



DACS-ZAA

UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF



14 January 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Trip Report--South Carolina ARNG, Fort Jackson, SC and Jackson, MS, 12 - 13 January 1992.

1. **PURPOSE:** On 12 January 1992, I visited the 1st Bn, 151st Aviation Attack Helicopter Battalion, South Carolina Army National Guard, in Columbia, SC. That evening, I attended a dinner at the Ft. Jackson Officers Club hosted by the AUSA and addressed the approximately two hundred members. The following morning, I visited initial entry training at Ft. Jackson and then departed for Jackson, MS, where I met informally with Congressman Sonny Montgomery and addressed members of the local Rotary Club. I was accompanied by the Director of the Army National Guard, MG Rees; COL Wood, ARNG PA&E; and COL Harper.

2. **OBJECTIVES:**

- a. To observe reserve component unit and initial entry training.
- b. To participate in discussions with members of Congress and key Total Army leaders.
- c. To demonstrate my personal commitment to the Total Force.
- d. To participate in media events targeted on the Total Force.

3. **SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND DISCUSSIONS:**

- a. Enroute to Fort Jackson, MG Rees briefed me on the force structure presentation he had given to General Burba. We also discussed ARNG mobilization issues. (INFO)
 - b. We were met at McEntire Military Terminal, Columbia, SC by LTG James W. Crysel, CG 2d Army; MG T. Eston Marchant, TAG SC; and Major Les Eisner, Cdr 1-151st Avn Bn. (INFO)
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c. I first received an overview of the unit, followed by battalion and company operations orders. Following the briefings, we boarded a UH60 Aircraft to observe the battalion's deep attack mission to destroy remnants of a Motorized Rifle Regiment. (INFO)

d. Following the mission, I had lunch with the senior officers and the Battalion CSM. This was followed by an AAR of the operation and a unit readiness briefing. I was then given a tour of the unit's excellent maintenance facilities. (INFO)

e. I am pleased with the relationship the unit has established with the XVIII Airborne Corps and the high level of proficiency displayed throughout the unit. The unit flew over 2000 hours last fiscal year, 39% of which were at night. There are approximately seventy-five full-time personnel assigned to the battalion. The unit is at 124% strength and is 98% MOS qualified. The experience level for pilots is excellent. The unit has a 4% turnover rate at the present time which is probably too low for the long term. (INFO)

f. I was very pleased with what I saw. This is an outstanding unit, exemplifying the critical role the ARNG plays as a member of the Total Force. An indicator of the unit's proficiency is that the 24th Infantry Division has coordinated for the 1-151st Attack Battalion to evaluate the division's Aviation battalion during its annual ARTEP in June 92. (INFO)

g. The following problem areas surfaced during my visit:

(1) Requisition of equipment in non-divisional units--in our MRR I would like to be updated on what we are doing to identify problems in non-divisional early deployers like the 1-151st. The 51st Group Commander briefed that he was short secure comms equipment. (ACTION: DCSOPS)

(2) RC pay system--I need to be updated on what we are doing to improve the system in light of lessons learned from Desert Storm. (ACTION: DCSPER)

(3) I need more information on the feasibility of having units like the 1-151st deploy directly from home station, instead of going through the mobilization station. I believe that this is getting sufficient attention as a Bold Shift initiative but would like to be kept informed. (ACTION: DCSOPS)

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h. Prior to departing, I met with soldiers of the battalion and complimented them on the outstanding job they are doing and the sacrifices they and their families are making to ensure our Nation's defense remains strong. (INFO)

i. We then departed McEntire Airfield enroute to Ft Jackson, where I was met by MG Steve Siegfried, CG, USATC and Ft Jackson. During the evening I addressed a dinner hosted by the Columbia/Ft Jackson AUSA. Attendees included both Active Duty personnel and a large number of Retirees from the local community. I emphasized my commitment to the Retirees and to maintaining a trained and ready Total Force. I thanked the group for their contribution to maintaining our Nation's strong defense. (INFO)

j. I began the second day with a breakfast with Brigade/Battalion Commanders and CSMs. I spoke briefly on where our Army is going and expressed my appreciation for the outstanding contribution they are making to ensure that our Total Army stays trained and ready. I told them that victory starts with them, that our training centers will be funded and that we will pay the price to train our personnel. I emphasized that what they are doing is tremendously important to our Army and our country. (INFO)

k. Following breakfast, I toured the CONUS Demobilization Center for soldiers returning from Southwest Asia. To date, over 1600 personnel have been outprocessed. I emphasized that the most important aspect was how we treat departing soldiers, how they should see us and why this is important. I was pleased with what I heard and saw. (INFO)

l. I next visited initial entry training and was very impressed with the caliber of both trainee and instructor I observed. We have outstanding young men and women coming into our Army, and an outstanding training facility at Ft Jackson. (INFO)

m. The fact that we do not issue running shoes in the clothing bag came up in my discussions with MG Siegfried. I would like to have an update on where we are on this. (ACTION: DCSPER)

n. I then travelled to Jackson, Mississippi to address the local Rotary Club. I was met at the Jackson, MS, Airport by Congressman Sonny Montgomery,

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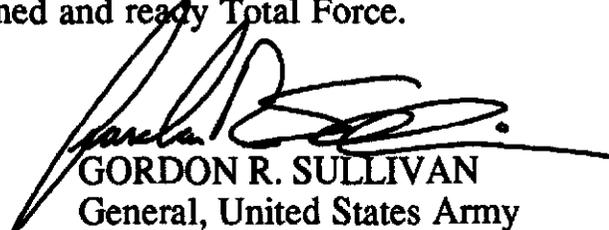
LTG(R) Emmett H. Walker, Jr. and BG Jim Garner, Mississippi TAG designee. (INFO)

o. I met informally with Congressman Montgomery and LTG (R) Walker prior to addressing the Rotary Club. We talked about force structure alternatives and early access to ARNG units in time of crisis. (INFO)

p. I then addressed the Jackson, MS Rotary Club. In attendance were over three hundred members of the organization, including United States Senators Lott and Cochran. I expressed my pleasure in having the opportunity to address the group on the future of America's Army. I emphasized the key role Mississippi units played in support of Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort, and my commitment to maintaining a trained and ready Total Force-- Active and Reserve, capable of achieving decisive victory. (INFO)

4. CONCLUSION:

This was an outstanding trip. All of my objectives were achieved. We are on the right track to maintaining a trained and ready Total Force.


GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

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