



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
11000 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
SUITE 10117
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024
(310) 235-7272
FAX (310) 235-7274

IN REPLY REFER TO

15 May 95

From: First Lieutenant Dustin Salem, Deputy Director, Marine Corps
Public Affairs Office, Los Angeles
To: Bill Fay, Producer, "Independence Day"

Encl: Copy of memo from Army office outlining their concerns

SUBJ: DOD APPROVAL OF "INDEPENDENCE DAY"

Although some changes were made to the first script, there are still many concerns about the revised script which would preclude Department of Defense assistance. In order to create an accurate and favorable portrayal of the military, all of these problem areas will need to be addressed. The script as it stands is not supportable. We hope to be able to continue working with you to come up with a mutually agreeable revision that is more accurate and feasible. The following are some of our concerns.

1) The overall scenario does not leave the public with a positive impression of the military and its capabilities. We see military bases and aircraft decimated by the aliens and ultimately it takes a civilian to stop the alien takeover. Although you did a good job of energizing General Grey's actions in the rewrite, developing a military hero would greatly add to the credibility of the military. One idea is to make David a former Army signal intelligence officer who gets called back to active duty in this time of crisis. He never really fit in while in the military. He can still be a quirky, environmentally conscious cable repairman. The fact that he doesn't fit the military stereotype will make him more interesting.

2) As it stands, Steve Hill is the main military hero. Steve's cavalier attitude and irresponsible actions (saying "let's kick some alien ass", giving fireworks to a child, etc.) do not reflect the maturity and leadership traits that a real Marine Corps officer must have. Steve may be a crack pilot, but he is no leader of Marines. Although Steve acts heroically in the end, he has some serious character flaws that need to be addressed. (The fact that Steve dates a stripper also reflects poorly on his character.)

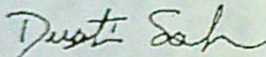
3) The connection to Roswell and Area 51 is also a major stumbling block. By eliminating any government connection to this "incident", I think we can resolve this problem. A grass-roots civilian group can be protecting the alien ship on an abandoned base.

Throughout the script, there are many inaccuracies about military organizations, their different roles, and rank structures, but these are easily fixed. For example, military decisions would not be made in the Oval office. The President should be in the Presidential Briefing Room

(in the basement of the White House). Many of the decisions would be made at the National Military Command Center (known as "the tank") in the Pentagon. Additionally, NORAD and U.S. Space Command can be incorporated or at least referred to. Overall, the action should follow what would really happen in an emergency situation. We will happily provide information that will help make the script more believable. That is why we are here.

We appreciate the fact that you are interested in making a patriotic film that positively depicts the military and DoD. In order for us to approve "Independence Day" for official assistance, however, our regulations dictate that certain criteria must be met. This criteria are outlined in the DoD Instruction, which acts as our bible for supporting filmed entertainment. We look forward to discussing these points with you in more detail so we can move ahead.

Sincerely,



Dustin Salem, 1stLt USMC
Deputy Director

CENTROPOLIS

ENTERTAINMENT

May 8, 1995

Mr. Phil Strub
Special Assistant A/V
OASD (PA) Rm.2E789
The Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Strub:

Regarding Defense Department concerns over our project "Independence Day" the following changes have been made:

1. **Authentic or feasible interpretation of military life operations and policy.**

We have attempted to correct some of the chain-of-command issues, i.e. including the hierarchy structures of the involvement of the U.S. Space Command and the Atlantic Air Command.

- General Grey has been changed from Chairman of the Joint Chiefs to a four star general in charge of U.S. Space Command.
- Lt. Steven Hill no longer drinks beer and realizes that if he wants to succeed in the military, he'll have to "grow up."

1. **Informational value; promotes public understanding of armed forces and DoD.**

- In attempting to clarify the proper channels of the military we hope this adds to the public understanding of how the military operates.
- We've removed the "Roswell incident" and "Area 51" from the domain of the military. Both incidents, now in the script, are part of a fictional government agency called the National Information Agency. This agency had been run by our character Nimziki (formerly the Secretary of Defense, now changed to White House Chief of Staff). We believe that by altering these things we've put the military in a better and more realistic light.

2. **Enhances recruiting and retention.**

- We've made General Grey an old friend of the President's, they served together in the Gulf War. The General is a stronger and more effective character.
- Our scientist nerd, David, now has a background in the military (he had served in the National Guard) and this gives him some insight into the satellite signal he discovers.

2. Enhances recruiting and retention.

- We've made General Grey an old friend of the President's, they served together in the Gulf War. The General is a stronger and more effective character.
- Our scientist nerd, David, now has a background in the military (he had served in the National Guard) and this gives him some insight into the satellite signal he discovers.
- The President, a former fighter pilot, believes he must get back to what made him a leader in the first place - the things he developed in the military. This is why he chooses to lead his men into battle at the end of the movie (like a King leading the charge).

- We believe that by strengthening the military aspect of these characters, we'll portray the military experience in a more positive and alluring portrait. The military is now much more effective.

What is not reflected in the script, though I'd be happy to show you models and story-boards, is how fantastic the flying sequences are going to be. We're going to make Star Wars and Top Gun look like paper airplanes! Just wait, there has never been any aerial footage like this before. If this doesn't make every boy in the country want to fly a fighter jet, I'll eat this script.

To address some more specific notes....

"No true military heroes..."

- David now has a military background, General Grey is now a more supportive, energized character, and the President recaptures his military experience by leading his troops into battle.

"Characterization of Defense Secretary and JCS Chairman are both negative"

- The Secretary of Defense has been changed to the White House Chief of Staff and former head of the NIA who had kept and maintained NIA's Area 51 (no link to military). The JCS Chairman is now the Space Command CINC and old friend of the President (he now confronts Nimziki about hiding information from the military and costing us lives - removes responsibility from military).

"Military no longer operates unilaterally..."

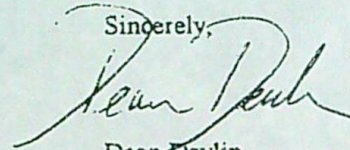
- I've attempted to involve Atlantic Air Command and Space Command. As this is new territory for me, I may have made some mistakes here, but we can work together on this to get it more accurate.

"Incident at Roswell AFB myth..."

