

*Remarks  
Gulfport Armory  
September 11, 2003*

- recognize General Lipscomb and Col. Spraggins
  - members of the US army reserves
  - members and family members of:
    - ❖ Combat Readiness Training Center
    - ❖ 1108<sup>th</sup> Aviation Classification and Repair Depot
    - ❖ 255<sup>th</sup> Air Control Squadron
    - ❖ 173<sup>rd</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron
    - ❖ Company 1, 185<sup>th</sup> Aviation

- I'm proud of a lot of things in my life
  - My family, my state, my country and the progress we have been able to make together
  
- I'm proud of the men and women of the MS National Guard
  
- You have answered the call of our country to defend the principles of freedom and justice that we hold dear
  
- Throughout the year/have watched as soldiers are deployed to the battlefield

- Here at home, our citizen soldiers – the men and women of the MS National Guard and Reserves – have boarded buses and airplanes en route to service in places we know and some we don't.
- Deployed to locations in the Middle East, in Asia and to locations that we can't reveal.
- Know this, wherever they are, they are well-trained and they will get the job done
- As commander-in-chief of the MS National Guard, I can't express enough the pride I feel knowing that our soldiers are serving the nation.

- I know for sure – when America needs their **very best**, they make the call to Mississippi.
- 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.”

- May God bless you, the State of Mississippi  
and the United States.