

**RESUME OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE MOBILIZATION OF THE
NATIONAL GUARD FOR OPERATION "RAPID ROAD"
BY 108TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT**

At approximately 0230 hours, 30 September 1962, Lt Colonel Ervin informed Lt Colonel Stubbs, Executive Officer, 108th Armored Cavalry, that the entire Mississippi National Guard had been mobilized. The Regimental Commander and Squadron Commanders were notified immediately to assemble their units at Home Stations as soon as possible. This was accomplished. At approximately 0500 hours, 30 September 1962, Colonel Martin, Regimental Commander, received a telephone call from Colonel Bush in Jackson notifying him that he had been appointed Troop Commander of Mississippi Troops. Further, that he (Colonel Bush) would arrive in Tupelo at approximately 1100 for a conference. At this conference Colonel Martin was notified that General Billingslea, who was in command of Operation Rapid Road, wanted a meeting of the Commanding Officers of the 1st and 2nd Battle Groups, 155th Infantry and of the 108th Armored Cavalry Regiment at 1400 hours at Millington Naval Air Station. This was accomplished. Approximately three Staff Officers accompanied each Commander. During this entire period all units were preparing for any movement or action.

Colonel Martin was informed at the meeting with General Billingslea that the 108th Armored Cavalry and the 1st and 2nd Battle Groups, 155th Infantry, would be used in the Oxford area. Units would prepare for move to the Oxford area on 1 October 1962. The 108th Armored Cavalry was to close into a bivouac area near Oxford by 1100 hours, 1 October 1962. Colonel Martin returned from Millington at approximately 1800 hours. Units were notified of this contemplated move and to make preparations for this move.

At approximately 2000 hours, 30 September 1962, General Billingslea notified Colonel Martin by telephone that 25% of the personnel of the Command could be held at the armory and the remaining could go home for the night and return to the armory by 0500 hours, 1 October 1962. This information was disseminated to all troops.

At 2100 hours General Billingslea revoked the leaves of personnel and issued orders for the 108th Armored Cavalry to move to the campus of Ole Miss immediately. Troop E, 108th Armored Cavalry, Oxford, was ordered to the campus on Presidential Order at approximately 2200 hours. Troop G, Pontotoc, and Howitzer Battery 2nd Reconnaissance Squadron, 108th Armored Cavalry, Water Valley, were ordered to move immediately to the campus to relieve pressure on the Lyceum Building. All other 108th Armored Cavalry Units except Troop D, Troop H and Troop M were ordered to move to the armory at Oxford. Units accomplished this mission at approximately 0200, 1 October 1962. Commanders of 1st and 3rd Reconnaissance Squadrons, 108th Armored Cavalry, were briefed on the mission and departed with their Squadrons at approximately 0300 hours.

The mission assigned was to move to the Lyceum Building, report to General Billingslea, and clear the campus of all rioters. This was to be a coordinated effort of both Squadrons. This mission was accomplished at approximately 0430. Colonel Martin was then given the mission of securing the campus. The 1st Battle Group, 155th Infantry was attached; 505th Military Police Battalion (Regular Army Unit) attached; campus secured and sector assignments made by 0900 hours, 1 October 1962.

Remainder of 1 October spent in clean up of spotted resistance in the City of Oxford and preparing bivouac areas for all personnel in the vicinity of the Oxford armory. Some small units used to assist in road block operation.

On 2 October 1962, 108th Armored Cavalry received orders to move to a bivouac area two miles South of Oxford on Highway 7. The 108th was relieved of campus responsibility at 1800 hours, 2 October 1962. Training of troops in Riot Control and Helicopter-borne Movements was initiated. A company size unit was maintained on 24 hour alert for the remainder of the time up until about 20 October 1962.

The 108th Armored Cavalry assumed campus responsibility again on or about 10 October 1962. The 2nd Reconnaissance Squadron (-) was moved to the campus to assume these duties. Two Military Police Companies attached to assist in these duties.

All units of 108th Armored Cavalry were released from duties and allowed to move to home stations on or about 20 October 1962. Units remained on Active Duty until approximately 23 October 1962 when units returned to control of State Adjutant General.

Dates and times are approximate but reasonably accurate.

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