

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DFW AIRPORT OFFICER AND BOMB-SNIFFING PARTNER CALLED FOR OLYMPIC DUTY

### Tightest security in Olympic history will feature award-winning, crime-fighting duo

DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Texas (January 25, 2002) - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has selected a Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport law enforcement officer and his bomb-sniffing dog from the Airport's K-9 Unit to serve on the security task force for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, beginning February 5.

DFW Department of Public Safety Officer Phil Reeves and his partner, Chip, were selected due to Reeves' extensive experience and expertise in his field, his status as a premium dog handler, and the pair's consistently high scores on the required FAA and U.S. Air Force annual re-certification, scoring 100 percent on their last test. One of six K-9 teams at DFW, Reeves and Chip have been together for more than three years, patrol the Airport regularly and respond to emergency calls where an unattended bag may be in question or a plane requires a search.

The pair will assist in Olympic security at Salt Lake City Airport and other Olympic venues as needed throughout their assignment, which runs through February 28.

"This is a great honor for DFW Airport, our entire K-9 Unit and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me," Reeves said. "And I know Chip will perform superbly in this assignment. He adapts quickly and very well to new environments."

Reeves and the DFW K-9 team has been called for special security assignments outside of the Airport a number of times, but this will be the first service at an Olympic venue. In 1999, Reeves and Chip served on the security team for Pope John Paul II's visit to St. Louis. DFW K-9's have also provided security at New York's JFK Airport and regularly worked with the Secret Service on dignitary and

presidential flights landing at DFW. Teams have worked on DFW visits by former Presidents Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

“When we received the request letter from the TSA, of course, our first obligation is to ensure DFW Airport’s security needs are fulfilled,” said Alvy Dodson, vice president of Public Safety, DFW Airport. “Once we were assured that the remaining dogs could sustain the high level of security we have at DFW, there was no doubt that we would help the government keep the Olympics safe. It is truly an honor for Phil and the Airport.”

According to the TSA K-9 and Explosive Program, teams from several airports around the country have been requested to augment the Salt Lake City Airport’s K-9 unit. This enhanced force will be expected to perform the same tasks as performed at their home airports, such as patrolling the concourse, inspecting unattended bags and investigating planes as needed.

“Our expectations of these additional K-9 teams will be to perform their routine tasks, just as they would at their home-based airports,” said Dave Kontney, manager, TSA K-9 and Explosive Program. “The differences they’ll probably face in this assignment will be a larger volume of people through the airport and an extended work load.”

Officer Reeves has served in DFW Airport law enforcement for more than 24 years and has been in the Airport’s K-9 unit for approximately 17 years. Chip, a six-and-a-half-year old German Shepherd, received his bomb-sniffing training at the TSA Canine Support Branch at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas and was immediately paired with Reeves.

“Phil has a national reputation of being one of the best, if not the best dog handler in the country,” Dodson said. “We know he will make North Texas proud by his service to the Olympics and our country.”

Upon arrival at DFW, all dogs participate in a 30-day acclimation program, to ensure their comfort and acceptance of all aspects of an airport environment, such as planes, people, terminals and metal stairs. After the first 30 days, the dogs and their partners receive a 60- to 90-day “basic” training on Airport, followed by a 14-day progression training by the Lackland team. Upon completion, the team is certified and able to perform the duties of a DFW Airport K-9 team.

Located halfway between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, DFW International Airport is the world’s third busiest, serving 60 million passengers a year. Offering nearly 2,000 flights daily, DFW Airport provides nonstop service to 129 domestic and 26 international destinations worldwide.

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