MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS

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SUBJECT: Mississippi and Homeland Security **Date: June 7, 2002**

(Jackson) – The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) was appointed by Governor Ronnie Musgrove as the primary agency responsible for coordinating Homeland Security roles and responsibilities in Mississippi. Since September 11, MEMA has conducted meetings of the Mississippi Terrorism Task Force, which was established in 1999, to develop specific protocols and procedures to protect the citizens of Mississippi. The Terrorism Task Force consist of staff members from MEMA, the Department of Public Safety, the MS Department of Health, State Department of Insurance, MS Department of Environmental Quality, FBI, U.S. Postal Service, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"Governor Musgrove and the agencies involved with the Mississippi Terrorism Task Force are working to ensure the safety and security of the people of Mississippi," said Robert Latham, Director of Homeland Security for Mississippi and MEMA Director. "We are hopeful the development of the Department of Homeland Security, as recommended by President Bush, will enhance the coordination of sharing important information and reduce the redundancy from the federal level to the state level, which will better enable the State to support local efforts in preparedness and response."