

*Remarks for
Hattiesburg First Responders
September 11, 2003*

- recognize
 - Robert Latham
 - Mayor Johnny DuPree of Hattiesburg
 - Hattiesburg Fire Chief Jim Fiero and
Asst. Chief Kenny Miller
 - Hattiesburg Police Chief David Lynn
 - Terry Steed – Forrest County
Emergency Management Director
 - All other local emergency management
directors
 - All police officers, firefighters and
EMT's and first responders

- Here today to thank our first responders –
for their commitment to protecting the
public safety and for their dedication to duty

- Here at home, you are the ones on the front
lines
 - You are well-trained, well-prepared
for any scenario
 - Since 9/11, done more and learned
more than ever before

- In the weeks of 9/11 brought together representatives from law enforcement, emergency management and government to develop new means of responding quickly to threats to our citizens
 - First responder conference attended by over 500 first responders
 - Obligated over \$16 million to our first responders for equipment
 - ❖ Over \$500,000 has gone to the Hattiesburg, Forrest County area
 - Bioterrorism exercises held around the state
 - Incident command system established, one of only 6 states, to ensure all levels of emergency

personnel use common technology,
unified command and integrated
communications

- Want to assure everyone here today that we are going to continue to work together
 - Municipal and county governments will be involved in decision-making and planning
 - Guidelines and support will be available from state agencies

- No emergency responder in Mississippi will be alone in reacting to a situation
 - We are all in this together / that will not change

- Thank you for your courage and commitment to your jobs and those you serve
- May God bless you, the State of Mississippi and the United States.