



*For Immediate Release*  
May 21, 2007

Contact: Airports Authority Public Affairs Office, 703-417-8370

## Airports Authority Offers Tips for Passengers on Upcoming Summer Travel Season

Summer is one of the busiest times of year for air travel, and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is expecting high numbers of passengers at both Reagan National and Dulles International Airports this season.

During the months of June through August of 2006, Dulles International served 6.1 million passengers and Reagan National served 4.9 million passengers for a total of 11 million passengers last summer. We expect those numbers to be exceeded this summer. These expected additional travelers may have implications for parking, airport check-in and security screening.

The Airports Authority is hiring over 150 student ambassadors this summer, who will perform a variety of duties to assist passengers at both Airports, including monitoring security screening lines, assisting international passengers arriving at Dulles and helping TSA personnel distribute the bins that passengers use for their carry-on items at the checkpoints. The Airports Authority also provides free plastic bags and slippers to passengers to facilitate the removal of loose items and shoes before going through the screening equipment.

The Airports Authority offers the following tips to help a vacation trip to start smoothly:

### **Parking**

- Parking is expected to be at a premium at Reagan National, especially on Tuesdays through Thursdays. To avoid delays, check parking availability before heading to the Airport. Check the Airport website at [www.mwaa.com](http://www.mwaa.com) for real-time parking information or call 703-417-PARK (703-417-7275) to speak to a parking aid 24-hours-a-day.
- Dulles International has more than 25,000 parking spaces so will be able to meet demand, including close-in garage parking.
- If you are picking up passengers at either Airport, consider using the Cell Phone Waiting Area where you may wait for free for up to one hour. Follow directional signs to these areas.
- Visit the Airports Authority website at [www.mwaa.com](http://www.mwaa.com) for parking rates and information.

### **Checking In**

- During peak travel times, plan to arrive at the airport 2 hours before domestic flights and 3 hours before international flights to allow plenty of time for ground transportation, parking, luggage check-in and security screening. The busiest times of day are early morning and late afternoon, and the busiest days of the week are Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.

-- more --

- Call your airline's 800-number or visit the airline website to confirm your flight or to verify security regulations related to checked baggage. If possible, print your boarding pass at home or work.
- Place identification tags on the inside and outside of all of your baggage and have a government-issued photo identification for all passengers over age 18. Keep your boarding pass and ID ready to show at the security checkpoints.

### **Security Screening**

- Carry-on baggage is limited to one carry-on bag plus one personal item, which includes laptops, purses, small backpacks, briefcases, or camera cases. Put cameras and undeveloped film in your carry-on baggage as checked baggage screening equipment may damage some undeveloped film. Carry laptop, cell phone or other electronic devices with you and leave the batteries inside the equipment. Keep spare batteries in the package they came in, and pack them in your carry-on luggage, not the luggage you check at the counter.
- Be aware of the Transportation Security Administration's rules for carrying liquids and gels onto the airplane. Remember these numbers: 3-1-1. Only liquids or gels that are no more than 3 ounces are permitted in carry on luggage. You must put them in a clear and sealed plastic bag that is no larger than 1 quart and put only 1 bag per passenger in the bins at the checkpoint for inspection.
- Do not attempt to bring prohibited items through the checkpoint. Check [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for a complete list.
- Avoid wearing clothing, jewelry, and accessories that contain metal and may set off the alarm at screening checkpoints. You must remove your shoes. The Airports Authority provides complimentary booties near the checkpoints if you are concerned about being barefoot.
- Family travel means strollers, baby carriers and toys. Be ready to put those items on the screening belt.

### **Travel wisely**

- Carry medicine, cash, jewelry and other important valuables with you on the plane.
- If you leave your car at the airport, remove any valuables.
- Carry your purse and wallet securely, and keep your luggage and carry-on items in your sight at all times. Under security procedures, unattended bags and other items will be confiscated and may be destroyed.

### **For more information:**

- Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, call 703-417-8000.
- Washington Dulles International Airport, call 703-572-2700.
- Both Airports, visit the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's website at [www.mwaa.com](http://www.mwaa.com).
- Security screening rules and procedures, visit the Transportation Security Administration's website at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).
- Flight times and potential weather delays, check your airline's 800-number or visit your airline's website. A complete listing of all airlines serving Reagan National and Dulles International is posted on our website at [www.mwaa.com](http://www.mwaa.com).