

Clarion Ledger Article 7-10-00

Mississippi National Guard – Proudly Protecting Our State and Nation

Recently I had the opportunity to visit some Mississippians in uniform, when I toured Camp Shelby, Mississippi during a portion of the annual Mississippi National Guard summer training.

These soldiers assemble at Camp Shelby each year for two weeks in the summer and several weekends throughout the year. They leave their families, jobs and routines behind and undergo intensive training designed to help them be some of the best soldiers in the country today.

It takes a special dedication to be one of these soldiers, a dedication that is sometimes difficult to find in our society. These Guard men and women come from all walks of life, yet they come together wearing the same uniform, talking the same talk and walking the same walk. They are family, Guard family.

This week I named Brigadier General James H. Lipscomb, III as Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard. Lipscomb began his military career when he enlisted in the 1st Battalion 114th Field Artillery in 1961, and was commissioned in 1964 through the Officer Candidate School. He commanded units at every level to include Battery, Battalion, Brigade and Major Subordinate Command. He was promoted to his present rank of Brigadier General on May 15, 1991, and his last assignment was Commanding General of the Troop Command.

General Lipscomb's military education includes the U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer Course, National Security Management Course and the U.S. Army War College Reserve Component National Security Issues Course.

His decorations and awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal to name only a few. From Mississippi, Lipscomb has received the Mississippi Magnolia Cross, the Mississippi Magnolia Medal, the Mississippi Commendation Medal with one Bronze Leaf Cluster, the Mississippi War Medal with one Bronze Leaf Cluster, and the list continues.

General Lipscomb has had an extensive, impressive military career with the Mississippi National Guard. His military education and experiences coupled with his business background will serve our Guard well as we strengthen and prepare our forces to serve and protect our nation.

Lipscomb is a past president of the National Guard Association of Mississippi (NGAM), and was a longtime member of the Board of Directors for the NGAM. He is a life member of NGAM and the National Guard Association of the United States.

I have seen the men and women of the Mississippi National Guard in action. The soldiers of the 155th Armored Brigade were training in very harsh conditions; temperatures nearing 95 degrees with 90 percent humidity, a constant onslaught of insects, and in a constant cloud of dust. All this, and not one complaint. Their only comment, “We have a job to do, and we’re proud to be here doing it.”

These are the soldiers of the 155th Armored Brigade. Infantrymen, artillerymen, engineers and logistics personnel—all training for their upcoming peacekeeping mission in Bosnia next year. These are proud Mississippians—proud Americans. We should be proud of them, and grateful to them.

As Governor of Mississippi, and commander-in-chief of the Mississippi National Guard, I am extremely grateful and fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet with many of those family members and observe their training first hand. I proudly salute our Mississippians in uniform, and I ask every person living in our state to do the same.

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