



## State of New Mexico

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

For Immediate Release  
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### **Governor Bill Richardson Sends New Mexican Chile & Salsa to New Mexico Troops in Iraq**

*Santa Fe-* Governor Bill Richardson and 505 Southwestern, are donating 108,000 single serving packets of 505 Southwestern Green Chile Sauce & Salsa to all the troops stationed in Iraq. The product donation is over \$50,000.

Governor Richardson made the following remarks:

“Today we are here to honor our troops especially the members of the New Mexico National Guard fighting around the world on the war against terror. These are hard times for our troops, their families, their communities, and for all of us.

They remain constantly in our thoughts and we are all in their debt.

Today I am announcing “Operation Chile” to make sure every troop has a little bit of New Mexico to remind them of home.

Today we are packing up over 108 thousand single serving packets of green chile sauce and salsa. They will be shipped to Ruidoso where “Packages from Home” a good will organization in Ruidoso will help transport them to our troops in Iraq.

There are currently 824 New Mexico National Guard Soldiers deployed in the war against terror, and thousands more who are serving in the Army, Navy, Airforce, Marines and Coast Guard.

In the next two weeks an additional 300 New Mexico Air National Guard personnel will be placed on active deployment, bringing our total number of New Mexicans on active duty to over 1,100. This is the largest deployment in the history of the New Mexico National Guard.

I would like to personally commend 505 Southwestern for organizing the “Operation Chile” program. Thank you for your effort and most of all, for your compassion for taking the time to thank our men and women in uniform who are defending our nation.

These soldiers are fathers & mothers, sons & daughters, husbands & wives--some of whom have been gone and have not seen their home or their families for almost a year and a half.

This is a great way to say thanks and to tell them that they are always in our thoughts and in our prayers.

To all our troops and their families- God Bless each of you and we pray that you all come home safely.”

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