

MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD

STATE OFFICE BUILDING

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 30, 1962

The entire Mississippi National Guard was ordered into Federal Service, effective Sunday morning, September 30, 1962 at two minutes after midnight, and placed under the Command of Brig Gen Charles Billingslea.

The call affected 11,073 officers and men. The message Federalizing the National Guard was recieved by Major General William P Wilson at 25 minutes passed midnight Saturday. General Wilson immediately notified Governor Ross R. Barnett and ordered the 14,400 officers and men of the National Guard to report immediately to their armories. Within two hours almost the entire Guard was mobilized and awaiting instructions from their new Commander, who had established headquarters at the Memphis Naval Air Station.

The activation order instructed two Battle Groups and one Armored Cavalry Regiment with an aggregate strength of 3,086 men to arrive in Oxford not later than 10 AM, October 1, 1962, reporting to General Billingslea.

Mississippi National Guard units ordered to report to Oxford are as follows:

1st Battle Group, 155th Infantry Regiment with headquarters in Laurel, Commanded by Col Marion D. Odell, with units at Brookhaven, Tylertown, Natchez, Meadville, McComb, Magnolia, and Gloster.

2nd Battle Group, 155th Infantry Regiment with headquarters in Amory, Commanded by Col Robert L. Gray, with units at Corinth, Kosciusko, Louisville, Iuka, Aberdeen, and Starkville.

The 108th Armored Cavalry Regiment with headquarters in Tupelo, Commanded by Col James G. Martin, with units at Belmont, Booneville, Fulton, Okolona, Baldwyn, Nettleton, Ripley, Oxford, New Albany, Pontotoc, Holly Springs, Water Valley, Senatobia, Marks, Sardis, Batesville, Hernando, and Tunica.

Col Odell, Col Gray, and Col Martin were ordered to report to General Billingslea Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM at the Memphis Naval Air Station.