



**Immediate Release
August 31, 2005**

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Governor Richardson Announces New Mexico National Guard Plans

New Mexico National Guard Will Begin To Depart Tomorrow For Louisiana to Save lives and Protect Property

2 Blackhawk Helicopters Will Leave Tomorrow with Crews and Medics

195 Guard Troops Set to Travel Friday

Santa FE - Governor Richardson announced tonight, and National Guard Officials confirm, that two Black Hawk Helicopters, their crews and medics will depart for Louisiana tomorrow.

“Rescuing survivors, assisting those trapped on rooftops and evacuating New Orleans is an immediate priority and every possible asset is needed. Our pilots are among the best trained in the country and their service is sorely needed,” Governor Richardson said.

“The Governor also announced that equipment will be propositioned starting today for rapid deployment to Louisiana. Between now and Friday two five thousand gallon water tanks and four, thirty thousand kilowatt generators will be propositioned in Tucumcari,” Billy Sparks said.

“We are waiting for the formal order from the Emergency Management Assistance Compact which is a two step process. Louisiana makes the request to EMAC and EMAC orders the troops to deploy,” Governor Richardson said.

Here’s what should happen.

195 troops to Louisiana Friday

“We’ll reposition about sixty trucks and semis and 120 troops from Las Vegas to Tatum Friday. In Las Cruces 75 infantry soldiers will be mustered and also repositioned in Tatum on Friday. As soon as we get the official order from EMAC, they leave immediately for Louisiana. We could send more if needed. Lastly, we have medical teams and mechanical experts available,” Governor Richardson said.

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