



Sangster International Airport holds Emergency Exercise JAYAD

Montego Bay, Jamaica – MBJ Airports Limited (MBJ) in collaboration with emergency-response personnel and numerous airport, government and community agencies conducted a full-scale emergency exercise on Wednesday morning, May 31, 2006.

Exercise JAYAD, which simulated the unlawful seizure of an aircraft, provided airport emergency personnel, hospitals, fire, police, relevant Government agencies and cooperating businesses the opportunity to practise their emergency response preparedness and to assess and further ensure that they are in alignment with or exceed the requirements of the Airport Emergency Response Program.

Representatives from the Ministry of National Security, Jamaica Fire Brigade, Jamaica Constabulary Force, Jamaica Defence Force, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Medical agencies, Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority, Customs, Immigration along with Airline and Airport personnel were participants in the four-hourlong exercise.

Participants serving the valuable role of “observers” were located at key areas throughout the exercise and provided with evaluation forms designed to solicit information on and provide assessment of performance of emergency-response personnel in these areas.

Though the relevant emergency-response agencies were aware that the exercise was being conducted, they were not privy to the nature of the simulated emergency; this to allow for a genuine assessment of their preparedness for an actual emergency.

MBJ Airports’ Air Terminal and Security Manager, Lt. Col. Norman Tomlinson regarded the exercise a success, indicating that emergency-response from all relevant agencies was in keeping with the Emergency Response Program requirements. He further stated that “the exercise has provided invaluable insight into those areas of our respective emergency response programs that require improvement.”

In the post exercise “hot debrief”, participants concurred with Lt. Col. Tomlinson indicating that much insight would be gleaned from Wednesday’s exercise and from the additional debrief to be held later this month.

MBJ Airports Limited apologizes to residents and travellers for any inconvenience resulting from Wednesday’s exercise and would like to sincerely thank all the participants in the exercise for their involvement and for their continued support as everyone works together, transforming Sangster International Airport into a world-class facility.

For more information contact:

David Solloway – Director, Marketing at dsolloway@mbjairport.com

Bolivia could nationalize Abertis and AENA Airports

The Bolivian Government has opened a new front after recognizing it is currently assessing the possibility of renegotiating the privatization of the national airports conducted last year with the Spanish companies Abertis and AENA. Amid this nationalization wave, the Government led by Evo Morales might regain control of the three major Bolivian airports, currently operated by Airport Concessions and Development



Limited, the company owned by the Spanish companies Abertis and AENA. It seems everything started with a strike made by the workers gathered under the Union of Aid Services for Air Navigation Administration (AASANA, from the Spanish: Administración de Servicios Auxiliares a la Navegación Aérea), who paralyzed the 37 terminals existing in Bolivia. Their claims include not only a vindication after the appointment of two new board members, but also a formal request to the National Government as to regain control of the Bolivian airports management, and more specifically of the three major airports, namely: The Airports of Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Viru-Viru), Cochabamba (Jorge Wilsterman), and La Paz (El Alto). The entity claimed the concession contract has been violated. Moreover, they have asserted the investment then promised has not been made. It is worth recalling the State awarded the air terminals to Airports Group International-AGI, which incorporated a subsidiary in the country, SABSA (Servicios de Aeropuertos Bolivianos Sociedad Anónima), and outsourced the actual airport operations to Airport Concessions and Development Limited, a company controlled by the Spanish Abertis and AENA (Aeropuertos Españoles y Navegación Aérea). In Madrid, both companies denied having any information in that respect. It is worth pointing out the Bolivian terminals do not represent a significant share for the companies. The three airports in question record an annual average of 2.2 million passengers, while Luton, the Londoner airport operated by Abertis, exceeds an annual average of 9 million passengers.

