

FOIA MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 2731				
Document ID: 9903974				
Stack: V	Row: 46	Section: 4	Shelf: 6	Position: 2

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. memo	Samuel Berger to the President, re: Questions on Apache Helicopters in Albania (2 pages)	06/14/1999	P1/b(1)
001b. paper	Answers to NSC Questions Concerning Apache Helicopters (3 pages)	05/25/1999	P1/b(1)
001c. draft	[Draft of 001a] (1 page)	05/27/1999	P1/b(1)
001d. draft	[Draft of 001a] (2 pages)	05/27/1999	P1/b(1)
001e. draft	[Draft of 001a] (1 page)	05/27/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Records Management
([Kosovo])
OA/Box Number: 2731

FOLDER TITLE:

9903974

2008-0994-F

kc5871

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9903974
RECEIVED: 21 MAY 99 19

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: BERGER

DOC DATE: 14 JUN 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: DEFENSE POLICY
KOSOVO

MILITARY POSTURE

PERSONS: COPETAS, CRAIG

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS ON APACHE HELICOPTERS IN ALBANIA

ACTION: NOTED BY PRESIDENT

DUE DATE: 27 MAY 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: VON LIPSEY

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

NSC CHRON
VON LIPSEY

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By WDC NARA, Date 4/19/21
2008-0994-F-3

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSDMK

CLOSED BY: NSGP

DOC 4 OF 4

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9903974

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 VON LIPSEY
002 BERGER
002 VON LIPSEY
002 BERGER
002 VON LIPSEY
003 BERGER
004 PRESIDENT
004

Z 99052119 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
Z 99052811 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION
Z 99052814 FOR REDO
Z 99052818 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION
Z 99052819 FOR REDO
Z 99060313 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION
Z 99061413 FOR INFORMATION
X 99061610 NOTED BY PRESIDENT

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**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE**

6/3

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 3974-Redo
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG _____ A/O 01

13

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
JACOBSON	_____	_____	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
RICE	<u>1</u>	<u>6/3</u>	<u>Done</u>
DAVIES	_____	_____	_____
KERRICK	<u>2</u>	<u>6/3</u>	_____
STEINBERG	<u>3</u>	_____	_____
BERGER	<u>4</u>	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	<u>5</u>	<u>TTC 6/14</u>	<u>MAoney</u>
WEST WING DESK	_____	_____	_____
RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

CC: JUN 3 PM 12:05

COMMENTS: As on agenda
Helsinki Albania

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE yes

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

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	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
¹⁵ JACOBSON	_____	_____	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
RICE	<u>1</u>	_____	_____
DAVIES	_____	_____	_____
KERRICK	_____	_____	_____
STEINBERG	_____	_____	_____
BERGER	_____	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>2</u>	<u>ENCL 5/28</u>	<u>AS</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
<u>WHLipsey</u>	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>see note</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____

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CC:

COMMENTS:

*Qs on Apache Helicopters
in Albania*

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE _____

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

TO: Red Von Lipsey

Red - Don't think we've answered the question on this. The suggestion behind the first question is since Boeing is the manufacturer of the helo, it has unique expertise in maintaining the Apache. We need to address why Boeing has not been brought in.

Thx -

ED

ED

As discussed.

Thx

Red

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

6/3

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POWELL	_____	_____	_____
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KERRICK	<u>2</u>	<u>6/3</u>	_____
STEINBERG	<u>3</u>	_____	_____
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RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
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CC:

COMMENTS:

As on agenda
 Helios Albania

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE yes

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

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SEQUENCE TO INITIAL/DATE DISPOSITION

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POWELL

RICE

DAVIES

KERRICK

STEINBERG

BERGER

SITUATION ROOM

WEST WING DESK

RECORDS MGMT.

W. Lipsey

2 ENCL 5/28 AS

3 see note

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COMMENTS:

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in Albania

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5-21-99

3974

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Berger
w/ desk
Podesta

Apache Copters Inspire Awe in Balkans, But They May Be Wrong Birds for Job

By A. CRAIG COPETAS

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

TIRANA, Albania—On this city's potholed streets, children use felt-tip markers to tattoo "Apache" on their arms and T-shirts.

In the Italian-style cafes, armchair warriors drink beer and swap tall tales of secret Apache missions that NATO says never took place. Radio stations broadcast Apache sightings with the frequency of incorrect weather reports.

"Every helicopter in the sky is an Apache, and everyone believes they are invincible," says Zeneli Orhani, a professor of psychology at the University of Tirana who has spent the past seven weeks counseling ethnic Albanian refugees.

"The Apache is the only faith the Kosovars can turn to, their only hope of returning to their homes."

Near-Mythic Status

Almost from the moment North Atlantic Treaty Organization commanders requested them for the Yugoslavian campaign, the AH-64A Apache helicopters have taken on near-mythic status in the Balkans. Equipped with 16 Hellfire anti-tank missiles and 1,200 rounds of 30mm armor-piercing ammunition, the sleek black birds are awe-inspiring fighting machines.

