



For Immediate Release
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General Aviation Returns to Reagan National Airport

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport resumed its standing as a full service airport today when General Aviation scheduled flights returned here for the first time since 2001. The first General Aviation flight landed around 7 a.m. and taxied to the Signature Flight Support Hangar where it was greeted by dignitaries from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Congress, the federal government and the aviation community.

“The return of General Aviation to Reagan National marks an important step to maintaining a link from the entire country to the commerce and government here in our Nation’s Capital,” said James E. Bennett, President and CEO of the Airports Authority. “Reagan National had welcomed private aircraft for 52 years when this service was interrupted by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Today, we are pleased to restore this service to the region and to the nation.”

In the year 2000, Reagan National handled 44,592 General Aviation flights, about 122 a day. Under current guidelines established by the Transportation Security Administration, initially, 48 General Aviation flights will be permitted each day.

“The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority would like to thank the members of Congress, Signature Flight Support and the aviation community, who worked tirelessly to bring back this very important component of our airport operations,” Mr. Bennett said. “Using the experience the government and the aviation industry has gained in the last four years, we look forward to working with the TSA to return General Aviation to its full status here at Reagan National.”

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