Project inaugurated at Santa Fe Airport

With the presence of Governor Jorge Obeid, as well as provincial and municipal authorities, and the air terminal head Carlos Naput, a formal act was organized to reopen Sauce Viejo Airport in Santa Fe. The ceremony was featured by an aviation festival to celebrate the completion of the extension project for the access hall. The runway has not been repaired yet. However, as officials said, it is in good operating conditions. Naput stressed, “progress toward working on the runway has been made with the arrivals hall remodeling, which used to be very small, as was the case of the VIP lounge, and the two large areas for arriving vehicles. There are four new offices for prospective airlines: Two have been already assigned to Sol Líneas Aéreas and, as far as the remaining ones are concerned, we will have to wait and see”, he stated. The project required an investment of approximately US \$1.3 million only in building infrastructure. However, further investments will be required in the future to introduce new baggage control X-ray equipment and a conveyor belt, among other elements. The airport director highlighted that Sol has promised the province it will start flying by the end of June.

Bill approved for the construction of a new airport in Sucre

The Bolivian Senate has approved a bill for the construction of an international airport in the city of Yamparáez, Chuquisaca Department. The project will require an approximate investment of US \$120 million. As foreseen so far, such amount will be financed by the Government of Venezuela. According to Senator Cornejo, the airport thus planned will be similar to Viru Viru Airport in Santa Cruz. The name of this new international airport will be



“Alcantarí International Airport, Libertador Simón Bolívar.” “This is a very important project. It will rely on important financing sources. Moreover, it will be of utmost importance for communications. It will be an international airport offering a solution to the limiting logistical and technological problems the existing airport is currently facing,” Senator Gastón Cornejo stated. Out of such total investment, 100 million will be financed by Banco Nacional de Desarrollo Económico de Venezuela (Venezuelan National Bank for Economic Development).

Passengers’ rise recorded at GAP’s 12 terminals

The Mexican airport operator running Grupo Aeroportuario del Pacífico (GAP) pointed out that passengers’ traffic has grown 13.5% in its 12 Mexican terminals in the month April with respect to the same period in 2005. International passengers’ figures rose 22%, while domestic passengers’ numbers grew 7.6%. GAP runs 12 airports in the Mexican Pacific Region, including the airports at the beach resorts of Los Cabos, Puerto Vallarta, and the western city of Guadalajara. GAP has explained that some of its terminals depicted an expected drop in passengers’ traffic in April after the suspension of operations implemented by the regional airline known as Aerocalifornia.

Detailed information provided about Dubai Airport City

The Government of Dubai has provided detailed information about one of the mega project it has been working on for four years now, namely: the development and construction of the “airport city.” The estimated investment for such endeavor stands for more than 26.1 billion Euros. As such, the project will include the biggest aerodrome worldwide in Jebel Ali, also the location chosen for the largest free-trade zone area in the region. A press release issued by Dubai World Central, the organizers of the state-run project that is to be developed in phases on an area of 140 square kilometers, stated that “when completed, Dubai World Central International Airport will be the largest airport in the world, with a capacity similar to that of Chicago O’Hare and Heathrow airport in London together.” He then added the project includes a neighboring city with residential and commercial districts, and a golf court. “Dubai World Central will be a new city where nearly 750,000 people will live and work,” he pointed out.

Road works for Mexico City Airport

With a view to facilitating access to the new Terminal 2 at Mexico City International Airport (AICM, from the Spanish: Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México), Aeropuertos y Servicios Auxiliares (ASA) will build a new highway exit in the area. In a press release, the agency controlled by the federal government announced that such project will have an extension of 3.7 lineal kilometers and will facilitate access from Río Piedad Viaduct to the air terminal. This highway exit is part of the remodeling project that has been executed in the airport for some months now. It is estimated the project will become operational early next year and will be complemented with the road exit that is now being built in front of Terminal 1. To invite every company interested in engaging in such construction, ASA



published the public bid in the Official Federation Gazette to attract all interested companies that meet the legal, technical, and economic requirements.

Tocumén Airport remodeling under analysis

The Commission of Communications and Transportation chaired by Representative Alejandro Vanegas visited the airport facilities with a view to obtaining information about the progress of the modernization and extension project under way at Tocumén International Airport in Panama. The visit was made after an invitation from Carlos García, General Manager of Tocumén Inc., who explained the representatives that “the airport modernization project includes three different projects as to give customers better quality, and excellent services in line with the other airports worldwide.” On his part, Representative Alejandro Vanegas pointed out that the project is “excellent, as it will offer better services to the thousands of passengers who use this service every day and so, once the project is completed, Panama will have a more competitive airport at the international level.”

