

At Georgia Base, Bush promises troops better pay, improved housing

by Naftali Bendavid
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Chicago Tribune

FORT STEWART, Ga. - Resurrecting a theme of his campaign, President Bush visited an Army base in Georgia Monday and promised cheering, camouflage-clad soldiers that he would dramatically improve their standard of living.

Bush told the troops he would set aside \$1.4 billion in the 2002 budget for military pay increases, \$4 billion for health benefits and \$400 million to enhance military housing.

But some experts suggested that the bulk of the funds did not represent an increase in spending beyond that recommended by President Clinton. White House aides insisted it is new spending.

During his run for president, Bush decried the state of the armed forces under the Clinton administration, portraying the military as demoralized and unprepared for combat. On Monday, Bush said he was ready to do something about it.

"Frustration is up. Morale in some places is difficult to sustain. Recruitment is harder," Bush said, as soldiers arrayed in rigid rows grunted their approval Army-style. "This is not the way a great nation should reward courage and idealism. It's ungrateful, it's unwise and it is unacceptable."

Bush added: "While you are serving us well, America is not serving you well enough."

Bush's first presidential trip outside Washington came against the backdrop of charges by some military leaders that Bush has not delivered on a promise to give the Pentagon an immediate cash infusion.

The president scored significant political points in the campaign by repeatedly declaring that servicemen and women were ill-housed, ill-fed and ill-equipped. More than 5,000 military families were on food stamps, Bush said in his stump speech, and back-to-back deployments tore families apart.

All this will soon be over, Bush suggested Monday.

"The freedom and security you make possible improve the quality of our life," Bush told the soldiers, as the unit flags waved colorfully in the chilly breeze. "Our nation can never fully repay our debt to you, but we can give you full support, and my administration will."

The soldiers of Fort Stewart, many of whom are serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina, are among the most-deployed troops in the Army. Two-thirds of their barracks need renovation, Bush said, noting that some of the base's buildings were built in 1941 and designed to last just a decade.

"We owe you and your families a decent quality of life," Bush said. "We owe the training and equipment you need to do your jobs. And when we send you into harm's way, we owe you a clear mission with clear goals."

To come to Fort Stewart, Bush took his first flight aboard Air Force One, and he donned a flight jacket with his name on it. Fort Stewart is the largest Army installation east of the Mississippi River, with nearly 20,000 soldiers. By choosing to go there on his first trip as president, Bush tried to send a message that a new culture has taken root at the White House.

Rightly or wrongly, many in the Armed Forces viewed Clinton as indifferent or hostile to their interests, and he was even ridiculed early on for his sloppy salute.

Bush, by contrast, has sought to wrap himself in a military aura. Although he served stateside during the Vietnam War in the Texas Air National Guard, his father was a World War II hero, Vice President Dick Cheney is a former defense secretary and Secretary of State Colin Powell is a retired general.

On Tuesday, Bush will visit the Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., the only NATO base in the United States, where he will watch a battle simulation and discuss military modernization.

The following day Bush travels to Charleston, W.Va., to mingle with National Guard and reserve troops and talk about the importance of citizen-soldiers, a role Bush played in the Texas Air Guard.

Bush is starting his forays outside the Beltway in relatively safe environments as he gains his presidential footing. Military installations are friendly, confined settings, and Bush is scheduled to take his first foreign trip to Mexico on Friday, a journey that will last just a few hours in a country he knows well from his days as Texas governor.

Bush is visiting the bases because his chosen theme this week is military and foreign affairs. As they did during the campaign, Bush's advisers are designating a theme for each



PHOTO BY CHUCK KENNEDY/ Knight-Ridder Tribune
President George W. Bush salutes a Marine as he arrives back at the White House from Fort Stewart, Georgia, February 12, 2001. Bush, in his first trip with all the trappings of commander in chief, told U.S. soldiers that "America is not serving you well" and promised morale-boosting pay increases, better housing and health care.

week, from education to faith-based programs to tax cuts.

