

Statement on the Innovations in American Government Award

July 27, 2005

I am pleased that my administration's Office of Management and Budget has received the Kennedy School's Innovation in American Government Award for its Program Assessment Rating Tool. I congratulate the hard-working employees at OMB for winning this award and implementing our management agenda. Taxpayer money should be spent wisely or not at all, and I am proud of the progress we have made to improve management and focus on results. We are changing the way the Federal Government thinks about program management and budgeting. We still have work to do, and improving the effectiveness of Government and providing good value to taxpayers will continue to be a top priority of my administration.

Statement on the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate

July 27, 2005

The United States has joined with Australia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea to create a new Asia-Pacific partnership on clean development, energy security, and climate change. This new results-oriented partnership will allow our nations to develop and accelerate deployment of cleaner, more efficient energy technologies to meet national pollution reduction, energy security, and climate change concerns in ways that reduce poverty and promote economic development. The six Asia-Pacific partners will build on our strong history of common approaches and demonstrated cooperation on clean energy technologies. I have directed Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Energy Sam Bodman to meet with their counterparts this fall to carry forward our new partnership and provide direction for our joint work.

Executive Order 13384—Assignment of Functions Relating to Original Appointments as Commissioned Officers and Chief Warrant Officer Appointments in the Armed Forces

July 27, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Assignment of Functions to the Secretary of Defense.* The Secretary of Defense shall perform the functions of the President under the following provisions of title 10, United States Code:

- (a) subsection 531(a)(1); and
- (b) the second sentence of subsection 571(b).

Sec. 2. *Reassignment of Functions Assigned.* The Secretary of Defense may not reassign the functions assigned to him by this order.

Sec. 3. *General Provisions.* (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to limit or otherwise affect the authority of the President as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, or under the Constitution and laws of the United States to nominate or to make or terminate appointments.

(b) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 27, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 28, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 29.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement

July 28, 2005

I am proud that the House of Representatives has acted to advance America's economic and national security interests by passing the CAFTA-DR agreement. CAFTA helps ensure that free trade is fair trade. By lowering trade barriers to American goods in Central American markets to a level now enjoyed by their goods in the U.S., this agreement will level the playing field and help American workers, farmers, and small businesses. The agreement is more than a trade bill; it is a commitment of freedom-loving nations to advance peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere. We have a moral obligation and a vital national security interest in helping the democracies of Central America and the Dominican Republic succeed, and CAFTA furthers that goal. I look forward to signing this important legislation into law.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Medical Liability Reform Legislation

July 28, 2005

I am pleased that the House of Representatives has again passed medical liability reform legislation. The Nation's medical liability system is badly broken, as frivolous lawsuits are threatening access to quality health care and raising health care costs for all Americans. The medical liability crisis is driving up health care costs through higher insurance premiums, higher medical bills, and the practice of defensive medicine. This crisis also is imposing substantial costs on the Federal Government and all taxpayers who bear the cost of Medicare and Medicaid. The liability crisis is driving good doctors out of medicine and leaving patients in many communities without access to both basic and specialty medical services. This is a national problem that deserves a national solution. For the sake of all Americans, it is time for

the Senate to pass meaningful medical liability reform legislation.

Memorandum on Reimbursement to the Office of the United States Trade Representative

July 28, 2005

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Subject: Reimbursement to the Office of the United States Trade Representative

Pursuant to the authority in title III of division H of Public Law 108-447, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, and in section 108 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby authorize the transfer from the appropriation, "Unanticipated Needs:"

To	Amount
Executive Office of the President,	
Office of the United States Trade Representative	\$493,000

To defray expenses incurred by the mission of the United States Trade Representative to Geneva for additional security requirements.

I hereby determine that this expenditure is necessary to meet unanticipated needs in furtherance of the national interest.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 29.

Remarks on Signing the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005

July 29, 2005

Welcome. Good morning. In a few moments, I'll have the honor of signing the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005. This bill is a critical step toward our goal of ensuring top-quality, patient-driven health care for all Americans.