

FDOT Recognizes Tampa International Airport As Commercial Service Airport of the Year

For immediate release

Tampa, Fla. (August 22, 2000) - - The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Aviation Office recently presented Tampa International Airport with the distinguished Commercial Service Airport of the Year 2000 award at the Florida Airport Manager's Association (FAMA) annual Conference in Sarasota, Florida.

The annual award recognizes the management and staff of a commercial service airport that has accomplished outstanding achievements in aesthetics, safety and service.

On August 16, 2000, in front of 400 Florida airport managers and operators, the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority and its executive director Louis E. Miller, were acknowledged for attitude and commitment to excellence and the ability to create a better Florida aviation system.

"In aviation, as in all professional pursuits, it is talent, dedication and understanding that motivates our peers to excel. Your good example has made a difference in Florida and is important to maintaining Florida's national leadership role in aviation," expressed William J. Ashbaker, P.E., State Aviation Manager, FDOT, in his acknowledgment letter.

"The Airport management and staff take their responsibility to maintain a safe and efficient airport very seriously. This is evidenced by the fact that during the last three consecutive annual airport certification inspections, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has not identified a single Part 139 violation," says Ashbaker.

Tampa International Airport was nominated by: Stephen A. Brill and Anna B. Cohen of the FAA Southern Regional Office and W. Dean Stringer and Bart Vernace of the FAA Orlando Airports District Office.

The Aviation Authority has been preparing and planning for the future development of Tampa International Airport. The December 1999, Master Plan Update focused on expanding the existing Airport Terminal Complex to accommodate 25 million passengers through the year 2020, while still maintaining a user-friendly, state-of-the-art facility with the highest level of service for Airport users.

The total cost of the next twenty-year Airport development program will cost approximately \$1.03 billion. During the first five-year phase of development, the Aviation Authority will spend \$350 million to construct facilities to meet the demands of the growing Tampa Bay community.

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