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PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNOR CALLS ON FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD TO INCREASE SECURITY AT AIRPORTS STATEWIDE

The Florida National Guard will reinforce security at commercial airports statewide under the direction of Governor Jeb Bush.

In honoring a request by President George Bush to activate National Guard soldiers to protect airports nationwide, Governor Bush called on the National Guard to set up security forces for protection of selected commercial aviation facilities in Florida.

“The visible presence of National Guard personnel at our airports in Florida will go a long way toward enhancing security measures and in restoring the confidence of travelers in our state and around the country,” said Governor Bush. “This is a temporary measure that will give our airports the additional resources they need until new federal security plans are in place.”

The National Guard will provide enhanced security at Florida’s airports until the President’s federal airport security plan takes effect.

“We are the best available security force at the Governor’s disposal,” said Maj. Gen. Ronald O. Harrison, Adjutant General of Florida and commander of the state’s National Guard, who will begin to implement the Governor’s order. “The National Guard presence around airports and other important facilities will show that the Governor is taking the issue of aviation safety very seriously.”

It is anticipated the deployment could last several months.

You can expect to see National Guard personnel on-duty at the Gainesville Regional Airport beginning Friday, October 5, 2001, sometime after 12:00 noon.

For additional information, please contact:

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