

From: Danny Diaz [ddiaz [REDACTED]]

Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:00 AM

To: Gross, Taylor S.

Subject: News is coming from AZ that Pat Tillman, who played for the Cardinals, has been killed in Afghanistan. He left the NFL in 2002 to join the Army.

Danny Lopez Diaz
Southwest Regional Press Secretary
Bush-Cheney '04

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
ddiaz [REDACTED]

From: Scully, Matthew
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:40 AM
To: Gerson, Michael J.
Subject: FW: this is a big story

-----Original Message-----

From: Sherzer, David
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:28 AM
Subject: Reuters - Ex-US football star killed in Afghanistan-official

Ex-US football star killed in Afghanistan-official

WASHINGTON, April 23 (Reuters) - Former U.S. professional football star Pat Tillman, who gave up a \$3.6 million sports contract to join the military's elite special forces, has been killed in a firefight in Afghanistan, a U.S. official said on Friday.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said Tillman was killed on Thursday. The 27-year-old soldier abruptly quit his National Football League career following the 2002 season and joined the Army a year after the attacks on America.

Enlisting with his brother Kevin in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, Tillman turned down a \$3.6 million contract from the Arizona Cardinals to become an Army Ranger for an annual salary of \$18,000.

The 5-foot-11 (1.8 metre), 200-pound (91-kg) Tillman played for five seasons with the Cardinals from 1998 to 2002.

He was selected by Arizona with the 226th pick of the 1998 draft -- the league only selects 241 players -- but the Arizona State University star emerged from training camp as the Cardinals' starting strong safety on defense.

From: Bartlett, Daniel J.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:53 AM
To: Matthew Dowd
Subject: RE: policy book cover

I did and I agree he is a hero. But there will be a lot of pressure not to single out one guy just because he was a football player. We are providing a statement to AZ press, but we will need to discuss anything broader.

-----Original Message-----

From: Matthew Dowd [mailto:mdowd@redacted]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:50 AM
To: Bartlett, Daniel J.
Subject: Re: policy book cover

Thanks. You hear about pat tilman? Potus should call his family or go to arizona or his hometown. True hero.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: McClellan, Scott
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:54 AM
To: Bartlett, Dan
Subject: RE: Pat Tillman language

think it is fine to respond if asked, as long as we always keep in context of president mourns loss of all those who have sacrificed to make America safer.

—Original Message—

From: Bartlett, Daniel J.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:45 AM
To: McClellan, Scott
Subject: FW: Pat Tillman language

does this set a precedent? i'm fine with it.

—Original Message—

From: Gross, Taylor S.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:40 AM
To: Bartlett, Daniel J.; Ritacco, Krista L.; McClellan, Scott
Cc: Mamo, Jeanie S.; Lisaius, Kenneth A.
Subject: Pat Tillman language

Getting swamped with calls from Arizona media on what the President thinks about Pat Tillman's death. Does this language sound ok to you—or would you like to say something different. Please let me know. Thanks.

Pat Tillman was an inspiration on the football field and in his private life. As with all who made the ultimate sacrifice in the war on terror, his family are in the thoughts and prayers of President and Mrs. Bush.

From: Gross, Taylor S.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:56 AM
To: Bartlett, Dan
Subject: RE: Pat Tillman language

thx!

-----Original Message-----

From: Bartlett, Daniel J.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:55 AM
To: Gross, Taylor S.; Ritacco, Krista L.; McClellan, Scott
Cc: Mamo, Jeanie S.; Lisaius, Kenneth A.
Subject: RE: Pat Tillman language

good to go

-----Original Message-----

From: Gross, Taylor S.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:40 AM
To: Bartlett, Daniel J.; Ritacco, Krista L.; McClellan, Scott
Cc: Mamo, Jeanie S.; Lisaius, Kenneth A.
Subject: Pat Tillman language

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From: Ron Fournier [RFournier [REDACTED]]
nt: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:57 AM
o: Rove, Karl C.
Subject: RE: H-E-R-O

The Lord creates men and women like this all over the world. But only the great and free countries allow them to flourish.

Keep up the fight.

Ron

-----Original Message-----

From: Rove, Karl C.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:46 AM
To: Ron Fournier
Subject: RE: H-E-R-O

How does our country continue to produce men and women like this.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ron Fournier [mailto:RFournier [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:45 AM
To: Rove, Karl C.
Subject: H-E-R-O

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pat Tillman, who walked away from his professional football career to join the Army Rangers, was killed in Afghanistan, U.S. officials said Friday.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said a formal announcement was expected later in the day.

Spokesmen at the Pentagon and U.S. Army declined comment.

There were no immediate details on his death.

A military official, also speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that a soldier had been killed in action in Afghanistan Thursday, but could not confirm that the soldier was Tillman.

Some members of the Army's elite Ranger units were taking part in the hunt for al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in southeastern Afghanistan, the military official said.

Tillman played four seasons with the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals before enlisting in the Army in May 2002. The safety turned down a three-year, \$3.6 million deal from Arizona.

His brother, Kevin, a former minor league baseball prospect in the Cleveland Indians' organization, also joined the Rangers and served in the Middle East.

From: Koch, Jennie M.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 12:13 PM
To: Schulte, Gregory L.
Subject: RE: Lt Col Tanner phoned [REDACTED]

yes

-----Original Message-----

From: Schulte, Gregory L.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 12:13 PM
To: Koch, Jennie M.
Subject: Re: Lt Col Tanner phoned [REDACTED]

Sounds right. Did you brief dcr on recent death in afghanistan on death of x nfl pat tillman?

Message

From: Buchan, Claire
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 12:40 PM
To: McClellan, Scott; Duffy, Trent D.; McCormack, Sean I.
Subject: pat tillman

fyi – dan approved a comment from **taylor gross** for the arizona papers. this is it:

pat tillman was an inspiration on and off the football field. his family and those of all families who have lost loved ones are in the thoughts and prayers of the president and mrs. bush.

our wires are asking what the white house statement was – they are hearing from their arizona desks. i'll tell them.

From: Wehner, Peter H.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 12:47 PM
To: pwehner [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: from Peggy Noonan re the Tillman story

—Original Message—

From: Noonan [REDACTED] [mailto:Noonan [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 12:47 PM
To: Wehner, Peter H.
Subject: Re: from Peggy Noonan re the Tillman story

Pete, you see what a chord the Tillman death has hit. The president ought to go out of his way today to go by a church – find out what faith Tillman practiced and have the president go by that church and light a candle or say a prayer. Tillman was big in the American imagination even though no one talked about him. This is a real opportunity for the president to talk to kids, too, about the nature and meaning of courage, and of patriotism, and of listening to and following your own drummer. This guy deserves a lot from our president. Peggy

From: Buchan, Claire
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 12:54 PM
To: Duffy, Trent D.; McClellan, Scott
Subject: alert – do not use tillman statement

dod is not confirming that he is dead – next of kin still being notified. unfortunately, taylor's statement is on the wire.

Crane, Judson, Mr, DoD OGC

From: Mamo, Jeanie S. [Jeanie_S._Mamo [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 1:00 PM
To: Di Rita, Larry, CIV, OSD-OASD-PA
Subject: RE: Can you help me?

THANK YOU!!

-----Original Message-----

From: Di Rita, Larry, CIV, OSD-OASD-PA [mailto:larry.dirita [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 12:59 PM
To: Mamo, Jeanie S.
Cc: Whitman, Bryan, SES, OASD-PA
Subject: RE: Can you help me?

see what we can do. details are sketchy just now.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mamo, Jeanie S. [mailto:Jeanie_S._Mamo [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 12:06 PM
To: Di Rita, Larry OSD/LA
Subject: FW: Can you help me?

Larry -- Don Yeager is a TERRIFIC reporter for Sports Illustrated.. He has had a one-on-one interview with President Bush and knows Gov. Bush as well... He wrote the story about Qusay and Uday and their torture of Olympic athletes and has since been back to Iraq to write a follow-up on the reorganization of the Olympic team.. Can you talk to him or have whoever you think the right person is talk to him? Don gets it... THANK YOU!!

