

## Bush: My dog ate my service records

by **kos**

Thu Jul 8th, 2004 at 23:58:09 EDT

So **convenient**.

Military records that could help establish President Bush's whereabouts during his disputed service in the Texas Air National Guard more than 30 years ago have been inadvertently destroyed, according to the Pentagon.

It said the payroll records of "numerous service members," including former First Lt. Bush, had been ruined in 1996 and 1997 by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service during a project to salvage deteriorating microfilm. No back-up paper copies could be found, it added in notices dated June 25.

So were all his records destroyed? Turns out that no. Only the three months that would determine if he hadn't gone AWOL.

The destroyed records cover three months of a period in 1972 and 1973 when Mr. Bush's claims of service in Alabama are in question.

Huh. What a coincidence. And how convenient. And how, um, *new*.

There was no mention of the loss, for example, when White House officials released hundreds of pages of the President's military records last February in an effort to stem Democratic accusations that he was "AWOL" for a time during his commitment to fly at home in the Air National Guard during the Vietnam War.

Dan Bartlett, the White House communications director who has said that the released records confirmed the president's fulfillment of his National Guard commitment, did not return two calls for a response.

Damn.

Bush isn't going to go anywhere near the press for a long, long while, what with their questions about his service record, his best friend Kenny Boy, and John Edwards/Dick Cheney comparisons.

Nope, best to rely on conveniently timed "terror alerts" and negative attack ads.