- We've removed the Roswell incident from the AFB and Area 51 from AFB. Both are controlled and known only by the NIA (fictional government agency).
- "Would not want public to think just anyone can fly such a hi-tech aircraft..."

- We've added that Russell is "type-rated" in this draft. In the next draft of the script, he won't even be flying a jet at the end of the picture. He will be using his old crop-duster as a diversionary tactic.

I've had to work quickly, so remember that this is still very much a work in progress and will continue to change. Some of the changes we discussed did not work and I could not use them, some of the changes I may have simply over-looked. So please do not feel this draft is written in stone. If you have any questions regarding this draft, contact me A.S.A.P.

Sincerely,

Dean Devlin

DD/dm

enclosure: copy of new draft of "Independence Day"

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Defense Department assistance may be authorized when production is considered to be:

- authentic or feasible interpretation of military life, operations and policy;
- informational value; promotes public understanding of armed forces and DoD;
- enhances recruiting and retention.

Significant problem areas as script is currently written:

1. No true military heroes. Military appears impotent and/or inept; All advances in stopping aliens are result of actions by civilians;
2. Characterization of Defense Secretary and JCS Chairman are both negative;
3. Military no longer operates unilaterally; Defense of CONUS would be commanded by CINC (commander in chief) U.S. Atlantic Command (Norfolk, VA); USA Command would be supported by CINC U.S. Space Command (Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs);
4. Incident at Roswell AFB is a myth; DoD would not want to support a film which perpetuates myth; DoD cannot hide info from president (i.e. aliens and ship in custody);
5. Would not want public to think just anyone can fly such a hi-tech aircraft; can't have drunk pilot; president would not fly aircraft;
6. Action takes place so rapidly (3 days) that there would be insufficient time to mobilize National Guard and/or active military units.

Potential fixes:

- a. David could be Reservist or former military (specialist in intel, crypto comm, etc.);
- b. Change Secretary to WH Chief of Staff or other administration official;
- c. Energize actions of JCS Chairman (Gen. Grey);
- d. Incorporate U. S. Atlantic Command and U.S. Space Command;
- e. Energize and clean up Steven's actions;

f. Change custodians of aliens and spacecraft to grassroots public protectionist group (or at minimum, a nebulous government agency);

g. Make Russell (crop duster) former fighter pilot;
Increase time between last drink and flight of aircraft;

15 May 1995
Army Points of Concern
"Independence day"

Overall Points:

Since this movie has very little in it for the Army, the only reason we would support it is as a courtesy to the other services. For the Army there is nothing in it for us. A possible solution would be to make David Martin an Army Signal officer assigned to Fort Detrick, MD as a satellite communications officer. This would make his travel to the White House more believable, especially with everyone trying to get out of the DC area.

The military's depiction on a whole is not realistic. With work, both of these points may be able to be addressed, but in order to get the cooperation of all of the services, since all are depicted, many points must be addressed. The first point is General Grey. Who is he, the commander of US Space Command, or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs? It appears likely he is the latter. This would clean-up a lot of problems with his portrayal throughout the script.

Another area is the control of the military. The President does not have the capability to watch individual attacks, nor should he be doing this. He should be concerned with the strategic operations, not the tactical operations. In other words, he should be concerned about what is going on throughout the country and the world, not, for example, the battle over Los Angeles.

Also the President would not lead the fighters in the final attack. He is the President and there is more to leading the country than acting like a "king leading the charge." Have General Grey be a Vietnam era pilot and he leads the pilots.

The reference to Hanger 51 and Area 51 is too close to being under military control. There are references to military vehicles and guards and a military chapel.

Page-by-Page Points of Concern:

Page: Scene:

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| 3 | 9 | US Space Command is located at Patrick AFB, Colorado, not the Pentagon. The answer maybe to make Grey the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and the "commanding officer" the watch officer at the National Military Command Center (NMCC). This would also clean-up Grey's line on page 4, scene 10, when he requests the Secretary of Defense. |
| 3 | 10 | Extremely doubtful an educated general, who would have knowledge of photo-analysis, would say the object "looks like a big turd." |

- 15 29 The officer from the NMCC would not be at the White House. This could be one of Grey's staff officers, who was scene earlier with Grey at the NMCC.
- 16 29 We don't have "yellow alerts" or red alerts for that matter. To go to DEFCON 3 there are certain events that must take place and Nimziki does not have the authority to place the country at it.
- 19 39 The only first lieutenant on a carrier would be in the Marine detachment. The Navy does not have "first lieutenants."

A lieutenant on a carrier does not have the power to "get the CINC Atlantic Command on the line." He had better notify the ship's commander first.

The EISENHOWER is in the Persian Gulf. That's Central Commands area, not Atlantic Commands.

- 20 40 What is "visual range" "over Iraqi airspace?"
- 20 41 This scene would not happen at the Oval Office.
- 22 44 The President would not listen, real time, to radio traffic between an AWAC and its base. He would be more concerned about the strategic operations of the whole country and the world.
- 24 48 If the president doesn't want people to panic why does he say to have them "...take cover." and how are they to do that?
- 32 85 Wolf Blitzer no longer covers the Pentagon for CNN.
- 43 105 The highway patrol would be directing traffic before the military.
- 44 109 Later we find out that Steve is a lieutenant colonel (page 86). If he is dating a stripper it would be better to make him no more then a captain. This is also more in line with his character throughout the script
- 47 114 No need for tanks outside the White House. Armored Personnel Carriers would be more likely.
- 49 117 Same as above.
- 50 120 The Apache is an attack helicopter. It would be more realistic to have a Quickfix Blackhawk for this mission. It is a communications helicopter. Another possible helicopter maybe the new Comanche.

