

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

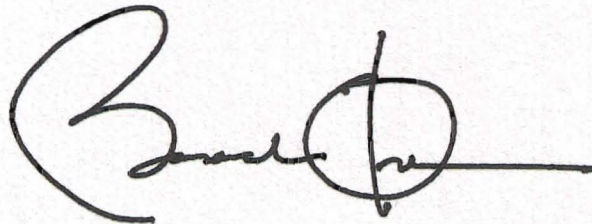
June 3, 2013

I send greetings to our service members in Kandahar and all those participating in Operation H.O.T.

Continuing a legacy of courage that stretches across more than two centuries of American progress, our men and women in uniform are members of the greatest force for peace and security the world has ever known. With steadfast devotion to a cause greater than self, you look out for each other and for the fellow Americans you swore to defend, and I have no higher honor than serving as your Commander in Chief.

Just as service defines you in uniform, ensuring you have the support you have earned defines us as Americans. By bringing lively entertainment and a taste of home to service members abroad, Operation H.O.T. offers an opportunity for grateful citizens of a proud Nation to celebrate the heroes who sacrifice for us all.

May God bless and protect all those who serve, and may God bless the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the main text and above the bottom decorative bars.