



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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N E W S R E L E A S E

**Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport Announces
Growth in Passenger Count for 2009**

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS..... Overall passenger boardings have increased at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport for the 2009 calendar year as compared to 2008.

Total airline passenger activity at the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport has increased by 5.35% over the same twelve month period for 2008. Departing passengers grew by 5.16% and arriving passenger counts increased by 5.55% and collectively achieve the overall 5.35% increase in passenger traffic. Total passenger count reported at the airport in 2009 was 119,260 as compared to 113,200 the previous year in 2008. United Airlines and American Airlines operate daily flight to and from Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), while Direct Air flies seasonal scheduled charter flights to Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR), South Carolina and to Charlotte County Airport (PGD) in Punta Gorda, Florida.

“Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport has experienced a significant amount of growth in 2009, especially during the last two quarters of 2009; not just in business travel, but in leisure travel as well. Direct Air’s flights to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and now to Punta Gorda, Florida with great fares has really got more people to notice our airport. During the last half of 2009 we reported consistent increases in our traffic on all carriers, and in some cases significant double-digit percentage increases that helped make up for a dismal first half of the year. We certainly hope and expect this upward trend to continue

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into 2010,” said Mark Hanna, Capital Airport’s Executive Director. “Right now, rates on all of our carriers, United and American Airlines, and Direct Air seem to be very competitive, and that shows in the increased passenger counts for 2009.”

“These numbers really prove how viable this airport is and how much the community needs and wants these flights,” said Airport Board Chairman, Frank Vala. “There continues to be an increased demand from central Illinois for flights out of Springfield and we are going to continue to work hard to grow to meet their demands and expectations,” continued Vala.

Kari Selinger, Springfield Airport Authority Commissioner concludes, “For the last half of 2009, we really concentrated on enhancing our options for the leisure market and these numbers are showing that our efforts are being embraced by the Springfield community, which is also evident in the increased number of calls and inquires our Passenger Service Center is fielding on a daily basis. Direct Air serves this type of market with its leisure destinations to Myrtle Beach and southwest Florida. We will continue to expand our reach to this market.”

A complete listing of arrivals and departures can be found online at www.flyspi.com or by contacting the airport’s Passenger Service Center between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday at 217-788-9200.

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