

Governor Bill Richardson Comments on Activation of Additional New Mexico National Guard Troops

515th Corp Support Battalion Headquarters Staff to be deployed to Southwest Asia

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today commented on the activation of the New Mexico National Guard 515th Corp Support Battalion Headquarters Staff from Springer:

“I was notified a short time ago that President Bush has ordered the Army to activate the New Mexico National Guard 515th Corp Support Battalion Headquarters staff in Springer. The 515th consists of approximately 60 soldiers from 15 New Mexico communities.

December 10th, 515th Commander Richard Rael will lead his unit to Fort Bliss for additional training in convoy operations, force protection, and nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare. The 515th will then be deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This latest deployment will bring the total of New Mexico Army and Air National Guard personnel on active duty around the world to 931. So far, nine New Mexico Guard personnel have been injured during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

My best wishes go out to the soldiers of the 515th and to their families and friends, along with our prayers for their safe and swift return to New Mexico. I am truly proud of the men and women of New Mexico serving in our armed forces, and the New Mexico National Guard.”