



Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport

NEWS RELEASE

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

CONTACT: *Hilarie Grey, Public Affairs Manager*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(702) 261-3094

McCARRAN OUTLINES POST 9.11 SECURITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the unprecedented closure of the National Airspace on September 11, 2001, the aviation industry has been tasked with implementing a variety of new security directives and procedures. As one of the nation's busiest airports, McCarran has undertaken additional initiatives to ensure safe travel while maintaining the level of customer service that is so critical to the Las Vegas hospitality industry. The following highlights major accomplishments of the past year:

- **Heightened Security**

Following closure of National Airspace on September 11, 2001, McCarran was one of the first major airports to be certified by the FAA to reopen at the AVSEC 4 level of heightened security. The Department of Aviation (DOA) coordinated implementation of many specific directives to both airport and tenant airlines.

- **Background Checks and Electronic Fingerprinting**

In accordance with Federal directives, DOA completed new background checks and issued new-format airport badge identification to all airport and tenant employees. The Department also purchased and deployed a state-of-the art electronic fingerprinting system for background verification against Federal law enforcement databases.

- **Increased Law Enforcement Presence**

DOA coordinated National Guard law enforcement deployment to McCarran, as well as subsequent staff additions and scope of duty changes to local law enforcement (Metro) detail.

- **Reconfigured Parking**

The entire airport parking complex was reconfigured to meet Federal security directives, calling for no unauthorized vehicles parked within 300 feet of any passenger Terminal. The DOA was able to re-open valet parking and additional short term parking in new locations. Roadway signage was also changed to reflect the new configuration.

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P.O. Box 11005 • Las Vegas, NV 89111-1005 • 702-261-3094 • Fax 702-261-5645

E-Mail: webmaster2@mccarran.com

- **Queuing and Search Equipment**

DOA coordinated and configured queuing and necessary baggage search equipment for each individual airline area in the airport Ticketing lobby. The Department also worked with airlines to coordinate and cover outdoor queuing utilized during peak times.

- **Security Checkpoint improvements**

DOA reconfigured all airport security checkpoints, adding lanes to increase total passenger processing capacity by more than 70%, installing new digital surveillance equipment, and upgrading x-ray equipment. In addition, a new queuing structure was implemented at each checkpoint, including ticket checking stations and divesting equipment (tables, bins) to expedite passenger processing.

- **Restricted Access**

Automatic security doors were installed at access points to each concourse, which would prevent gate area access in the event of a security breach.

In addition, the DOA implemented stringent security procedures for all vehicles accessing the airport operations area, restricted airfield access points and implemented additional airfield and perimeter patrols.

Forthcoming security changes:

- **Airport Canine Teams**

The Department of Aviation will deploy two canine teams this fall to assist in explosives detection efforts. These teams recently completed Federal training course at Lackland Air Force Base, near San Antonio, Texas. A third canine team will be added in early 2003.

- **Checked Baggage Screening**

DOA is continuing work with the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to develop short and long-term plans for screening of all checked baggage.

- **Federalization of Airport Security Screeners**

Coordinating with TSA for Federalization of airport screeners by November 19, 2002. Currently, screeners at McCarran's security checkpoints are employees of Wackenhut security, contracted by the TSA.