



For Immediate Release

Contact: Jacqueline L. Mayo
Communications Manager
(216) 265-3303/ (216) 857-7151

CLE hosts Tri-Annual Mass Causality Disaster Drill

Airport will conduct two different scenarios, simultaneously to test local and federal emergency protocols

Cleveland, Sept. 1, 2009 – A multi-faceted drill simulating a runway incursion and terrorist incident will be held at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. Police, fire, rescue and emergency personnel from 45 agencies from all areas in the region will respond to the mock disaster. The exercise is sponsored by the Department of Port Control and is conducted in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Part 139 Certification requirements.

"The airport is mandated by the FAA to conduct a full scale disaster drill every three years to make sure the airport emergency plan that we have in place works," said Airport Director Ricky Smith. "Not only will we be conducting two different scenarios to test all participating agencies' emergency protocols but we will add a new element to drill – an actual onsite mortuary as part of the exercise."

There will be two separate scenarios conducted during the disaster drill:

- **Aircraft incursion** – an inbound commercial Boeing 737 landing on the arrival runway collides with a taxiing Boeing 737 who committed a runway incursion. The crash site of a runway and intersecting taxiway will be simulated at the intersection of taxiways Q and K1. Both Continental Airlines and United Airlines will implement their emergency protocols including service for the victims of family members. This scenario is designed to test CLE's emergency response plan.
- **Terrorism incident** – an inbound commercial Boeing 737 has four terrorist aboard the aircraft who have assembled two explosive devices in the aircraft lavatories. Federal Air Marshals on board have neutralized two terrorists. The remaining terrorist detonates the device, crippling the plane which crashes into a taxiing departing plane causing multiple fatalities. Surviving terrorist takes survivors' hostage demanding a new plane. A standoff ensues, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) take control of the unified command structure and deploys its Hostage Rescue and SWAT units.

-more-

In addition to testing the airport's emergency plans, this year's drill will have several 'firsts', including:

- First ever crash scenario involving two aircraft from separate carriers
- A joint terrorism scenario involving federal and local agencies
- A full scale mortuary with federal DMORT and County Coroner participation
- Exercise with FBI Evidence Recovery Team (ERT)
- Exercise in the Unified Command protocol involving two separate scenarios
- Conduct full triage and test bar code patient tracking system
- Exercise multiple airline emergencies and recovery protocol
- Coordinate CLE command center with City of Cleveland EOC
- Test functionality of CLE Operations Center

The drill is expected to last about four hours (**see attached timeline and participating agencies**) and will involve the active participation of 45 emergency agencies including law enforcement agencies from Cleveland Police Department, Cleveland Divisions of Fire and EMS, Parma, Garfield Heights, Brook Park, RTA Police, Metroparks Rangers, Ohio Highway Patrol, U.S. EPA, NASA, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Red Cross, and more.

“This drill is necessary to ensure the continued security of CLE, as well as the safety of our traveling public. Our surrounding communities, travelers and visitors to the airport need to be aware of the increased activity in and around the airport, including the possible use of smoke and fire to simulate the incidents during this mock disaster drill,” said Smith.

The exercise will be held at the south end of the airport, and responders will access the site from the Airport Fire Station and will not impact normal flight schedules at CLE. Additional activities will take place on the airfield at various locations and inside the terminal building.