

Okaloosa County News Release

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1st F-35 Lands, 100,000th Passenger Boards Vision Airlines & June Sets Another Record for NWF Regional Airport

The First F-35 Joint Strike Fighter landed at VPS on Thursday, Juliett Osterhaus of Pace, lands at VPS from Atlanta via Vision Airlines, becoming the the 100,000th passenger and June numbers come in at 116,948 passengers (over the 111,566 in May). "All in a day's work – our airport system continues to thrive and we are proud that this enterprise department is providing strong economic impacts. Estimated to be generating more than \$18 million per month in new community-wide activity, the airport and our airlines are bringing new jobs and opportunity to our economy," says Airports Director Greg Donovan.

Passenger numbers have been climbing with the addition of Vision Airlines and the Northwest Regional Airport is up 36 percent for the year and 66 percent from June 2010 to June 2011. "We are proud to serve Northwest Florida and operate a hub at VPS. **We are excited to celebrate our 100,000 Vision Airlines passenger today** after commencing commercial service operations in late 2010. **We look forward to serving our one millionth passenger** sometime in the not too distant future," stated Sales & Marketing Director Clay Meek, Vision Airlines.

Crowds also turned out to see the first **Joint Strike Fighter land at VPS**. Northwest Florida Regional Airport (VPS) is a joint-use facility established on Eglin AFB in 1957. The airport has scheduled non-stop service to a total of 24 cities on American Eagle, Delta Airlines, Continental Airlines, US Airways, and is a hub for Vision Airlines. **New non-stop service to Las Vegas, Fort Lauderdale, St. Louis, Memphis/Tunica, and Lafayette began June 1st**. For further information, please visit www.flyvps.com.

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