Charges’ rises in Honduras

The concessionaire of the Honduran airports, InterAirports SA, rose 90 cents of a dollar the airport charges payable upon departing from its four airports. The international flights’ boarding charge for passengers with a Honduran passport stands for 29.32 dollars; while the fee for foreign passengers is of 32.32 dollars and of 25.36 for foreigners boarding domestic flights. InterAirports Manager, Carlos Ramos, said: “The charges have not risen, we merely made an adjustment based on the American inflation index, which stands for 3.4%.” InterAirports has been authorized by the State to make such adjustment as part of the amendment introduced to the first concession contract.

Conditioning project is to begin at Terminal 1 in Cancun Airport

The concessionaire known as ASUR, the company responsible for the operation of Cancun international terminal, has announced the startup of Terminal 1 conditioning project, which has been closed down after hurricane Wilma due to the structural damages it suffered. The decision was made by the consortium—as stated in the press release – after completing a series of studies that were conducted to determine whether the damages suffered by the terminal structure did not pose any risk for passengers and workers’ safety. To the works foreseen for Terminal 1, which receives the entire chartering airlines’ traffic, the project to increase capacity at Terminal 2 has to be added. The latter includes a new hall with 20 paperwork counters, among others. ASUR has stated Terminal 1 will be reopened – once safety is guaranteed – to take the maximum advantage of the airport capacity and offer better service to all the passengers arriving to this tourist spot by air.



Aviation Safety course in Mexico

UN experts organized a post-graduate course on airport engineering in Mexico to train Latin American officials on terminal safety. In a press release, the State-owned company known as Aeropuertos y Servicios Auxiliares (ASA) stated that the course was organized by the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN, from the Spanish: Instituto Politécnico Nacional) in cooperation with the Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a UN-dependent agency. ASA pointed out that delegates from Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, and Peru, among other countries, will attend the post-graduate course that is to end on July 14. "The purpose of this course is to help managers, operators, architects, engineers, and other professionals have all the tools they need to suitably meet the international aviation safety requirements", ASA pointed out.

Traffic growth among ALTA airlines (FORMERLY KNOWN AS AITAL)

The Latin American Air Transport Association (ALTA, from the Spanish: Asociación Latinoamericana de Transporte Aéreo, formerly known as AITAL) disclosed traffic figures for its member airlines depicted a 4.2% growth, with a rise in capacity of 4.8%. Such rise in capacity brought about a light shrink of 0.4 percentage points in the occupation factor when compared against the same month in the previous year, thus reaching 70.3%. Traffic rose 5.5% so far in 2006, while capacity grew to 6.2%, and the occupation factor reached 70.7%, 0.5 percentage points below against the same figure in the previous period. The figure for tons-kilometers of cargo transported in March rose 11.9%, while the accumulative tons-kilometers of cargo grew 8.3%.

Successful cabin test for the A-380 Airbus

The first landside and detailed test of the cabin systems for a fully equipped A380 was conducted in Hamburg. During the four hours of testing, 474 passengers, and 20 crewmembers simulated a 15-hour flight, during which they tested all the systems available, including flight entertainment, water, and waste systems, and the air conditioning systems. Passengers were assigned several tasks they had to carry out at given intervals as to simulate a maximum workload for certain cabin systems. Some passengers took their laptops with them as to assess the performance of the electric supply provided in their seats. To cooperate with the Airbus cabin instructors, Lufthansa crewmembers took care of all operations on board the A380, from boarding to emergency instructions, the galleys' operations and the service cart elevator, and also the catering service. Another important milestone has to do with the stress and fatigue tests for the A380. In Dresden, a German City too, the aircraft successfully passed the 10,000 flight cycles test. "These two major milestones underline the success that accompanies our testing program for the A380," stated Charles Champion, Airbus General Manager, and Super Jumbo Program Head.