

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove Raises Mississippi Threat Level**

(Jackson, MS) – Today, Governor Ronnie Musgrove raised Mississippi’s threat level to Orange, or high alert, in response to the similar action taken yesterday by President George Bush. Following an early morning meeting of the Mississippi Homeland Security Council, Musgrove also issued a state of emergency to help ensure the safety of the people of Mississippi. An executive order has been issued as well to provide for the possible deployment of Mississippi National Guard personnel to key points around the state, including Grand Gulf and ports along the Mississippi River and Gulf Coast.

“I want to assure everyone that we are prepared,” said Musgrove. “While there is no specific information at this time relating to a threat against Mississippi, we can and will do everything necessary to protect our people.”

The security briefing of the Mississippi Homeland Security Council was held to outline again the state’s preparedness for any threat scenario. The council includes representatives from federal, state and local governments.

“We will continue to work with our federal and local law enforcement partners to ensure communication and coordination of any relevant security information,” said Musgrove. “Everyone should continue to remain vigilant and alert.”

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Musgrove hosted a summit on domestic preparedness and established an Incident Command System by executive order, under which all state and local emergency personnel utilize common terminology, integrated communications, incident action plans, unified command and management of resources during emergencies. A series of bioterrorism exercises has been held statewide, and a conference for the state’s emergency responders is currently underway in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Musgrove called on the people of Mississippi to remember not only those who are working to protect the public safety here at home, but for those serving on the front lines of the nation’s war against terrorism.

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“I ask all Mississippians to join me in support of our U.S. armed forces, including more than 4,500 Mississippi National Guard and Reserve members who may be put in harm’s way,” Musgrove said. “Our prayers are with the President, our troops, and their families.”

For more information on the state and federal threat levels and how to prepare for different scenarios, visit the state’s homeland security website at [www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov).

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