

Florida Flyer

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Courtesy of LPA Group

The airport's new administration building was dedicated in October 2006.

Sebastian Municipal Airport

Sebastian Municipal Airport is located in Florida's beautiful central Atlantic coast region known as the Treasure Coast.

The rapidly growing city of Sebastian in Indian River County is just 90 minutes from the Orlando attractions and the

Kennedy Space Center. Sebastian is known for its natural beauty and is recognized as the home of America's first national wildlife refuge, Pelican Island.

Sebastian Municipal Airport was built by the U.S. Navy in 1943 as a naval flight training station, known at that time as Roseland Satellite Field. In 1959, the airport was transferred to the city of Sebastian, and the city has maintained and operated it since then.

Airport facilities

The airport has two intersecting asphalt runways, runway 04/22 (4,000 feet by 100 feet) and runway 08/26 (3,200 feet by 75 feet). Both runways are served by a non-parallel partial taxiway system.

Points of Interest

- 25 percent of the airport's annual general aviation operations are business related; 70 percent are related to flight training
- Estimates for 2008: 56 based aircraft and 52,775 general aviation operations

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“The Florida Department of Transportation Aviation Office and Florida’s airports achieved some significant advances this year.”

MANAGER’S CORNER

by William J. Ashbaker, P.E.

There’s a chilly nip in the air—at least in north Florida. Each year, the winter solstice compels us to cut down trees, build a fire, and stare into the flames with a hot cup of coffee or cocoa. It is a time to examine our accomplishments of the past year and speculate on our prospects for the new year.

The Florida Department of Transportation Aviation Office and Florida’s airports achieved some significant advances this year. With the addition of the SIS program, state funding for airport projects reached an all-time high of \$171 million.

Airports achieved substantial successes in the legislative session. The governor signed legislation to extend 100 percent state funding for security projects, allow flexible funding for general aviation airports, extend state infrastructure bank loan eligibility to disaster damage at airports, and give airports relief from concurrency requirements in growth management laws.

Likewise, the Aviation Office completed an extensive airport stormwater study that establishes safer and more cost effective acceptable alternatives to retention ponds. The office completed inspections of airport pavement at Florida’s airports, inspected and licensed all of Florida’s public airports, updated Florida Aviation System Plan information on all airports and reviewed hundreds of tall structure and land use proposals. The office continued to work with the State Emergency Operations Center to define the new Air Operations Branch with a focus on air assets during disaster recovery.

This year, the Aviation Office and the Florida Airports Council partnered to provide programs for safety education for Florida’s 50,000 pilots and professional airport education internships. Also, the council and the office produced a series of professional airport education seminars, available electronically, that were especially well received by airport staffs and local government officials.

Florida airports made history in 2007. The DayJet Corporation initiated the first “per seat on demand” very light jet service in the United States in Florida. The service features passenger service to smaller airports with the Eclipse 500 aircraft. Orlando International Airport hosted the first Airbus A-380 landing in Florida. And, the Panama City–Bay County Industrial District broke ground for construction of the first new commercial service airport in Florida in over twenty years.

Through all of this, work continues on airport projects such as a brand new, award-winning terminal at Bartow and major runway projects at Palm Beach International, Ft. Lauderdale–Hollywood International, and Southwest Florida International airports.

Whew! 2007 was a busy year! However, was 2007 an exhilarating roller coaster “up” and now we face the terrorizing “down” in 2008? We enter the new year with no FAA funding authorization, ominous state transportation funding predictions, security and land use issues, and continuing threats of summer storms, both meteorological and economic.

Although federal reauthorization is not expected to progress in the Senate very soon and we were forced to reduce the Department’s Five-Year Work Program by \$1.4 billion for all modes, I am cautiously optimistic about 2008. Regarding the reauthorization, the House proposal looks promising and continued diligence by the Florida Airports Council, the National Association of State Aviation Officials, and our congressional delegation can result in a good federal package. At the state level, we are working hard to protect our commitment to airport projects that we plan to fund during the next five years. However, we may not have a financial reserve to fund unanticipated projects.