- 55 131 Twenty-five minutes is not enough time to get the message passed down through the various commands. The commander of Atlantic Command does not have radio contact with each unit on the ground.
- 67 180 Grey would not give the order "fire at will." The pilots would have had their commands given to them in their mission briefing. This makes it appear that all of the military is run by one man.
- 69 192 Again the President would not watch one battle when the whole country is under attack.
- 71 198 Scene reminiscent of "Battle for Britain." Pilots should have been in aircraft or on station in a holding pattern.
- 72 202 Steve's aircraft would never have made it to the Grand Canyon in the time depicted here. California mountains near Death Valley is slightly more believable, or the mountains along the coast. That would mean moving the NIA facility to California, which may help to distant it from Area 51.
- 76 211 NORAD is buried in the mountains. Earlier the aliens weapons just struck the surface and Jasmine was able to seek cover in a garage off an open tunnel.
- 78 211 All reference to Rosswell must be dropped. This and the following dialogue gives the impression the government is in a conspiracy to keep the truth from the people.
- 86 228 Steve acts to young to be a lieutenant colonel.
- Extremely doubtful the guard would let Steve and the vehicles in during a national emergency, especially with the president there.
- 88 232 Miguel and the others would not be allowed in a top secret facility.
- 90 235 Is Steve a lieutenant colonel or a lieutenant. The president says lieutenant.
- 95 244 Secret Service lets the president into too many dangerous situations.
- 96 246 Steve cannot steal a helicopter.

- 103 273 Doubtful a helicopter would be able to reach El Torro from Nevada on one tank of fuel. By placing the NIA facility in California it could be possible.
- 113 284 It's the Golan Heights, not the "Golan Straights."
- 116 293 Who is Mitchell? A special agent, a scientist or a weapons technician?
- 119 294 What is a military chapel doing on the NIA facility? Government chapels do not have crosses or stars affixed to them. They are nondenominational chapels.
- 120 296 The president would not lead the pilots, he is the commander in chief first, a pilot somewhere well down the list. It would be more believable if Grey lead the pilots. Grey would be an Air Force general, who was a pilot first in Vietnam and latter was the president's commander in Desert Storm, though that too is doubtful.
- 140 400 The Army uses HMMWV's now, not jeeps.

To: Lt. Dustin Salem

From: Sanja Hays, "Independence Day"

We have the following questions that we would like to have answered regarding our film.

1. What would the Secret Service be wearing in the helicopter with the President's wife? - Suits
2. Would there be any women (military) in Air Force 1?
Possibly crew or servants? Yes. No servants on it.
If there are women, what do they wear? light blue shirt w/ skirt or slacks.
3. Would the crew of Marine 1 be in fatigues or a dress uniform?
4. Would the President's doctor be in uniform, and if so which?
5. In the B-2 Bomber, do the crew wear G-suits, and would they be with parachutes? No-parachutes, No G-suits
6. If the National Guard was in front of the White House, would they be MPs? No, wearing BDU's.
7. What colors should the Marine MPs be wearing? - dress blue Alpha's
8. Would there be any women among the military brass in the White House? No
9. - Air Force on tarmac → Colors of vests + what they mean? Air Force 1.
10. - when helos leave? Ground crew vests? → orange vests
•Thank you for your help

Sanja Hays

My Q's

Filming in Utah, how far from Salt Lake City?

1 1/2 hrs. → Windover, Utah.

→ Squadron patches of crew + others?

Blue - Revised 7/14/95

109

Everyone stares at the floating ship with wonder.

PRESIDENT

Let's do it.

Everyone stares at the floating attacker as David moves alongside Steve.

DAVID

(aside to Steve)

You really think you can fly that thing?

STEVE

You really think you can do all that bullshit you just said you could?

Neither has an answer. They just turn back to the attacker.

282 INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

282

Constance, General Grey and the President are walking down the hall. Nimziki rushes to catch up.

NIMZIKI

I understand that you're upset over the death of your wife but that's no excuse for making another fatal mistake...

The President whirls, grabs Nimziki and SLAMS him against the wall. Holding him tight, the President gets in his face.

PRESIDENT

The only mistake I made was appointing a sniveling little weasel like you Sec. of Defense.

Constance is about to intervene when General Grey stops her.

PRESIDENT (cont'd)

But this is a mistake, I am thankful to say, I do not have to live with. Mr. Nimziki, you're fired.

The President releases him and turns to General Grey.

PRESIDENT (cont'd)

Organize every plane you can find and get me some Goddamned pilots to fly them.

GENERAL GREY

Yes, Sir.

Marine Corps Public Affairs Office, LA
1stLt. Dustin Salem (310) 235-7272

"INDEPENDENCE DAY"

Marine Corps related and other questions:

- 1) Who provides security for the Pentagon itself (inside & outside)?

There is a civilian Pentagon police force in charge of security. They control access to the building and have civilian type police uniforms. At the NMCC (National Military Command Center) itself, you would also have Marine security guards (MPs) dressed in Service "C" uniform with a sidearm and holster.

Defense Protective Service.

photos of uniforms?

Patches or Badges

- 2) What branch has jurisdiction for U.S. Space Command?

See brief sheet. It's a joint service command, the current commanding officer is a Air Force four star general.

- 3) What branch is responsible for Atlantic Command?

See brief sheet. It's a joint service command, the current commanding officer is a Marine four star general.

- 4) Joint Chiefs of Staff uniforms?

Marine General should wear Service "A" uniform with ribbons and badges if he is meeting with the president. However, if he is working out of the Pentagon in the summer time, he will wear his Service "C" with ribbons. The JCS and JCS staff should wear the JCS Badge centered on the left pocket.

- 5) Would a nanny at the White House wear a uniform of some sort or a WH pass?

Not military, we don't know.

- 6) Which branch has the Presidential helos? Pilots' uniforms?

The helicopters are part of HMX-1 (Marine One) Squadron. The pilots' uniforms are dress blue delta with ribbons (with Presidential Service Badge). Pilots don't wear helmet they wear headset over the ears. The crew chief of the helo is enlisted (make him a staff sergeant). He should wear Dress Blue "A" with medals and a Presidential

Joseph Porro - Designer
Samya Hayes - Asst D. w/ Fox

- * Eastern Costume supplies. costumes.
- * CRC
- 15 June 95
- * Western

Service Badge centered on the right pocket.

7) USMC pilot uniform (to include patches, etc..)?

Marine pilots wear a flight suit. When flying they also have on a G-suit, torso harness, SV-2 (survival vest) w/ oxygen mask attached, and a helmet. They also carry their Nav (navigation) bag with them.

8) Is the UGH 55P helmet for fighter pilots used for all branches?

I've been told the helmets are standard for all services. However, Marines have a camouflage, velcro-attached cover over theirs.

