

*Remarks
Meridian Armory
September 11, 2003*

- recognize General Lipscomb and Col. Hearin
 - members of the US army reserves
 - members and family members of:
 - ❖ 186th Air Refueling Wing
 - ❖ 238th Combat Communications Squadron
 - ❖ Company G, 185th Aviation
 - ❖ Army Aviation Support Facility

- I'm proud of a lot of things in my life
 - My family, my state, my country and the progress we have been able to make together

- I'm proud of the men and women of the MS National Guard
- You have answered the call of our country to defend the principles of freedom and justice that we hold dear
- Throughout the year/have watched as soldiers are deployed to the battlefield
- Here at home, our citizen soldiers – the men and women of the MS National Guard and Reserves – have boarded buses and airplanes en route to service in places we know and some we don't.

- Deployed to locations in the Middle East, in Asia and to locations that we can't reveal.
- Know this, wherever they are, they are well-trained and they will get the job done
- As commander-in-chief of the MS National Guard, I can't express enough the pride I feel knowing that our soldiers are serving the nation.
- I know for sure – when America needs their **very best**, they make the call to Mississippi.
- In times of war, there are those who see a hopeless end; I see an endless hope.

- America is the greatest nation in the history of mankind, and nothing will change that.
- America is not just a country, it is an ideal, it is a principle.
- Jonathan Lambert, a US Marine from Booneville who gave his life in Iraq, said it best in a letter he wrote to his hometown paper about the job our soldiers do:
 - “We know that this is more than a job, we do it for our children, grandchildren, friends and family.”
- May God bless you, the State of Mississippi and the United States.