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debate on a precipitous withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. The House and Senate are now scheduled to leave for their August recess before passing a bill to support our troops and their missions. Even Members of Congress who no longer support our effort in Iraq should at least be able to provide an increase in pay for our troops fighting there.

When Congress returns after Labor Day, there will be less than 1 month before the fiscal year ends and current funds for Defense Department operations run out. Congress still has an opportunity to do right by our men and women in uniform and our national security. So today I call on Congress to take action, get this vital piece of legislation to me to sign, on budget and on time.

I also ask Congress to give our troops time to carry out our new strategy in Iraq. Like all wars, the fight in Iraq has had frustrating setbacks. It's also had important successes. We've seen dramatic turnarounds in places such as Anbar Province, which was once thought lost to the enemy. Just this week, our military forces announced the capture of one of Al Qaida's top Iraqi leaders. He helped to form what Al Qaida calls the "Islamic State in Iraq," in an attempt to replicate what the Taliban had created in Afghanistan. Today that leader is under arrest, and his followers are under siege.

These successes demonstrate the gains our troops are making in Iraq and the importance of giving our military the time they need to give their new strategy a chance to work.

Earlier this year, the Senate seemed to share that view. They confirmed General David Petraeus as commander of our forces without a single dissenting vote. And now, barely a month after his strategy became fully operational, many of those same Senators are saying that that strategy has failed.

Our Nation deserves a serious debate about Iraq, because the outcome of this conflict will have enormous consequences for our country. Failure in Iraq would allow terrorists to operate from a safe haven with access to the world's third largest oil reserves. Failure in Iraq would increase the probability that at some later date, American troops would have to return to Iraq to confront an enemy more dangerous and more entrenched. Failure in Iraq would send an unmistakable signal to America's enemies that our country can be bullied into retreat.

America's involvement in Iraq does not have to end this way. A free and stable Iraq is still in reach. It has the potential to transform the Middle East and bring us closer to the day when radical regimes are replaced by peaceful allies, when terrorists have fewer places to train and operate, and when moms and dads in the Arab world see a future of hope for their children.

One of the folks with us today is an Air Force reservist named Eric Egland. Here's what he said, he said, "We live in the world's oldest democracy and have been blessed with the strength to protect our freedoms and to help others who seek the same."

This has always been America's mission, and today, that mission is being carried out by brave men and women who have stepped forward to keep our country secure. I thank them and I thank their families for the sacrifices they're making. And I thank you all for supporting them.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:42 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Khaled Abdul-Fattah Dawoud Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, ranking leader of Al Qaida in Iraq, who was captured in Mosul on July 4; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

## 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.

### *July 14*

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### *July 15*

In the afternoon, on the South Lawn, the President participated in an interview with Karl Ravech of ESPN.

***July 16***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, President Jalal Talabani, and Vice Presidents Adil Abd Al-Mahdi and Tariq al-Hashimi of Iraq.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had lunch with President Lech Kaczynski of Poland. Later, he traveled to McLean, VA.

In the evening, at a private residence, the President attended a National Republican Senatorial Committee reception. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan to Camp David on August 5–6.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sean R. Mulvaney to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (Management).

The President announced his intention to designate John Edward Mansfield as Vice Chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The President announced his intention to designate Charles W. Grim as Acting Director of the Indian Health Service, Public Health Service at the Department of Health and Human Services.

***July 17***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a briefing by Director of National Intelligence J. Michael McConnell on the new National Intelligence Estimate.

The President declared a major disaster in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from June 2–18.

***July 18***

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Khalifa bin Zayid al-Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Landover, MD. He then toured Man & Machine, Inc. Later, he participated in an interview with Christopher Lee of the Washington Post.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate David T. Johnson to be Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

The President announced his intention to designate Craig S. Morford as Acting Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice.

***July 19***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Nashville, TN, where, upon arrival, he met with Sgt. J. Kevin Downs of the Army National Guard, who was wounded in Iraq in August 2005, and his parents, Catherine and Joe Downs. He then met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Bill Yancey.

Later in the morning, the President toured the Nashville Bun Company.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced that he has named Judith Ansley as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Regional Affairs on the National Security Council.

The President announced that he has named Andrew D. Ciafardini as Special Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Harold H. Kim as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Brett H. McGurk as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Iraq and Afghanistan, Strategic Planning and Policy Development, on the National Security Council.

The President announced that he has named Stephen D. Potts as Associate Counsel to the President.

The President announced that he has named Rachael Leigh Sunbarger as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Advance for Press.

The President announced that he has named Ronald C. Williams as Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Senior Director for Nuclear Defense Policy on the Homeland Security Council.

***July 20***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome King Abdallah II of Jordan to the White House on July 24.

## Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

***Submitted July 17***

Robert J. Conrad, Jr.,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice James Dickson Phillips, Jr., retired.

Catharina Haynes,
of Texas, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, vice Harold R. DeMoss, Jr., retired.

Sean R. Mulvaney,
of Illinois, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice John Marshall, resigned.

Shalom D. Stone,
of New Jersey, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, vice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., elevated.

John Daniel Tinder,
of Indiana, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, vice Daniel A. Manion, retiring.

***Submitted July 18***

Robert M. Dow, Jr.,
of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Charles P. Kocoras, retired.

***Submitted July 19***

David T. Johnson,
of Georgia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), vice Anne W. Patterson.

## 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 July 16***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Afghan President Karzai to Camp David

***Released July 17***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Transcript of a press briefing by Homeland Security Adviser Frances Fragos Townsend

Transcript of a press briefing by Special Assistant to the President for Biodefense Rajeev Venkayya, State Department Special Representative on Avian and Pandemic Influenza John Lange, Agriculture Department Chief Veterinary Officer John Clifford, Health and Human Services Department Assistant Secretary of Health John Agwunobi, and Homeland Security Department Chief Medical Officer on Pandemic Preparedness Jeff Runge on the implementation of the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza