

Paul Raizk

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**Executive Office of The President
Barcode Scanning Sheet**



Collection Code: **SECLOG**

Staff Name: **PRESIDENT OBAMA**

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Document Date: **May 01, 2011**

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **CHAIR PRESIDENT OBAMA USED IN THE SITUATION ROOM DURING THE RAID TO CAPTURE OR KILL OSAMA BIN LADEN ON MAY 01 11. THE CHAIR WAS USED IN THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM. INCLUDED IN THE CASE IS A MEMO FROM CRAIG MCCORMICK, SENIOR DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, VERIFYING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CHAIR AS IT WAS USED. THE MCCORMICK MEMO IS DATED DEC 30 13. THE CHAIR WAS TURNED OVER TO THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT ON SEP 26 13.**



December 30, 2013

Phil Droege
Director, White House Office of Records Management
Executive Office of the President

Dear Mr. Droege,

At your request, we are providing this memo to document that the chair, currently in your possession, was indeed used by the President on the evening of 1 May 2011 in the White House Situation Room Small Conference Room. This is the same chair that is viewable in the widely distributed photograph taken that night by White House Photographer Pete Souza.

Our determination is based on discussions with current and former Situation Room employees, as well as a thorough review of photographs taken that day. On 1 May, the President and principals initially met in the John F. Kennedy (Large) Conference Room to monitor the raid on the UBL compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The President moved to the Small Conference Room, where additional feeds were being provided related to the raid. The President sat in the corner and was provided with one of the standard chairs that line the table in the Small Conference Room.[§]

After the raid, the chair was returned to its position in the Small Conference Room, and this is the same chair that we provided to you.

Please let us know if you have any further questions,

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig McCormick", followed by a long horizontal line.

Craig McCormick
Senior Director, White House Situation Room

[§] After moving to the Small Conference room, the President may have initially sat in a folding chair. During the 27 December 2012 NBC Rock Center with Brian Williams interview with the President, the President referred to the chair that he sat on in the Small Conference Room as a folding chair, and a folding chair was present in the interview. However, the photographs of the meeting show the President sitting in the standard chair we provided you.

Raizk, Paul S.

From: Droege, Philip C.
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2013 9:55 AM
To: Raizk, Paul S.
Subject: FW: Chair
Attachments: Scan.pdf

FYI – can you put this on the system in the code 300 section. Please add photo of situation room that day and I will take a picture of the chair.

It is currently in my office and will eventually move either to the SCIF or possibly directly to NARA. I'll let you know what that happens.

From: Katz, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2013 9:39 AM
To: Droege, Philip C.
Cc: Bresnahan, Gary E.; McCormick, Craig
Subject: RE: Chair

Phil,

Please see attached in reference to the chair.

Best,
Mike

Michael Katz
Executive Officer
White House Situation Room
202-456-3260 (Direct)
202-456-9431 (Watchfloor)

From: Droege, Philip C.
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 11:00 AM
To: Pfeiffer, Larry
Cc: Katz, Michael; Bresnahan, Gary E.
Subject: RE: Chair

Hi Larry – using the holiday's to circle back on some old non urgent emails. If you get a chance can you point me in the right direction to document the situation room chair you were able to give us for the future President Obama library?

Thanks and have a Happy New Year.

Phil

From: Pfeiffer, Larry
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 3:37 PM
To: Droege, Philip C.; Kramer, Doug
Cc: Katz, Michael; Bresnahan, Gary E.
Subject: Re: Chair

I'm away for the weekend, but we'll get you connected with the right folks to craft such a letter. Glad we were able to help. Someday when I visit the museum, I can point out the chair as something we contributed.

Larry
Larry Pfeiffer
Senior Director
White House Situation Room
202-456-9431

From: Droege, Philip C.
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 03:17 PM
To: Kramer, Doug; Pfeiffer, Larry
Subject: RE: Chair

Thanks, Doug and thanks in advance, Larry. This type of stuff is great for the future Presidential Libraries.

Doug - the 5 points you asked should cover it. Feel free to add a 6th about the role records management played in the operation.

Phil Droege
Director, WH Office of Records Management

From: Kramer, Doug
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 3:09 PM
To: Pfeiffer, Larry
Cc: Droege, Philip C.
Subject: Chair

Larry:

Thanks so much with your help with the chair. I'm connecting you with Phil Droege of the Office of Records Management. Phil will be responsible for transferring the chair to the National Archives. The Archives has asked for a letter, email, or anything that can provide a bit of background on the story behind the chair. Can you help put Phil in touch with the best person that would have personal knowledge of the circumstance?

Ultimately, we'd like to have some sort of account that explains the circumstances surrounding: (1) the group moving to the small conference room, (2) POTUS's decision to sit in the corner, (3) where the chair was found on that day, (4) where the chair was returned after he was done, and (5) how we recovered this one. (Does that cover it Phil?). We understand there may not be a perfect chain of custody on this, but we'd like to provide as much background as possible.

Doug



