

For Immediate Release

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Contact: John Sewell

601-359-2916

Governor Musgrove: Threat Level Lowered in Mississippi

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced today that the terrorism threat level in Mississippi has been lowered back to Yellow, or Elevated. Musgrove said the level was lowered in coordination with the federal Department of Homeland Security.

“In a conference call this morning, Secretary Tom Ridge suggested the lowering of the threat level in the states, and we are cooperating with that suggestion,” Musgrove said. “We will continue to maintain our focus on ensuring the safety and security of the people of Mississippi.”

Since the beginning of the war in Iraq, Mississippi National Guard personnel have been deployed to augment security at key facilities around the state, including the Grand Gulf Nuclear Facility. Troopers from the Mississippi Highway Patrol have also provided increased security at the state capitol and other state office buildings.

“We are communicating with the Department of Homeland Security and Secretary Ridge on a regular basis,” said Robert Latham, executive director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the state’s director of homeland security. “The threat level is down to Yellow or Elevated, but we are still working closely with first responders across the state to prepare for any scenario and urge citizens to remain vigilant.”

The recent homeland security efforts were dubbed “Operation Liberty Shield.” The total cost of deploying the National Guard personnel will be approximately \$150,000. None of the \$7.5 million in funding from the Department of Homeland Security was available to cover costs of Operation Liberty Shield.

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