

Bush pushes through controversial nominees

by UPI

FORT IRWIN, Calif. - U.S. President George Bush used a recess appointment to bypass the U.S. Congress and push through a controversial choice for ambassador to Belgium.

As Bush visited the U.S. Army training base at Fort Irwin, Calif., the White House said he had chosen Sam Fox, a major Republican donor who withdrew his name last month when Democrats on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee united against him.

Fox gave \$50,000 to the "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth," a group that hurt the aspirations of 2004 Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry with accusations that he had not earned medals awarded him during the Vietnam War.

The president also named two other people whom Democrats had opposed. Andrew Biggs was named deputy commissioner of the Social Security Administration and Susan Dudley became administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Bush also named Carol Waller Pope, a Democrat, to the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

Recess appointments allow a president to by-pass Senate confirmation when Congress is out of session.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Bush pushes through controversial nominees by UPI