



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – Sept. 14, 2011

Mexican Independence Day generates a surge in charter flights through McCarran International

Strong demand among Mexican travelers wishing to celebrate a popular holiday in Las Vegas will this week result in a welcome increase in chartered flights to McCarran International Airport.

From today through Friday, 23 specially chartered commercial aircraft, including three operated by Allegiant Air, are scheduled to arrive at McCarran from multiple airports in Mexico, complementing those days' 19 regularly scheduled arrivals operated by Mexican air carriers AeroMexico, VivaAerobus and Volaris. Overall, McCarran will this week host flights from nine Mexican cities, including six that do not normally enjoy direct air service to or from Las Vegas.

This increased flight activity alone will potentially bring in close to 6,000 Las Vegas visitors this weekend, including nearly 2,400 more (up 68 percent) when compared with last year's Mexican Independence Day holiday period. International travelers stay longer and spend an average of \$1,011 per trip on non-gaming purchases, according to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, which means these added flights will pump millions of dollars into the local economy.

"Las Vegas is known for catering to guests who want to have a great time, and McCarran and its airline partners are always happy to do their part in bringing as many travelers as possible into this community," said Randall H. Walker, director of aviation for Clark County. "Mexico long ago proved its strength as an air travel market for Las Vegas, and this week we're confident these charters will promote even more business and interest among potential Mexican tourists."

Cathy Tull, senior vice president of marketing for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, added, "Mexican Independence Day gives Las Vegas and its visitors the opportunity to honor and celebrate Mexican heritage in a vibrant and exciting way. The countless events and concerts being hosted throughout the week prove Las Vegas is the premier destination to celebrate this special occasion."

To accommodate the needs of so many charter passengers in such a brief period, McCarran will on Sunday temporarily reopen five gates within a section of the A Concourse that has not been regularly used since August 2008. Travelers who will return to Mexico on these charters should check their gate and terminal assignments, since most will be ticketed at and depart from Terminal 1 rather than Terminal 2, where they were processed through customs upon landing.

Editor's Note: Today between 9 a.m. and noon interested media may obtain video and interviews with travelers at McCarran's Terminal 2 arrivals lobby after those visitors have exited U.S. Customs. The LVCVA and McCarran will host showgirls and a mariachi band to welcome arriving Mexican Independence Day visitors. Please contact Chris Jones at (702) 261-5290 if you wish to cover these arrivals or arrange an interview with airport representatives. LVCVA interviews should be coordinated through Jesse Davis at (702) 892-7655.