But since 24 Apaches last month landed in the Rinas Airport mud flats known as Tirana Beach, the mystery surrounding their role has only deepened. Two Apaches have crashed during separate training missions—killing two pilots in one incident—for reasons the Army hasn't explained. Washington has yet to give the go-ahead to unleash the beasts, and some wonder if it will ever come. Some military experts believe the Army may have even sent in the wrong copter for the job.

Nonetheless, the Army is hyping the Apache as the phantom menace of the war. Though the AH-64A emerged from the Gulf War virtually unscathed, the easy pickings the now 15-year-old copter had in the desert flatlands of southern Iraq are unlikely to arise in Kosovo.

A growing number of soldiers here are wondering why the Army has declined the offer of the helicopter's manufacturer, Boeing Co., to send in specialists to help maintain the aircraft and lend their expertise to the crash investigations. Executives at Boeing's Apache plant in Mesa, Ariz., are also mystified over not being called in, particularly since the firm remains under contract to train Apache pilots and maintenance personnel. "We had field representatives with the Apaches in the Gulf War, and I don't know why we don't have them in Albania," says Boeing spokesman Ken Jensen.

Publicly, the Army is gung-ho on the AH-64A and hasn't commented on why

Boeing hasn't been brought in. "The [AH-64A] Apaches are here, and I have no doubt they will make a huge difference," says Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Nevertheless, some critics charge that the accident-prone AH-64A is outdated for its Balkan mission, and that the two



U.S. soldiers working on an Apache helicopter at Tirana airport in Albania earlier this week.

Apache crashes may have resulted from pilot error based on the outmoded radar technology employed by the AH-64A. One retired U.S. military officer, a decorated Vietnam veteran familiar with the Apache, claims the AH-64A model is a "hangar queen," a term used to describe military aircraft that look better than they work.

"Those birds are stiffed up and polished for a public-relations war," the retired officer says. "The only thing they're good for is cannibalization."

Fires back Lt. Col. Garrie Dornan, chief spokesperson for the Apache task force, "the Army issues it, we use it."

The Wrong Apache

Indeed, some attack-helicopter specialists suggest the Army has given its pilots here the wrong Apache. Gunter Endres, editor of the rotorized-aircraft bible Jane's Helicopter Yearbook, says the Army should have deployed its active squadron of 24 AH-64D Longbows, its new generation of Apaches reconfigured with digital technology, better avionics and more advanced firepower.

After the Army's 1996 field tests of the Longbow, conducted with Boeing, a joint exercise report said the Apache Longbow is "the quintessential example" of how to dominate a battlefield.

Some senior NATO military officers here privately suggest the odds are stacked against any Apaches ever flying into battle because the U.S. isn't prepared to accept the casualties almost certain to occur.

But the question that nobody in the Army so far has been willing to answer is why its 24 Apache Longbows are sitting on the ground in Fort Hood, Texas, instead of flying combat-training missions over the Balkan badlands. Mr. Endres suspects he knows the reason. "The Longbow is clearly the weapon of choice," he says. "But it was developed under a black program, and I'm certain the Army doesn't want to see one of them shot down in Yugoslavia, and all that sensitive technology winding up in the hands of the Russians."

MAY 21 1999

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1999

Sandy
What about
the Army
unit? - R

and then

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001b. paper	Answers to NSC Questions Concerning Apache Helicopters (3 pages)	05/25/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Records Management
([Kosovo])
OA/Box Number: 2731

FOLDER TITLE:

9903974

2008-0994-F
ke5871

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

3974
Redo

June 3, 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ROBERT G. BELL *RGB*

FROM: ROD VON LIPSEY *Rv*

SUBJECT: Questions on Apache Helicopters in Albania

At Tab I is a Memorandum for the President in response to his questions on AH-64 helicopter deployment to Albania.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I.

Attachment

Tab I Memorandum for Signature

Tab A Newspaper Article with POTUS Questions

Tab II Incoming Correspondence

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By *YCB* NARA, Date *4/9/24*
2008-0924-F3

UNCLASSIFIED WITH ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ATTACHMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9903974
RECEIVED: 21 MAY 99 19

TO: NATL SECURITY COUN

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 21 MAY 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: DEFENSE POLICY
KOSOVO

MILITARY POSTURE

PERSONS: COPETAS, CRAIG

SUBJECT: POTUS QUESTION WAL STREET JOURNAL RE APACHE MAINTENANCE

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 27 MAY 99 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: VON LIPSEY

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
VON LIPSEY

FOR CONCURRENCE
BOUCHARD
HURLEY
SCHULTE

FOR INFO
BELL
LACKEY
SCHWARTZ

COMMENTS: POTUS SAYS WHAT ABOUT THIS? WHY NOT? AND THIS?

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSDMK

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001c. draft	[Draft of 001a] (1 page)	05/27/1999	P1/b(1)

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

5/28

Rod :

Answer to first
question remains the
same as in your
previous version. Ed
Rice's question still
stands: why no Boeing
reps?

