


OPSEC  
CASE  
STUDY





# Your Mission

## (Should you decide to accept it)

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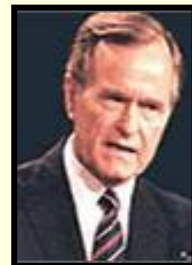


- Move the President of the United States from his ranch in Texas to Baghdad
- Knowledge must be kept to an absolute minimum
- Only mission critical trusted agents can know until Air Force One touches down



# Thanksgiving in Iraq

- VP, CoS Andrew Card, and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice told one day prior
- First Lady told hours before departure
- Children told just before departure
- Parents not informed until after departure





# Thanksgiving in Iraq

- Traveling press summoned a few hours prior to departure then sworn to secrecy
- White House Press Secretary informed media of the Presidents plan to spend Thanksgiving with family and parents on ranch in Crawford, Texas
- President left his ranch in an unmarked vehicle without usual motorcade, wearing a blue baseball cap pulled down low over forehead





# Thanksgiving in Iraq

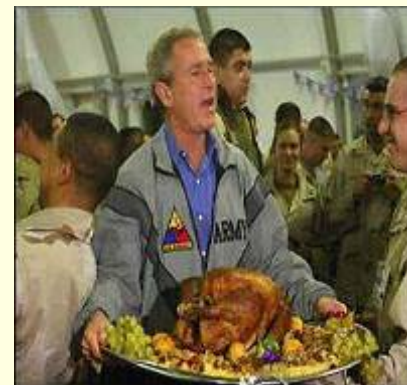
- Cover story
  - Air Force One being flown back to DC for maintenance
  - President Bush enters through rear of the plane
- Air Force One hangered at Andrews AFB
  - President Bush changes to identical Air Force One





# Thanksgiving in Iraq

- Deception in Support of OPSEC
  - Flew without lights
  - Under the cover of darkness
  - Replicated a civilian transport by using a phony identification code
- Air Force One lands in Baghdad
- From start to finish the operation took 30 hours, 27 of which was spent in the air





# Path To Success



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- OPSEC planning from mission concept
  - Knowledge kept to a minimum
  - Even those with a need to know were told at the last possible moment
  - Deception in support of OPSEC



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# QUESTIONS?

“Things which matter most must never be at the  
mercy of things which matter least.”

Goethe