



*Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport*

# **NEWS RELEASE**

*Clark County Department of Aviation - Randall H. Walker, Director*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## ***HENDERSON EXECUTIVE AIRPORT OPENS NEW RUNWAY*** ***Phase II of Henderson Airport Expansion includes longest*** ***General Aviation Runway in Southern Nevada***

On Friday, March 28, 2003, at 10 a.m., Henderson Executive Airport officially opened the newest runway in the Clark County airport system. At 6,500 feet, runway 17R – 35L is the longest general aviation runway in Southern Nevada, and is the first of two new parallel runways to be built at the Henderson airport.

Runway 17R – 35L was constructed with a new alignment, 13 degrees west of the original runway, creating greater operating efficiencies and directing air traffic away from neighboring communities. Its pavement is stressed to accommodate aircraft weighing up to 75,000 lbs. – making it ideal for small corporate aircraft as well as the private planes currently operating out of Henderson.

Randall H. Walker, Director, Clark County Department of Aviation, outlined plans for the airport. "It's important to understand that our airports do operate as an integrated system. Our ability to operate McCarran at its full projected passenger capacity hinges on our ability to attract small aircraft traffic away from McCarran. The development of these facilities will result in a premier corporate and general aviation reliever airport capable of serving the needs of the flying community well into the future."

Purchased by Clark County seven years ago, Henderson Executive Airport, while failing to meet even minimum standards, demonstrated potential to become one of the nation's premiere general aviation airports. The transformation of this airport will continue over the next few years. Construction is already underway on a 5,000-foot parallel runway. By early next year a brand new Air Traffic Control Tower and completely redesigned Terminal building should also be under construction. Private aircraft hangars, new access roads, and space for commercial aviation-related developments are also featured in the airport master plan.

**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Ralph Millard** of the Nevada Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, the official Air Force auxiliary, performed the first official take-off and landing. **Lt. Colonel Jerry Osgood** and other members of the Henderson Composite Squadron were also present.

**Don Derby**, a 25 year tenant of this airport, in his Cessna 182 Skylane; and **Rick Smith**, a 29 year tenant, in his 1959 Luscombe 8F, also flew ceremonial flights commemorating the opening of the new runway.



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