

CLUE 2004

SEPTEMBER 2004

We at the *Markowski Monthly* in our endless quest to create wholesome family entertainment have decided to issue an updated version of the board game **Clue**. In our brand new modern version of this classic board game you must use the clues available to figure out who created the fraudulent Texas Air National Guard memos, who they are connected to, and why. We have compiled a series of clues for your game playing pleasure; see if you can put two and two together before the network news does. Good luck!

Clue #1

On April 27, 2004 The Kerry campaign literature suddenly claimed that there were "**verbal orders**" from Killian to suspend Bush for failing to take his medical exam. Shortly afterward (in "May" according to Burkett's ex-lawyer, Van Os) Burkett began getting calls from "national newspapers and TV." How did these reporters suddenly and mysteriously find their way to Baird, Texas within days of the Kerry campaign piece? Maybe the Media Magi or Miss Cleo showed them the way. *

Clue #2

CBS indicates Mary Mapes, the segment producer, had been in communication with Burkett for 18 months prior to the *Sixty Minutes* show, which puts her in this pack of reporters. But who else was in on the scam? We are told that Mapes and the CBS team were obsessed with their "**scoop**," so they certainly didn't tip-off the competition. Members of the national press corps know something critical about the story; who was peddling the documents? Yet none have yet revealed themselves. In the midst of largest journalistic scandal in decades, they are holding their tongues? Who directed them to Burkett and when?*

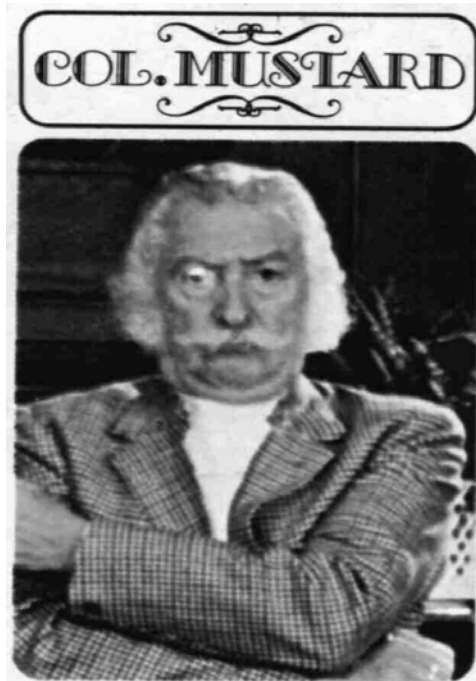
Clue #3

We do not know when all of these memos were created, but based on technical evidence; one appears to have been created on February 6th, 2004. One of the memo files had an internal Acrobat file creation date of 2/6/04. If anyone's going to check for computer sales/returns, check February and look for an HP PrecisionPro Scanner sale. The whole fax claim is bogus. We only know that happened based on forged documents. They could have pasted in a fax header as easily as those signatures. The only way that it would be possible for memos to have been on paper at some point is the rumpled page marks someone found by boosting the grays. However, that too could have been stripped in. They used Illustrator 6.66 to create the PDF. Nobody uses that except computer graphics experts. Maybe that is standard at CBS, but the entire process is shady at best. **

Clue #4

On February 12th, 2004 the *USA Today* reported that there had been efforts to cleanse Bush's record. The source for this story was Burkett. The next day the *Boston Globe* contacted George O. Conn, former Chief Warrant Officer in the Texas Air National Guard, who flatly denied Burkett's claim, saying he never saw anyone combing through the Bush records or discarding any of them. Shortly afterward, according to Van Os (Burkett's ex-lawyer) Burkett received a call from a man (Burkett says a woman, Lucy Ramirez) telling him he had documents confirming Burkett's story that Bush was ordered to take his medical exam and refused to do so. Burkett says he was

busy but agreed to pick them up at Houston on March 3rd, and says he did so. So how did these reporters, so close in time to the Kerry communication on this same point, suddenly get the idea, in late April, early May, that Burkett had documents on Bush's Texas Air National Guard service? And why would they seek documents which probably could not have existed, if they gave credence to Conn, who said the story was false? Was someone spreading the word? How would the person who gave the cue to the press know there was something there, unless he or she were involved in creating the documents and passing them to Burkett.*



