

PSF Treas. Dept.

Secret Service

BSF *Secret Service folder*
2-44

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 4, 1944.

Mr. Frank J. Wilson,
Chief, U. S. Secret Service,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

For your information, we now have 28 military posts within and about the White House grounds throughout the twenty-four hour period. In my opinion, it would be reasonably safe to reduce this number to 16 posts throughout the twenty-four hour period, with two additional posts for eight hour periods when the President is in residence at the White House.

When the President is not in residence at the White House, the four double manned machine gun posts, two posts on West Executive Avenue and two posts on East Executive Avenue could be eliminated - thus leaving four men on duty throughout the twenty-four hour period with two additional men on duty for eight hour periods.

Providing the military authorities in immediate charge of the guard could be permitted to dispense with the required military training other than small arms practice and could also be permitted to have 50% of their effective strength on duty and on reserve instead of the regulation 75%, it occurs to me that a complement of 120 permanently assigned Marines or soldiers would be adequate for the protection of the President at the White House, at Catactin Mountain and at Warm Springs, Georgia. This would be effected by transporting personnel from the Washington barracks to either of the other points when a Presidential visit is anticipated.

By discontinuing the Signal Corps posts at Bolling Field, Fort Myer, Civilian Defense Headquarters, Metropolitan Police Department, by assigning operators to the White House Security Room from the White House Military Detail, and assigning operators to the Hyde Park Security Room from the Hyde Park Military Detail, and by reducing the overhead personnel, it appears the White House Signal Detachment could be reduced from 47 men to 7 men.

If any of the present Signal Corps personnel are to be assigned to handling the President's communications, it would be the responsibility of Admiral Brown and General Watson to request such an assignment. Some

of the personnel are from time to time engaged in handling the President's communications, but the arrangement has been informal and the personnel are charged to the Secret Service.

Should these suggestions be adopted and put into effect, it would decrease the number of personnel directly or indirectly assigned to the President's protection in Washington, Catoctin Mountain and Warm Springs from 627 men and officers to 127 men and officers.

This number does not include Hyde Park Military Detail, which has a total strength of 384 officers and men. This Detail performs a definite military function and its existence is justified for reasons other than the protection of the President. No written report has been received to date from any competent authority regarding modification of the Hyde Park Detail.

Very truly yours,

Michael F. Reilly

Michael F. Reilly,
Supervising Agent.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

APRIL 4, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. REILLY:

SUBJECT: MINIMUM NUMBER OF SIGNAL CORPS
PERSONNEL NECESSARY TO SUPPLE-
MENT WHITE HOUSE AND SECRET
SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS.

I CANNOT FORESEE ANY NECESSITY FOR
MORE THAN SEVEN MEN ON THIS DETAIL.
I WOULD SUGGEST THE THREE WARRANT
OFFICERS AND FOUR TECHNICAL SERGEANTS
OF THE PRESENT DETAIL. THESE MEN I
AM SURE CAN TAKE CARE OF ANY NORMAL
REQUIREMENT.

SHOULD AN OCCASION ARISE WHEREBY
ADDITIONAL SERVICE PERSONNEL IS NEEDED
WE HAVE ONLY TO CALL ON GENERAL STONER
OR ADMIRAL REDMOND THROUGH THE OFFICE
OF THE ARMY AND NAVAL AIDES TO THE
PRESIDENT.

Dewey E. Long
DEWEY E. LONG, CHIEF
WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS
AND TRAVEL SERVICE.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 23, 1944.

Mr. Frank J. Wilson,
Chief, U. S. Secret Service,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The attached reports relate to the duties and physical fitness for combat service of the military personnel who are assigned directly or indirectly to the protection of the President in Washington, D. C., at Hyde Park, N. Y. and Catocin Mountain, Maryland.

Very truly yours,

M. F. Reilly
M. F. Reilly,
Supervising Agent.

WHITE HOUSE SIGNAL DETACHMENT
94 TREASURY BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DG/pet

23 March 1944.

MEMORANDUM for Mr. Michael F. Reilly,
Supervising Agent, U. S. Secret Service,
The White House.

The following list shows distribution of
enlisted personnel of the White House Signal Detachment
as of this date. Twenty eight radiophone and telephone
operators assigned as follows:

Station #1 (White House Security)	-----	8
Station #3 (10th Precinct Police Station)	-----	4
Station #4 (Bolling Field)	-----	4
Station #5 (Ft. Myer, Va.)	-----	4
Station #6 (Fire Alarm Hq. and Civilian Defense)	-----	4
Hyde Park, N.Y.	-----	4
	Total	----- 28

Detachment Administration and Clerical	-----	2
Detachment and Signal Supply	-----	2
Research and Development	-----	2
Motor Maintenance and Drivers	-----	3
Radio Maintenance and Construction Personnel	-----	7
Cryptograph Equipment Maintenance	---	1
	Grand Total	----- 45

It is contemplated replacing most of existing
personnel with enlisted men physically incapacitated for
combat service or over the age limit for such service, as
soon as acceptable replacements have been furnished and
can be trained, to fill their important assignments.

According to a recent physical survey, thirty two
of the forty five enlisted men in this detachment are
physically qualified for overseas service. Three of this
number, however, are over the thirty eight year age limit.


DEWITT GREEN,
Major, Signal Corps,
Commanding Detachment.

