

## **G. V. Sonny Montgomery Weekly Radio Show**

Date: December 20, 1995

*Audio begins at 00:15*

Interviewer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. Two National Guard Units in Mississippi have been mobilized for duty in support of the U.S. peacekeeping mission to Bosnia. What are the details on this?

Montgomery: Well I was hoping these two units would be able to stay home for Christmas but it doesn't look like that now. They will they will call to active duty on on December the 16<sup>th</sup> and looks like they'll probably be on active duty for 9 months to until a year. And as I understand it, they all have to be volunteer, if they don't want to volunteer. I don't know whether they'll have to go or not, but it's supposed to be a volunteer operation for these Guardsmen and and Reserves. And if they're serving in the guard, you know, they they have to expect or the reserve, they they would be a possibility of being called up. But one good area they're not going to have to go to Bosnia where the weather is so bad. They would be in Germany and they'll take the place of Military Police from the First Armored Division who have moved into Bosnia. And so, they'll be what we call a backfield for the regular active forces, but they'll do a good job. I visited both of these units in Brandon and in in in Clinton and they'll they'll come through for us but if you're getting these National Guard and Reserve you have to go when you get the call up and it'll be good experience from 'em for them and I think most of them will not get hurt, no they won't.

Interviewer: Are these the only two Mississippi units affected?

Montgomery: So far that that is correct I have a, lets point out now, that I just talked to General Shepard who's Head of the the Air Guard, Major General for all the Air Guard in the United States, and he tells me that the unit in Rankin county that 172<sup>nd</sup> unit will will furnish a plane about every day or every week to go to to Bosnia or that area to take in supplies and and the unit in Meridian, the Air Guard in Meridian 186 will be flying missions all the time. So long as we're in Bosnia there there's gone be an Air Guard plane from either the Rankin county area or the Meridian area will be be in Bosnia. There there are some individuals that I didn't know about that are from the the Air Guard Communication unit in in in Meridian that are on the ground in Hungary and I hear it's been pretty cold over there and their folks been worried about 'em but we gone get 'em where they'll get won't have to sleep on the ground, they will be protected and first few days it's gone be tough on 'em. But there are some Mississippians on the ground in Hungary and will be in in also in Bosnia also in the next few days. But not any big units.

Interviewer: As this is being taped, parts of the federal government are still shut down and budget talks continue. What's your assessment of what might happen in the next few days?

Montgomery: Well we've got to do something, you know, it's enough credit to go all around to the Congress and the President of the United States, the Republicans, Democrats, we've got to we've got to work this out and if we don't put some of the Veterans Department government workers back to work this week then the veteran is gone get his or her compensation or pension or educational benefits checks will be delayed. They will not get them around the first of January but there is a possibility this week that we'll put people back to work in in the federal government.

Interviewer: What would happen if the shutdown continued for several more weeks? Veterans benefits checks would be effected?

Montgomery: Yes,as I said earlier the the checks would would be delayed but but I think we'll have to get something done this week but but the the checks will will maybe I'm just just summizing here. If we don't get things worked out this week, the checks probably that you get on January the 1<sup>st</sup> will will be delayed about a week. You'll get em about a week later cause then we work out all these problems. But in that check they're both for the compensation and pension there will be a 2.6% cost of living increase so maybe its works waiting on.

Interviewer: Thank you Congressman. This has been Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington.

*Audio ends at 04:50*