



ALPA Operations Bulletin



2011 – 01

SUBJECT: Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) Runway Closure (1/19)

BACKGROUND: The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) is in the process of improving DCA's Runway 1/19. The next phase will involve periodic nighttime closures of Runway 1/19 beginning in early May, 2011 and is expected to last into the fall. MWAA is working closely with the FAA and airlines operating at DCA to mitigate the impact of the construction.

The DCA Operations Manager has advised ALPA and all airport users of two, soon-to-be-commenced construction projects. A Runway 1/19 overlay project (resurfacing) will commence in mid to late May 2011. In addition, a Runway 1/19 extension project (300 feet to the south) will commence either during the week of May 2 or May 9, 2011. Both projects necessitate the closure of Runway 1/19 between 2300 and 0600, local time.

During those times when Runway 1/19 is closed for construction, DCA Runway 15/33 will be available for landings. Note that 15/33 is considerably shorter than 1/19.

The DCA Operations Manager has recommended that all airline operators affected by these changes take the following actions:

- Inform dispatchers and flight crews of the need to land at DCA prior to 2300 if they want to avoid using the shorter, newly-grooved and re-surfaced Runway 15/33
- For those carriers/crews that do not wish to use Runway 15/33 when Runway 1/19 is closed, alternate plans should be made for landing at either IAD or BWI and providing passengers with ground transportation to DCA

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Crews operating into DCA during the runway closure periods should be alert to changes in ground and in-flight operations. Awareness of the following is essential:

1. Expect different approaches. During construction, normal approach procedures may not be in use.
2. Expect different taxi procedures. During construction, normal taxi procedures may not be in use.
3. Please check with your carrier's Flight Operations Department for specific procedures during this period.

Captain Sean Cassidy
Interim Executive Air Safety Chairman
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