



For Immediate Release
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Summer Travel Season Expected to Keep Washington Airports Busy *Airports Authority offers tips for travelers*

Memorial Day Weekend will kick off the summer air travel season and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is expecting high numbers of passengers at Reagan National and Dulles International Airports during the summer.

During the months of June through August of 2005, Dulles International served 7.6 million passengers and Reagan National served 4.7 million passengers for a total of 12.3 million passengers last summer. Those numbers could be repeated this summer.

The high number of travelers may have implications for parking, airport check-in and security screening.

The Airports Authority is asking passengers to be prepared for the security screening processes conducted by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and to plan extra time into their arrival schedule during holiday weekends such as Memorial Day and the 4th of July, and at peak times of the day –the early morning and late afternoon

This summer, the Airports Authority will hire nearly 150 student ambassadors who perform a variety of duties to assist passengers, 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 belongings at the checkpoints.

The Airports Authority has developed a video which is shown at all the checkpoints to inform passengers about prohibited items. The Airports Authority also provides plastic bags and slippers to passengers to facilitate the removal of loose items and shoes before going through the screening equipment.

The following tips are offered to travelers for security screening and parking:

Security Screening

- The busiest times at the security screening areas are early morning and late afternoon.
- Busiest days of the week are Thursday, Friday and Sunday.
- The less you carry on to the aircraft, the faster you will go through security.
- Family travel means strollers, carriers and toys. Be ready to put those items on the screening belt.
- Use the airport's slippers if you are concerned about bare feet when summer sandals must be removed.
- Keep your boarding pass in your hand when you go through the screening equipment.
- Check the TSA website to remind yourself about prohibited items: www.tsa.gov

Parking

- Check the website for parking rates and information: www.mwaa.com
- Dulles International has over 25,000 parking spaces available with close-in garage parking available.
- If you're picking up a passenger at Dulles, consider the Cell Phone Waiting Area.
- At Reagan National, the parking facilities can fill up during the middle of the week and on weekends. Call 703-417-PARK or 417-7275 to speak with a parking aid who will provide up to the minute parking availability.

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