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Proclamation 7917—National Airborne Day, 2005

August 15, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans live in freedom because of the extraordinary bravery, sacrifice, and dedication to duty of the members of our Armed Forces. From the first official Army parachute jump 65 years ago, our country's Airborne troops have played a crucial role in the defense of our Nation and our liberty. On National Airborne Day, we pay special tribute to these courageous soldiers who served with honor and integrity.

On August 16, 1940, the successful first jump of the Army Parachute Test Platoon laid the foundation for a new and innovative method of combat that helped contribute to an Allied victory in World War II. These bold pioneers answered the call of duty and set an example for future generations to follow. Since the designation of the Army's first Airborne division, the 82nd Airborne, on August 15, 1942, our Airborne troops have performed with valor. The brave men and women of our Airborne forces have worked to defeat tyranny, advance the cause of liberty, and build a safer world.

Today a new generation of Airborne forces is fighting a war against an enemy that threatens the peace and stability of the world. At this critical time, Airborne forces of the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force are continuing the noble tradition of the first sky soldiers. Americans are grateful for the service of our Airborne forces and all our troops, and we are inspired by the strength and sacrifice of our military members and their families.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 16, 2005, as National Airborne Day. I encourage all Americans to honor those who have served in the Airborne forces, and I also call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 17, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on August 18.

Memorandum on Continuation of United States Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Colombia

August 17, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005–32

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Continuation of U.S. Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Colombia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 1012 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2291–4), I hereby certify, with respect to Colombia, that (1) interdiction of aircraft reasonably suspected to be primarily engaged in illicit drug trafficking in that country's airspace is necessary because of the extraordinary threat posed by illicit drug trafficking to the national security of that country; and (2) that country has appropriate procedures in place to protect against innocent loss of life in the air and on the ground in connection with such interdiction, which shall at a minimum include effective means to identify and warn an aircraft before the use of force is directed against the aircraft.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register* and to notify the Congress of this determination.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 13

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Waco, TX. Later, they returned to the Bush Ranch.

August 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

August 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald C. Winter to be Secretary of the Navy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael W. Wynne to be Secretary of the Air Force.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brenda La Grange Johnson to be Ambassador to Jamaica.

The President announced his intention to designate Robert D. McCallum, Jr., as Acting Deputy Attorney General of the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to designate Jerry Paul as Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation of the National Nuclear Security Administration at the Department of Energy.

August 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

August 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Orlando J. Cabrera to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Public and Indian Housing).

The President announced his intention to appoint Joel M. Geiderman as Vice Chairperson of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michael A. Morris and Jay Stein as members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

August 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his appointment of Jay Lefkowitz as Special Envoy on Human Rights in North Korea.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Released August 17

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Presidential Determination Regarding U.S. Assistance to the Government of Colombia Airbridge Denial Program