-----Original Message-----

From: DDYAEGER [mailto:DDYAEGER [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 11:57 AM
To: Mamo, Jeanie S.
Subject: Can you help me?

Jeanie: Is there any way you can hook me up with someone at the Pentagon who can give me an off the record briefing on what the mission in Afghanistan was where former NFL star Pat Tillman was killed yesterday? We're going to write an awesome piece this weekend, but need this one semi-official piece. Can you help me?

don

Don Yaeger
Associate Editor

Sports Illustrated
135 W. 50th St.
New York, NY 10020



From: Mark McKinnon [mmckinnon [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 1:01 PM
To: Bartlett, Dan
Subject: Pat Tilman

Realize President really shouldn't do anything that he hasn't done for any other soldier killed in the military, but certainly think he could say something about he exemplifies the ultimate in humility, heroism and sacrifice.

What an amazing man.

From: Buchan, Claire
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 4:07 PM
To: McCormack, Sean I.
Subject: RE: tillman

trust me. it is already. i have everyone and their brother bugging me for "the statement." can they give you any sense of timing? and are you anticipating a bigger problem than just managing this?

~~Original Message~~

From: McCormack, Sean I.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 4:06 PM
To: Buchan, Claire
Subject: RE: tillman

not confirming yet. this will soon become a problem.

~~Original Message~~

From: Buchan, Claire
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 4:00 PM
To: McCormack, Sean I.
Subject: tillman

waaaaaaaaa. can you bug your friend at dod. boo hoo hoo hoo.

From: Jackson, Barry S.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 5:05 PM
To: Rove, Karl C.
Subject: FW: Tillman

as an idea.....

—Original Message—

From: Ulyot, Theodore W.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 5:02 PM
To: Jackson, Barry S.
Subject: RE: Tillman

Barry – I really like your idea of a statement along the lines of: "Pat Tillman is a great American hero. [details on his inspiring story]. And I want to tell you about another great American hero: [Johnny Jones, of West Virginia, a complete unknown] [details]. These are two Americans who answered the call to serve, and there are X00,000 more of them out there in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places around the world – bravely fighting to protect their fellow Americans, liberate tens of millions from oppression, and advance freedom. Tough times like this, and the heroic stories of courageous individuals like Tillman and [Jones] and their X00,000 brothers and sisters, should remind us of the profound gratitude we will forever owe to these great patriots."

I hope you convey that to Karl/Bartlett/Wehner.

—Original Message—

From: Jackson, Barry S.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 4:24 PM
To: Ulyot, Theodore W.; Wilkinson, James
Subject: Tillman

John McCain (R-AZ) said the Afghanistan death of ex-Arizona safety Pat Tillman "will seem a heavy blow" to our morale. But there is "in his unexpected choice of duty to his country over the riches and other comforts of celebrity" an "inspiration" (release).

From: Neusner, Noam M.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 4:55 PM
To: Healy, Erin E.
Subject: RE:

Check. That statement, as quoted, was ridiculous.

Pat Tillman wasn't a hero on the football field. He played football. But he died for his country. We shouldn't try to tie the two things together -- he didn't.

-----Original Message-----

From: Healy, Erin E.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 4:54 PM
To: Neusner, Noam M.
Subject: Re:

I don't think so I'm in FL but I think claire was handling .

From: McClellan, Scott
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 7:10 PM
To: DeFrancis, Suzy
Subject: Re: Tillman

No - ap reported it that way. Claire was asking themn to fix. Media affairs commented when asked for reaction from arizona press. They did not check to verify if it had been confirmed. We should correct msnbc too.

-----Original Message-----

From: DeFrancis, Suzy <Suzy_DeFrancis
To: McClellan, Scott <Scott_McClellan
Sent: Fri Apr 23 16:30:51 2004
Subject: Tillman

Did we put out a statement as MSNBC said...

Although the military had not officially confirmed Tillman's death, the White House put out a statement of sympathy that praised Tillman as "an inspiration both on an off the football field."

-----Original Message-----

From: Neusner, Noam M.
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 4:26 PM
To: DeFrancis, Suzy
Subject:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4815441/>