

Special Edition

Florida Flyer

www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation

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Cecil Airport (VQQ)



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Cecil Airport serves general aviation, light corporate aviation, and large MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) operations.

Strategically located in northeast Florida, 14 miles southwest of downtown Jacksonville, **Cecil Airport (VQQ)** sits in the midst of a full spectrum of multimodal transportation links. With access to three major interstate highways, the airport is within eight hours of more than 33 million Americans. Cecil Airport is also positioned close to three transcontinental rail arteries, one of the fastest growing deepwater ports in the Southeast United States, and Jacksonville International Airport, a commercial service airport with more than 200 daily flights.

Since 1999, more than \$164.5 million has been invested in improving Cecil Airport's infrastructure and facilities. The result is a general and industrial aviation public-use airport equipped to help businesses. With 6,081 acres of property, Cecil Airport offers aeronautical businesses plenty of room to grow.

Cecil Airport is also the first FAA-licensed horizontal launch commercial spaceport on the East Coast and the ninth to be licensed in the U.S.

This special edition of the Florida Flyer focuses on Cecil Airport and its recent economic development.

Cecil Airport's Facilities

Cecil Airport is a full-service, instrument capable General Aviation Reliever Airport **owned and operated by the Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA)** in Duval County. The JAA system of airports includes Cecil Airport (VQQ), Jacksonville International Airport (JAX), Herlong Recreational Airport (HEG), and Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport (JAXEX).

As a public-use airport serving general aviation and large MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) operations, **Cecil Airport has one full-service FBO**, Jacksonville Jet Port, and an aircraft rescue and fire fighting facility (ARFF) operated by the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. The air traffic control tower is open seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

The airport's aviation assets include 479 buildings and structures, 13 hangars with more than a million square feet of floor space, 150,000 square feet of office space, and 537,000 square yards of apron space. **Cecil Airport has four active runways**, all served by full-length parallel taxiways: 9L/27R, 4,400 feet by 200 feet; 9R/27L, 8,000 feet by 200 feet; 18L/36R, 12,500 feet by 200 feet; and 18R/36L, 8,000 feet by 200 feet.

The Florida Army National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) U.S. Coast Guard's Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection are located here, along with the Aviation Center of Excellence of Florida State College at Jacksonville. Facilities operated by major aerospace firms provide maintenance and overhaul services for a variety of aircraft.

The airport supports the Cecil Commerce Center, an adjoining large industrial commerce center that is located on-site and contains approximately 8,312 acres.

Learn more about Cecil Airport at www.cecilairport.com, and see www.jaxcecilcommercecenter.com for additional development opportunities. ♦



Lans Stout Photography

Continual expansion of Cecil Airport has assisted in employment growth and economic impact.



Airport History

The U.S. Navy first built and opened Cecil Field in the early 1940s to help ease the heavy flight training schedule at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. In February 1943, the field was commissioned as the U.S. Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Cecil Field in honor of U.S. Navy Commander Henry Barton Cecil.

The Navy began a multi-million dollar construction program in the early 1950s, constructing four 8,000-foot runways and several new buildings. The Navy operated the airport until 1999 when ownership transferred to the Jacksonville Port Authority, predecessor to the current owner, the Jacksonville Aviation Authority.



Environmental Issues

The unspoiled land surrounding Cecil Airport has always been a rich source of natural beauty and a source of community pride. The Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA) and the city of Jacksonville have set aside areas of Cecil Airport for conservation. They will continue to preserve and protect the environmentally sensitive ecology at Cecil Airport as it is developed. Master planning efforts call for ample land to be set aside for additional parks, recreation, and conservation in Duval and Clay counties as development occurs.



Lans Stout Photography

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority is currently marketing Cecil Airport as a possible distribution hub for multimodal and intermodal transportation.

An Economic Driver for a Dynamic Region

Northeast Florida is a dynamic, fast-growing region with a population of more than 1.5 million. Located on the St. Johns River, Jacksonville serves as the hub of the seven-county region and offers a culturally diverse and skilled labor force.

Cecil Airport and airport tenants provide a large number of jobs in Duval County. Tenants provide jobs for approximately 4,000 workers at the airport. College students and military members who train on weekends account for an additional 837 workers. Additionally, 17 employees work directly for the airport as Jacksonville Aviation Authority employees, bringing the total to nearly 4,900 employees on airport property.

Cecil Airport has a tremendous capacity for increased aviation activity in the aviation maintenance, repair, overhaul, and air cargo areas. The airport's vision is to capitalize on its transportation network, including air, rail,

surface, and proximity to port facilities, and to plan and develop a major, diversified, multimodal manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, and transportation center at the airport.

