



PRESS RELEASE

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RADAR – THE AIRPORT BIRD DOG - RETIRES FROM SOUTHWEST FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

FORT MYERS, Fla. (June 30, 2008) – Radar, the official bird dog at Southwest Florida International Airport, is retiring after a successful, 7-year career, the Lee County Port Authority announced today. The 9-year-old border collie joined the airport in June 2001, after the first bird dog retired. In 1999, Southwest Florida International Airport became the first commercial airport in the nation to use a dog as part of its Wildlife Management Program.

“This program is very important - it keeps our travelers, birds, and aircraft safe by reducing the number of birds on the airfield in an environmentally friendly manner,” said Robert M. Ball, A.A.E., executive director of the Lee County Port Authority. “We are definitely going to miss Radar. She truly enjoyed her job and was a dedicated and hard-working part of our airport family.”

Adopted from Flyaway Farms in North Carolina, Radar was trained to herd, not hurt, the birds. She regularly patrolled the areas near the runway and taxiways with her handler, who directed her to clear specific areas.

In 2004, Radar received the Canine Good Citizenship certification from the American Kennel Club and her Master K-9 Wildlife Management certification from Wildlife Unity. She was a highly sought-after participant in airport community-affairs programs and, due to her unique role at the airport, became a celebrity of sorts who was featured in local, state, national and international media.

Radar will retire to the five-acre ranch of her handler, Rebecca Stansifer, where she currently resides. Although Radar was napping and was thus not available for comment, airport personnel speaking on her behalf said they are confident the dog will enjoy her retirement as much as she did her busy career.

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 8 million passengers in 2007 and ranks among the top 50 busiest airports in the United States. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operation or construction. To learn more, visit www.flylcpa.com.