

News Release

Contact: Scott Wintner (734) 955-3745

Wayne County Airport Authority Fire Division Earns International Accreditation

-- Becomes First Airport Authority in the Nation to Earn Designation

DETROIT (Sept. 6, 2011)—The **Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA)** Fire Division has received Internationally Accredited Agency status with the **Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI)** for meeting criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program.

WCAA, operator of Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Willow Run Airport, becomes the first Airport Authority in the nation with a dedicated Fire agency to earn this designation and one of 146 agencies to achieve Accredited Agency status with CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE).

“This achievement exemplifies the Airport Authority’s dedication to maintaining a safe and secure airport system for the millions of people from around the world who travel through our airports each year and the thousands of individuals who come to work at the airports every day,” said **WCAA CEO Turkia Awada Mullin**.

“Being the first Airport Authority-operated fire agency to earn this prestigious accreditation, Wayne County Airport Authority has reinforced once again that our airport system is leading the world,” said **WCAA Board Chair Renée Axt**.

The three-year process to obtain accreditation, which WCAA voluntarily began in late 2008, required the Airport Authority to provide documented compliance with 253 performance indicators and to create a Standard of Response Coverage (SORC) document and a five-year strategic plan for its Fire Division. In May, a team of four assessors visited the Airports to examine every aspect of the Fire Division’s facilities and operations. Finally, in late August, leadership of WCAA’s public safety department appeared before the CPSE commissioners for an oral defense of the Division’s candidacy for accreditation--the Commissioners concluded that session with a unanimous vote granting CFAI accreditation to WCAA.

“This Achievement by the Airport Authority’s Fire Division is indicative of the commitment demonstrated by each and every member of our team to provide the highest quality of service for our customers and the airport community,” said **WCAA Fire Chief Craig Carnell**. “I’m extremely proud of their dedication and teamwork.”

The Fire Division becomes the second division of the WCAA Public Safety Department to earn such an international accreditation. In 2008, WCAA's Police Division earned international law enforcement accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), signifying that WCAA Police is among the top-performing law enforcement agencies in the world.

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) is dedicated to assisting the fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self-assessment and accreditation in order to provide continuous quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to communities. The CFAI accreditation process promotes excellence within the organization, encourages improvements through a continuous self-assessment process and requires agencies to define a mission and related objectives that will result in improved organization performance. For more information, visit www.publicsafetyexcellence.org.

Established in 2002 by the **Michigan State Legislature**, WCAA is an independent agency responsible for the management and operation of Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Willow Run Airport, which together comprise Michigan's largest airport system and one of the world's busiest air transportation hubs. Studies conducted by the **University of Michigan-Dearborn** in 2005 and 2007 found that the two airports contribute an estimated \$7.8 billion to the state economy each year and are responsible for as many as 72,000 Michigan jobs. WCAA is lead by a seven-member Board comprised of appointees by the Wayne County Executive, Wayne County Commission and the Governor of Michigan.

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