



Touching Ground

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AT THE DES MOINES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

After September 11th...

September 11, 2001, a large commercial aircraft crashed into New York's world trade center and airport operations will never be the same again. Once we received that initial shocking notification, we took steps to secure the airport. Shortly after the second aircraft crashed into the second tower there was no longer any doubt we had a national emergency. Almost immediately the air traffic control tower announced that all aircraft had been ordered to land at the nearest suitable airport and the FAA wanted to know how many we could take on the airport. Thus began our participation in the heretofore unimaginable.

Instantly, all airport and airline employees began procedures to close down and secure the airport, we took steps to receive and accommodate a sudden, high volume of arriving passengers and airport staff helped our airlines as they arranged ground transportation for their stranded passengers. Six aircraft arrived within an hour and the passengers were immediately transferred to buses that took them to local hotels

or to connecting points or their destination if at all possible.

In the days and weeks that followed the air transportation system was started up again, but this time with many additional security related changes in place. Passengers may now see added police officers, National Guard troops, and private security personnel enforcing new security measures. All carry-on bags are being searched and passengers are being subjected to rigorous screening procedures.

The new Aviation and Transportation Security Act was signed into law in October and a new Transportation Security Administration was created to assume responsibility for airline security at the airport. Just for the moment, passengers may not see some of the immediate changes as the new Transportation Security Administration "TSA" takes over. Already this year the TSA has required airlines to screen all baggage, including checked bags. In the next year many of our security screeners will become federal employees

and many new faces will likely appear at the airport. Passengers can expect more baggage checks and screening procedures to be implemented. Soon new screening equipment will be installed in all of the nation's commercial air service airports and we may even see federal law enforcement personnel supplement or replace local law enforcement.

No, airport operations will never be the same. However, those of us at the Des Moines International Airport believe this change is good. Airport and airline staff welcome and support such efforts in our community. We expect a busy year, full of more improvements as the Transportation Security Administration takes over and new procedures are implemented. Passengers can be confident that Des Moines International Airport will be among the safest airports in the world and we will always do our best to build your confidence in our security preparations and the air transportation system. Our goal is to make your trip a smooth one and your experience as enjoyable as possible. Thank you for continuing to use YOUR Des Moines International Airport. ✈

New General Aviation Area

Completing the new field maintenance building and equipment storage building on the south side of the airport frees up land on the north side for two new general aviation areas. As construction began on the new field maintenance building we demolished a portion of the old maintenance facility to make way for a new Meredith flight facility. Meredith's facility opened in December 2000. Shortly thereafter we opened the new field maintenance building. This past November 2001 we completed a new vehicle storage building. Moving into these two new buildings permits the airport to consolidate snow removal equipment in one area on the south side and opens up the old area for another general aviation facility.

We anticipated this and as the Meredith facility was constructed we also built a new taxiway to provide access to the airport's old maintenance

area. The pavement adjacent to the building had previously been paved to meet the requirements for aircraft operations. So, now the old snow equipment storage building is available for lease to interested general aviation operations.

The building was constructed in the 1980s, has two large, bi-fold doors, will make an excellent aircraft hangar. The building is 120' x 65' and has two 54' doors. The ramp area is 362' x 110'



and there is additional space for vehicle parking. The airport expects to offer the hangar and ramp for lease through a bidding process that will commence in

the next few weeks. Call if you want to learn more about these GA hangar opportunities. ✈



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Peak Season Cargo Reflects Continued Growth

Beginning on November 20, 2001 and extending through December 24, 2001 United Parcel Service increased their operations from 18 to 38 operations a day to accommodate peak season demand. These heavy lift operations included B757, B767, DC8, A300 and B747 aircraft with as many as 15 on the ground at one time. Both the east and south air cargo parking areas were needed to accommodate these operations and those aircraft



not engaged in loading operations were remotely parked on available taxiways. Although Federal Express did not add additional flights they were kept busy hauling the mail under their new contract with the Postal Service and their next day operation. We have long anticipated the need for additional cargo facilities and will be constructing another addition to the South Air Cargo Facility beginning in the spring of 2002.

Restaurant and Lounge Remodeled

Passengers finding themselves with more time in the airport are enjoying the newly remodeled lounge and restaurant in the main terminal. A new entrance to the



lounge provides direct access from the terminal and lunch in the lounge is becoming popular.

Charter Flights Go Bowling

In addition to the fans traveling on regularly scheduled flights, approximately 1,000 football fans traveled by charter aircraft to San Antonio and Shreveport to see Iowa State and the University of Iowa bowl games. Although United Airlines operated several flights from the terminal, the remainder of the charters operated from the Signature north leasehold. These charter flights accounted for 32 operations conducted between December 22 and 30, 2001.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you Know – The TWA and American merger was completed on December 2, 2001. American has moved to boarding gates C6 and C7 and doubled the size of their ticket counter.

Did you Know New ATMs were installed last month in the main terminal next to the lounge and at the entrance to the C Concourse.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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