

*Draft Remarks for the  
C-17 Arrival  
December 18, 2003*

**Message is patriotism and how proud MS is of these soldiers**

- I. Recognize
  - a. Major General James Lipscomb and Major General Cross
  - b. Colonel Brock, Commander of the 172<sup>nd</sup>
  - c. Senators Thad Cochran and Trent Lott
  - d. Representatives Roger Wicker and Chip Pickering
  - e. Congressman Sonny Montgomery
  - f. Lt. Generals James and Welsey
  - g. Boeing officials, and
  - h. The men and women of the MS National Guard**
- II. Celebrate this milestone for the Mississippi National Guard
  - a. Never before has our nation's National Guard men and women been a more integral part of our nation's defense
  - b. Mississippi Guard has over 2,000 soldiers deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom
  - c. Answered the call with courage and determination to defend the principles of freedom and justice that we hold dear;
  - d. to defend the greatest nation in the history of mankind
- III. When America needs the *very best*, the call is made to **Mississippi**
  - a. Proven as we welcome the first of eight C-17's to come to Mississippi
  - b. MS National Guard is first and only unit to receive the C-17;
  - c. not handed this honor but
  - d. earned it through hard work and dedication
- IV. Hundreds of members of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Air Wing have deployed following September 11<sup>th</sup> to support operations overseas and here in the US
  - a. With the current world situation and the arrival of the C-17's,
  - b. You could be called upon again to defend our country against those who do not support freedom and democracy
- V. As Mississippi's men and women have been deployed, the people of Mississippi have stood behind you and your families
  - a. Continue to support the Guard because you answer the call
  - b. whether it is fighting the war on terrorism or
  - c. helping here at home with clean-up after a national disaster strikes
- VI. As Commander-in-Chief of the BEST national guard in the nation, I want to say congratulations to Major General Lipscomb, 172<sup>nd</sup> and its leadership, and most importantly, congratulations to the hardest working and best prepared soldiers in the nation, the Mississippi National Guard**