The airport is part of the vast **transportation network** that includes the following:

- **Three railroads** support Jacksonville's intermodal infrastructure: CSX, Norfolk Southern, and Florida East Coast Railway.
- Jacksonville is home to **one of the largest commercial cargo ports** on the East Coast.
- Along the 30-mile stretch of the St. John's River from the Atlantic Ocean to downtown Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT) owns and operates **three public marine cargo terminals**: Talleyrand, Blount Island, and Dames Point.

Economic Impact

The total annual economic impact of Cecil Airport follows:

- **Total employment: 6,974**
- **Direct impacts: \$424,511,000** (from the tenants/businesses at the airport and construction projects undertaken by the airport or by on-site businesses)
- **Indirect impacts: \$2,684,000** (associated with spending from visitors who arrive in the area by way of general aviation aircraft)
- **Multiplier impacts: \$293,311,000**
- **Total payroll: \$353,581,000**
- **Total output: \$720,506,000**

—from the Florida Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study Update, August 2014

- More than eight million tons of cargo move through the port facilities each year.
- More than 20 maritime facilities in Jacksonville's harbor are not owned by JAXPORT. These facilities include dry docks, petroleum terminals, and the U.S. Navy's Mayport Naval Station; these ports move an additional 10 tons of cargo annually.
- More than 100 trucking and drayage firms operate in and around Jacksonville.
- **Rail-to-truck and port-to-truck facilities** take advantage of the extensive highway system in the area.
- The city of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) have invested billions of dollars in current Jacksonville roadway improvement projects. ♦

Cecil Airport's Tenants and Businesses

Boeing

www.boeing.com/boeing

The Boeing Company is part of the company's Aerospace Support Division; its focus is primarily on the modification of F/A-18 aircraft Hornets for the Navy and Marine Corps. The facility recently became the national center of component structural repair for F/A-18 Hornets and Super Hornets after Boeing closed its Mesa, Arizona location. All of the next-generation F/A-18C and D model Hornets to be used by the Navy's Blue Angels are to undergo conversion at Boeing's Cecil Airport facility.

Jacksonville Jetport

www.jaxjetport.aero

Jacksonville JetPort is Cecil Airport's sole fixed base operator (FBO). A full-service FBO, Jacksonville JetPort offers various amenities and services to pilots and passengers traveling through Cecil Airport, including aircraft fueling, basic aircraft servicing, rental cars, a pilot lounge, weather briefing/flight planning room, and tie-down locations.

Robinson Aviation, Inc.

www.rvainc.net

Robinson Aviation, Inc. (RVA), is the contract tower operator for Cecil Airport and is responsible for staffing and operating the tower seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. At least two controllers are on duty at all times.

Wood Group Pratt & Whitney

www.wgpw.com

Wood Group Pratt & Whitney specializes in overhaul and repair, inspection, modular maintenance, and component and control repair of various industrial turbine engines and generators.

Flightstar Aircraft Services

www.flightstarjax.com

Located in Cecil's largest hangar, Flightstar specializes in maintenance, repair, and overhaul of various types of heavy aircraft. Flightstar services multiple types of commercial aircraft including DC-10, MD-11, DC-9, MD-80, B-727, B-737, and B-757 aircraft. Federal Express currently contracts with Flightstar for provision of Phase C and D maintenance checks on its fleet of aircraft. Various air cargo companies contract with Flightstar to convert passenger 757 aircraft to a cargo configuration.

LSI

www.lsijax.com

LSI (originally Logistic Services International) provides training and technical support services to the U.S. government, foreign militaries, and the aerospace industry. LSI offers its customers a wide spectrum of technical training and publications services. LSI's Cecil Training and Support Center provides computer-based simulation and training support to the U.S. Department of Defense and the commercial aviation industry.



Lans Stout Photography



Lans Stout Photography

The newly completed Flightstar Aircraft Services hangar (top photo). Cecil Airport's aviation assets include 479 buildings and structures, and 13 hangars with more than a million square feet of floor space.

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast

www.navair.navy.mil

The Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) operates three Fleet Readiness Centers within the continental United States. These modern industrial facilities provide in-depth overhaul, repair, and modification of aircraft, engines, avionics, and aeronautical components. Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) falls under NAVAIR and is located primarily at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. FRC leases a hangar at Cecil Airport for maintenance of Boeing F-18s.

Florida Army National Guard, Army Aviation Support Facility

www.floridaguard.army.mil

Cecil Airport's Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) contingent is part of the 1st Battalion of the 111th Aviation Regiment. Currently housed on the FLARNG's leasehold are CH-47 Chinooks, UH-60 Black Hawks, and Lakota Eurocopters, all aiding the National Guard in its mission. FLARNG has recently completed a new hangar facility on the airport. Units of the 111th deploy to various sites around the world in support of U.S. military operations.

