



*The Visit of President*  
**George W. Bush**  
*to*  
*Fort Carson, Colorado*  
*November 24, 2003*

**Advance Team:**

*Michael Crain, Scooter Slade, Davis White*  
*Laura Caudell, Lindsay Mock*



President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) waves as he boards Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush visits Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), left, greets USA Freedom Corps volunteer Diane Campbell, right, during his arrival at Peterson Air Force Base Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. He told assembled soldiers of her work with Army families. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)





President **Bush** prepares to sit down with soldiers from **Fort Carson** for lunch at Cheyenne Mountain Inn, Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. **Bush** is visiting **Fort Carson**, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq. **Fort Carson** has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



President George W. Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) lunches with U.S. military personnel at the Cheyenne Mountain Inn at Fort Carson, Colorado, November 24, 2003. Fort Carson has sent approximately 12,000 troops to Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) and soldiers are now mourning the loss of four soldiers who were killed in Iraq on November 4 when a U.S. military helicopter was shot down. Photo by Larry Downing/Reuters



US President George W. Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) sits down for lunch with soldiers including Spc. Stacie Frantz(R) at the Cheyenne Mountain Inn at Fort Carson, Colorado(AFP/Tim Sloan)



President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), left, sits down with Spc. Stacie R. Frantz, right, and other soldiers from Fort Carson for lunch at Cheyenne Mountain Inn, Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), left, greets Spc. Stacie R. Frantz, right, before sitting down with soldiers from Fort Carson for lunch at Cheyenne Mountain Inn, Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



U. S. President George W. Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) sits next to Army Spc. Stacie R. Frantz while lunching with U.S. military personnel in the Cheyenne Mountain Inn at Fort Carson, Colorado, November 24, 2003. Earlier in the day, Bush signed a record \$401.3 billion defense bill that includes a 4.15 percent raise for troops as the Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) occupation puts increasing strain on soldiers and their families. REUTERS/Larry Downing



President George W. Bush enjoys lunch with U.S. soldiers at Fort Carson, Colorado Nov. 24, 2003. White House photo by Tina Hager White House photo by Tina Hager.



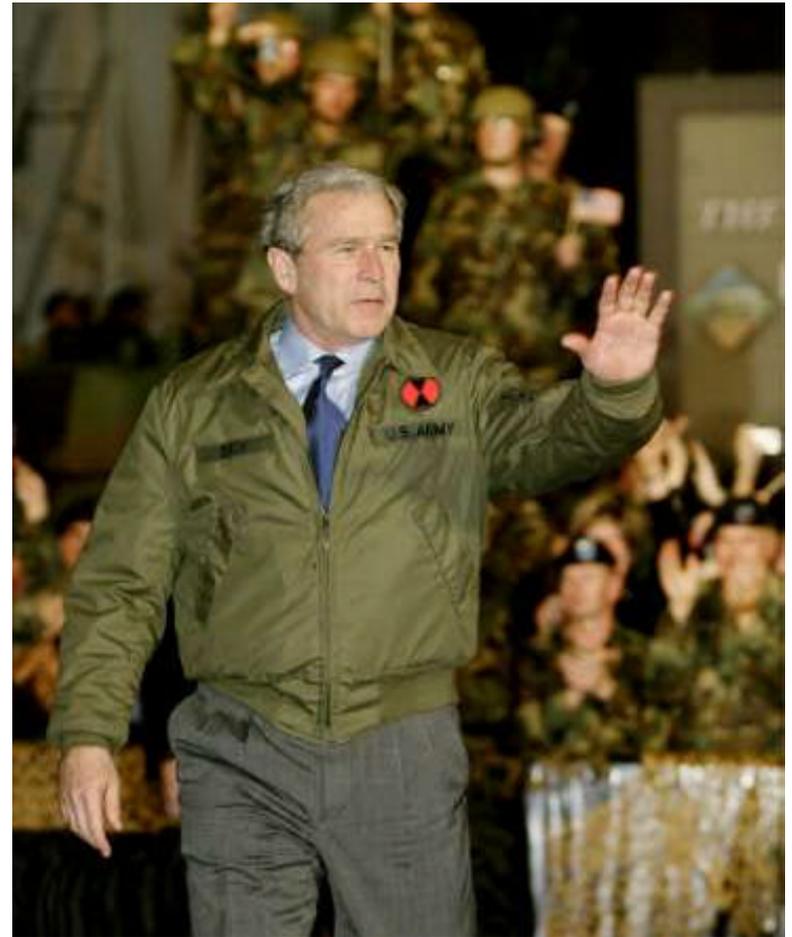
President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) greets soldiers after delivering remarks to soldiers and families at Butts Army Air Field Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



U.S. President George W. Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) shakes hands after speaking to U.S. military personnel and family members at the Butts Army Air Field inside Fort Carson, Colorado, November 24, 2003. Fort Carson has sent approximately 12,000 troops to Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Earlier in the day, Bush signed a record \$401.3 billion defense bill that includes a 4.15 percent raise for troops as the Iraq occupation puts increasing strain on soldiers and their families. REUTERS/Larry Downing



President Bush ([news - web sites](#)), wearing an Army jacket, is introduced before speaking to soldiers and families at Butts Army Air Field Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news - web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