So, sit back, enjoy the warmth of the fire, but don’t fall asleep. Happy New Year to all.

Enterprise Florida Ensures Florida's Global Competitiveness

Enterprise Florida Inc. serves as Florida's official statewide economic development organization, helping to improve Florida's business climate and ensuring the state's global competitiveness.

The organization focuses on innovative, high-growth industries such as aviation and aerospace, information technology, life sciences, manufacturing, and others. Enterprise Florida helps companies with their location and expansion plans and provides site selection services, demographic information, and much more.

Economic development

"Our primary economic development functions are carried out by the division of Business Retention and Recruitment and the division of International Trade and Business Development," says Ken Cooksey, Enterprise Florida's Regional Manager, International Trade Development for Aviation, Aerospace and Defense.

Enterprise Florida makes the Florida Legislature aware of numerous, pertinent issues that affect Florida's business climate. For example, says Cooksey, "A potential investor might come to us and say, 'Florida has a tax or permitting procedure that puts Florida at a disadvantage with what another state offers.' We can go to our legislative lobbying team and work on lowering or eliminating the tax and modifying the permitting procedure to make Florida more competitive." Cooksey adds that Governor Crist, who serves as Chairman of Enterprise Florida's Board of Directors, and the Legislature have worked very closely with the organization to enhance the business environment in Florida "so that



Courtesy of Enterprise Florida

A view of the state of Florida from space.

our state is more competitive with what other states have to offer."

Marketing Florida

Enterprise Florida markets the state of Florida on a global scale. "We have a very active international marketing program," says Cooksey. Ken Cooksey organizes Florida pavilions at air shows in London, Dubai, Singapore, Chile, Australia, and Paris to help Florida aviation, aerospace, and defense firms export their products. The international venues also provide excellent distribution outlets for Florida airport directories and aeronautical charts.

The organization's headquarters are in Orlando with division offices in Tallahassee and Miami. Six field offices around the state handle international trade and business development; these offices provide Florida companies with export counseling services and other types of exporting assistance. Enterprise Florida also maintains a network of international offices in 14 countries around the world

See Enterprise Florida, page 8

Global Leader

Here are a few of the many reasons why Florida is a global leader in the aviation and aerospace industry:

- Florida has approximately 1,800 aviation and aerospace companies employing more than 83,000 workers.
- Florida has 128 public airports, 27 military airfields, and more than 600 private airports.
- One-fifth of the world's flight training occurs in Florida.
- More than 42 million air passengers arrive in Florida each year.
- Florida has more than 3.2 million aircraft movements (takeoffs and landings) each year.
- Each year nearly 3.5 million tons of air cargo pass through Florida's airports.
- As the top U.S. airport for international air cargo and the second busiest airport in the world, Miami International Airport alone handles more than 70 percent of Florida's airborne international trade.
- Key industry assets include NASA, the Cape Canaveral Spaceport, and Florida's many military bases.
- Florida has some of the nation's most advanced flight facilities and the world's premier launch complex for space exploration.
- Nearly one-third of all commercial space activity worldwide occurs in Florida.
- Most major aerospace companies and defense contractors from the U.S., as well as some from other countries, have operations in Florida.

Sebastian

from page 1

A 10,000-square-foot general aviation terminal and airport administration building, dedicated in October 2006, is situated on the east end of the airport's 620-acre property. The airport also operates a 24/7 self-serve avgas dispensing facility on the administration building ramp area. There are currently 25 tie-downs for general aviation aircraft, and between the airport's T-hangars and conventional hangars, there are 48 covered parking spaces for aircraft.

City of Sebastian

- Sebastian's population is approximately 22,000.
- Fishing opportunities abound, from fresh water fishing in the Sebastian River to salt water fishing in the Indian River Lagoon and deep-sea fishing in the ocean.
- Some local historical museums display artifacts from a fleet of Spanish ships that sunk offshore between Sebastian and Fort Pierce in a hurricane in 1715.



