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AIRPORT REPORT

FOUR NEW ROUTES LAUNCH AT ARMSTRONG INTERNATIONAL

By **Iftikhar Ahmad**, Director of Aviation

This month Armstrong International celebrates the inaugural flights to four new non-stop destinations - Oakland, California (OAK); Birmingham, Alabama (BHM); Pensacola, Florida (PNS); and Panama City, Panama (PTY).

We are excited about opening the gateway to Latin America. Copa Airlines' inaugural flight to Panama City is June 24th. Panama City is Copa Airlines' "Hub of the Americas" allowing connections to over 55 cities throughout Latin America. Connections include Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, Honduras; San José, Costa Rica; nine destinations in Colombia, including Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Barranquilla and Cartagena; nine destinations in Brazil, including Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte and Brasilia; Santiago, Chile; Lima, Peru; Guayaquil and Quito, Ecuador. Passengers making connections have the added convenience of having baggage checked to their final destination and only going through immigration and customs at the final destination.

Copa's services will be on their Boeing 737-700 Next-Generation 124 seat aircraft, including 12 business class seats. Panama City flights depart New Orleans on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The return flights depart Panama City on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Flight time is approximately three and a half hours. On-board amenities include complimentary meals and beverages, including wines and spirits, and a 12-channel audio-visual entertainment system in English, Spanish and Portuguese with complimentary headsets. Copa Airlines is a member of the Star Alliance with United Airlines. For example, you could travel non-stop to Panama on Copa Airlines and return on United Airlines over one of United's connecting hubs if Copa is not providing a non-stop option on the date you need to travel. You are also able to earn the same frequent flier miles for traveling either airline when you add your Copa or United frequent flier number to your itinerary. For more information on Copa Airlines and to book your next trip to Latin America, visit their website at www.copaair.com

Southwest Airlines, the Airport's largest carrier, begins daily non-stop service to Oakland on June 7th. This new service provides the community with a new option for travel to the California Bay Area. Southwest currently provides non-stop service to 22 destinations

throughout the United States. For flight information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.southwest.com.

On June 16th, Silver Airways begins non-stop service to Birmingham and Pensacola. They will operate two daily flights to Birmingham and one daily flight to Pensacola while also offering a one-stop flight option to Jacksonville, Florida. Silver's service offers a convenient alternative to driving. To view flight schedules and book your travel, please visit www.silverairways.com.

Each of these new flights creates new economic opportunity and travel options for our entire region. In true New Orleans fashion, we will provide a warm welcome to each, and with your help, fill their seats in order to sustain and grow more service. ✈



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