

WEEKLY LOG # 7

6/25 - 6/27

This week I experienced my first official protective visit of Senator Barack Obama's wife, Michelle Obama to the Birmingham area for a fundraiser. As part of the team for Site one which included myself, the other intern and a special agent, our duty was to make sure Michelle got on and off the airplane safely.

The Agent explained the details of his preparation that took place a few days before her arrival. He was well prepared from strategies to exit plans in the unlikely event of terrorism. He accomplished this by setting up meetings with the airport a week prior to the visit. During this meeting he was able to communicate with personnel and review entry and exit locations, hazards and other potential threats. Through this he was able to construct on paper not only a timeline but also a detailed picture of how the motorcade was to be lined up with the aircraft. His timeline was perfect and he scheduled room for error and backup plans. After his meeting he placed calls to the local city and state police agencies for assistance and protection. Birmingham police, Jefferson county and state troopers agreed to assist with the security of Mrs. Obama.

We arrived earlier than Mrs. Obama's scheduled arrival time, along with other Special agents in the motorcade and local city and state police officers each assigned to their own positions via the site one agents direction. The motorcade entered the flight line and positioned accordingly for a fast arrival. They "swept" the area for anything and anyone suspicious who did not have an identification card.

The intern and I posted inside the airport and exited to the flight line as Mrs. Obama's plane taxied into its planned location. The motorcade quickly pulled up and her detail team of special agents exited the plane with her as she entered the limo. It then exited the flight line towards her location, site one secure.

As we waited for her return, our job was to maintain security and presence and to oversee any suspicious activity, especially around the aircraft. All was secure and about two hours later she arrived back at the airport and quickly entered the airplane and flew to her next location

Reflective Interpretations

CJ 220 Law Enforcement taught me the basics of security and this visit was a great experience in the event of physically learning the other main focus of the Service, protection. Seeing the preparation and communicating with local and state police, I

was able to understand the level of security and professionalism that the Service requires and dedicates themselves to. I was impressed and honored to be a part of the detail for site one, and hopefully will be able to experience it again.