Courtesy of Skydive Sebastian



Courtesy of LPA Group

The airport has a 100-acre industrial park, and an additional 70-acre corporate park area is available for development. The city's championship golf course is also located on airport property.

FBO and tenants

One fixed base operator and several airport tenants provide a variety of products and services. Velocity Aircraft manufactures kits for a four-place home-built composite aircraft powered by a four or six-cylinder engine. Skydive Sebastian offers a recreational center where skydivers can enjoy a view of the Florida coastline and the Atlantic Ocean. SheltAir Aviation manages the 40 T-hangar facility at the airport.

Flight training is an important part of the airport's general aviation activity. The airport is active in aviation training programs offered by Flight Safety, Florida Tech, and other aviation organizations.

Since September 2006, Joe Griffin has served as airport director. Earlier in his career, Griffin served as a fighter pilot in the Marine Corps and as a commercial airline pilot for U.S. Airways. For several years he also had his own law firm in Kissimmee.

For more information about Sebastian Municipal Airport, contact Airport Director Joe Griffin at (772) 228-7001 or see the airport's web site at www.sebastianairport.com. ♦

Planned or Completed Airport Projects

- Install a Super Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS)
- Complete and implement an airport standard operating procedure (also known as the airport business plan)
- Construct a maintenance storage building
- Improve airport lighting/signage, including a Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) system for both runways
- Construct corporate hangars and additional T-hangars
- Enhance security
- Update the Master Plan (titled the Airport Layout Plan Update) to recognize completed projects and identify new airport economic development targets

Photographs, clockwise from below: aircraft on the ramp at Sebastian Municipal Airport; the airport's new administration building; aerial view of the airport.



Courtesy of Sebastian Municipal Airport

FalconTrust Air

A luxury FBO for the private aviation industry

Fixed-base operator FalconTrust Air is dedicated to providing the private aviation industry with service, comfort, technology, and luxury. Located at Kendall-Tamiami Executive Airport in Miami, FalconTrust Air offers facilities and services that are unique in the FBO industry.

Many amenities

FalconTrust Air's state-of-the-art facility features Mediterranean-style architecture and an atrium with imported marble and a waterfall. The three-story 22,000-square-foot facility offers conference rooms, private VIP suites, a movie theater, billiards, gourmet catering, a library, limousine services, a fitness center and sauna, and many gathering and entertainment areas. Pilots even have private rooms for sleeping and a weather station with aviation and telecommunications technology for flight planning. Of course, the FBO also offers typical aviation services such as fuel service, aircraft storage, towing, tie-down, maintenance, helicopter charter service, a pilot's shop, and an in-house car rental service.

FalconTrust Air has generated a great deal of new business for the airport, says Airport Manager Michael Handrahan. Air traffic has increased nearly 27 percent in 2007, and the airport estimates total operations for the year to be 250,000 to 265,000, compared to 208,128 when the control tower was in operation last year. "FalconTrust Air has proven to be a showcase FBO for general aviation airports," says Handrahan.

CEO Albert Sotero

FalconTrust Air's CEO Albert Sotero realized at a young age that he had a strong love for aviation. He received



Photographs, top to bottom: FalconTrust Air's three-story state-of-the-art facility; the FBO's spacious lobby; CEO Albert Sotero chose Kendall-Tamiami Executive Airport for the development of FalconTrust Air.



his pilot's license in 1992 and has maintained an active aviation career ever since. He has had the privilege of flying and owning all sorts of flying machines such as helicopters, gliders, hot air balloons, ultralights, and fixed wing aircraft. During Sotero's national and international travels, he has been able to experience and interact with the aviation industry on all levels. Most importantly, he encountered FBO destinations leading him to appreciate the need for a modern facility—one that would provide an unsurpassed level of service and amenities. Albert Sotero founded FalconTrust Air and began planning its development in 2002, opening its doors for business in 2005.

Albert Sotero grew up in Miami and has been using Kendall-Tamiami Executive Airport since he was 16 years old, so the airport was a natural choice for the development of FalconTrust Air. Kendall-Tamiami is a reliever to Miami International Airport, and it is one of the busiest airports in Florida.



