



## Media Release

April 10, 2014

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL SCHEDULED AT ST. PETE-CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT on April 15th**

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport will conduct an Emergency Preparedness Drill on Tuesday, April 15th at 9:00 a.m. News Media is invited to attend and learn about the emergency plan and the media protocol during aircraft-related emergencies.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires that all certified commercial service airports conduct a full-scale emergency exercise every three years to assess their emergency response capabilities in the event of an actual air disaster. The drill involves a simulated aircraft explosion from a bomb detonated by a passenger on board a MD-80 aircraft preparing for take-off. Agencies involved in the exercise include Airport Rescue and Firefighting, Airport Operations, Allegiant Airlines, 911, FAA Air Traffic Control, Emergency Services (Municipal Fire/EMS), Law Enforcement, Transportation Security Administration, Medical Director's Office, Office of Emergency Management, and Red Cross. Civilian Emergency Response Team volunteers and Pinellas Park High School First Responders Program students will participate in the drill by portraying incident victims.

The exercise will conclude by 10:30 a.m. with additional emergency exercises and evaluations following. Assistance in alerting the public by the media that this is a staged event would be greatly appreciated.

Media interested in attending the active drill is asked to meet at the Terminal at the International Gate entrance (International/Customs is located between Ticketing B and the Gift Shop). Media is asked to meet at 8:30 a.m. Escorts and transportation will be provided to the staging area and Media may not enter after 8:45 a.m. A briefing and overview of the Airport Media Plan will be distributed. Public Information Officers of other agencies will be available to provide additional briefings throughout the exercise. There will be an opportunity for media to photograph and video the event. Media parking will be designated along the outer roadway across from baggage claim.

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