



Mesa to Arm Pilots With Tasers

PHOENIX, Oct. 18 -- Mesa Air Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: MESA), today announced that it would begin training its pilots to carry non-lethal taser weapons in the cockpit in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration. The Air Line Pilots Association, which represents Mesa's pilots, recently called for the arming of pilots.

A taser is a stun gun that fires a high voltage shock at a range of up to 15 feet. After the shock, an attacker is immobilized for up to 15 minutes, with no long-term permanent damage. It leaves the attacker in a dazed mental state.

"Traffic across the industry has dropped significantly since the attack of September 11th. We need to do everything we can to regain the confidence of our passengers in order to insure the future of commercial aviation. We believe that enhancing on board security will go a long way toward reaching that goal," said Jonathan Ornstein, Mesa's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Mesa recently conducted a poll in which 85 percent of respondents said they would choose an airline that provided inflight security over one that doesn't. "We look forward to working with all parties involved, including the FAA, the airports we serve and our pilots to develop the necessary safeguards and training to insure the safe use of these defensive weapons. We hope that Mesa will set a positive example of cooperation and it is our hope that other airlines join us in developing this program."

The company began placing trained security personnel on its Mesa Airlines operation out of its Albuquerque, N.M., hub on October 17, 2001.

Mesa currently operates 116 aircraft with 832 daily system departures to 153 cities, 38 states, Canada and Mexico. It operates in the west and mid-west as America West Express, the midwest and east as US Airways Express, in partnership with Midwest Express out of Kansas City and in New Mexico under the independent Mesa Airlines. It will also begin codesharing with Frontier Airlines out of Denver in the first quarter of 2002. The Company, which was founded in New Mexico in 1982, has approximately 3,000 employees. Mesa is a member of Regional Aviation Partners.

This press release contains various forward-looking statements that are based on management's beliefs, as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to management. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable; it can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to have been correct. Such statements are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, estimated, projected or expected.