whether you're ready in the event, heaven forbid, something happens. You can get even more information about family emergency plans and supply kits and the plans that are taking place in your community.

And over the larger term, the changes we're seeing in our climate means that, unfortunately, storms like Sandy could end up being more

common and more devastating. And that's why we're also going to be doing more to deal with the dangerous carbon pollution that helps to cause climate change and global warming. And that's why we're also, with the terrific help of these departments, thinking of how we can build more resilient infrastructure.

But obviously, most urgently, as hurricane season begins, we have to remember that responding to a hurricane is a team effort and everybody is going to have a role to play at the Federal, State, and local levels. So I encourage every family and business owner to check out ready.gov and see what you can do to be prepared.

And while I'm here, I also want to thank not only the staff and employees of—who each and every day, without a lot of attention, help communities deal with disasters, but I also want to thank all the first responders out there all across the country, because when they're called on, they're the ones who have to get there first and often put themselves at risk and do an amazing job. All right?

Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:18 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh C. Johnson.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Designations Under the Kingpin Act May 30, 2014

Dear _____:

This report to the Congress, under section 804(a) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act, 21 U.S.C. 1903(b)(1) (the "Kingpin Act"), transmits my designations of the following three foreign individuals as appropriate for sanctions under the Kingpin Act and reports my direction of sanctions against them under the Act:

Francisco de Fatima Frederico Barros
(Cape Verde)
Jose Adan Salazar Umaña (El Salvador)

Victor Ramón Navarro Cerrano (Colombia)

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Carl M. Levin, chairman, and James M. Inhofe, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Ronald L. Wyden, chairman, and Orrin G. Hatch, ranking member, Senate Committee on Finance; Robert Menendez, chairman, and Robert P. Corker, Jr., ranking member, Senate