

Dear Agency Head:

With the war in Iraq fully underway, our efforts to ensure our own homeland security have been taken to the next level.

In conjunction with federal action, I have raised our own threat level to ORANGE, or high. Personnel from the Mississippi National Guard have been deployed to augment security measures at ports along the Gulf Coast and the Mississippi River, as well as at Grand Gulf Nuclear Facility. In recent days, personnel from the Mississippi Highway Patrol have also been called on to provide additional security at the state capitol and the Woolfolk building.

While no specific threats have been made against people or property in Mississippi, I believe we are better served by being prepared for any scenario. We are in regular, sometimes daily, communication with Secretary Tom Ridge and the Department of Homeland Security. We are taking no chances with safety and security.

During this time of conflict, our prayers remain with President Bush and the brave men and women fighting in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and anywhere freedom is threatened.

Thank you for your leadership and vigilance.

Very truly yours,