

For Immediate Release
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Governor Musgrove Authorizes Activation of Mississippi National Guard Personnel for Airport Security

Jackson, MS – In accordance with the request from President George Bush, Governor Ronnie Musgrove today authorized the activation of Mississippi National Guard personnel to assist civilian authorities in augmenting airport security.

“I am issuing an executive order directing (Mississippi National Guard) Adjutant General James H. Lipscomb III to call up National Guard personnel,” Musgrove said. “It is important for us to support the security goals of President Bush and the Mississippi National Guard stands ready to assist in any way necessary.”

Under this activation, National Guard personnel will be stationed at security checkpoints in seven airports around Mississippi. These personnel will be armed and in uniform, and will have the authority to screen and detain individuals.

The following airports in Mississippi will receive National Guard personnel:

- Mid-Delta Regional Airport, Greenville
- Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport, Gulfport
- Golden Triangle Regional Airport, Columbus
- Jackson International Airport, Jackson
- Key Field Airport, Meridian
- Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport, Moselle
- Tupelo Regional Airport, Tupelo.

The National Guard is in the process of completing a state plan for the activation of personnel, and the plan must be approved by the National Guard Bureau before orders are issued. Personnel will be trained to meet FAA requirements, and are expected to be in place by October 5, 2001.