9) Pilot uniforms for Iraq, Israel, Russia, Saudi Arabia?

*→ Find out about patches.

- Can we use the "Black Knights" patches?

- Get photos of flight suits & patches
as well as full gear photo.

1932

*→ call HMX-1 → should be in blues or flight suit for emergency?

ATTN: DIONNE

42 INT. AWAC AIRPLANE - DAY

WALL TO WALL....HAY WIRE. RADAR IS GHOSTING AND FULL OF WEATHER
STORM TYPE OF SIGNATURE.

RADAR TECH #1

(TO RADAR TECH #2)

THIS BLOWS. LOOK AT THIS ~~SHIT~~ CRAP!
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN IT FADE LIKE
THIS?

TECH #2

(TO #1)

DAMN! ACCORDING TO THAT
SCREEN WE SHOULD BE RIGHT
ON TOP OF HURICANE HUGO.
THAT DEFINATELY CAN'T BE
RIGHT.

PILOT

INTERAIRCRAFT COMM FROM COCKPIT TO BACK OF AIRCRAFT

(TO TECH #1)

WHATS THE STORY PETTY OFFICER BETTEN?
GIVE ME A REP ON THE CONTACT.

AIRBOSS FROM AIRCRAFT CARRIER KITTY HAWK

(INTO RADIO)

HAWKEYE 28, THIS IS MOTHER.

PILOT

(INTO OUTSIDE COMM OR RADIO)

HAWKEYE 28. GO AHEAD.

AIRBOSS

(INTO RADIO)

REQUEST SITREP.

PILOT

(TO COPILOT)

SHIT. HE WOULD HAVE TO CALL NOW.

(TO BOSS IN RADIO)

STANDBY. *HESITATE* HAWKEYE 28'S NEGATIVE SWEEP.
WE'RE POPEYE.

(TO RADAR TECH #1 INTERRADIO)

I NEED A CONTACT BEARING NOW!

1/4

SEP 87 155 01:35PM JPHU MCHS EL TORO P.3

RADAR TECH #1

(TO PILOT INTERRADIO)

SIR, LAST HIT BEFORE THIS STATIC WAS BEARING 325 AT 37,000 FEET. RANGE UNKNOWN. THE SCOPES ACTING UP REALLY BAD. I TRIED A COLD START ON IT, BUT GOT NO IMPROVEMENT. WE'RE NOT BEING JAMMED, ALTHOUGH IT KIND OF LOOKS LIKE THAT TYPE OF FLAK.

PILOT

(TO COPILOT)

Sierra A ~~WHL~~ ~~PILOT~~, EH? ~~PILOT~~ PIECE OF FOD.

(TO PILOTS OF F-18'S)

STINGER 13 AND FLIGHT, THIS IS HAWK 28, DO YOU HAVE BOGEY CONTACT?

F-18 PILOT #2

(TO F-18 PILOT #1 OVER BACK RADIO)

TWO'S CLEAN HIGH.

F-18 PILOT #1

(TO HAWKEYE PILOT OVER FRONT RADIO)

LUGEY FLIGHT CLEAN HIGH AND LOW.

COPILOT

(TO TECH #1 INTER RADIO)

SWITCH SEARCH MODES.

AIRBOSS

(TO PILOT OVER RADIO)

HAWKEYE 28, MOTHER, GO CRPTO ON QUAD 3'S (333.3).

PILOT

(TO AIRBOSS OVER RADIO)

28, SWITCHING.

(TO COPILOT)

I DON'T LIKE THIS. HE'S GONNA TRY TO CHEW MY ASS.

COPILOT

(TO PILOT)

BE BULLET PROOF, HUCK.

(TO TECHS)

RUN COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST POSSIBLE JAMMING AND GO VELOCITY SEARCH.

PILOT

(TO AIRBOSS)

28 CHECKING IN

AIRBOSS
(TO PILOT)
(PISSED)

UN~~DER~~STAND YOURSELF 28. STANDBY FOR THE SKIPPER.

SCREW

ADMIRAL HUGHES

(FICTITIOUS COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE USS KITTY HAWK)
HAWEYE 28, THIS IS ADMIRAL HUGHES.

PILOT
(TO SKIPPER)
YES SIR.

ADM HUGHES
(TO PILOT OVER RADIO)
LIEUTENANT, THE PRESIDENT, *THE* PRESIDENT HIMSELF IS ON THE OTHER
LINE. WE NEED INFORMATION, NOW. I'M GOING TO PATCH YOU THROUGH
TO HIM.

PILOT
(TO ADM OVER RADIO)
YES SIR.
(TO COPILOT) *SCREWED!*
WE'RE ~~WONNERS~~. I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. I SWEAR WE'RE GOING TO LOSE THE
ENG NEXT. I SHOULD OF WENT MED DOWN THIS MORNING.

ADM
(TO PILOT AND PRESIDENT)
YOUR CONNECTED. MR. PRESIDENT, SIR, THIS IS LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER JACKSON PILOTING THE E-3 HAWKEYE AND LIEUTENANTS
SUEL AND MASTERS IN THE ESCORTING F-18'S. THEY HAVE THE
REPORT.

TECH #2
(TO PILOT)
SIR, CONTACT 330, FIFTEEN MILES, FORTY THOUSAND FEET. BE ADVISED
THAT THE SCOPE IS STILL JUMPY AND THAT MAY BE INACCURATE.

PRESIDENT
(TO PILOT)
COMMANDER, TALK ME THROUGH WHAT YOUR EXPERIENCING.

PILOT
(TO PRES AND LISTENERS)

SEP 87 '95 01:36PM JPHU TICS EL TORO

SIR, WE HAVE A POSSIBLE CONTACT AT FIFTEEN MILES AND FORTY THOUSAND FEET. THE COPILOT IS VECTORING FIGHTERS ON STATION TO INTERCEPT. WE ARE EXPERIENCING INTERFERENCE SO WE CANNOT GET A CONCRETE READING NOR CAN WE GET A VISUAL, SIR, BECAUSE WE'RE IN THICK WEATHER.

