

*Remarks for the
National Guard Armory Announcement
December 18, 2002*

- Good morning / great to be back in Batesville and Panola County
- Especially proud to be here with members of MS National Guard / AG Lipscomb
 - Soldiers of MS National Guard are best in nation
 - MS's citizen soldiers / first called when America needs the best
- Also want to recognize Robert Latham / Son Hudson, Panola County EMA Director
- Glad to have General Lipscomb, Robert and Son all here / great news to share
 - Announcing construction of new guard facility
 - The joint Batesville Readiness Center and Panola Civil Defense Center
- Readiness Center will house 198th Armor Battalion / replace aging armory
- Funding from combination of state bond money (\$1.4M) / federal funds (\$2.8M)
- Readiness Center will also house Son Hudson's new office
 - More good news for Son as well
 - \$15,250 grant to Panola County Emergency Management Agency
 - Local Emergency Management Program Enhancement Grant
- Panola County will be well prepared for whatever may come along
 - MS National Guard / EMA in one building
 - All the tools you need to respond to crisis / disaster