

*Remarks for the
Press Conference regarding Terrorist Attacks
September 11, 2001*

Good morning. Today, our country is suffering from attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. These cowardly attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are unconscionable. This is a national tragedy. We do not know the total number of those killed or injured, but our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

Here is the situation as it currently stands in Mississippi. As you know, the Federal Aviation Administration has shut down all air traffic nationwide. Airports across the state are complying with this order.

I have instructed all of our military facilities to increase their security levels. Our Army and Air National Guard facilities throughout the state have followed through with this order. These increased security levels will limit access to facilities and all operational areas within these facilities.

I want to impress upon everyone that this is not a mobilization or a deployment of National Guard soldiers or airmen, nor have they been put on alert. This is an increased security posture that will help protect our

guard members and their equipment and facilities.

All normal lines of communication with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency are open, and they have been in contact with all county directors. They are also in constant contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

As a precautionary measure, the Department of Finance and Administration is increasing the number of security officers around state buildings.

We are monitoring this situation very closely and working with federal officials to ensure the security of our people.

I want to reassure all Mississippians that we are taking every security precaution.

However, our schools, businesses and state offices will remain open. These tragic attacks have hit us all very hard, and it is a very difficult day for America.

We will keep our people updated. I ask for the prayers of the people for those killed, those injured, and those threatened by these attacks.