PILOT OF F-18

(TO PRES AND LISTENERS)

SIR, STINGER 13 AND FLIGHT HAVE LOCK ON THE BOGEY. TWENTY SECONDS TO INTERCEPT. WE CANNOT GET AN ID WITH INSTRUMENTS OR VISUALLY. WE'RE IMC. WE SHOULD BE BREAKING OUT SOON.

NOTES: ACCORDING TO CAPT MULCRONE, THE AWAC OR F-18 OR ANY OTHER CURRENT PLANE WOULD HARDLY EVER (NEVER?) HAVE RADAR PROBLEMS - SO YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THE PROBLEM IS FROM HIGH-SPEED ALIEN JAMMING EQUIPMENT WHICH IS WHY THEY ARE HAVING PROBLEMS.

SSGT D.

4/4

Attn: Dean Devlin
Subj: SCENES 41-47 (AWACS DIALOG)

Sir,

Here is some suggested dialog to replace the scenes in question.

(last part of scene 41)

GENERAL GREY

Mr. President, we have an AWACS on the west coast -- E.T.A. three minutes on station.

(Note: The term "contact point" is O.K. if that's where you intend on having the president able to contact the plane. But if you are talking about getting the AWACS in the area, then "on station" is more appropriate.)

Scene 42

RADAR TECH 1

It's no use. Radar is down -- I can't see a thing in my sector.

(Note: No such thing as a side radar. It's one big rotating monster on top of the plane, and each of the techs are responsible for a certain sector of coverage.)

RADAR TECH 2

That's correct. We're in some serious goo, sir.

PILOT

(Into radio)

Negative. (Call sign*) still in the goo.

(*Note: A pilot does not refer to his plane as "we", rather he will always report his call sign and the last two digits of his flight. For example, if his call sign is "Hawkeye" and he was the first flight to launch that day, he would call himself "Hawkeye 01." However, within the cockpit, or within the plane itself, we and us is O.K. On the radio out of the plane to the tower or another plane, it's always call sign. No one can see what "we" he is talking about.)

Scene 44

Pilot is patched from radio to president on phone.

PILOT

Sir, our radar is receiving interference. We can't get a clear reading on what's in front of us. We're IMC.

Scene 45

PILOT

Wait a minute, the clouds are breaking, sir. I may be able to get a visual.

Scene 46

(Note: Pilots always act before they speak.)

Pilot cuts power and yanks the yoke hard down and to the left.

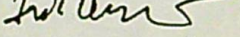
PILOT

Jesus God! The sky's on fire!

The AWAC attempts a diving turn (split S) to turn in opposite direction.

(Note: Since an AWAC is a propeller-driven aircraft, its evasive maneuver is not a climb, rather it is a split S, as explained above. It can turn on a dime, but can't climb fast enough to avoid collisions.)

Hope this helps! Please call if you have any questions!

SSgt Tim Dougherty 
U.S. Marine Corps Public Affairs
310-235-7272

MD 5/5/95

22.

Super: Pacific Ocean near the California Coastline

The AWAC disappears from view into the clouds.

- 44 INT. OVAL OFFICE - SAME *through Flight Service Station*
Pilot is patched ~~into~~ radio ~~transmit~~ to Pres over phone.
The President and his top advisors are gathered around a speaker phone listening to the pilot of the AWAC. (44)

PILOT

(filtered)

Sir, Instrumentation is our radar is receiving interference.
malfunctioning. We can't get a clear
any kind of reading on what's
in front of us. We're I.M.C.

- 45 INT. AWAC - SAME (45)

The Pilot squints as he tries to see through the clouds.

PILOT

Wait a minute, it may be the clouds are ~~thinning~~
clearing. the clouds are breaking up, I may
be able to get a visual.

Suddenly the clouds part before us and we're face to face with a WALL OF FLAMES.

- 46 INT. OVAL OFFICE - SAME 46

The speaker phone crackles and distorts.

PILOT

(filtered)

- Jesus God! The sky's on fire!*
(Pilot chaps power & yanks)
47 EXT. AWAC AND PHENOMENON - SAME *(Pilot yanks power & yanks)*
a turning turn (split 5) to head in the opposite direction. (47)
The AWAC attempts to climb sharply as we get our first real look at the atmospheric phenomenon. Majestic and monstrous. The AWAC is not going to be able to make it.

Quickly it is ENGULFED in the flames.

- 48 INT. OVAL OFFICE - SAME 48

The phone line goes dead. General Grey spins to an AIDE.

GENERAL GREY

Get them back on line.

AIDE #1

(on other phone)

Line's gone, sir.

Will Smith - Took to El Toro on 13 June for actor orientation
Squadron tour and simulator. Was on cover of Flight Jacket next week.

PO Mattson of Navy/Marine Corps News wants to do interview with Will Smith. Will try to coincide with story on "Space" series. Call Dean Devlin and his publicist.
Mattson's # - (202) 433-6242

Matthew Perry - Will take on actor orientation tour of El Toro on 24 July.
Perry's manager is Ken at (310) 553-1211.

Bill Pullman - Will try to arrange actor orientation for 1 Aug. Is he a former Marine?

*Working w/ Capt. Freed + Capt. Fullerton of VMFA-314,
Coord. thru Sgt. Pawelek @ El Toro PA.*



Army Public Affairs - Los Angeles

FAX COVER SHEET

Wednesday, May 10, 1995 04:48:54 PM

To: OASD/PA/SAAV
Attention: Phil Strub
Fax #: 5-1-703-695-1149

From:
Fax #: (310) 473-8874
Voice: (310) 235-7621

Fax: 3 pages and a cover page.



Note:

Phil, These are my points of concern for "Independence Day." It isn't as hopeless as I thought but it won't be easy. LTC Marovitz has not seen these yet. I'll wait to hear from you before I pass them to anyone. Call me if you have any questions. Tom

10 April 1995
Army Points of Concern
"Independence day"

Overall Points:

For the Army, there is very little depiction of us, and therefore nothing in it for us. A possible solution would be to make David Martin an Army Signal officer assigned to Fort Detrick, MD as a satellite communications officer. This would make his travel to the White House more believable, especially with everyone trying to get out of the DC area.

The military's depiction on a whole is not realistic. With work, both of these points may be able to be addressed, but in order to get the cooperation of all of the services, since all are depicted, many points must be addressed. The first point is General Grey. Who is he, the commander of US Space Command, or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs? It appears likely he is the latter. This would clean-up a lot of problems with his portrayal throughout the script.

