

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

May 8, 2009

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

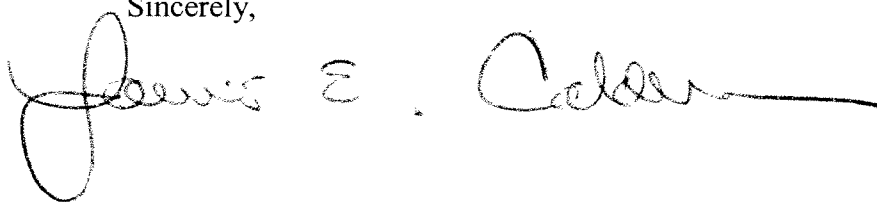
I have concluded that the controversy surrounding the Presidential Airlift Group's aerial photo shoot over New York City has made it impossible for me to effectively lead the White House Military Office. Moreover, it has become a distraction to the important work you are doing as President. After much reflection, I believe it is incumbent on me to tender my resignation and step down as Director of the White House Military Office.

Accordingly, I hereby resign effective May 22, 2009. As of today, I will no longer be directing the affairs of the White House Military Office and will no longer be involved in the work of the Office. I will use the next two weeks to complete the necessary out-processing.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in your Administration. It has been an honor to serve at your pleasure, Mr. President, and a distinct privilege to work with the talented men and women of the White House Military Office.

I wish you every success as you continue to lead our nation in these difficult times. You and your family will continue to be in our prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James E. Coburn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal line at the end.