

## EXHIBIT 1B

September 8, 2004 *60 Minutes Wednesday* Broadcast

**Rather:** The military records of the two men running for president have become part of the political arsenal in this campaign, a tool for building up or blowing up each candidate's credibility as America's next commander-in-chief. While Senator Kerry has been targeted for what he did in combat in Vietnam, President Bush has been criticized for avoiding Vietnam by landing a much sought after spot in the Texas Air National Guard and then apparently failing to meet some of his obligations in the Guard.

Did then Lieutenant Bush fulfill all of his military commitments?

And just how did he land that coveted slot in the Guard in the first place?

Tonight, we have new documents and new information on the President's military service and the first-ever interview with the man who says he pulled the strings to get young George W. Bush into the Texas Air National Guard.

**Rather:** It was May 1968 and Vietnam was in flames. In that one month alone, more than 2,000 Americans were killed in combat and the draft was siphoning thousands more into the jungle. George W. Bush had just graduated from Yale and faced the prospect of being drafted himself. This man, Ben Barnes, says he helped to keep that from happening.

**Rather:** Tell me the truth, the whole truth about what happened with George W. Bush and the draft and the National Guard.

**Barnes:** First of all, I'd like to say that I'm not here to bring any harm to George Bush, his reputation, or his career. I was contacted by people from the very beginning of his political career when he ran for governor and when he ran for president and now he's running for re-election. I've had hundreds of phone calls from people wanting to know the story. I've been quoted and misquoted and the reason I'm here today, I really want to tell the story, I want to tell it one time and get it behind us. And again, this is not about George Bush's political career. This is about what the truth is.

**Rather:** Barnes is a Democrat who is now actively raising money for John Kerry. But he was a Democrat back in 1968 and serving as Texas Speaker of the House, a protégé of President Lyndon Johnson. Barnes was only 29 years old. But in keeping with the times, he wielded clout and connections to build a powerful political base. A few months before George W. Bush would become eligible for the draft, Barnes says he had a meeting with the late oilman, Sid Adger, a friend to both Barnes and then Congressman George Bush, father of George W.

**Rather:** Do you remember what he said?

**Barnes:** Well it's been a long time ago but he said basically would I help young George Bush get in the Air National Guard?

**Rather:** Barnes says he contacted his longtime friend General James Rose, the head of the Texas Air National Guard.

**Barnes:** I was a young, ambitious politician doing what I thought was acceptable and important to make friends and I recommended a lot of people for the National Guard during the Vietnam era as Speaker of the House and as Lieutenant Governor.

**Rather:** And you recommended George W. Bush?

**Barnes:** Yes, I did.

**Rather:** You said you did this for others. One can only call it preferential treatment for Bush? You'd describe it as that?

**Barnes:** Oh, I'd describe it as preferential treatment. There were hundreds of names on the list of people wanting to get into the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard. I think that would have been a preference to anybody that didn't want to go to Vietnam that didn't want to leave. We had a lot of young men that left and went to Canada in the 60s and fled this country. But those who could get in the reserves, those who could get in the National Guard, chances are they would not have to go to Vietnam.

**Rather:** This is the first time Ben Barnes has told his story publicly. But for years, President Bush faced questions about how he got in the Guard.

**Bush's voice:** Any allegations that my dad asked for special favors is simply not true. The former President of the United States has said that he in no way, shape, or form helped me to get into the Guard.

**Rather:** In an interview today with CBS' senior White House Correspondent John Roberts, the President's Communications Director, Dan Bartlett, repeated that denial saying this is all part of the Kerry campaign.

**Dan Bartlett:** I chalk it up to politics, they play dirty down in Texas, I've been there, I see how it works. But the bottom line is, is that there's no truth to this.

**John Roberts:** This is dirty politics?

**Dan Bartlett:** Oh I think it is. I think the fact that 55 days before an election that partisan Democrats are recycling the very same charges we hear every time President Bush runs for re-election, it is dirty politics.

**Rather:** Then Lieutenant Bush went to Georgia, completed a difficult pilot training program, and was assigned to duty back in his hometown of Houston, flying F-102s out of Ellington Air Force Base. Today, on the air base, a mothballed F-102 is emblazoned with the President's name.

But even in 1970, then Lieutenant Bush was already something of a celebrity at the airfield. A press release issued that year by his unit points out that the young lieutenant is the son of the local congressman. Mr. Bush had signed a six-year commitment to fly for the Air Guard. And early on, the young pilot got glowing evaluations from his squadron commander, Colonel Jerry Killian, who called Lieutenant Bush an "exceptionally fine young officer and pilot" who "performed in an outstanding manner." That is part of the public record.