Another area is the control of the military. The President does not have the capability to watch individual attacks, nor should he be doing this. He should be concerned with the strategic operations, not the tactical operations. In other words, he should be concerned about what is going on throughout the country and the world, not, for example, the battle over Los Angeles.

Also the President would not lead the fighters in the final attack. He is the President and there is more to leading the country than acting like a "king leading the charge." Have General Grey be a Vietnam era pilot and he leads the pilots.

The reference to Hanger 51 and Area 51 is too close to being under military control. There are references to military vehicles and guards and a military chapel.

Page-by-Page Points of Concern:

Page: Scene:

3	9	US Space Command is located at Patrick AFB, Colorado, not the Pentagon. The answer maybe to make Grey the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and the "commanding officer" the watch officer at the National Military Command Center (NMCC). This would also clean-up Grey's line on page 4.
---	---	--

15	29	The officer from the NMCC would not be at the White House. This could be one of Grey's staff officers, who was scene earlier with Grey at the NMCC.
----	----	---

19	39	A lieutenant on a carrier does not have the power to "get the CINC Atlantic Command on the line." He had better notify the ship's commander first.
----	----	--

- 20 41 This scene would not happen at the Oval Office.
- 22 44 The President would not listen, real time, to radio traffic between an AWAC and its base. He would be more concerned about the strategic operations of the whole country and the world.
- 43 105 The highway patrol would be directing traffic before the military.
- 44 109 Later we find out that Steve is a lieutenant colonel (page 86). If he is dating a stripper it would be better to make him no more than a captain. This is also more in line with his character throughout the script.
- 47 114 No need for tanks outside the White House. Armored Personnel Carriers would be more likely.
- 50 120 The Apache is an attack helicopter. It would be more realistic to have a Quickfix Blackhawk for this mission. It is a communications helicopter. Another possible helicopter maybe the new Comanche.
- 67 180 Grey would not give the order "fire at will." The pilots would have had their commands given to them in their mission briefing. This makes it appear that all of the military is run by one man.
- 69 192 Again the President would not watch one battle when the whole country is under attack.
- 71 198 Scene reminiscent of "Battle for Britain." Pilots should have been in aircraft or on station in a holding pattern.
- 72 202 Steve's aircraft would never have made it to the Grand Canyon in the time depicted here. California mountains near Death Valley is slightly more believable, or the mountains along the coast. That would mean moving the NIA facility to California, which may help to distant it from Area 51.
- 86 228 Steve acts to young to be a lieutenant colonel.
- Extremely doubtful the guard would let Steve and the vehicles in during a national emergency, especially with the president there.
- 88 232 Miguel and the others would not be allowed in a top secret facility.
- 90 235 Is Steve a lieutenant colonel or a lieutenant. The president says lieutenant.

- 95 244 secret Service lets the president into too many dangerous situations.
- 96 246 Steve cannot steal a helicopter.
- 103 273 Doubtful a helicopter would be able to reach El Torro from Nevada on one tank of fuel. By placing the NIA facility in California it could be possible.
- 116 293 Who is Mitchell? A special agent, a scientist or a weapons technician?
- 119 294 What is a military chapel doing on the NIA facility? Government chapels do not have crosses or stars affixed to them. They are nondenominational chapels.
- 120 296 The president would not lead the pilots, he is the commander in chief first, a pilot somewhere well down the list. It would be more believable if Grey lead the pilots. Grey would be an Air Force general, who was a pilot first in Vietnam and latter was the president's commander in Desert Storm, though that too is doubtful.

USS Eisenhower "sighting" scene is unrealistic, but minor tweaking can fix it.

Oval Office scenes are completely unrealistic, but tweaking can fix them.

Military operations as ridiculous, including:

AWACS flight ops

B-2 flight ops

F/A-18 flight ops

Pg 51 - Apache helicopters with Apache helicopters with a sign board? Why not mass sailors on the flight deck with cards like at football games?

Etc.

Military destroyed:

1 AWACS (Pg 22)

4 Apaches (Pg 56)

1 Andrews Air Force Base (Pg 60)

1 Pentagon (Pg 60)

30 Marine F/A-18s (Steve ditched his in the Grand Canyon)

1 "El Torro" (sic) Marine air station

1 NORAD

1 B-2

"Area 51" - no way, fictional agency or not. We're sick and tired of hearing about the U.S. government capturing aliens. (Moishe should question whether Medicare funds were used to maintain the aliens) Would have to be completely privately-owned - maybe with an alien in charge, morphed into a billionaire global media entrepreneur.

The president & the Russian president talk on Pg 27 -- what about NATO and the rest of the world? Also is his alleged drunkenness an allusion to Yeltsin or "Doctor Strangelove?"

63

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Defense Department assistance may be authorized when production is considered to be:

- authentic or feasible interpretation of military life, operations and policy;
- informational value; promotes public understanding of armed forces and DoD;
- enhances recruiting and retention.

Significant problem areas as script is currently written:

1. No true military heroes. Military appears impotent and/or inept; All advances in stopping aliens are result of actions by civilians;
2. Characterization of Defense Secretary and JCS Chairman are both negative;
3. Military no longer operates unilaterally; Defense of CONUS would be commanded by CINC (commander in chief) U.S. Atlantic Command (Norfolk, VA); USA Command would be supported by CINC U.S. Space Command (Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs);
4. Incident at Roswell AFB is a myth; DoD would not want to support a film which perpetuates myth; DoD cannot hide info from president (i.e. aliens and ship in custody);
5. Would not want public to think just anyone can fly such a hi-tech aircraft; can't have drunk pilot; president would not fly aircraft;
6. Action takes place so rapidly (3 days) that there would be insufficient time to mobilize National Guard and/or active military units.

