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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Universal Wings Airways flight UWA200 Crashes in the Atlantic

An Airbus A380 departing from JFK International Airport crashed early Monday morning

NEW YORK, May 9, 2016 - Universal Wings Airways flight UWA200, an Airbus A380, crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near East Moriches, New York, at approximately 8:10 a.m. EST, 12 minutes after takeoff from John F. Kennedy International Airport. Flight UWA200 was a scheduled international passenger flight from New York to London. The cause of the crash is not yet clear.

This was the first official flight of Universal Wings Airways Airbus A380. There were 370 passengers and 40 crew members on board the Airbus craft. These passengers included 200 American, 70 British, 50 German, 20 Egyptian, 10 Australian, 10 Russian and 10 Syrian citizens. Crew members include 30 Britain and 10 American.

Emily Renne, president of Universal Wings Airways, said, "It is my and the entire company's sincerest concern to understand the cause of this crash as soon as possible. Universal Airways extends its deepest apologies to the families and friends of the victims involved. We highly encourage you to contact our crisis centers for further help. Please bear with us as we work around the clock to alleviate the concerns of friends and family members of the passengers and crew. We are cooperating with all search and recovery operations currently underway by federal, state, and local agencies."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is initiating an investigation to determine the cause of the crash. Homeland Security is traveling to the scene to investigate terrorism. Accident investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will arrive on the scene shortly and will oversee the investigation of the crash.

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Within minutes of the initial water impact, various civilian, military, and police vessels searched the crash site for survivors. As of 1:45 p.m. today, U.S. Navy scuba divers and remote-operated vehicles have recovered 100 victims and wreckage from the plane. At present, no survivors have been found. The wreckage that has been collected is currently en route to a hangar in Waterfalls, New York for examination and reconstruction.

The director of the Suffolk County Medical Examiner's Office said, "The evidence collected thus far will be instrumental in determining the cause of this tragedy, however there is more work to be done." The deceased are being transported to Suffolk County Medical Examiner's Office.

Universal Wings Airways has established an emergency center at the Cullen JFK Airport Hotel for relatives of the UWA200 passengers and crew. The company recommends that the public utilize its crisis centers that have been set up in the airline's New York City and London offices. For media inquiries, contact 800-500-5555, for family and friends of the passengers call 800-600-6666, for general inquiries contact 800-500-7777, and for international calls contact 1-800-500-8888.

About Universal Wings Airways

Universal Wings Airways was established in 2008 and serves 50 destinations, including five in the United States and 10 countries. Its network covers points throughout Europe, the U.S., Australia, China, Japan and India. In 2016, Universal Wings Airways developed their new double-deck A380, the world's largest commercial aircraft flying today. The aircraft has capacity to carry 525 passengers in a three-class configuration, and up to 853 in a single-class configuration.

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