Florida State College at Jacksonville

www.fscj.edu

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) has two locations in the Cecil area, one in a hangar on the airfield and the other just north of the hangar on property owned by the city of Jacksonville. In the hangar is FSCJ's FAA-certified Part 147 program where students train to become Airframe and Powerplant mechanics. The curriculum also includes avionics and airport operations and management. Students have access to numerous hands-on mock-ups, models, and actual aircraft and airplane engines in the hangar bay. The complex on city property houses the school's state-of-the-art air traffic control training center. To advance its aviation training program, the college is in the construction phase of a new Aircraft Services Educational Facility being built on the north end of the airfield. This facility will be used for student training and will be operated by a commercial aircraft MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) company.

Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department

www.coj.net/departments/fire-and-rescue.aspx

Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD) Station 56 at Cecil Airport provides fire fighting and rescue response for any aircraft accidents, incidents, or structural fires that may occur on the airport. The city of Jacksonville funds two ARFF-certified personnel to respond to the airfield at all times. Although Cecil is not a Part 139 air carrier airport, Station 56 provides the equipment equivalent to a Class C ARFF (aircraft rescue and fire fighting) index.

U.S. Coast Guard HITRON

www.uscg.mil/lantarea/HITRON

The United States Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) is the Coast Guard's only armed aviation unit and was developed in 1998 to counter seaborne drug trafficking. HITRON utilizes the MH-65C Dolphin helicopters which are armed with M240 7.62mm machine guns, M107 .50-caliber rifles, and M14 7.62mm rifles. The HITRON squadron is located inside the fenced-off ramp area on the west side of the airport.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

www.cbp.gov

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) currently houses a detachment of P-3 surveillance and interdiction aircraft at Cecil Airport. The P-3s at Cecil are a crucial component of CBP's Office of Air and Marine. Along with their sister squadron in Corpus Christi, Texas, CBP's aircraft at Cecil conduct long-range patrols of our nation's coastlines and the open oceans with the mission of supporting air-to-ground interception of people and contraband illegally crossing land borders, air-to-air interception of aircraft, and air-to-water interception of transportation vessels. ♦



Lans Stout Photography

Fire fighting and rescue vehicle at Cecil Airport.

Cecil Spaceport Prepares for Industry

Cecil Spaceport is one of nine licensed horizontal launch facilities in the United States. The current vehicles proposed for launch and reentry at Cecil Spaceport are Concept Z vehicles, Reusable Launch Vehicles (RLV) that use the runway instead of a launch pad.

Concept Z vehicles have both a carrier vehicle and a separately piloted captive vehicle. The carrier aircraft would take off like a conventional jet and climb to altitude. Once there, the RLV would be released. As the carrier aircraft returns to the spaceport like a conventional jet, the RLV would fire its rockets and climb into space. Upon return it would glide back to Cecil Spaceport.

These horizontally launched vehicles use suborbital trajectories—a spaceflight in which the spacecraft reaches space, but its trajectory intersects Earth’s atmosphere so that it does not complete one orbital revolution.

Cecil Spaceport shares the same facilities as Cecil Airport, including the runway, which offers plenty of room for horizontal launches. At 12,500 feet long, the runway is one of the longest in the state of Florida.

Space flights at Cecil may one day evolve into point-to-point transportation using space flight profiles. These space vehicles could carry passengers, scientific experiments, or even satellite payloads.

Developing the spaceport

In 2006, the Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA) began determining the feasibility of developing a commercial spaceport. During this process, JAA conducted two studies, an environmental assessment and a license study.

When the environmental assessment was completed, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project. JAA also completed the application for a Commercial Launch Site Operator License which was granted by the FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation in January 2010.

Space Florida passed a resolution in



Steven and Vicki Schultz

Generation Orbit conducts a mock launch of their horizontal take-off rocket delivery system at Cecil Spaceport.

2011 encouraging legislation to amend the Florida Statutes to designate Cecil a “space territory.” The legislation passed, making Cecil Spaceport eligible for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) funding for space transportation-related infrastructure. In conjunction with the space territory designation, Cecil Spaceport was also approved by the state of Florida as a planned Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) facility. SIS facilities are used to link multiple modes of transportation throughout the state, and the approval opens additional doors for infrastructure funding for spaceport facilities.

The Cecil Spaceport Master Plan was completed in 2012. The Spaceport Master Plan is the first step in creating a viable commercial spaceport that will meet the evolving needs of the commercial space launch industry. It will define and plan the facilities likely to be needed by horizontal-launch spacecraft and outline how those needs can be met over the next several years. Through the master planning process, the Jacksonville Aviation Authority hopes to lay the groundwork that will allow it to attract enough

commercial space operators to enable the development of a thriving economic base of space-related industries.

