

*Remarks for the  
National Guard Executive Directors Association  
January 13, 2003*

- Recognize General Lipscomb / leadership of MS National Guard
  
- Appreciate opportunity to welcome all of you here to MS
  - Great things happening here / much to be proud of
  - Proud of MS National Guard
  
- May sound biased, but I believe MS National Guard is best in nation
  - Our citizen soldiers called on early and often
  - There to serve when nation needs them
  
- Serving all over the world
  - 155<sup>th</sup> Task Force peace-keeping mission in Bosnia last year
  - 114<sup>th</sup> MP's just returned from Guantanamo
  - Units already serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle

- Just as important, they're serving the people of MS
  - Educational programs like About Face and Youth Challenge
  
- About Face / partnership between my office, National Guard, MS Development Authority
  - Combines mentoring with workforce training
  - Brings today's leaders together with tomorrow's
  
- About Face is being expanded to sites around the state
  - Have been to some of the graduation ceremonies
  - Making a difference for our kids
  
- Strong difference also being made by Youth Challenge program
  - Gives young people a new start
  - Gives a new chance to redirect lives toward positive and exciting goals

- We're working to make that happen for all our children
  - Doing it through an investment in education / preparing for future
  
- 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
  
- Like to brag on what we're doing in MS
  - From National Guard to national scholars, we're doing good work
  
- Will Rogers: Even if on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there
  - We're on the right track, and we're moving