

*Remarks – Governor Musgrove  
Homeland Security Council Press Conference  
March 18, 2003*

Thank you for being here this morning.

I have just concluded a security briefing with the Mississippi Homeland Security Council. This council has worked for months to prepare for just such a time.

Today, I have raised Mississippi's threat level to ORANGE or high alert in response to similar action taken by the President.

I am issuing a state of emergency to help ensure the safety of the people of Mississippi.

I want to assure you that we are prepared. While there is no specific information at this time relating to a threat against Mississippi, we will do all that is necessary to protect our people.

We are unified in our preparations and undaunted by the challenges we face.

We will continue to work with our federal and local law enforcement partners to ensure communication and coordination of any relevant security information.

We are conscious of your concerns and will provide as much information as we can in the coming days. We urge everyone to continue to remain vigilant and alert.

I ask all Mississippians to join me in support of our US Forces, including more than 4,500 Mississippi guard and reserve members who may be put in harms way.

Our prayers are with the President, our troops, and their families.

Q & A