

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Board of County Commissioners*

05/04/18



## **Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS) Welcomes Inaugural Flight from D.C.'s Reagan National Airport**

Airport employees set up a temporary welcome center to receive the passengers aboard an American Airlines new Embraer 175 jet as it landed at Florida's fastest-growing airport Friday morning at about 10 AM.

The inaugural flight, which has been planned for months means Eglin's military personnel and civil servants now have a hassle-free daily-direct commute to Washington D.C.

The new flight, which is pegged to bring in another 50,000 visitors to the Emerald Coast, will open up a direct market for our local tourism businesses to encourage the Mid-Atlantic Seaboard to visit our warm shores for much-needed vacations with a flight time of two (2) hours!

"This is a long sought after flight as we have so many military personnel and contractors who have a need to travel to the Washington DC area on a daily basis. It is also welcomed by those who wish to visit and enjoy the beauty of our Nation's Capital," said Commissioner and Board appointee to the County Aviation Board, Carolyn Ketchel.

*Please feel free to use provided photos. Please Credit the Okaloosa County Public Information Office*

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*American Airlines' EMB-175 regional jet pulls up to the gate after completing its inaugural - daily flight to VPS from Washington DC*



*Passangers exit the plane to the concourse*