



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 7, 2011

Contact: Janet Zink, Director of Communications  
Office: 813.554.1460  
Cell: 813.220.8279  
[JZink@TampaAirport.com](mailto:JZink@TampaAirport.com)

### **Tampa to Cuba Service Expands**

**(TAMPA, FL)** – Less than one month after Tampa celebrated its historic flights to Havana, Cuba, ABC Charters, operated by American Airlines, has announced that it will begin nonstop service to a second Cuban city effective November 22, 2011. The new service will connect Tampa with Holguin, Cuba. Holguin is the capital city of Holguin Province, located on the east side of the country.

To further assist its customers, ABC Charters is also providing free bus transportation to Bayamo and Las Tunas, one hour drive away. “We appreciate the support in helping us to grow the Tampa Bay market,” said Tessie Aral, President of ABC Charters, Inc. “Our goal is to continue to serve the residents of Tampa Bay and help them avoid the drive to Miami.”

The new Cuba service follows a growing list of expanded markets including daily flights to London, and new service to San Juan, Puerto Rico and Zurich, Switzerland.

“This is a milestone in the continuous progress we are making in bringing more international travel choices to Tampa International Airport. It’s great to bring in new flights, but it’s even better to see them grow.” said CEO Joe Lopano. “This is another success story that demonstrates how eager the residents of Tampa Bay are for more nonstop service. With the strong relationships we have forged with our community partners, we will continue to be successful.”

The weekly service to Holguin will be on Tuesdays.

The Aviation Authority began in 1945 as an independent special district governed by the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority Act. The act provides the Authority with exclusive jurisdiction, control, supervision, and management over all public airports in Hillsborough County. Although empowered to levy ad valorem property taxes, the authority has not collected any tax funds since 1973. Recognized as an industry leader in efficiency and convenience, Tampa International Airport continues to earn the most prestigious awards and honors and ranks among the top airports in the United States. With 200 daily departures and service to over 70 nonstop destinations, Tampa International Airport is the Gateway to Florida’s West Coast and your next great vacation.