This strategy has largely worked. Bush's initiatives have been favorably covered in the news media and his agenda has been disrupted only infrequently, as when Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., announced with fanfare a proposal for campaign-finance reform that Bush opposes.

Bush's military theme has been sidetracked slightly by conservative anger last week at the president's hesitancy to increase the 2001 or 2002 Pentagon budgets. Bush said he is waiting for an in-depth review by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld before making spending decisions.

Many military leaders insist they urgently need a cash infusion to pay

for spare parts, training and other requirements. As a candidate, Bush routinely excoriated Clinton for "eight years of neglect" of the armed forces, while Cheney promised, "Help is on the way."

The discrepancy between such rhetoric and the lack of an immediate increase in military funding has provoked an outcry among the military's supporters, with some comparing Bush's stance to his father's famous reneged pledge, "Read my lips, no new taxes."

But Monday, Bush continued the tone he set in the campaign suggesting that change is on the way, saying, "If our military is to attract the best of America, we owe you the best."

Napster must halt online music swaps

by Rita Ciolli
Newsday

Napster vowed to let the band play on Monday despite a federal appeals court ruling that said the company could be liable for enormous monetary damages if it continued to let Internet users download copyrighted music for free.

In rejecting almost all of Napster's legal defenses, a panel of three judges on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled Monday that Napster's service "knowingly encourages and assists" millions of people in violating the law.

The judges agreed with the record industry's arguments that the existence of Napster cuts into sales of CDs to college students and also harmed the recording companies' own efforts to distribute music online.

"This is a clear victory," said Hillary Rosen, president of the Recording Industry Association of America, a trade group.

However, the judges did not restore an earlier U.S. District Court injunction ordering the company to eliminate all copyrighted music from its files. Instead, the appeals court sent the case back to the lower court, saying that record companies have the obligation to first notify Napster specifically about which music is being illegally copied.

"Napster, however, also bears the burden of policing the system" wrote Chief Judge Robert Beezer. If Napster refuses to take action, the District Court could then issue the injunction, which would essentially put Napster out of business.

"Napster is not shut down, but under this decision it could be," the company said in a statement. "We will pursue every avenue in the courts and the Congress to keep Napster operating."

Napster users, which the company



TMS PHOTO
Napster co-founder Shawn Fanning reacts to the ruling, by the U.S. Ninth District Court of Appeals, on Monday, February 12, 2001.

estimates to be about 10,000 per second at peak times, can get access to digital copies of thousands of commercially released albums and songs without paying for it. Napster argues that it is not causing any economic harm to the recording industry, only allowing music fans to sample music before deciding to purchase it.

This clash of business, culture and the First Amendment was unleashed in 1999 by Shawn Fanning, then a 18-year-old college student who wrote the source code for the program that allows computers to share files.

The Napster case is the first big battle over how copyright law should be applied in cyberspace and its ultimate outcome is likely to shape how music, movies, art and books will be distributed online.

But both sides realize that public opinion about whether the same rules should apply to the Internet is just as important as the court decisions. "Our hope is that when this decision gets read and talked about, the people who would be inclined to do the same thing now won't do it," said Leon Gold, a New York City trial lawyer who represented one of the recording companies.

Even if Napster is stopped, it may already be too late to change the expectations that online music should be free, said Nicholas Economides, a professor at New York University's business school. "There will be a proliferation of alternative programs and to shut them down the music industry will have to start suing individual consumers, their own customers," he said.

Also, a renegade company could set up a similar operation overseas in a country that is not bound by U.S. copyright law. "Given the nature of the Internet, even if it is stopped in the U.S. it can survive someplace else," Economides said.

Some of the alternative programs such as Gnutella and FreeNet, which make it impossible to identify users, are expected to benefit if Napster is shut down.

Napster lawyers said Monday that they will appeal the panel ruling to the full 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. "We look forward to getting more facts into the record," said the company, contending that the court ruled with "an incomplete record before it."

The legal jockeying means Napster could continue to operate for weeks, if not months.

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