

*Notes for the
Aberdeen National Guard Armory
Aberdeen, Mississippi
January 28, 2003*

- 223rd Engineer Battalion, Headquartered in West Point; units in Bruce, Calhoun City, Charleston, Webb, Aberdeen and Clarksdale.

- The MS National Guard is the best in nation
 - Our citizen soldiers called on early and often
 - There to serve when nation needs them

- Serving all over the world
 - 155th Task Force peace-keeping mission in Bosnia last year
 - 114th MP's just returned from Guantanamo
 - Units already serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle
 - Aberdeen Group one of two units that were called up last week, along with the 113th Military Police Company, out of Brandon.

- Today, 170 army national guard soldiers were called to perform base security duties at 4 Air Force and Air National Guard bases in Mississippi.
 - There will be more Mississippians called upon to serve.
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- Just as important, the guard is serving the people of MS
 - Educational programs like About Face and Youth Challenge
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- We're working hard for the future of all our children
 - Doing it through an investment in education / preparing for future
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- Just as the soldiers of National Guard train for whatever may come, our kids need training as well
 - Providing that training through different means
 - Teacher pay / computers in classroom

- Investment in the future has to be made today
 - Not willing to shortchange that investment / shortchange the future