

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE CALL-UP OF THE NATIONAL GUARD
ON 30 SEPTEMBER 1962, MILITARY TITLE "OPERATION RAPID ROAD"

1. The first information that I received concerning the possible call-up of the National Guard was on a radio broadcast at approximately 11:00 P.M., 29 September 1962. I went to the office and at 11:45 P.M. called Governor Barnett to see if he had received any message pertaining to the call-up of the Guard. Governor Barnett advised that he had received no such message.
2. Since the news media was still making reference to a call-up of the Guard, I remained at the office, and at 00:30 A.M., 30 September 1962, Brigadier General Greenlief, Chief of the Army Division, National Guard Bureau, called and advised that a message mobilizing the entire Army and Air National Guard had already been dispatched through the teletype system. He read the contents of the message. At 3:00 A.M., 30 September 1962, Teletype Message, DA 318075, was received on the teletype machine in the Adjutant General's Office. Copy of this message is attached as Tab "A".
3. I called Governor Barnett at the Mansion and read the message to him.
4. Members of my National Guard Staff were on duty in my office and issued the alert and call-up order to the units, in accordance with mobilization plans and procedures.
5. DA Message 318078 was received along with the previous message, and a copy of this message is attached as Tab "B". This message contained instructions to specific commanders and units.
6. In accordance with instructions contained in DA Message 318078 (Tab "B"), Colonels Bush, Odell, Gray and Martin reported to General Billingslea at Memphis Naval Air Station at 2:00 P.M., 30 September 1962. Attached herewith as Tab "C" is copy of the Commander's Orientation given by General Billingslea and his staff at this meeting.
7. Attached as Tab "D" is a brief resume of activities of the 2nd Battle Group, 155th Infantry, prepared by Colonel Robert L. Gray, the Commanding Officer.
8. Attached as Tab "E" is a brief resume of activities of the 108th Armored Cavalry, prepared by Lieutenant Colonel Van T. Stubbs, Executive Officer.
9. Attached as Tab "F" is a brief resume of activities of the 1st Battle Group, 155th Infantry, prepared by Colonel Marion D. Odell, the Commanding Officer. This resume has attached to it an extract from the unit's file, showing activities and background of the unit during the operation.

Information Pertaining to the Call-Up of the National Guard on 30 September 1962, Military Title "Operation Rapid Road (Cont'd)

10. All units of the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard, except those referred to in the preceding paragraphs, were under the operational control of the officer in charge of the Active Army forces in the Oxford area, but orders were that they would remain at their home stations and complete administrative processing and procedures, and conduct appropriate training. Subsequently, a composite Medical Team was drawn from Medical units and performed several days in the Oxford area in support of both Active Army and National Guard units in the area. The last of these units were released from the Active Duty Call-Up and reverted to State Control on 9 October 1962.