

*Remarks for the  
Gulf States Initiative Press Conference  
August 16, 2001*

Thank you, Commissioner Huggins. On behalf of the people of Mississippi, let me say two things – first, to Mr. Keenan, welcome to Mississippi; and secondly, to all who make the Gulf States Initiative work, thank you for your efforts to protect our people.

The GSI is, without a doubt, high-tech law enforcement at its best. It also shows what can happen when we work together to reach a goal – in this case, the safety of the hard-working citizens of the participating states.

A total of five states – Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and now Florida – have joined forces with support from the United States Department of Defense to focus on drug enforcement.

The mission of the GSI has also expanded recently with the inclusion of national security issues such as terrorism, organized crime, and intelligence gathering.

We are proud of the role we play through the Mississippi Department of Public Safety with this partnership, and I know the other states share this pride.

The GSI truly is a partnership, with the member states not only sharing information and intelligence but manpower and equipment.

And, I am proud of Commissioner Huggins for his role as Vice Chairman of the Gulf States Initiative. His efforts on behalf of the GSI and the State of Mississippi do not go unnoticed, and I am grateful for his work.

Thank you, Commissioner Huggins.