



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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HOLIDAY EXODUS-THOUSANDS OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS HEAD HOME
Airport Program Helps Minimize Difficulties; Pre-Screens Thousands of Bags
Flying Public is Advised to Check-In Early

SAN ANTONIO TX- December 17, 2009 — Over the next two days, thousands of military service members from local military bases will begin their holiday trek home. December 18-19 will be especially busy at San Antonio International Airport; with the beginning of the 2009 " Military Block Leave " (also known as Exodus).

This is the two-day period where military service members are temporarily released from duty at Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Air Force Base for the upcoming Holidays. Nearly 4,000 of these men and women are expected to come to the airport over the next few days as part of their holiday travel plans.

In an effort to support the men and women in uniform and to minimize the impact of this years " Block Leave, " airport officials, the Transportation Security Administration, several airlines and airport concessionaires began planning for this event several months ago. The largest affected day for " Exodus " will be the early morning of FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009 and will continue through Saturday. Airport officials, the Transportation Security Administration and several airlines are going to Fort Sam Houston to assist in printing boarding passes, check-in luggage and pick up and deliver luggage to the airport for security screening.

" The success of this operation is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of all stakeholders involved, " said Frank Miller, Aviation Director. " The teamwork and cooperation of airport staff, the TSA, the involved airlines and of course the military service members have made the preparations for this event run smoothly. "

The traveling public may see a slight impact as well. Airport officials are recommending travelers arrive two hours prior to their flight to ensure enough time to check-in and get through security check-points.

TIPS FOR TRAVELING PUBLIC:

- Get to the airport early
- Participate in on-line check-in with your airline
- Check with your airline to make sure your flight is on time
- When picking up passengers, use the FREE Cell phone lot at Airport BLVD. & IH-410
- When dropping off passengers, take advantage of the FREE 30 minutes of parking in the hourly parking facility

The best Video/Photo opportunity is **5:00 AM to 9:00 AM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009!** May include buses dropping off military personnel, military personnel at the USO-located in T2, volunteers providing food and beverages for them and a place for them to relax.

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