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# News Release

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## **Airport Authority Debuts New, Lead-Free Public Safety Training Range at Detroit Metro Airport**

Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) today celebrated the grand opening of its new, lead-free public safety firearm training range at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW). The range is the first of four components of a new public safety training center slated to open over the next year.

“Public safety and security is always the Airport Authority’s top priority,” said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. “We are proud to have the best-trained public safety officers possible, and this new facility enhances our ability to provide the very best training more efficiently and sustainably.”

The \$2 million, 8,215 square foot range provides Airport Police with one of the finest firearm training facilities in the region located directly on airport grounds. Previously, Airport Police trained at off-site facilities.

In addition to being outfitted with state of the art equipment, the new range is also set-up to be entirely lead-free. While conventional training ranges utilize traditional lead-based ammunition, Airport Police officers training at the new airport range will use special, lead-free equipment that reduces exposure to toxic metals and precludes the need for cumbersome, expensive cleaning and maintenance procedures.

While capable of being fired from standard firearms, the special frangible ammunition—known as Reduced-Hazard Training Ammunition (RHTA)—turns to copper dust upon impact with ballistic steel paneling on the back of the range. That copper dust can then be collected and recycled. Because no toxic materials are present, maintenance of the facility can be accomplished by Airport Authority maintenance crews rather than requiring service by special HAZMAT crews.

“The new range is a prime example of sustainable development,” Robinson said. “Although the RHTA costs about 30-40% more than traditional ammunition, the savings in operation and maintenance expenses it provides will reduce the total cost to operate the facility in the long run.”

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Home to two of the world's most modern passenger terminals and six jet runways, DTW is one of the newest, most operationally-capable and efficient airports in North America. Serving nearly 36 million passengers each year, DTW is the largest airport in Michigan and among the 20 busiest air transportation hubs in the world. In addition to serving as the second-largest hub for Delta Air Lines--the world's largest airline--DTW is home to fifteen additional airlines, including several low-cost carriers and five foreign-flag carriers. Altogether, DTW offers more than 1,200 non-stop flights per day to over 160 destinations worldwide.

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