

of all of the geographic combatant commanders. These maritime operations have the responsibility to stop the movement, arming, or financing of international terrorists.

NATO-LED KOSOVO FORCE (KFOR)

As noted in previous reports regarding U.S. contributions in support of peace-keeping efforts in Kosovo, the U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999.

The original mission of KFOR was to monitor, verify, and when necessary, enforce compliance with the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) between NATO and Serbia (formerly the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), while maintaining a safe and secure environment. Today, KFOR deters renewed hostilities and, with local authorities and international police, contributes to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment that facilitates the work of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, there are 24 NATO nations contributing to KFOR. Ten non-NATO contributing countries also participate by providing military personnel and other support personnel to KFOR. The U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is about 1,498 U.S. military personnel, or approximately 10 percent of KFOR's total strength of approximately 15,251 personnel.

The U.S. forces have been assigned to the eastern region of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. The KFOR operates under NATO command and control and rules of engagement. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels; provides a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside; and organizes checkpoints and patrols in key areas to provide security, to protect minorities, to resolve disputes, and to help instill in the community a feeling of confidence.

In accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244, UNMIK continues to transfer additional competencies to the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, which includes the President, Prime Min-

ister, multiple ministries, and the Kosovo Assembly. The UNMIK retains ultimate authority in some sensitive areas such as police, justice, and ethnic minority affairs.

NATO formally continues to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. NATO has adopted the Joint Operations Area plan to regionalize and rationalize its force structure in the Balkans. The UNMIK international police and the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) have full responsibility for public safety and policing throughout Kosovo. The UNMIK international police and KPS also have begun to assume responsibility for guarding patrimonial sites and established border-crossing checkpoints. The KFOR augments security in particularly sensitive areas or in response to particular threats as needed.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in all of these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. Officials of my Administration and I communicate regularly with the leadership and other Members of Congress with regard to these deployments, and we will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

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.

December 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared a major disaster in Oregon and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides beginning on December 1 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Washington and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides beginning on December 1 and continuing.

December 9

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the National Building Museum where they participated in the taping of the annual "Christmas in Washington" concert for later television broadcast.

December 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he was briefed by Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff on the winter storms in the Midwest. Then, in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he participated in a meeting on the "Monitoring the Future" report on teen drug use.

Later in the morning, the President participated in an interview with Martha Raddatz of ABC News. Then, in the Private Dining Room, the President had lunch with President Giorgio Napolitano of Italy.

In the afternoon, the President met with leaders of the U.S. broadcasting services and Broadcasting Board of Governors Chairman James K. Glassman.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an interview with Martha Raddatz of ABC News. They then attended a holiday reception.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Alan Garcia Perez of Peru to the White House on December 14.

The President declared an emergency in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in

the area struck by severe winter storms beginning on December 8 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Yousif B. Ghafari to be Ambassador to Slovenia.

The President announced his intention to nominate James K. Glassman to be Under Secretary of State (Public Diplomacy) with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stanley C. Suboleski to be Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy).

The President announced his intention to nominate Jon Wellinghoff to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations: Sheldon G. Adelson; Phil Gramm; Harold McGraw III; George Perdue; and Faryar Shirzad.

December 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with U.S. Representatives-elect Robert J. Wittman of Virginia and Robert E. Latta of Ohio to congratulate them on their election victories.

The President declared an emergency in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms beginning on December 8 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms beginning on December 6 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert F. Cohen, Jr., to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marcia S.B. Bernicat to be Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau.

December 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Abdelaziz

Bouteflika of Algeria to express his condolences for the loss of life due to the December 11 bombings in Algiers.

In the evening, the President attended two holiday receptions.

December 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Alan Garcia Perez of Peru. Later, at the State Department, he and Mrs. Bush attended a holiday reception for the diplomatic corps.

The President announced his intention to nominate David J. Kramer to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and to appoint him as a member of the Congressional Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China and as an Executive Branch Commissioner-Observer on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The President announced his intention to appoint Donald J. Wright as Alternate Representative of the U.S. on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

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 December 11

Yousif Boutrous Ghafari, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy with the rank of Ambassador, vice Karen P. Hughes.

Gregory G. Katsas, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Peter D. Keisler, resigned.

Kevin J. O'Connor, of Connecticut, to be Associate Attorney General, vice Robert D. McCallum, Jr.

Douglas H. Shulman, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term prescribed by law, vice Mark W. Everson.

G. Murray Snow, of Arizona, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona, vice Stephen M. McNamee, retired.

Stanley C. Suboleski, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy), vice Jeffrey D. Jarrett, resigned.

Glenn T. Suddaby, of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York, vice Lawrence E. Kahn, retired.

Jon Wellinghoff, of Nevada, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2013 (reappointment).

Withdrawn December 11

James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2010 (reappointment), which was sent to the Senate on April 26, 2007.

Submitted December 12

Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.