

**New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson Praises Troops,
Presents First "Spirit of New Mexico" Award
to Former POW Spc. Joseph Hudson**

Embargoed for release until 10am
May 3, 2003

Contact: Pahl Shipley
505.476.2202

ALAMOGORDO- Governor Bill Richardson today joined the Alamogordo community and other dignitaries in ceremonies honoring our troops deployed overseas, Holloman Air Force Base personnel returning home and those still deployed, and Alamogordo's favorite son, former POW in Iraq, Specialist Joseph Hudson.

"It is important to thank all of our military personnel and show our support and praise," said Governor Richardson. "As we gather to honor our troops serving at home and abroad, let's pause to remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice, who gave their lives for their country. Let's also remember the many young men and women of the New Mexico National Guard so honorably serving today at home and overseas."

During the celebration, Governor Richardson presented Spc. Hudson with the very first "Spirit of New Mexico" Award, designed to recognize New Mexicans demonstrating extraordinary courage, leadership, and devotion to state and country.

"This award is the highest honor I can bestow on any New Mexican," said Governor Richardson. "I am so proud to stand here today with a true New Mexico hero and express the gratitude of every New Mexican and every American. There is no better person to receive the first 'Spirit of New Mexico Award' than Alamogordo's favorite son, Joseph Hudson. I'd like to read to you the words inscribed on the plaque."

"U.S. Army Specialist
Joseph Hudson

In Recognition Of Your Courage In The Line
Of Fire And For Your Service And Dedication
To Your Comrades In Arms In Keeping With The
Finest Traditions Of New Mexico Heroes.

It Is My Great Honor And Esteemed Pleasure To
Present You With The First
'Spirit Of New Mexico Award'

Your Deeds And Your Courage Will Never Be Forgotten
Bill Richardson
Governor"

#30