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TSA DISCOVERING MORE FIREARMS IN CARRY-ON BAGS FIVE GUNS FOUND AT WRWA IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST

OKLAHOMA CITY, August 31, 2016 – As travelers gear up for the Labor Day holiday, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has a reminder: Leave your gun at home.

It seems obvious, but over the last several weeks, TSA has discovered a record-breaking number of firearms in traveler's carry-on bags. Eighty-one firearms were discovered nationally from August 12th through August 18th; 70 of those firearms were loaded. The previous record, 78 firearms, was set just one week earlier. In Oklahoma City, five guns were discovered during the month of August. All five firearms were loaded.

The rise in numbers is concerning. Firearms and ammunition are, and have always been, strictly forbidden at the checkpoint and in any carry-on item. A gun found at the checkpoint will cause more than just a little inconvenience for a traveler. Upon discovery, a police officer is called to the checkpoint initiating an official investigation. The gun is booked into police property, which may be claimed at a later date depending on the outcome of the investigation. The person with the firearm is subject to a civil penalty up to \$11,000, and depending upon the circumstances, arrest and criminal prosecution. If the traveler is enrolled in the TSA Pre-Check program, those privileges are suspended.

Firearms and ammunition may be transported legally in checked baggage. The firearm must be unloaded and in a locked hard-sided container. The traveler must declare the firearm to the airline when checking the item. More information about transporting firearms and ammunition can be found at tsa.gov.

As always, travelers are advised to inspect their checked luggage and all carry-ons for any prohibited items prior to coming to the airport.

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Will Rogers World Airport is the city's commercial airport and accommodates over 3.8 million travelers each year. The airport serves 22 nonstop airports with an average of 69 daily departures. Will Rogers World Airport is owned by the City of Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma City Airport Trust oversees the management and operation of the airport.