Army personnel associated with or directly assigned
to the Protection of the President:

Washington Military District

Enlisted men	246	
Officers	<u>8</u>	
Total		254

Hyde Park Military Detail

Enlisted men	367	
Officers	<u>17</u>	
Total		384

White House Signal Corps Detachment

Enlisted men	45	
Officers	<u>2</u>	
Total		<u>47</u>

Grand Total 685

Breakdown re physical fitness

Enlisted men fit for combat duty	620
Officers fit for combat duty	25
Enlisted men physically unfit for combat duty	38
Officers physically unfit for combat duty	<u>2</u>
Total	685

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 23, 1944.

MARINE DETACHMENT CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN

Enlisted men 132

Officers 4

TOTAL - - - - 136

This detail is assigned to the protection of the President when he is in residence at Catoctin Mountain. They man 22 fixed posts and 13 other men are engaged on patrol with dogs within a densely wooded area, the perimeter of which is about fifteen miles.

When the President is not at Catoctin Mountain the entire detail undergoes a rigid training program.

All of the personnel except two Officers are physically fit and qualified for active combat duty.

The personnel of the Detail is constantly changing and all recent replacements have been men in their late thirties.

The War Manpower Committee recently made a thorough survey of the Detail and rendered an opinion there was no excess of personnel and that the manner of training and rotating personnel was satisfactory.

In my opinion this detail is operated at minimum strength. The men are on duty four hours and off duty eight hours. No liberty is granted when the President is in residence.

I believe the detail cannot be decreased as all posts are vitally essential.

M. F. Reilly
M. F. Reilly,
Supervising Agent.

Marine personnel associated with or directly assigned
to the protection of the President:

Catoctin Mountain Detachment

Enlisted men	132
Officers	<u>4</u>
Total	136

All of the enlisted men and two of the Officers are physically fit for combat duty.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 23, 1944.

250th MILITARY POLICE COMPANY (Special)
Washington Military District

Enlisted Men - - - -	246
Officers - - - - -	<u>8</u>
TOTAL -	254

This Detail is assigned to the immediate protection of the White House. Its personnel man 28 posts, each of which is vitally essential to insure the protection of the President while he is in residence at the White House.

The men are on post 2 hours, then off 4 hours throughout a 24 hour period. During the following 24 hour period they are engaged in training activities and then during the third 24 hour period resume duty. This schedule is continued except when the men are given pass or leave.

Fourteen men and one Officer are assigned exclusively for the purpose of combatting chemical warfare.

There has been a turnover of 20% of the personnel since the Detail was first assigned.

Captain Minns, the Commanding Officer, advises me all of the personnel except 25 men and one Officer, or a total of 221 men and Officers, are physically fit for combat duty.

* * * * *

M. F. Reilly,
Supervising Agent.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 23, 1944.

WHITE HOUSE SIGNAL DETACHMENT

The following report relates to the personnel of the Army Signal Corp assigned at the White House:

Station No. 1 (White House Security)	-----	8
Station No. 3 (10th Precinct-Police)	-----	4
Station No. 4 (Bolling Field)	-----	4
Station No. 5 (Ft. Myer, Va.)	-----	4
Station No. 6 (Fire Alarm & Civilian Defense)	-----	4
Hyde Park, N. Y.	-----	4
Detachment Administration and Clerical	-----	2
Detachment and Signal Supply	-----	2
Research and Development	-----	2
Motor Maintenance and Drivers	-----	3
Radio Maintenance and Construction Personnel	-----	7
Cryptograph Equipment Maintenance	-----	1
Officers	-----	<u>2</u>

TOTAL - - - 47

Of the above I feel we can now eliminate the Bolling Field, Fire Alarm & Civilian Defense, and the Fort Myer stations plus four additional men for a total of 16 men to be released.

All of the personnel except 13 enlisted men are physically qualified for combat duty.

* * * * *

M. F. Reilly,
Supervising Agent.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 23, 1944.

HYDE PARK MILITARY POLICE DETAIL

The following outline of the military establishment at the President's Estate at Hyde Park, N. Y. is submitted herewith:

Non-Commissioned Officers	
and enlisted men	364
Officers (includes 2 Medical men)	<u>17</u>
T-O-T-A-L	<u>381</u>

All of the personnel excepting one officer are physically qualified for combat service.

The primary purpose of this detail is the training of Military Police. Its secondary function is the protection of the President. There have been two entire changes of personnel since it was first organized on August 15, 1942.

There are 57 posts being manned, 10 men are held in reserve and 16 other men are engaged on a continuous motor patrol throughout the day and night when the President is in residence at Hyde Park. These men are strategically posted to enclose an area, the perimeter of which is approximately 11½ miles (within which area 90% of the President's activities are confined).

When the President is not at Hyde Park there are only 11 posts to be manned which require 33 men. The remaining 348 Officers and men undergo a rigid training program.

From this organization superior cadres, well versed and thoroughly trained in every phase of military police work, are transferred at intervals of about four months to other Army units.

* * * * *

M. F. Reilly,
Supervising Agent.

~~SECRET~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

25 March 1944

7

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON:

The other day Secretary Morgenthau conferred with General Marshall regarding reducing the strength of the Military Police Detachments at the White House and Hyde Park. Subsequently, Mr. Morgenthau, Chief Wilson, Mike Reilly, and General Lewis conferred regarding this matter. Agreements have been reached calling for considerable reductions in the future of both Military Police Detachments. General Marshall has also directed the Commanding General, Second Service Command, to confer with Chief Wilson regarding detailed reductions in the Military Police Detachment at Hyde Park.

B. W. Davenport

B. W. DAVENPORT,
Major, G. S. C.,
Asst. Secretary, General Staff.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-3-78

~~SECRET~~