Potential fixes:

- a. David could be Reservist or former military (specialist in intel, crypto comm, etc.);
- b. Change Secretary to WH Chief of Staff or other administration official;
- c. Energize actions of JCS Chairman (Gen. Grey);
- d. Incorporate U. S. Atlantic Command and U.S. Space Command;
- e. Energize and clean up Steven's actions;

64

f. Change custodians of aliens and spacecraft to grassroots public protectionist group (or at minimum, a nebulous government agency);

g. Make Russell (crop duster) former fighter pilot;
Increase time between last drink and flight of aircraft;

INSIDE

VIA FACSIMILE (703) 614-7486

Major Feltault
AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

December 14, 1995

Dear Major Feltault,

Thank you for being so kind in responding to our request for a statement from the Air Force on the production of "Independence Day" for 20th Century Fox Films.

Please see enclosed the fax they sent us regarding the government's position and cooperation or lack thereof in the making of this film, and their desire to film in the Gloom Lakebed area or "Area 51" near Rachel, Nevada.

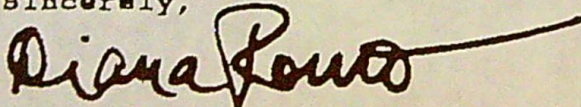
Our questions brought up by our lawyers in seeking a comment from the other side, the Air Force, for this piece we are doing for the Newsmagazine, "INSIDE EDITION" are the following :

1. Why did the government refuse to cooperate with these filmmakers?
2. Is it true the government told the producer's of "Independence Day" that there could be absolutely no reference made to "Area 51" at all?
3. Are there aliens buried there at Area 51?

I understand that you may not have specific answers to these questions, but whatever statement you could give us regarding the statement made by 20th Century Fox would be of great assistance.

Our story will air on Friday, December 15th, nationally. I'd be happy to send you a vhs copy of the story. Thank you again, Major Feltault for your kindness and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Diana Romo
Story Coordinator
INSIDE EDITION
310-442-7746
310-447-1472 (FAX)

BY:

12-12-95 12:55PM ; TWENTIETH CENT FOX-1 910 447 1472

2/ 2

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Statement on Seeking Government's Cooperation During Filming

As most of Hollywood has learned, the process of obtaining the government's cooperation and blessing on a motion picture project can often make a riveting story in its own right.

Such cooperation is highly sought-after by the major studios, especially for big-budget productions involving military hardware ... but rarely achieved. The government and/or military, perhaps Hollywood's toughest critics, usually sets forth an extremely detailed and strict of criteria that must be met before such cooperation is granted.

The filmmakers behind Twentieth Century Fox's upcoming science fiction epic INDEPENDENCE DAY made every effort to meet these governmental requirements. The government, in turn, was impressed by the story's patriotic themes and heroic portrayals of the country's fictional leaders, including the President. Prepared to give INDEPENDENCE DAY producers its blessing, the government requested only one change—but it proved to be a deal breaker:

All references, said Uncle Sam, to 'Area 51,' thought by many to be the home of a top secret alien study project, must be deleted.

Since Area 51 was critical to the film's themes of our world being visited by a non-terrestrial force of incredible magnitude, the filmmakers, as much as they desired the military's cooperation, could not comply. Filming proceeded--without government help.

65

CENTROPOLIS

ENTERTAINMENT

May 8, 1995

Mr. Phil Strub
Special Assistant A/V
OASD (PA) Rm.2E789
The Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Strub:

Regarding Defense Department concerns over our project "Independence Day" the following changes have been made:

1. Authentic or feasible interpretation of military life operations and policy.

We have attempted to correct some of the chain-of-command issues, i.e. including the hierarchy structures of the involvement of the U.S. Space Command and the Atlantic Air Command.

- General Grey has been changed from Chairman of the Joint Chiefs to a four star general in charge of U.S. Space Command.
- Lt. Steven Hill no longer drinks beer and realizes that if he wants to succeed in the military, he'll have to "grow up."

1. Informational value; promotes public understanding of armed forces and DoD.

- In attempting to clarify the proper channels of the military we hope this adds to the public understanding of how the military operates.
- We've removed the "Roswell incident" and "Area 51" from the domain of the military. Both incidents, now in the script, are part of a fictional government agency called the National Information Agency. This agency had been run by our character Nimziki (formerly the Secretary of Defense, now changed to White House Chief of Staff). We believe that by altering these things we've put the military in a better and more realistic light.

2. Enhances recruiting and retention.

- We've made General Grey an old friend of the President's, they served together in the Gulf War. The General is a stronger and more effective character.
- Our scientist nerd, David, now has a background in the military (he had served in the National Guard) and this gives him some insight into the satellite signal he discovers.

2. Enhances recruiting and retention.

- We've made General Grey an old friend of the President's, they served together in the Gulf War. The General is a stronger and more effective character.
- Our scientist nerd, David, now has a background in the military (he had served in the National Guard) and this gives him some insight into the satellite signal he discovers.
- The President, a former fighter pilot, believes he must get back to what made him a leader in the first place - the things he developed in the military. This is why he chooses to lead his men into battle at the end of the movie (like a King leading the charge).
- We believe that by strengthening the military aspect of these characters, we'll portray the military experience in a more positive and alluring portrait. The military is now much more effective.

What is not reflected in the script, though I'd be happy to show you models and story-boards, is how fantastic the flying sequences are going to be. We're going to make Star Wars and Top Gun look like paper airplanes! Just wait, there has never been any aerial footage like this before. If this doesn't make every boy in the country want to fly a fighter jet, I'll eat this script.

To address some more specific notes....

"No true military heroes..."

- David now has a military background, General Grey is now a more supportive, energized character, and the President recaptures his military experience by leading his troops into battle.

"Characterization of Defense Secretary and JCS Chairman are both negative"

- The Secretary of Defense has been changed to the White House Chief of Staff and former head of the NIA who had kept and maintained NIA's Area 51 (no link to military). The JCS Chairman is now the Space Command CINC and old friend of the President (he now confronts Nimziki about hiding information from the military and costing us lives - removes responsibility from military).

"Military no longer operates unilaterally..."

- I've attempted to involve Atlantic Air Command and Space Command. As this is new territory for me, I may have made some mistakes here, but we can work together on this to get it more accurate.

"Incident at Roswell AFB myth..."

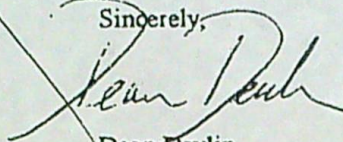
- We've removed the Roswell incident from the AFB and Area 51 from AFB. Both are controlled and known only by the NIA (fictional government agency).
- "Would not want public to think just anyone can fly such a hi-tech aircraft..."

