

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RDU is Y2K Ready

RDU Airport, NC ---Ready or not the clock will strike midnight on December 31, 1999, and the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority is fully prepared to meet whatever challenges Y2K brings.

Internal accounting, payroll, and finance systems were changed out last year when the Airport Authority moved into its new administrative office building. In addition, new Y2K compliant personal computers were purchased and installed for all staff members following the office move.

"We were fortunate that most of our internal systems were at a stage where they needed significant upgrades or replacement regardless of Y2K concerns," said Mike Blanton, RDU public affairs manager.

Other critical systems on the airport that have been upgraded to Y2K compliance include the heating and air-conditioning systems in the Terminals and the hardware and software that automatically control the airfield lighting system. The Airport Authority also had to purchase and install additional equipment for the 800-megahertz radio system to insure that the millennium bug did not adversely impact critical communications once the year 2000 arrived. Software upgrades and new equipment was also installed on the airport's automated parking and security systems.

Staff assignments have already been made to make sure critical systems and areas are monitored on New Year's Eve. Employees from Operations, Law Enforcement, Emergency Services, Administration and Information Systems will all ring in the New Year at RDU just in case there are problems. System checks will be performed beginning at midnight and the results will then be forwarded to the Federal Aviation Administration.

It's important to note that the Airport Authority has been in regular contact with officials at the major airlines and the FAA to monitor status of Y2K compliance. Information about Y2K compliance for the nation's air traffic control system can be found on the FAA's website at www.faa2k.com.

"I think the Airport Authority is in excellent shape in terms of Y2K compliance," Blanton said. "About all that's left to do now is wait for the clock to strike twelve to perform our systems checks to see how good a job we've done."

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