

*Remarks for the
Storefront Grand Opening/Air National Guard Recruiting Office
January 23, 2003*

- Recognize General Lipscomb / leadership of MS National Guard
- Tupelo has been a long time supporter of the Mississippi Air National Guard.
- Aviation support facility with the Air Guard, and a large army guard presence - the 155th Armored Brigade is headquartered here.
- One reason that we have opened this storefront here today is that this area is a viable recruiting base. Our recruiters have done an excellent job in this part of the state.
- We are here today because Tupelo is good for the guard and the guard is good for Tupelo.

- In fact, I said this the other day, but I believe MS National Guard is the best in nation
 - Our citizen soldiers called on early and often
 - There to serve when nation needs them

- Serving all over the world
 - 155th Task Force peace-keeping mission in Bosnia last year
 - 114th MP's just returned from Guantanamo
 - Units already serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle
 - And, I understand two more units have been called up this week.
 - The 113th Military Police Company and the 223rd Engineer Battalion.

- Just as important, the guard is serving the people of MS
 - Educational programs like About Face and Youth Challenge

- About Face / partnership between my office, National Guard, MS Development Authority
 - Combines mentoring with workforce training
 - Brings today's leaders together with tomorrow's

- About Face is being expanded to sites around the state
 - Have been to some of the graduation ceremonies
 - Making a difference for our kids

- Strong difference also being made by Youth Challenge program
 - Gives young people a new start
 - Gives a new chance to redirect lives toward positive and exciting goals

- We're working to make that happen for all our children
 - Doing it through an investment in education / preparing for future

- Just as the soldiers of National Guard train for whatever may come, our kids need training as well
 - Providing that training through different means
 - Teacher pay / computers in classroom

- Investment in the future has to be made today
 - Not willing to shortchange that investment / shortchange the future

- Like to brag on what we're doing in MS
 - From National Guard to national scholars, we're doing good work

- Will Rogers: Even if on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there
 - We're on the right track, and we're moving