

**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, and the 1st Cavalry Division Rear Operations Center, based in Tupelo, have received mobilization orders under a Presidential Partial Mobilization of Reserve Forces in support of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Approximately 145 members of Company G will report to their armory on December 15, to make preparations for their departure to their mobilization station at Fort Benning, Ga., on December 18. Approximately 25 soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division Rear Operations Center will report to their armory on January 8, 2004, to make preparations for their departure to their mobilization station at Fort Hood, Texas, on January 11, 2004. While at their mobilization stations, the units will in-process, conduct post-mobilization training and subsequently deploy to unknown overseas locations.

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

The First Cavalry Division Rear Operations Center plans, coordinates and assigns combat and security operations in its assigned area of responsibility. It is directly assigned to the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood.

"I am extremely proud of our Mississippi citizen-soldiers, as they have once again been called upon to defend our country" said Governor Ronnie Musgrove, commander-in-chief of the Mississippi National Guard. "I wish them all Godspeed and a safe return home."

Under Partial Mobilization, reservists can be activated for as long as 24 months; however, this does not characterize how long they will actually be mobilized. The mobilization of these two units, along with other units that have recently received mobilization orders, will increase the total number of Guard members on active duty to approximately 2,700. About 2,000 will be serving overseas once the units actually deploy.

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