

Week Ending Friday, March 28, 2003

**Executive Order 13291—Further  
Adjustment of Certain Rates of Pay**

*March 21, 2003*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13282 of December 31, 2002, is amended as follows:

**Section 1.** Section 3(c) of Executive Order 13282 is amended to read as follows:

“(c) Justices and judges (28 U.S.C. 5, 44(d), 135, 252, and 461(a), section 140 of Public Law 97–92, and Public Law 108–6) at Schedule 7.”.

**Sec. 2.** Section 5(a) of Executive Order 13282 is amended to read as follows:

“(a) Pursuant to section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, and in accordance with section 637 of Division J of Public Law 108–7, locality-based comparability payments shall be paid in accordance with Schedule 9 attached hereto and made a part hereof.”.

**Sec. 3.** Executive Order 13282 is amended by striking Schedules 7 and 9 attached thereto and inserting Schedules 7 and 9 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**Sec. 4.** The amendments made by this order are effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2003.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
March 21, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:58 a.m., March 24, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order and attached schedules were published in the *Federal Register* on March 25. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**The President’s Radio Address**

*March 22, 2003*

Good morning. American and coalition forces have begun a concerted campaign against the regime of Saddam Hussein. In this war, our coalition is broad, more than 40 countries from across the globe. Our cause is just, the security of the nations we serve and the peace of the world. And our mission is clear, to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, to end Saddam Hussein’s support for terrorism, and to free the Iraqi people.

The future of peace and the hopes of the Iraqi people now depend on our fighting forces in the Middle East. They are conducting themselves in the highest traditions of the American military. They are doing their job with skill and bravery and with the finest of allies beside them. At every stage of this conflict, the world will see both the power of our military and the honorable and decent spirit of the men and women who serve.

In this conflict, American and coalition forces face enemies who have no regard for the conventions of war or rules of morality. Iraqi officials have placed troops and equipment in civilian areas, attempting to use innocent men, women, and children as shields for the dictator’s army. I want Americans and all the world to know that coalition forces will make every effort to spare innocent civilians from harm.

A campaign on harsh terrain in a vast country could be longer and more difficult than some have predicted. And helping Iraqis achieve a united, stable, and free country will require our sustained commitment. Yet, whatever is required of us, we will carry out all the duties we have accepted.

Across America this weekend, the families of our military are praying that our men and women will return safely and soon. Millions of Americans are praying with them for the

safety of their loved ones and for the protection of all the innocent. Our entire Nation appreciates the sacrifices made by military families, and many citizens who live near military families are showing their support in practical ways, such as by helping with child care or home repairs. All families with loved ones serving in this war can know this: Our forces will be coming home as soon as their work is done.

Our Nation entered this conflict reluctantly, yet with a clear and firm purpose. The people of the United States and our friends and allies will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder. Now that conflict has come, the only way to limit its duration is to apply decisive force. This will not be a campaign of half-measures. It is a fight for the security of our Nation and the peace of the world, and we will accept no outcome but victory.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:10 a.m. on March 21 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Remarks on Returning From Camp David, Maryland, and an Exchange With Reporters

March 23, 2003

### Operation Iraqi Freedom

**The President.** I am pleased with the progress that we're making in the early stages of a—of the war to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and to free the Iraqi people from the clutches of a brutal dictatorship.

Today in our church service, Laura and I prayed for the coalition forces, those in the coalition forces who lost their lives. We pray for their families. We ask God's comfort for those who mourn today. And we thank all the coalition forces for their bravery and courage in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It is evident that it's going to take a while to achieve our objective, but we're on course, we're determined, and we're making good progress.

I'll answer a few questions.

**Q.** Sir, have you seen the tape—

**Q.** Mr. President—

**The President.** One at a time, please. Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press]. Thank you.

### Prisoners of War

**Q.** What do you know about the prisoners—anything, sir?

**The President.** I've been briefed, I'm constantly briefed by the Pentagon and through the National Security Office. I would—I don't know all the details yet. I do know that we expect them to be treated humanely, just like we'll treat any prisoners of theirs that we capture humanely.

I think it's an interesting contrast that a lot of their soldiers welcome American troops. They're surrendering gleefully, happily. And they'll be treated well. And I ask you to ask the Defense Department for further details.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

**Q.** Sir, what do you know about Saddam Hussein and his fate, if anything?

**The President.** I know that Saddam Hussein is losing control of his country, that we're slowly but surely achieving our objective.

It's important for the American people to realize that this war has just begun, that it may seem like a long time because of all the action on TV, but in terms of the overall strategy, we're just in the beginning phases, and that we're executing a plan which will make it easier to achieve objective and, at the same time, spare innocent life.

And I'm most proud of our troops and coalition troops for showing their bravery and skill.

Larry [Larry McQuillan, USA Today].

### Progress in Operation Iraqi Freedom

**Q.** Mr. President, you know—at this point, can you tell Americans, I mean, is the war progressing the way you expected it to?

**The President.** Yes, Larry, it is. It is, and I—the air campaign is achieving its objective, and the ground campaign is also achieving