Courtesy of FalconTrust Air

Construction plans

In addition to the existing four hangars, FBO office, and support complex, FalconTrust Air is under construction on a 34,530-square-foot hangar with additional plans to build eight more hangars, each 130 feet by 130 feet, and to add 48,000 square feet of office space on the east side of the building. Then the company plans to build nine more executive FBOs at other airports.

For more information about FalconTrust Air, call (305) 871-3105 or see www.FalconTrustAir.com. ♦

Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting at Opa-locka Airport

On a sunny Tuesday in November 2007, two aircraft collided at Opa-locka Airport in south Miami-Dade County. The airport's aircraft rescue and firefighting crew responded to the emergency and were available for medical services. The crew also handled fuel-related problems.

Airport firefighters are highly trained to handle emergencies such as this one as well as many other aspects of safety on airports. "We do fire protection, fire prevention, emergency medical services, and we inspect new buildings," says Kris Miles, Station Captain at Opa-locka Airport Fire Station 25. "I don't think a day goes by that I don't have something on my plate."

Eleven crew members

Captain Miles supervises the fire station at this busy general aviation airport. The station's eleven crew members work 24-hour shifts with three people on duty at a time.

"In the morning, we have a shift exchange and we discuss the plan of the day," says Miles. "We check out the trucks and clean them. We drive around the airport and check the planes on the flight line to see what we have. Although we are a general aviation airport, we have—in addition to single engine private aircraft—Citations, Boeing 727s, 737s, 747s, and older aircraft such as DC3s, DC6s, DC7s, DC8s, and DC9s. Many are staged by cargo companies; some are corporate jets. We also have both military and civilian helicopters. Opa-locka Airport is also one of the staging points for the annual air and sea show; we really get a boost when they are here."



D. Vanburen

The foam truck at Opa-locka Airport Fire Station 25.

Equipment and training

The fire station has one aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) vehicle. An ARFF vehicle carries 1,500 gallons of water and 234 gallons of foam, and the fire station's vehicle also carries a dry chemical agent. Opa-locka Airport's response to a fire is supplemented by the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department which sends a contingent of equipment and manpower depending on the type of aircraft incident.

Opa-locka Airport has one or two aircraft crashes a year, and one or two brake or engine fires each quarter. Firefighters routinely participate in live fire exercises to be prepared for these situations. The FAA requires a "hot drill" once a year, involving eight hours of training for each drill. "The diameter of the fire and fuel for the drill is established by FAR 139. We have to demonstrate proficiency extinguishing the fire; one evolution requires us to rescue a dummy," says Miles.

The airport's crew members have medical training to the level of emergency medical technician or paramedic. "We have a vast array of experience because of seniority," says Miles. Some firefighters are inspectors, divers, hazardous materials technicians, tactical

rescue technicians, air boat operators, arson investigators, and more.

Because Opa-locka Airport is a customs entry point, the airport's firefighters also have customs identification with background check. Aircraft landing at the airport from foreign ports must be cleared by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the same as they would if arriving at Miami International Airport or the Miami seaport.

Medical assistance

Airport firefighters provide medical assistance when needed. The crew treats small burns and other injuries from tools as well as sports injuries incurred during weekend soccer games and other activities. Occasionally, a serious situation occurs such as an incident several months ago when someone walked into a propeller while servicing an airplane.

When fuel trucks overturn at some of the major intersections in the area, such as the cloverleaf at I-95 and Highway 826, the fire station is often called to assist. If the highway remains open during cleanup, the crew puts a blanket of foam on top of the spilled gasoline to reduce fire hazards for nearby traffic. The fire crew remains on the scene until the fuel truck is towed off site, which can take eight to ten hours.

Maintenance and inspections

The crew annually maintains each of the airport's 100 fire hydrants. Maintenance involves flushing the barrel of the hydrant, painting the hydrant if needed, and replacing the reflective markers on the roadway.