Cecil’s advantage

One advantage that sets Cecil apart from other licensed spaceports is its location in a city that can provide additional amenities for space tourism. Additional strengths include the existing infrastructure, technical workforce, and a surplus of land for future development. Construction is slated to begin in late 2015 for a hangar located on the airport’s west side. The hangar will be occupied by Generation Orbit Launch Services, Inc., an Atlanta-based commercial space launch provider. Generation Orbit, the spaceport’s primary operator, serves micro and nano-satellite developers that are seeking dedicated and cost-effective access to space. Generation Orbit has already begun running tests at the spaceport.

To learn more about Cecil Spaceport, visit the Cecil Airport website at www.cecilairport.com (choose “Spaceport”). To watch a Generation Orbit test flight, visit their YouTube page. ♦

Cecil Airport's Leadership Provides Vision and Guidance

Kelly Dollarhide, Airport Manager

Kelly Dollarhide is Airport Manager for Cecil Airport. She first joined the Jacksonville Aviation Authority in 2006 as an Airport Specialist and began serving as Cecil's Airport Manager in 2014.

Prior to joining the aviation authority, Dollarhide served as an Air Traffic Control Specialist in the United States Navy from 1998 to 2002 where she supervised air traffic controllers and trained tower supervisors. From 2007 to 2010, Dollarhide was an adjunct instructor at Florida State College at Jacksonville in the Air Traffic Collegiate

Training Initiative Program.

Since joining the Jacksonville Aviation Authority, Dollarhide has overseen several airport programs, special events, and special projects including the relocation of Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS JAX). Dollarhide, along with Airport Specialist Justin Fletcher, completed the first mock launch of Cecil Spaceport.

Dollarhide received her bachelor's degree in Professional Aeronautics Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2006. ♦



*Kelly Dollarhide
Cecil Airport Manager*

Jacksonville Aviation Authority

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA), an independent government agency created by the Florida legislature, oversees four airports: Cecil Airport (VQQ), Jacksonville International Airport (JAX), Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport (CRG), and Herlong Recreational Airport (HEG).

JAA operates primarily as a landlord, managing the upkeep, improvement, and expansion of its facilities and coordinating their use by private companies. JAA owns the runways, hangars, passenger terminal buildings, airport grounds, and road connections to the public highway system. JAA provides and maintains the terminals and their equipment and manages the overall use of the facilities.

JAA's Board of Directors consists of seven members, four appointed by Florida's governor and three appointed by the mayor of the city of Jacksonville. Once appointed, members may serve a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms.



Jacksonville Aviation Authority's administration building.

JAA's Board of Directors meets once a month in a publicly noticed meeting to conduct the business and set policy for Jacksonville's airport system.

JAA focuses on providing the traveling public with safe and secure aviation

facilities and an ever-improving travel experience while maintaining a strong financial position through all the changes in the industry and economy. ♦

Cecil Airport's Accomplishments

Cecil Airport has marked a number of milestones in recent years, including the following:

- Florida State College at Jacksonville opened the **Aviation Center of Excellence** in 2002.
- **Cecil Recreation Complex** (community and fitness centers) opened in 2004.
- Cecil Field received **FDOT's General Aviation Airport of the Year Award** in 2006.
- **Bridgestone** opened a one-million square-foot tire distribution facility in 2008.
- Florida State College at Jacksonville opened its **air traffic control program** at its Cecil Center in 2009.
- **Cecil Commerce Center Parkway** and a new interchange at I-10 opened in 2009.
- Florida Army National Guard **constructed an additional hangar** at Cecil in 2009.
- Saft America, Inc., (high technology batteries) began constructing a \$200 million **high-tech battery plant** in 2010.
- Fleet Readiness Center Southeast moved into a **newly constructed hangar** in 2010.
- Jacksonville Aviation Authority, Florida State College at Jacksonville, and Flightstar completed construction of a \$20 million **Aircraft Services Educational Facility** in 2011.
- LSI, Inc., (aviation training and support) completed building expansion and **established Cecil**



Lans Stout Photography

Airport as company headquarters in 2011.

- Cecil Spaceport was designated a **Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) planned-add facility** in 2011.
- **Cecil Spaceport** was designated a spaceport territory under Florida Statute 331 by Space Florida in 2011.
- Hangar 935, the **new 132,000 square foot maintenance hangar**, and a 134,000 square foot apron opened in December 2014. The hangar is occupied by Flightstar.
- Currently under construction are **Taxiway "E" and a new access road** to allow development on the east side of the airport.
- In design are a new air traffic control tower and hangar 955. The new hangar will be the sixth hangar constructed since Cecil Airport opened in 1999; the hangars **add more than 320,000 square feet of hangar space.** ♦

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