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**Walker Announces 2008 TSA Partnership Award
Goes to Mitchell International Airport**

MILWAUKEE (December 9, 2008) – Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker announced today that General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA) has received the 2008 TSA Partnership Award as part of the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) 2008 Honorary Award Recipient program. Walker said, “This is a good example of two agencies working together toward the common goal of enhancing the safety and security of the nearly eight million passengers using our airport each year. We are pleased to support TSA in its efforts to keep our skies safe.”

The nomination by Louis Traverzo, TSA’s Federal Security Director at Mitchell Airport, cited the efforts of Airport Director Barry Bateman and Deputy Airport Director Terry Blue, along with the staff of GMIA, to work with TSA in partnership on a variety of issues in 2008.

Security-related partnership initiatives for which GMIA was recognized include:

- coordinating and supporting arriving-vehicle explosive-detection inspections,
- enhancing roving law enforcement patrols,
- increasing airport employee identification checks.
- improving emergency security procedures in the event of a weather-related disaster,
- enhancing the airport access control program.



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- improving the fencing around the perimeter of the airport,
- strengthening security requirements in airport tenant areas,

GMIA also was acknowledged for its role in several customer service enhancements:

- implementing the Black Diamond Self Select Lane Program,
- installing 40" flat screen monitors at each checkpoint to better inform passengers with TSA passenger travel videos,
- constructing podiums for TSA's Travel Document Checker Program
- participating in the Mail-Safe program, a large mail drop service that allows passengers to retain possession of checkpoint-prohibited items by mailing them home.

TSA also recognized GMIA for its cooperation in:

- enhancing the workplace environment at the security checkpoints, baggage screening areas and breakrooms through safety programs and improved aesthetics,
- enhancing connectivity for TSA training computers,
- coordinating summer-hire minority high school student employment as part of the Aviation Career Education program, providing TSA with 12 students to assist in loading bags and assisting passengers at the checkpoints.
- conducting joint tours for students and interested parties
- hosting blood drives together.



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In his nomination, Traverzo noted that although GMIA has worked closely with TSA throughout the years, 2008 was especially interactive due to the number of security programs that were initiated and implemented. "It is this type of cooperation and support that promotes a team effort in providing for the safety and security of our passengers and employees," Traverzo said.

General Mitchell International Airport is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation & Public Works, Airport Division, under the policy direction of the Milwaukee County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors. The airport is entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are used for the airport's capital improvements or for its day-to-day operation. For more information on Mitchell International, visit www.mitchellairport.com.

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