



## Fall Flight Schedules Improve, More Seats Available

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 12, 2007, New Orleans – Just in time for the busy convention season, fall will bring additional flights to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

For October, Armstrong International will have 126 daily flight departures with 14,701 seats available in the market. This equates to 77.8% of the pre-Katrina flights and 71.1% of the pre-Katrina seats. The October boost is attributed to Delta returning to 9 daily Atlanta flights and increasing the size of the aircraft for the New York LaGuardia flight. Also, American returned their third daily flight to Chicago after a summer absence and added a 4<sup>th</sup> flight to St. Louis.

November will bring substantial changes when Armstrong's largest carrier, Southwest Airlines, adds 8 flights to the market. With those changes, Armstrong will reach a new high of 132 daily flights with 15,663 seats or the equivalent of 81.5% of the flights and 75.8% of the seats that were offered at Armstrong International pre-Katrina. Director of Aviation Sean Hunter stated, "This is a very significant milestone to exceed 80% of the pre-Katrina flights! The strong demand for air service is a great indicator of the region's recovery."

Southwest will be adding the following flights to New Orleans on November 4 for a total of 35 flights to 11 destinations from New Orleans.

- Three new daily nonstop flights to Birmingham.
- Two additional daily nonstop flights to Houston Hobby (for a total of 11 daily).
- One additional daily nonstop flight to Dallas Love Field (for a total of 6 daily).
- One additional daily nonstop flight to Las Vegas (for a total of 2 daily).
- One additional daily nonstop flight to Orlando (for a total of 4 daily).

"We've worked hard to bring the airlines back through air service incentives and providing them with useful data through on-going dialogue and face-to-face visits. One of the most productive tools has been bringing them to the N.O. area for site visits. Seeing the region for themselves and meeting with hospitality, business and community leaders has greatly improved the effectiveness of our communication and has produced tangible results. Adequate levels of air service are integral to our economic recovery," concluded Hunter.

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