

Okaloosa County News Release

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Contact: Airport Director Jerry Sealy, 651-7160

American Eagle Begins Non-stop Flights from Fort Walton Beach to Chicago September 5th

American Eagle will officially begin non-stop service from the Okaloosa Regional Airport to Chicago O'Hare Airport, on September 5, 2007. The flight will depart daily from Okaloosa Regional Airport at 3:35 p.m. and arrive at Chicago O'Hare at 6:00 p.m. The average roundtrip fare for this flight is currently only \$205 per person.

"This flight is expected to attract an additional 15,000 passengers to this airport which is already experiencing record growth," stated Airport Director Jerry Sealy. "Chicago is one of our largest market areas, and this flight will allow for additional choice and convenience for our passengers, whether traveling for business or pleasure," he added.

The Okaloosa Regional Airport had a record-breaking month of June, resulting in an increase of almost 14 percent in passengers compared to this timeframe last year. Year to date growth is 6.4 percent compared to a 3.2 percent national average.

The Airport continues dialogue with other airlines in hopes of attracting increased competition and new destinations of travel from our region. For more information on Okaloosa Regional Airport, Destin Airport or Bob Sikes Airport, contact 850-651-7160 or visit www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/airport.