

**MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JACKSON, MISS—The Mississippi Army National Guard's Company G, 185th Aviation, based in Meridian, has received mobilization orders under a Presidential Partial Mobilization of Reserve Forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Approximately 125 members of Company G will report to their armory on Saturday, January 3, 2004, to make preparations for their departure to their mobilization station at Fort Campbell, Ky. on Tuesday, January 6. While at their mobilization station, they will in-process, conduct post-mobilization training and subsequently deploy overseas.

The mission of Company G is to move troops and cargo, conduct heavy lift for combat equipment, and damaged aircraft recovery. The pilots fly the CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter that is the primary heavy lift aircraft for the U.S. Army.

Five pilots from Company G were previously mobilized in March and have since returned. This will be the first time the entire unit has been mobilized since the Global War on Terrorism began.

"Once again our nation has called on Mississippi to protect our freedoms here at home," said Governor Ronnie Musgrove, commander in chief of the Mississippi National Guard. "I am extremely proud of all our Mississippi soldiers and airmen, and I continue to pray for their safety while serving our great nation."

"Our pilots are among the best trained and most professional in the nation, which has been proven in the past," said Maj. Gen. James H. Lipscomb III, Mississippi's adjutant general. "I know these pilots will perform equally as well as those before them."

Under Partial Mobilization, reservists can be activated for 24 months; however, this does not characterize how long they will actually be mobilized.

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