Inspections of new airport buildings are another important part of the job. Opa-locka Airport is now undergoing a 40-year inspection of all the buildings on

Calendar

January 17–20

U.S. Sport Aviation Expo 2008, Sebring Regional Airport; the place to see, try, buy, and sell light sport aircraft; for information, see www.sport-aviation-expo.com

February 6–7

Florida Airports Council State Summit, DoubleTree Hotel, Tallahassee; for more information, see www.floridaairports.org or call FAC at (850) 224-2964

February 15–16

Florida Aviation Expo, Charlotte County Airport, Punta Gorda; display of new general aviation aircraft, new light sport aircraft, avionics, Warbirds, and more; for more information, contact Carlos Gray at (239) 989-1109

April 3

CFASPP Statewide Meeting, Orlando International Airport; for more information, see www.cfaspp.org

April 8–13

Sun 'n Fun Fly-In, Lakeland Linder Regional Airport; for information call Sun 'n Fun at (863) 644-2431 or see www.sun-n-fun.org

July 20–23

Florida Airports Council 39th Annual Conference and Exposition, Breakers Hotel, Palm Beach; for more information, see www.floridaairports.org or call FAC at (850) 224-2964

For information about CFASPP, see www.cfaspp.com.



D. Vanburen



Lt. R. Chavez



D. Vanburen



D. Vanburen

the property, and the airport must decide whether to bring each building up to code or demolish it. "Some of our buildings were built during World War II, and some of the older buildings were ripped open by Hurricane Wilma," says Miles. Thus, building construction is going on all over the airport as aging and damaged buildings are replaced.

Captain Miles emphasizes the support that airport-based agencies provide for one another. The Coast Guard, for example, conducts random missions two or three times a day, and they refuel while their engines are running. The fire

crew stands by as a courtesy during these hot refuels. The firefighters also have an excellent working relationship with airport ramp personnel who keep the crew informed of many details, such as taxiway closings.

Extensive experience and regular training help the firefighters prepare for any emergency on the airport, and their good working relationships ensure the support of others when needed.

To learn more about Opa-locka Airport Fire Station 25, contact Station Captain Kris Miles at (305) 869-1650 or milesk@miamidade.gov. ♦

Charlotte County Airport Installs Wireless Security System

Charlotte County Airport in Punta Gorda recently installed a radio frequency identification (RFID) security system in automobiles for safe access to T-hangars and tie-down spots.

The new system has advantages in addition to security. "It's a lot more convenient," says James Parish, P.E., Assistant Director and Director of Engineering and Development for the Charlotte County Airport Authority. With the airport's previous proximity card, the driver had to roll down the window to reach a pad, and the location of the pad presented the problem of wrong-way traffic.

The major components of the new security system include a computer system, an electronic reader attached to each gate, and a plastic card, similar in size to a credit card, encoded with airport

identification information. When someone drives up to a gate, the electronic reader scans information on the driver's card and checks it with the computer system. The gate opens automatically when the information is confirmed.

The encoded plastic card is associated with the driver rather than the vehicle, so the driver can use the card in any vehicle he or she drives at the airport. Charlotte County Airport currently uses this security system for personnel and in automobiles, but it can also be used in aircraft to allow convenient access to the hangar area. And, depending on how it is installed, the system can track incoming and outgoing aircraft.

For more information about the security system, contact James Parish at jparish@flypgd.com or (941) 639-1101. ♦

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to provide trade and/or investment opportunities for Florida companies looking to export, and for international companies interested in investing or doing business in Florida.

Enterprise Florida provides a wealth of research data regarding international trade as well as the many industries represented in the state. Its web site, www.eflorida.com, is a storehouse of research that benefits companies.

If you are interested in international marketing for your aviation or aerospace company, please contact Ken Cooksey at (850) 298-6632. For more information about Enterprise Florida, visit www.eflorida.com and download a copy of the "Aerospace and Aviation Market Brief" (see "Florida Industry Clusters – Aerospace and Aviation"). ♦



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