U.S. President George W. Bush ([news - web sites](#)) waves before speaking to U.S. military personnel and family members at the Butts Army Air Field inside Fort Carson, Colorado, November 24, 2003. Fort Carson has sent approximately 12,000 troops to Iraq ([news - web sites](#)) and is now mourning the loss of four soldiers who were killed in Iraq on November 4th when a U.S. military helicopter was shot down. REUTERS/Larry Downing



President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) waves to troops and families after addressing them at Butts Army Air Field at Fort Carson, Colo., Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)



President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) salutes troops as they applaud his arrival at Butts Army Air Field at Fort Carson, Colo., Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)



President Bush ([news - web sites](#)) waves as he is introduced before delivering remarks to soldiers and families at Butts Army Air Field Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news - web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



US President George W. Bush ([news - web sites](#)) waves to military personnel and their families at Fort Carson, Colorado(AFP/Tim Sloan)



U.S. President George W. Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) waves after speaking to U.S. military personnel and family members at the Butts Army Air Field inside Fort Carson, Colorado, November 24, 2003. REUTERS/Larry Downing



President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) is applauded as he is introduced before speaking to soldiers and families at Butts Army Air Field Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) addresses troops and families at Butts Army Air Field at Fort Carson, Colo., Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)





U.S. President George W. Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) speaks to U.S. military personnel and family members at the Butts Army Air Field inside Fort Carson, Colorado, November 24, 2003. REUTERS/Larry Downing

President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) delivers remarks to soldiers and families at Butts Army Air Field Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colorado, home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)





U.S. President George W. Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) speaks to U.S. military personnel and family members at the Butts Army Air Field inside Fort Carson, Colorado, November 24, 2003. Fort Carson has sent approximately 12,000 troops to Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) and is now mourning the loss of four soldiers who were killed in Iraq on November 4th when a U.S. military helicopter was shot down. REUTERS/Larry Downing

President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) addresses troops and families at Butts Army Air Field at Fort Carson, Colo., Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)





President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) greets soldiers after delivering remarks to soldiers and families at Butts Army Air Field Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colo., home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) greets soldiers after delivering remarks to soldiers and families at Butts Army Air Field Monday, Nov. 24, 2003. Bush is visiting Fort Carson, Colorado, home to four of the 16 soldiers killed Nov. 2 when a U.S. helicopter was shot down in the dangerous Sunni Triangle near Fallujah, Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). Fort Carson has sent 12,000 troops to Iraq, its largest deployment since World War II. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



US President George W. Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) makes remarks to military personnel and their families at Fort Carson, Colorado(AFP/Tim Sloan)

President George W. Bush delivers remarks to U.S. soldiers and families at Fort Carson, Colorado Nov. 24, 2003 White House photo by Tina Hager.





Post / Helen H. Richardson

President Bush shakes hands with soldiers during his visit to Fort Carson on Monday. Bush paid special tribute to soldiers killed in the war, and met with relatives of the fallen soldiers. 'He was just a regular American who came to talk to us. ... I was touched by that,' said Dave Bader, whose brother died in Iraq.

"A roar erupted when Bush finally entered the hangar at 1:40 p.m. Bush returned the sentiment, unsparing in his admiration and appreciation.

"I'm honored to be in the presence of so many fine Americans, so many great citizens who proudly wear our nation's uniform," he told them.

And he shared their grief.

"It is the nature of terrorism that a small number of people can inflict terrible grief, and here, you have felt loss," he said.

"Every person who dies in the line of duty leaves a family that lives in sorrow and comrades who must go on without them," he said.

The soldiers came away pleased.

"He was inspirational," said Capt. Kyle Zablocky, who came with his wife and two children."

On Monday, Bush spent nearly two hours with more than 100 family members of fallen Fort Carson soldiers, out of the view of media and the public.

"I thought it was wonderful that he came out. He certainly can't go to every funeral, but coming out here shows it bothers him, too," said Cindy Loia, the mother of Johnna Loia. Johnna Loia's fiance, Spc. Brian Penisten, died when a Chinook helicopter carrying him to a homebound plane and his wedding was shot down Nov. 2.

Johnna Loia drove to Colorado Springs but could not bring herself to attend the meeting.

"It's been rough for her," her mother said.

Melissa Givens, 27, of Fountain, met the president with her two sons, Dakota, 6, and Carson, 5 ½ months.

"The tears in his eyes, I'll keep that memory forever," Givens said. "I've always thought he cared, and today I know he cares."

She did not ask the president any questions.

"I just wanted to let him know I support his decisions, even though my husband died," she said.

Donald R. Bucklew, the father of another fallen soldier, Sgt. Ernest Bucklew, who also died when the Chinook helicopter was shot down, said he was also struck by the president's demeanor.

"He laughed and he cried and he hugged each and every one of us," Bucklew said. "It was a very heartfelt experience."

A Vietnam veteran of the Army, Bucklew said he "did not shy away from asking him any questions, and neither did he."

"I think what the country needs to do is get behind the president 100 percent," he said.

President George W. Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) speaks to the press about Medicare legislation before boarding Air Force One at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, November 24, 2003. Bush on Nov. 25 took a victory lap before an audience of senior citizens, touting congressional passage of an expanded Medicare health program as the fulfillment of a promise he had made to this important voting bloc. Photo by Larry Downing/Reuters



US President George W. Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) walks towards the press pool that travels with him to commend the US Senate for moving forward the medicare modernization bill before flying to his Texas ranch for the Thanksgiving holiday at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.(AFP/File/Tim Sloan)

# Advance Crew...



GROUP OF 5000





# Davis' Toys

