

State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson, Governor

For immediate release

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NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON ANNOUNCES 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 responds to potential terrorist attacks. Based on national and international intelligence information and on the recent terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Israel, Homeland Security Secretary Ridge has raised the terrorist alert to Orange.

“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.”

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

“In response to the raised alert level, I have ordered increased security at the airport to protect the public,” Governor Bill Richardson said.

“I have also ordered the Emergency Operations Center on 24 hour observance so that we will be more prepared for any potential terrorist attack in our state,” governor Richardson said.

“These proactive measures serve as a strong deterrent against potential attacks. The more vigilant we remain the less likely we are to be the victims of another attack. We must do everything in our power to be prepared,” Governor Richardson said.

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 <<http://www.dps.nm.org/>>.