Tx Hy

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 3974

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG EMK A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<u>K</u> JACOBSON	_____	_____	_____
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DAVIES	<u>1</u>	<u>G 5/28</u>	_____
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STEINBERG	_____	_____	_____
BERGER	_____	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>2</u>	<u>EMK 5/28</u>	<u>D</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
<u>Van Housen</u>	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>see note</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____

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CC:

COMMENTS:

Qs on Apache Helos in
Albania

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE yes

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED WITH ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ATTACHMENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

3974

May 28, 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ROBERT G. BELL *RB for*

FROM: ROD VON LIPSEY *RVL*

SUBJECT: Questions on Apache Helicopters in Albania

At Tab I is a Memorandum for the President in response to his questions on AH-64 helicopter deployment to Albania.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I.

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Tab I Memorandum for Signature

Tab A Newspaper Article with POTUS Questions

Tab II Incoming Correspondence

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526

White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017

By *DC* NARA, Date *4/19/24*

2008-0994-F-3

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Apache Copters Inspire Awe in Balkans, But They May Be Wrong Birds for Job

By A. CRAIG COPETAS

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

TIRANA, Albania—On this city's potholed streets, children use felt-tip markers to tattoo "Apache" on their arms and T-shirts.

In the Italian-style cafes, armchair warriors drink beer and swap tall tales of

secret Apache missions that NATO says never took place. Radio stations broadcast Apache sightings with the frequency of incorrect weather reports.

"Every helicopter in the sky is an Apache, and everyone believes they are invincible," says Zeneli Orhani, a professor of psychology at the University of Tirana who has spent the past seven weeks counseling ethnic Albanian refugees.

"The Apache is the only faith the Kosovars can turn to, their only hope of returning to their homes."

Near-Mythic Status

Almost from the moment North Atlantic Treaty Organization commanders requested them for the Yugoslavian campaign, the AH-64A Apache helicopters have taken on near-mythic status in the Balkans. Equipped with 16 Hellfire anti-tank missiles and 1,200 rounds of 30mm armor-piercing ammunition, the sleek black birds are awe-inspiring fighting machines.

But since 24 Apaches last month landed in the Rinas Airport mud flats known as Tirana Beach, the mystery surrounding their role has only deepened. Two Apaches have crashed during separate training missions—killing two pilots in one incident—for reasons the Army hasn't explained. Washington has yet to give the go-ahead to unleash the beasts, and some wonder if it will ever come. Some military experts believe the Army may have even sent in the wrong copter for the job.

Nonetheless, the Army is hyping the Apache as the phantom menace of the war. Though the AH-64A emerged from the Gulf War virtually unscathed, the easy pickings the now 15-year-old copter had in the desert flatlands of southern Iraq are unlikely to arise in Kosovo.

A growing number of soldiers here are wondering why the Army has declined the offer of the helicopter's manufacturer, Boeing Co., to send in specialists to help maintain the aircraft and lend their expertise to the crash investigations. Executives at Boeing's Apache plant in Mesa, Ariz., are also mystified over not being called in, particularly since the firm remains under contract to train Apache pilots and maintenance personnel. "We had field representatives with the Apaches in the Gulf War, and I don't know why we don't have them in Albania," says Boeing spokesman Ken Jensen.

Publicly, the Army is gung-ho on the AH-64A and hasn't commented on why

Boeing hasn't been brought in. "The [AH-64A] Apaches are here, and I have no doubt they will make a huge difference," says Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Nevertheless, some critics charge that the accident-prone AH-64A is outdated for its Balkan mission, and that the two



U.S. soldiers working on an Apache helicopter at Tirana airport in Albania earlier this week.

AP photo/Mark Peters

Apache crashes may have resulted from pilot error based on the outmoded radar technology employed by the AH-64A. One retired U.S. military officer, a decorated Vietnam veteran familiar with the Apache, claims the AH-64A model is a "hangar queen," a term used to describe military aircraft that look better than they work.

"Those birds are stiffed up and polished for a public-relations war," the retired officer says. "The only thing they're good for is cannibalization."

Fires back Lt. Col. Garrie Dornan, chief spokesperson for the Apache task force, "the Army issues it, we use it."

The Wrong Apache

Indeed, some attack-helicopter specialists suggest the Army has given its pilots here the wrong Apache. Gunter Endres, editor of the rotorized-aircraft bible Jane's Helicopter Yearbook, says the Army should have deployed its active squadron of 24 AH-64D Longbows, its new generation of Apaches reconfigured with digital technology, better avionics and more advanced firepower.

After the Army's 1996 field tests of the Longbow, conducted with Boeing, a joint exercise report said the Apache Longbow is "the quintessential example" of how to dominate a battlefield.

Some senior NATO military officers here privately suggest the odds are stacked against any Apaches ever flying into battle because the U.S. isn't prepared to accept the casualties almost certain to occur.

But the question that nobody in the Army so far has been willing to answer is why its 24 Apache Longbows are sitting on the ground in Fort Hood, Texas, instead of flying combat-training missions over the Balkan badlands. Mr. Endres suspects he knows the reason. "The Longbow is clearly the weapon of choice," he says. "But it was developed under a black program, and I'm certain the Army doesn't want to see one of them shot down in Yugoslavia, and all that sensitive technology winding up in the hands of the Russians."

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1999

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