

*Remarks for the  
367<sup>th</sup> Departure  
August 5, 2003*

- Recognize General Lipscomb
  
- Recognize Floyd Crocker, Commander of the 367<sup>th</sup>, following in the footsteps of his father who was commander until 1998
  
- Want to begin by saying how proud I am to be here with you today
  - Thank you for your commitment to your job
  - Thank you for your dedication to our nation

- America's citizen soldiers are answering the call of their country
  - Our sons and our daughters, our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers
  - Defend the principles of freedom and justice we hold dear
- Throughout the year, we have watched, as we watch today, as soldiers of the Mississippi National Guard have boarded buses and airplanes en route to service in places we know, and some we don't.
  - They are deployed to locations in the Middle East, in Asia, and to locations that remain classified.
  - And *know this* – wherever they are, they are well-trained, and *they'll get the job done.*

- As commander-in-chief, I can't express enough the *pride* I feel knowing that our soldiers are serving their state and their nation.
  - when America needs the *very best*, the call is made to *Mississippi*
  - You are the ones called on by your country because you have proven yourselves time and time again
  - you have set a high standard for others to follow.
  
- As you leave to serve your country, I pray, as you and your families do, for your safe return to Mississippi.

- I pray for the families left behind, and the families that are serving together,
  - Sgt. Grace Triplett and her son Spc. Devlin Triplett,
  - Sgt. Susan Shoffner and her son Spc. Leaby Shoffner
  - I encourage all Mississippians to be there for those families
  
- I pray for the wisdom and leadership of our president and those who serve with him.
  
- I pray for peace
  
- In times of turmoil, there are those who see a hopeless end; I see an endless hope.

- America is the greatest nation in the history of mankind, and nothing will change that.
  - America is not just a country. It is an ideal, a principle.
  - That principle remains strong today and forever
  - it remains strong because soldiers from Mississippi stand ready to protect it.
  
- May God bless our state and our nation.