

## DAWSON, RHETT B.: Files, 1987-1988 – REAGAN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

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### **DAWSON, RHETT B.: Files, 1987-1988**

Assistant to the President for Operations  
Operations, White House Office of

Rhett Dawson was born in 1943 in Canton, Illinois. He grew up and went to high school and college in Illinois. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1966 from Illinois Wesleyan University. Following college he attended Washington University, St. Louis where he received a law degree in 1969. He is married to Mimi Weyforth Dawson who also worked in the Reagan administration at the Federal Communications Commission and as Deputy Under Secretary of Transportation.

Dawson had held several adjunct positions in the White House, prior to joining the White House staff. In 1985, he was appointed Director of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management (the Packard Commission), and in November 1986 as chief of staff of the President's Special Review Board (the Tower Board) investigating the Iran-Contra affair. Prior to his White House involvement he had been the Staff Director and Chief Counsel for Senate Armed Services Committee where he worked closely with Chairman, Senator John Tower, and had a long working relationship with Senator Tower.

Recruited by new White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, Dawson joined the White House staff in April 1987. In a revamped White House staff, Dawson took on the titular head of White House Operations post. Over the past 6 years of the administration, the person running White House Operations also carried both titles and functions - director of White House Operations and Director of the Office of Administration. Baker's new staff alignment eliminated this dual functionality, and Dawson did not become the Director of the Office of Administration.

Dawson, while nominally the head of White House Operations, turned over most of the day-to-day running of the various offices affiliated with White House Operations to Claire O'Donnell. In August 1987, she was named Special Assistant to the President for White House Operations (a newly created title to suit her present functions). Dawson acted more in the capacity of an Executive Secretary for the White House, in much the same function that Richard Darman had

occupied in the first administration.

Currently, Dawson is the president of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC), a trade association comprised of the leading IT companies.

Dawson's collection includes some of his work as Director of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management.

Previously Box CFOA 707 was considered a part of the Dawson collection. It is a box of the President's unpublished schedules. These were sent from Dawson to A.B. Culvahouse, White House Counsel, probably in regards to the Iran-Contra Legal Task Force investigation at the White House. This box is now included in the Culvahouse collection.

CFOA 706

**Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989**

**Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Housing, Treasury & Postal, 11/13/1987 (1)-(5)**

**Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Defense (1)(2)**

**Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: International Affairs**

**Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Privatization (1)(2)**

**Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Natural Resources, Energy & Science (1)-(3)**

**Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Labor, Veterans & Education**

**Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Housing, Treasury & Postal, 12/02/1987**

**Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Transportation, Commerce & Justice**

**Director's Review Book for Discretionary Programs, Fall 1989: Health & Human Services**

CFOA 726

Rhett Dawson's Copy of the President's Weekly Update, 06/26/1987

Rhett Dawson's Copy of the President's Weekly Update, 10/02/1987

Rhett Dawson's Copy of the President's Weekly Update, 10/09/1987

Rhett Dawson's Copy of the President's Weekly Update, 01/29/1988-10/14/1988

CFOA 747

**Budget Review Board FY1989 – Department of Agriculture Decisions**

**Budget Review Board FY1989 – Department of Justice Decision**

**Budget Review Board FY1989 – NASA Appeal Meeting Notes 01/12/1988**

**Budget Review Board FY1989 – International Affairs Programs**

**Budget Review Board FY1989 – GSA (General Services Administration) (1)-(6)**

**Budget Review Board FY1989 – Department of Transportation (1)(2)**

**Budget Review Board FY1989 – Department of Energy Appeal Meeting Notes**

CFOA 784

[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] April 1987  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] May 1987  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] June 1987  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] July 1987  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] August 1987  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] September 1987  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] October 1987  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] November 1987  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] December 1987  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] January 1988  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] February 1988  
[Rhett Dawson Chron Files] March 1988

CFOA 837

**Budget Review Board Material FY1990 (1)-(10)**

OA 14162

“Interim Report to the President by the President’s Blue Ribbon Commission on  
Defense Management, 02/28/1986”

**Press Conference - Interim Report to the President - 02/28/1986**

**Press Conference on the Packard Commission Final Report**

**[Inspector General Recommendations on Procurement to the Packard Commission  
– October 1984] (1)-(6)**

Option C Draft: Organization and Acquisition

Draft - A Chunk of Option E - 02/03/1986

“Defense Acquisition Background Papers, Volume I: Papers Prepared for the Acquisition  
Panel of the President’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management, June  
1986”

“Defense Acquisition Background Papers, Volume II: Papers Prepared for the  
Acquisition Panel of the President’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense  
Management, June 1986”

“Defense Acquisition Background Papers, Volume III: Papers Prepared for the  
Acquisition Panel of the President’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense  
Management, June 1986”

“Defense Acquisition Background Papers, Appendix to Volume III” (Part 1)

“Defense Acquisition Background Papers, Appendix to Volume III” (Part 2)