Clue #5

On August 11th, 2004 the Chairman of the Tennessee State Vets for Kerry hinted on a radio interview that there was new evidence regarding Bush's failure to take his medical exam and loss of flight status? This is particularly curious because on August 13th Burkett posted an internet article indicating that he had not yet seen documentary evidence of the claim. But it is approximately this time (mid-August is the best date CBS has given) when Burkett gave CBS the first 2 of the 6 memos. On August 21st, Burkett posted on the web that he had spoken to Max Cleland, who said he did want to mount a **"counterattack"** to the Swift Boats campaign.*

Clue #6

August 15th, 2004 Burkett posted on the web that **"we have reassembled"** the Bush files. No explanation is given for whom the **"we"** refers to. Nor is the meaning of "reassembled" clear. And a time frame is notably absent. But according to Burkett and Van Os (if you choose to believe them), the phony memos had been in his hands since March 3rd. The only new development is that by August 21st he had turned 2 of them over to CBS.*

Clue #7

On September 1st, 2004 liberal internet blogger Josh Marshall reported that *Sixty Minutes* was working on a story about Bush's service, and on September 2nd, 2004 *Salon* reported that there were "**unanswered questions**" respecting the President's service in TANG.*

Clue #8

September 4th, 2004 Joe Lockhart called Burkett. Lockhart says he's 99.9% sure he didn't discuss the memos. Note: If you believe that, stop reading right here and go play **Candyland** instead, this game is too difficult for you.) At the same time Texans for Truth was about to launch its ad campaign, **Operation Fortunate Son**, in which these documents would be certain to play a big supporting role.*

Clue #9

September 5th, 2004 Burkett gave the remaining 4 memos to CBS. And the very next day, Terry McAuliffe issued a release raising questions about Bush's service. The DNC followed this up with yet another presser on the same topic on September 7th.*

Clue #10

On September 8th, 2004 the CBS story runs. The DNC must have worked very hard that evening because it gave three more pressers on the topic on September 9th. The next day the *Boston Globe* got a TANG document dump; Nicholas Kristoff of the *New York Times* wrote a TANG piece; Texans for Truth began running its **Operation Fortunate Son** ads; and McAuliffe held a press conference alleging the President was AWOL.*

Clue #11

The Nicolas Kristoff column in the *New York Times* was datelined and online on Sept 8th, not Sept 9th. That was the same date of the CBS program and had to be done prior to the CBS broadcast. It's also interesting to note that the Times online edition of this column already had a place for readers to enroll for continuing "**breaking news**" bulletins on the Air National Guard story. Someone would have had to write the code for that on Sept 8th after the Times staff anticipated that there were going to be a lot of additional breaking news on the story.*

Clue #12

The *New York Times* article on the TANG documents also carried a Sept.8th dateline, although it was published on Sept. 9th. The *New York Times* story also credited a staffer in Dallas, Texas with contributions to the story, so the Times would have to have had prior knowledge of the date to break the information in order to get an outlying staffer to work on it.*

Clue #13

The Boston Globe also ran a story on the TANG matter on Sept 8th. Although the paper claimed its "**Spotlight Team**" had done the investigative work. (Boston Globe Archives, 2004-09-10) THE GLOBE SPOTLIGHT TEAM HAS SCORED ANOTHER BULLS-EYE WITH ITS REPORT ON GEORGE W. BUSH'S VIOLATION OF HIS CONTRACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT FOR SERVICE IN THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND HIS STAFF'S SUBSEQUENT EGREGIOUS DENIAL AND MISREPRESENTATION OF THE FACTS (PAGE A1, SEPT. 8).*

Clue #14

Both the *New York Times* column by Nicolas Kristoff of Sept. 8th and the *Boston Globe* article on Sept. 8th use an analysis of Bush service records from the same retired Lt. Col Lechliter, vouching for him as an expert who has conclusively proved that Bush failed to fulfill his Guard duties. It seems unusual that two media giants separated by hundreds of miles would seek out the same “**expert**” on the same day to validate their stories.*

How many clues did it take before you figured it out? Remember kids, this game is fun for the whole family...Share it with your friends!

*Baher Richard The American Thinker Who Knew? September 23rd 2004

**Little Green Footballs September 20, 2004

