

Sangster International Airport holds Emergency Exercise JAYAD

June 1, 2006...Montego Bay, Jamaica – MBJ Airports Limited (MBJ) in collaboration with emergency-response personnel and numerous airport, government and community agencies conducted a full-scale emergency exercise on Wednesday morning, May 31, 2006.

Exercise JAYAD, which simulated the unlawful seizure of an aircraft, provided airport emergency personnel, hospitals, fire, police, relevant Government agencies and cooperating businesses the opportunity to practise their emergency response preparedness and to assess and further ensure that they are in alignment with or exceed the requirements of the Airport Emergency Response Program.

Representatives from the Ministry of National Security, Jamaica Fire Brigade, Jamaica Constabulary Force, Jamaica Defence Force, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Medical agencies, Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority, Customs, Immigration along with Airline and Airport personnel were participants in the four-hour-long exercise. Participants serving the valuable role of “observers” were located at key areas throughout the exercise and provided with evaluation forms designed to solicit information on and provide assessment of performance of emergency-response personnel in these areas.

Though the relevant emergency-response agencies were aware that the exercise was being conducted, they were not privy to the nature of the simulated emergency; this to allow for a genuine assessment of their preparedness for an actual emergency.

MBJ Airports’ Air Terminal and Security Manager, Lt. Col. Norman Tomlinson regarded the exercise a success, indicating that emergency-response from all relevant agencies was in keeping with the Emergency Response Program requirements. He further stated that “the exercise has provided invaluable insight into those areas of our respective emergency response programs that require improvement.”

In the post exercise “hot debrief”, participants concurred with Lt. Col. Tomlinson indicating that much insight would be gleaned from Wednesday’s exercise and from the additional debrief to be held later this month.

MBJ Airports Limited apologizes to residents and travellers for any inconvenience resulting from Wednesday’s exercise and would like to sincerely thank all the participants in the exercise for their involvement and for their continued support as everyone works together, transforming Sangster International Airport into a world-class facility.

For more information contact:

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