Blue Ribbon Defense Panel Report - 1970

Navy/Marine Corps Acquisition Review Committee Volume I Report January 1975

“Report of the Acquisition Cycle Task Force - Defense Science Board 03/15/1987”

Acquisition Advisory Group Report - September 1975

Legislative Recommendations of the Commission on Government Procurement: 5 Years  
Later - 1978

Defense Resource Management Study Final Report - February 1979

Acquisition Policy Effectiveness: Department of Defense Experience in the 1970’s

October 1979

“A Uniform Profit Policy for Government Acquisition” (II) - November 1979

“Price Competition in the Department Of Defense” - Logistics Management Institute -  
September 1982

The Affordable Acquisition Approach Study: Final Briefing - February 1983

Deregulation of Government Management Federal Procurement Interim Report – March  
1983

**Grace Commission Report on the Office of the Secretary of Defense - July 1983**  
**Compendium of GAO’s Views on the Cost Saving Proposals of the Grace**  
**Commission - February 1985**

“Toward a More Effective Defense” - CSIS - 1985

“The Legal Structure of Defense Organization,” by Moore and Turner - 01/15/1986  
(Binder)

Recommendations on Procurement to the Packard Commission - October 1985

**Dwight D. Eisenhower**

**[The Eisenhower Record of Defense Reorganization, 1958 - Selected Documents**  
**from 1957-1958 DDE Library] (1)-(7)**

**Goldwater and Nunn**

JCS Reorganization

OA 14827

**[34/146 File (Legislative Strategy Group)] (1)-(12)**

OA 16106

**Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty (1)-(8)**

OA 16155 (Contained within OA 18922)

The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Notes

The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Los Angeles

The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Cincinnati

The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Jacksonville

The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Albuquerque

The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - New York

The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - National

The White House Conference for a Drug-Free America - Omaha

Regional Conference Press Clips (Notebook)

National Conference Press Clips (Notebook)

OA 16713

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Foundation (1)-(6)**

OA 16952 (Contained within OA 18922)

Nuclear Waste Negotiator, February 1988-October 1988

OA 18921

Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

**AIDS Commission: Management (1)-(3)**

**AIDS Staff Director (1)(2)**

Aircraft Rules/Usage

Air Force One

Air Force One: Air Force 1

Alerts

Blue Group

**Bork Statement**

Cabinet Information

Defense Management

Domestic Policy Council Notes

Drugs/Military

Fire Drill

Half-Staffing of Flag

Intermediate Nuclear Force

Intermediate Nuclear Force: Potential Treaty Reservations

Intermediate Nuclear Force: Intermediate Nuclear Force: Conditions

Iran-Contra

**LSG[Legislative StrategyGroup] -- Budget**

**LSG[Legislative StrategyGroup] --Trade**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary

Medal of Freedom -1988

National Day of Mourning

Organization

Personnel

Planning Group Meeting Notes

Prisoner of War Issues

Quad Commission

OA 18922

Reagan Record

Reimbursable Detailees

Rostenkowski

SRING/LRINF Materials

**State of the Union Message [1988]**

Thanksgiving Proclamation

Veto/Signing Statements

Voyager

White House Budget and Personnel Status FY 1987

White House Mess

White House Military Office

34/146 Group Meetings

[Staff Secretary's Office Diskette Printout - Rhett Dawson Memos 04/09/1987-08/12/1987] (Duplicates of Chron Files in CF 0784)

Box 92458 (with NSC collections)

NSDD re: INF Ratification System II #91400  
SCG Meeting (Strategy and Coordination Group) 12/18/1987  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) Meeting 12/30/1987  
[Expanded SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) 01/5/1988]  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) Meeting 01/13/1988  
01/11/1988 Meeting re: INF Negotiating Record  
01/07/1988 Briefing with Senator Baker  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) Meeting 01/12/1988  
INF Final Game Plan Meeting 01/07/1987 #0085  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) Meeting 01/19/1988  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) Meeting 01/21/1988  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) Meeting 02/02/1988  
Dawson Notes re: INF Dec. 1987  
Schedule of Inter Agency Briefings re: INF  
Phone Conversation with Tower re: INF  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) Meeting 01/26/1988  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) Meeting 02/05/1988  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) Meeting 02/19/1988  
Meeting with Baker and CLP (Colin Powell) 02/19/1988  
Miscellaneous Points re: INF issues November 1987  
Senate and INF Treaty  
INF Ratification Plan #0275  
NATO Summit Goals #0702  
INF Treaty Implementation Request  
INF/NATO Strategy [2 folders]  
Senate Principles  
Organizing for INF Ratification  
INF Briefing Schedule  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) 12/30/1987  
Public Affairs Game Plan  
SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group) 01/12/1988  
ADD Study Group  
Miscellaneous re: INF (2)  
INF Ratification SCG (Strategy and Coordination Group), various dates