

September 13, 2004

**“THE CBS EVENING NEWS WITH DAN RATHER” ADDRESSES
ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES TO TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD
DOCUMENTS, TONIGHT (13)**

Additional challenges to the authenticity of the documents featured in the 60 MINUTES segment on President Bush’s Texas Air National Guard service are answered in a report to be broadcast on the CBS EVENING NEWS tonight (6:30-7:00 PM, ET/PT) on the CBS Television Network. The report states that proportional spacing was available and that superscripts were available as a custom feature. In addition, some of the letters typed in the documents would be difficult to reproduce on a computer today.

Furthermore, the official Texas Air National Guard record shows that Mr. Bush was suspended from flying on Aug. 1, 1972. That date matches the one on a memo given to CBS News.

Dan Rather: AT A DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, THE SHOTS BEING FIRED BY RETIRED MILITARY MEN WERE AIMED DIRECTLY AT PRESIDENT BUSH'S NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE.

McPeak: "OFFICIAL RECORDS SHOW THAT HE SKIPPED A PHYSICAL AND WAS GROUNDED. DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO FORGET YOUR ANNUAL PHYSICAL? I TOOK 37 OF 'EM IN A ROW."

Rather: THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CRITICISM OF THE NEW DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY CBS, BUT CBS USED SEVERAL TECHNIQUES TO MAKE SURE THESE PAPERS SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. TALKING TO HANDWRITING AND DOCUMENT ANALYSTS AND OTHER EXPERTS WHO STRONGLY INSIST THAT THE DOCUMENTS COULD HAVE BEEN CREATED IN THE 70S.

Bill Glennon, Technical Consultant: “EVERYTHING THAT’S IN THOSE DOCUMENTS, THAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING CAN’T BE DON, AS YOU SAID, 32 YEARS AGO, IS JUST TOTALLY FALSE. NOT TRUE. PROPORTIONAL SPACING WAS AVAILABLE. SUPERSCRIPTS WERE AVAILABLE AS A CUSTOM FEATURE. PROPORATIONAL SPACING BETWEEN LINES WAS AVAILABLE. YOU CAN ORDER THAT ANY WAY YOU’D LIKE.”

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Rather: RICHARD KATZ, A SOFTWARE DESIGNER, FOUND SOME OTHER INDICATIONS IN THE DOCUMENTS. HE NOTED THAT THE LETTER "L" IS USED IN THOSE DOCUMENTS, INSTEAD OF THE NUMERAL "ONE." THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REPRODUCE ON A COMPUTER TODAY.

Katz: "IF YOU WERE DOING THIS A WEEK AGO OR A MONTH AG, ON A NORMAL LASER JET PRINTER, IT WOULDN'T WORK. YOU JUST COULDN'T. THE FONT JUST WOULDN'T BE AVAILABLE TO YOU."

Rather: KATZ ALSO NOTED THAT THE DOCUMENTS HAVE BOTH THE SO-CALLED SUPERScript "TH" AND A REGULAR-SIZED "TH" THAT WOULD BE COMMON ON A TYPEWRITER, NOT A COMPUTER.

Katz: "THERE'S ONE DOCUMENT FROM MAY 1972 THAT CONTAINS A NORMAL "TH" ON THE TOP. TO PRODUCE THAT IN MICROSOFT WORD, YOU WOULD HAVE TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO TYPE THE LETTERS AND THEN TURN THE "TH" SETTING OFF, OR BACK UP AND THEN TYPE IT AGAIN."

Rather: CBS ALSO RELIED ON AN ANALYSIS OF THE CONTENTS OF THE DOCUMENTS THEMSELVES TO DETERMINE THEIR AUTHENTICITY. THE NEW PAPERS ARE IN LINE WITH WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS AND DATES. FOR INSTANCE, THE OFFICIAL RECORD SHOWS THAT MR. BUSH WAS SUSPENDED FROM FLYING ON AUGUST 1ST, 1972. THAT DATE MATCHES THE ONE ON A MEMO, GIVEN TO CBS NEWS, ORDERING THAT MR. BUSH BE SUSPENDED. AND SMALL DETAILS ADD UP...

F-101 TAKING OFF

Rather: SHORTLY AFTER 60 MINUTES BROADCAST THE NEW DOCUMENTS LAST WEEK., USA TODAY OBTAINED ANOTHER NEW DOCUMENT.... IN THE MEMO DATED FEBRUARY 2, 1972... COLONEL KILLIAN ASKED TO BE "UPDATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON FLIGHT CERTIFICATIONS... SPECIFICALLY BUSH."

THAT COULD BE IN LINE WITH WHAT DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY THE WHITE HOUSE LAST WEEK SHOW.... THAT IN THE SPRING OF 1972, MR. BUSH STOPPED EXCLUSIVELY FLYING THE F-102... AND DROPPED BACK TO PILOTING A TRAINING PLANE.... PART OF A PROGRAM TO MAINTAIN HIS FLIGHT CERTIFICATION.

(More...)

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Rather: CBS News asked the White House today to answer a number of questions:

--Did a friend of the Bush family use his influence with the Texas House Speaker to get George W. Bush into the National Guard?

--Did Lieutenant Bush refuse an order to take a required physical?

--Was he suspended for failing to perform up to standards?

--And did he, in fact, complete his commitment to the guard?

In reply, a White House spokesman told CBS News: "As you know, we have repeatedly addressed these issues."

These direct questions have not been fully, completely answered.

The Bush-Cheney campaign always points out the President received an honorable discharge. What's in the "60 Minutes" report, CBS believes to be true and believes the documents are authentic.

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Press Contact: Marcy Erhard 212/975-2888 erhardm@cbsnews.com

Quotes From Interview With Bill Glennon, IBM expert and technology consultant
CBS EVENING NEWS, 9/13/04

RATHER: Critics are saying that the documents can't be authentic because typewriters at the time didn't have the various features that show up in these documents. Is that correct in your experience or incorrect?

GLENNON: That is totally and 100 percent false. As I said, the IBM model executive, D Executive or the C Executive, did proportional type spacing. It also would do proportional spacing from line to line. And it also would do superscript printing for like the "th," which you could, you could have ordered. It wasn't a standard feature on all the standard IBM D Executives, but if you wanted that key, you could order it.

**Quotes From Interview With Richard Katz, Software Designer
CBS EVENING NEWS, 9/13/04**

RICHARD KATZ: If you were doing this a week ago or a month ago on a normal LaserJet printer, it wouldn't work. You just couldn't--there just--the font wouldn't be available to you.

RATHER: Katz also noted that the documents have both the so-called superscript T-H and a regular-size T-H. That would be common on a typewriter, not a computer.

KATZ: There is one document from May of 1972 which contains a normal T-H at the top. To produce that in Microsoft Word, you would have to go out of your way to type the letters and then turn the T-H setting off or back over them and type them again.