

*Remarks for  
National Guard Association of the United States  
September 15, 2003*

- Recognize
  - Major General Gus L. Hargett,  
Chairman of the Board, National Guard  
Association of the US
  - General James H. Lipscomb
  
- Thank you / allowing me to be here
  
- Those visiting / on behalf of the 2.8  
million citizens / welcome to Mississippi
  
- Reserve components make up over 50% of  
our nation's defense

- Never before / National Guard / more integral part of nations defense
  
- Last week / recognized with the rest of the country the anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.
  
- When you received the call following those cowardly terrorist acts of September 11, 2001
  - answered the call, not with hesitation but with
  
  - courage and determination to defend our freedoms here at home

- Today / National Guard remains on the  
frontline
  - Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring  
Freedom and Noble Eagle.
  
- Our Guard men and women / stepped  
forward
  - putting their lives on the line
  - protect our great nation
  - preserve our freedoms
  
- nation owes a deep gratitude / men and  
women of the National Guard across the  
nation
  - dedication and determination / defense  
of the greatest nation

- 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.”

- thank you for attending conference / help shape the future of the greatest fighting force in the world
- no greater citizen-soldiers in the world than ours in the National Guard.
  
- May God bless you, the State of Mississippi and the United States.