

VP PUBLIC AFFAIRS: KEN CAPPAS, APR
CONTACT: 972 574 8080

DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEBUTS MOBILE COMMAND POST

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2002

AIRPORT EQUIPS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS WITH MOST ADVANCED INTELLIGENCE, COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES IN THE WORLD

DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Texas (September 13, 2002) – DFW International Airport today unveiled its new Mobile Command Post, a unique, state-of-the-art bus-sized vehicle that will provide the Airport's Department of Public Safety (DPS) with the most up-to-date capabilities for coordinating intelligence and communications during emergency situations. DFW becomes the first airport in the world to add this advanced rolling operations center to its safety and security arsenal, which will keep rescuers and police connected with the latest in computer and satellite communications technologies.

The new Mobile Command Post also provides response teams with real-time data collection capabilities, enabling them to share critical information immediately and enhancing tactical decision making. Outfitting a new Mobile Command Post had been an Airport priority prior to September 11, 2001, and now becomes even more critical as airports around the country continue to implement new safety and security measures.

"We hope we never have to use the full capabilities of the Mobile Command Post, but if the need arises, we have given our emergency teams the best technological capabilities available to help them deal effectively with any situation," says Jim Crites, executive vice president of operations at DFW Airport. "Now, every firefighter or police officer working at the scene of a crisis will be directly connected to the entire DFW response team and other local, state and federal officials who may be called in to assist." DFW practiced such an operation during its Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) drill in June, becoming the first Airport in the country to conduct a WMD exercise.

The one-of-a-kind unit was built to DFW Airport's specifications by Mattman Specialty Vehicles of San Marcus, California. It is equipped with satellite communications, video conferencing, multiple computer workstations, "smart screen" overlays and advanced networking and telecommunications capabilities, all arranged for optimal teamwork and communications among critical emergency response groups. The vehicle can accommodate a dozen people working at an emergency site for more than a week.

"Our new Mobile Command Post can link any of DFW's 18,000 acres directly to our Emergency Operations Center or other law enforcement officials anywhere in the country," says Alan Black, fire chief of DFW Airport. "We've already begun intensive training for all DPS officers who will be using the unit, and we are very impressed by its capabilities. This is one more example of how DFW is making the Airport safer and more secure for all of its passengers."

The Mobile Command Post features a host of high-tech capabilities powered by a 40,000-watt on-board generator and cooled by five air conditioners. The unit includes satellite uplink and downlink capabilities for both voice and data, including high speed Internet connectivity. Three 42-inch plasma monitors are linked to a closed circuit TV camera outside of the vehicle. Inside, 11 computer workstations are connected by fiber optic networks.

A remotely operated Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera on the unit can "see" through low visibility conditions to provide images that can be displayed on the plasma screens or any of the workstations. A roof-mounted observation platform allows personnel to observe the scene from a height of approximately 20 feet. An on-board weather station provides the Mobile Command Post with temperature, wind speed and wind direction. The unit can also be expanded with exterior canvas "add a rooms" that can be deployed on either side of the Mobile Command Post, complete with connected workstations and communications links.

The Mobile Command Post may also be called into action during bad weather or de-icing of aircraft.

Located halfway between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, DFW International Airport is the world's third busiest, offering nearly 2000 flights per day and serving 55 million passengers a year. DFW International Airport provides non-stop service to 130 domestic and 31 international destinations worldwide.

Editor's Notes:

This release, and past news releases issued by DFW International Airport, are available online at www.dfwairport.com in the "MediaSite" section.

For the latest news, real-time flight information, parking availability or further details regarding the many services provided at DFW International Airport, log on to www.dfwairport.com. To arrange interviews contact DFW Public Affairs at 972 574 NEWS (6397) or Ken Capps, APR, Vice President Public Affairs, kcapps@dfwairport.com.

###