

*Remarks for  
National Guard Press Conference  
October 3, 2003*

- Recognize
  - General Lipscomb
  - General Cross
  - General Berry
  - General Jernigan
  - Generals Waller, Holliday, Shields
  - Colonels Hearon, Spraggin, White
  - (most important) **The hardest working recruiters in America**
  
- Never before / National Guard / more integral part of nations defense

- When the Guard received the call to defend our nation
  - answered the call, not with hesitation but with
  - courage and determination to defend our freedoms here at home
  
- Our Guard men and women / stepped forward
  - putting their lives on the line
  - protect our great nation
  - preserve our freedoms

- Today / National Guard remains on the  
frontline
  - Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring  
Freedom and Noble Eagle.
  
- nation owes a deep gratitude / men and  
women of the National Guard across the  
nation
  - dedication and determination / defense  
of the greatest nation
  
- Again, MS National Guard is a leader  
nationwide by surpassing its recruiting  
goals in 2003
  - One of the top ten states in the nation to  
reach this milestone

- Beginning of last year / National Guard Bureau assigned MS National Guard an end strength of 9,595 soldiers
  - General Lipscomb knowing his recruiting force said we could do better
  - Established own goal of 10,000 soldiers
  
- Pleased to announce today / surpassed that goal
  - 10,008 soldiers / 413 more than assigned national guard bureau strength

- remarkable effort / current world situation
  - have 2,400 Mississippi Guard men and women on active duty supporting current military operations overseas and here in the US
  
- Even more remarkable / September article in the LA Times / Nationwide, Army National Guard is over 13,000 soldiers short of its target of enlisting men and women for the national guard

- Appointed General Lipscomb in 2000 /  
guard strength was 9,285 soldiers
  - Since then / guard strength increased  
by over 720 people
  
- Air National Guard / done well also /  
stand at 99% of authorized strength
  
- General Lipscomb / congratulate you and  
your soldiers and airmen on a job well  
done
  - Organization with an economic  
impact of nearly \$419 million dollars  
in the state of Mississippi
  - This accomplishment is all the more  
important

**(Introduce General Lipscomb for remarks)**

**(Close by thanking everyone for coming  
and open for questions)**