But *60 Minutes* has now obtained a number of documents we are told were taken from Colonel Killian's personal files. Among them, a never-before-seen memorandum from May 1972 where Colonel Killian writes that Lieutenant Bush called him to talk about how he "can get out of coming to drill from now to November." Bush tells his commander he is working on a campaign in Alabama and may not have time to take his physical. Killian adds that he thinks that Bush has gone over his head and is talking to someone upstairs. Colonel Killian died in 1984. We consulted a handwriting analyst and document expert who believes the material is authentic.

Robert Strong was a friend and colleague of Colonel Jerry Killian. Strong ran the Texas Air National Guard administrative office during the Vietnam era. He's now a college professor.

**Rather:** When you read through these documents is there any doubt in your mind that these are genuine?

**Strong:** Well, they are compatible with the way that business was done at that time, they are compatible with the man that I remember Jerry Killian being, I don't see anything in the documents that are discordant with what were the times, what were the situations, and what were the people that were involved.

**Rather:** Was he, in your judgment, a straight shooter?

**Strong:** He was a straight-arrow guy. He really was. I was very fond of him. I liked him personally, very professional man, a career pilot, took his responsibilities very, very seriously.

**Rather:** This memo is from August 18, 1973. Colonel Killian titled it "CYA." In it, Colonel Killian says General Buck Staudt, the man in charge of the Texas Air National Guard, is putting on pressure to "sugar coat" an evaluation of Lieutenant Bush. Staudt, a longtime friend and supporter of the Bush family, would not do an interview for this broadcast. The memo goes on with Killian saying, "I'm having trouble running interference and doing my job."

**Strong:** He was trying to deal with a volatile political situation, dealing with the son of an ambassador and a former congressman. He was trying to deal with at least one superior officer, General Staudt, who is closely connected to the Houston political

establishment. And I just saw him in an impossible situation. I felt very, very sorry because he was between a rock and a hard place.

**Rather:** One of the Killian memos is an official order to George W. Bush to report for a physical. Mr. Bush never carried out that order. On August 1, 1972, Lieutenant Bush was suspended from flying status for failure to accomplish his annual medical examination. That document was released years ago. But until now, this document has not been seen. It is a memorandum Colonel Jerry Killian put in his own file that same day. This says, "on this date I ordered that First Lt. Bush be suspended not just for failing to take a physical but also for failing to perform to USAF/Texas Air National Guard standards." The colonel goes on, "the officer (meaning then Lieutenant Bush) has made no attempt to meet his training certification or flight physical."

Correspondent John Roberts talked with the President's Communications Director, Dan Bartlett, today, and asked about Colonel Killian's order for Lieutenant Bush to take a physical.

**John Roberts:** He either ignored or didn't fulfill a direct order.

**Bartlett:** He spoke to the commander who made that order to talk about his personal situation and the fact that he was going to Alabama. So that at every step of the way, President Bush was meeting his requirements, granted permission to meet his requirements, and that's why President Bush received an honorable discharge.

**Rather:** The questions about Vietnam still follow President Bush and Ben Barnes and every American who remembers where they were and what they did during Vietnam. Because the war we couldn't seem to get out of has become the war we can't seem to get over.

**Rather:** By 1968 casualties in Vietnam were running high.

**Barnes:** Yeah.

**Rather:** Did you or did you not think at the time that you were uncomfortable with this, or did you have a long talk with your conscience? Did you say to yourself I'm a little uncomfortable doing this?

**Barnes:** It would be very easy for me to sit here and say to you Dan that I wrestled with this and lost a lot of sleep at night but I wouldn't be telling you the truth. I, not very eagerly, but readily, was willing to call and get those young men into the National Guard that were friends of mine and supporters of mine and I did it. Reflecting back, I'm very sorry about it but, you know, it happened and it was because of my ambition and my youth and my lack of understanding. But it happened and it's, as I said, it's something I'm not necessarily proud of.

**Rather:** Robert Strong says he saw many well-connected young men pull strings and avoid service in Vietnam. Why would these men do this? Didn't conscience come into play somewhere here?

**Strong:** What you saw is the way power works. Power begets power. Power goes to power to get more power. And if you have a little bit of power and someone offers you an opportunity to gain more power by doing power a favor, this is what power does. It trades on itself. It feeds on itself. This is the way the system worked. This is the way state government worked, this is the way the Guard worked.

**Rather:** Thirty years after the fact, Ben Barnes says he is one of many Americans still trying to make peace with what he did during the war.

**Rather:** You've thought about it a lot since then?

**Barnes:** I've thought about it an awful lot. You walk through the Vietnam Memorial and I'll tell you you'll think about it a long time.

**Rather:** How do you feel about it now?

**Barnes:** Well I don't think that I had any right to have the power I had to be able to choose who was going to go to Vietnam and who was not going to go to Vietnam. That's a power, in some instances and I looked at those names, that maybe of determining life or death and that's not a power that I want to have.

**Rather:** Too strong or not to say that you're ashamed of it now?

**Barnes:** Oh I think that would be somewhat of an appropriate thing, I'm very, very sorry.

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