

State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON TAKES STEPS TO PREPARE FOR HEIGHTENED SECURITY ALERT

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson took proactive efforts today to prepare New Mexico for any emergencies as the nation prepares for potential war with Iraq.

“New Mexico’s Homeland Security Advisor, R.L. Stockard, and I have been in continuing contact with federal Homeland Security officials,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Secretary Tom Ridge has informed us that they know of no specific threats to facilities and infrastructure in New Mexico.”

“Nevertheless, we want to be proactive. So, today I am signing an executive order creating the Homeland Security Advisory Committee. R.L. Stockard will be the chairman of this committee.”

The Advisory Committee will be made up of state and local officials and representatives from private industry. The committee will be in charge of assessing New Mexico’s overall state of readiness and generate recommendations for a comprehensive homeland security strategy.

Governor Bill Richardson also ordered the New Mexico National Guard to supplement the security already being provided at the Albuquerque International Sunport, the state’s only international airport. He said the National Guard presence will supplement security already provided by the new U.S. Transportation Security Administration.

“I believe we need to do more to ramp up security at the airport and protect the public,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “I think this is the prudent thing to do, even though there are no specific threats.”

Governor Richardson also said the state will stand ready to assist the federal government if it asks for help in protecting the two national laboratories and the four military bases in New Mexico.

For more information, go to the New Mexico Department of Public Safety’s web site at www.dps.nm.org.