67

- We've added that Russell is "type-rated" in this draft. In the next draft of the script, he won't even be flying a jet at the end of the picture. He will be using his old crop-duster as a diversionary tactic.

I've had to work quickly, so remember that this is still very much a work in progress and will continue to change. Some of the changes we discussed did not work and I could not use them, some of the changes I may have simply over-looked. So please do not feel this draft is written in stone. If you have any questions regarding this draft, contact me A.S.A.P.

Sincerely,



Dean Devlin

DD/dm

enclosure: copy of new draft of "Independence Day"

2. Enhances recruiting and retention.

- We've made General Grey an old friend of the President's, they served together in the Gulf War. The General is a stronger and more effective character. ✓
- Our scientist nerd, David, now has a background in the military (he had served in the National Guard) and this gives him some insight into the satellite signal he discovers. ✓
- The President, a former fighter pilot, believes he must get back to what made him a leader in the first place - the things he developed in the military. This is why he chooses to lead his men into battle at the end of the movie (like a King leading the charge).
- We believe that by strengthening the military aspect of these characters, we'll portray the military experience in a more positive and alluring portrait. The military is now much more effective.
- What is not reflected in the script, though I'd be happy to show you models and story-boards, is how fantastic the flying sequences are going to be. We're going to make Star Wars and Top Gun look like paper airplanes! Just wait, there has never been any aerial footage like this before. If this doesn't make every boy in the country want to fly a fighter jet, I'll eat this script.

To address some more specific notes....

"No true military heroes..."

- David now has a military background, General Grey is now a more supportive, energized character, and the President recaptures his military experience by leading his troops into battle.

"Characterization of Defense Secretary and JCS Chairman are both negative"

- The Secretary of Defense has been changed to the White House Chief of Staff and former head of the NIA who had kept and maintained NIA's Area 51 (no link to military). The JCS Chairman is now the Space Command CINC and old friend of the President (he now confronts Nimziki about hiding information from the military and costing us lives - removes responsibility from military).

"Military no longer operates unilaterally..."

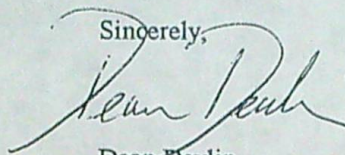
- I've attempted to involve Atlantic Air Command and Space Command. As this is new territory for me, I may have made some mistakes here, but we can work together on this to get it more accurate.

"Incident at Roswell AFB myth..."

- We've removed the Roswell incident from the AFB and Area 51 from AFB. Both are controlled and known only by the NIA (fictional government agency).
- "Would not want public to think just anyone can fly such a hi-tech aircraft..."

- We've added that Russell is "type-rated" in this draft. In the next draft of the script, he won't even be flying a jet at the end of the picture. He will be using his old crop-duster as a diversionary tactic.

I've had to work quickly, so remember that this is still very much a work in progress and will continue to change. Some of the changes we discussed did not work and I could not use them, some of the changes I may have simply over-looked. So please do not feel this draft is written in stone. If you have any questions regarding this draft, contact me A.S.A.P.

Sincerely,

Dean Devlin

DD/dm

enclosure: copy of new draft of "Independence Day"

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Defense Department assistance may be authorized when production is considered to be:

- authentic or feasible interpretation of military life, operations and policy;
- informational value; promotes public understanding of armed forces and DoD;
- enhances recruiting and retention.

Significant problem areas as script is currently written:

1. No true military heroes. Military appears impotent and/or inept; All advances in stopping aliens are result of actions by civilians;
2. Characterization of Defense Secretary and JCS Chairman are both negative;
3. Military no longer operates unilaterally; Defense of CONUS would be commanded by CINC (commander in chief) U.S. Atlantic Command (Norfolk, VA); USA Command would be supported by CINC U.S. Space Command (Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs);
4. Incident at Roswell AFB is a myth; DoD would not want to support a film which perpetuates myth; DoD cannot hide info from president (i.e. aliens and ship in custody);
5. Would not want public to think just anyone can fly such a hi-tech aircraft; can't have drunk pilot; president would not fly aircraft;
6. Action takes place so rapidly (3 days) that there would be insufficient time to mobilize National Guard and/or active military units.

Potential fixes:

- a. David could be Reservist or former military (specialist in intel, crypto comm, etc.);
- b. Change Secretary to WH Chief of Staff or other administration official;
- c. Energize actions of JCS Chairman (Gen. Grey);
- d. Incorporate U. S. Atlantic Command and U.S. Space Command;
- e. Energize and clean up Steven's actions;

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Defense Department assistance may be authorized when production is considered to be:

- authentic or feasible interpretation of military life, operations and policy;
- informational value; promotes public understanding of armed forces and DoD;
- enhances recruiting and retention.

Significant problem areas as script is currently written:

1. No true military heroes. Military appears impotent and/or inept; All advances in stopping aliens are result of actions by civilians;
2. Characterization of Defense Secretary and JCS Chairman are both negative;
3. Military no longer operates unilaterally; Defense of CONUS would be commanded by CINC (commander in chief) U.S. Atlantic Command (Norfolk, VA); USA Command would be supported by CINC U.S. Space Command (Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs);
4. Incident at Roswell AFB is a myth; DoD would not want to support a film which perpetuates myth; DoD cannot hide info from president (i.e. aliens and ship in custody);
5. Would not want public to think just anyone can fly such a hi-tech aircraft; can't have drunk pilot; president would not fly aircraft;
6. Action takes place (3 days) that there would be insufficient time to mobilize 1 Guard and/or active military units.

Potential fixes:

- a. David could be former military (specialist in intel, crypto comm, etc.);
- b. Change Secretary to WH Chief of Staff or other administration official;
- c. Energize actions of JCS Chairman (Gen. Grey);
- d. Incorporate U. S. Atlantic Command and U.S. Space Command;
- e. Energize and clean up Steven's actions;

140 100 HFF 24 95 05:02

f. Change custodians of aliens and spacecraft to grassroots public protectionist group (or at minimum, a nebulous government agency);

g. Make Russell (crop duster) former fighter pilot;
Increase time between last drink and flight of aircraft;

X