

13 NOVEMBER 1990

EL PASO, TX 79904

HONORABLE [REDACTED]
CHAIRMAN
RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD
THE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301

Tape

FEB 5 ANS'D

MR SECRETARY:

THIS AFTERNOON AND YESTERDAY AFTERNOON I WAS PRIVILEGED TO VIEW THE C-SPAN PROGRAM THAT DOCUMENTED THE CALL UP AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE 211TH MP Co., NC NATIONAL GUARD.

I MUST SAY THAT IT WAS ASSURING AND A PLEASURE TO SEE TWO KNOWLEDGEABLE PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS YOURSELF AND THE YOUNG LTC WHO IS THE PAO FOR THE NC NATIONAL GUARD ARTICULATE SO ELOQUENTLY ON MATTERS RELATING TO EVENTS INVOLVED IN DESERT SHIELD.

I AM A RETIRED MEMBER OF THE US ARMY. I RETIRED SOME 27 YEARS AGO THIS PAST MONTH. FROM 1964-1975 I SERVED ON THE CIVILIAN STAFF OF THE TEXAS ADJUTANT GENERAL AS AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN ADDITION TO BEING DIRECTOR OF THE ORGANIZED CRIME INTELLIGENCE FOR THE WESTERN AREA OF TEXAS.

SINCE DESERT SHIELD CAME ABOUT, IT SEEMS AS IF EVERY ONE WHO HAS EVER WORN A MILITARY UNIFORM IS AN EXPERT OF SOME TYPE, AND THIS HAS A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH THE DOUBT THAT IS TAKING PLACE IN THE MINDS OF MUCH OF THE POPULOUS THESE DAYS. TO SAY THAT THEY "KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WHAT THEY SPEAK" WOULD BE AN UNDER STATEMENT, AND THEY LOVE TO SEE THEMSELVES ON THE TV MONITOR IN THE STUDIO.

AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR TENURE AS SECRETARY OF THE ARMY. I AM ALSO SURE THAT YOU MUST BE GRATIFIED TO SEE HOW SMOOTH MOST OF THE DEPLOYMENT OPERATIONS ARE GOING, CONSIDERING THE MANY HOURS THAT YOU AND YOUR PLANNING STAFF DEVOTED TO THE OPERATIONAL PLANS THAT ARE NOW TAKING PLACE.

AS YOU SEE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT STAFF THERE IN THAT FUNNY SHAPED BUILDING ON THE POTOMAC, YOU CAN TELL THEM THAT THEIR ACTIONS ARE BEING FULLY SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS OF THE "GERTTOL GANG" SUCH AS MY SELF AND A MAJORITY OF THE RETIREES AROUND THE COUNTRY. THERE ARE MANY OF US FROM THE "BROWN SHOE ERA" WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORT, BUT MOST OF US HAVE ENOUGH "STREET SMARTS" TO RECOGNIZE THE COLD AND HARSH REALITY THAT WE WOULD ONLY BE IN THE WAY IN THE PRESENT "HIGH TECH, BLACK SHOE ARMY OF TODAY".

BOTH OF MY SONS JOINED THE ARMY AND SERVED DURING THE VIETNAM ERA, ONE WAS AN INSTRUCTOR HERE IN THE US WHILE THE OTHER DID ONE TOUR IN VIETNAM.

THIS NINE HOUR PROGRAM THAT IS BEING Aired ON C-SPAN IS ONE OF THE MOST INFORMATIVE THAT I HAVE SEEN, AND IT IS HELPING THE CITIZENS OF THIS NATION UNDERSTAND WHAT IS TAKING PLACE AS RELATES TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF SO MANY TROOPS TO DESERT SHEILD. A NEIGHBOR CAME BY

THIS EVENING, AND HE STATED THAT HE HAD NEVER BEEN IN THE MILITARY, AN REALLY HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN AN OPERATION SUCH AS IS TAKING PLACE NOW, BUT AFTER VIEWING THE SEGMENT FROM YESTERDAY AND TODAY, HE HAD CHANGED HIS MIND COMPLETELY ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION.

I AM SURE THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND GENERAL POWELL ARE TWO VERY BUSY PEOPLE THERE IN DC, BUT IF THEY WERE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE AS YOU YOU DID TODAY, I AM SURE THAT MANY MORE OF THE CITIZENS WOULD HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE, AND IT IS A SHAME THAT THE MAJOR NETWORKS CAN NOT AIR A PROGRAM SUCH AS THIS ONE.

MR SECRETARY, FROM 1981-1986 I WAS DIRECTOR OF CIVILIAN SECURITY AT WILLIAM BEAUMONT ARMY MEDICAL CENTER AND BECAME A FRIEND OF A YOUNG INTERN BY THE NAME OF CPT (DR) [REDACTED]. I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE SUNDAY NIGHT THAT A CALL WENT OUT ON THE FT BLISS MP RADIO, " SHOTS FIRED, MP DOWN, AND ANOTHER SERVICE MEMBER WOUNDED, THEN AN EMERGENCY ROOM AMBULANCE WITH TWO DRS ABOARD RESPONDED TO THE BIGGS FIELD NCO CLUB, THOSE DRS WERE [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED], UPON ARRIVAL AT THE SCENE, AND WITH ALL THE CONFUSION, THEY BOTH WERE CRAWLING ON THEIR BELLIES TO REACH AND EVALUATE THE WOUNDED, FOR [REDACTED] IS WAS NO PROBLEM, HE WAS LEAN AND MEAN, BUT FOR [REDACTED] IT WAS A DIFFERENT MATTER; HE STOOD ABOUT 6-3 AND WEIGHT WAS AROUND 230. HE LATER STATED THAT HIS BIGGEST WORRY WAS THAT SOME " TRIGGER HAPPY" MP WAS GOING TO BLAST HIM IN THE BUTT AS HE CRAWLED TO THE PATIENT. BOTH OF THE WOUNDED SURVIVED, THE YOUNG MP RECEIVED A MEDICAL DISCHARGE, AS ONE OF HIS ARMS WAS DESTROYED BY A BLAST FROM A SHOTGUN IN THE ATTEMPTED ROBBERY. THE E-8 WHO WAS THE CLUB MANAGER WAS ONLY WOUNDED IN THE HAND.

SO SIR, THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE OR TALK WITH [REDACTED], TELL HIM I SAID HELLO. AND IF HE IS EVER IN EL PASO, GIVE ME A CALL.

I THANK YOU FOR YOU TIME.

I REMAIN, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]