

U.S. CONTRACT TOWER ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AIRPORT EXECUTIVES

Volume 2, Number 6

November-December 1998

COURT DISMISSES CONTRACT TOWER CASE

A federal court has rejected an attempt by the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) to force FAA to take back operation of the air traffic control towers currently in its contract tower program while the agency undertakes court-ordered studies of the program.

Federal District Judge Ann Aldrich on March 2 ruled in a NATCA challenge to the contract tower program that FAA did not comply with Office of Management and Budget regulations requiring federal agencies to first determine whether services should be performed by federal employees before contracting them out to private parties. Aldrich remanded the case to FAA for additional proceedings, including completion of a cost/benefit study. In response, FAA halted further implementation of the contract tower program until the studies are finished.

Following the March 2 ruling, NATCA petitioned Aldrich to order FAA to resume control of the towers

that had already been privatized.

In denying NATCA's petition, Aldrich wrote that her March 2 decision did not require a rollback of the contract tower program while the studies are underway. She noted that her original decision requires only that FAA must resume control of towers privatized prior to March 2 if the agency determines that it should not have privatized those towers in the first place. Further, Aldrich said, FAA may resume implementation of the contract tower program if it is supported by the results of the cost/benefit analysis and other studies.

Acknowledging that the parties disputed the meaning of her March 2 order, Aldrich pointed out that NATCA never addressed an injunction to force a rollback of the program and the court had granted no injunction.

Aldrich also noted that in her March 2 decision she had reviewed more than 1,000 pages of an administrative record plus some 10 years of congressional history on the program before issuing the ruling.

Spencer Dickerson, American Association of Airport Executives executive vice president and executive director of the AAAE-affiliated U.S. Contract Tower Association (USCTA), commented that Aldrich's ruling represents "a significant victory for the contract tower program and aviation safety in smaller communities." Dickerson said the conclusion of the court challenge "will permit FAA to continue this program once it provides documentation that validates the cost savings of the program."

U.S. CONTRACT TOWER
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Editor **Barbara Cook**

Charles M. Barclay, A.A.E.

President, AAAE

J. Spencer Dickerson,

Executive Director, USCTA

THE U.S. CONTRACT TOWER ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER is published by the American
Association of Airport Executives, the largest profes-
sional organization for airport executives in the world.

SPECIAL NEWS NOTE FROM FAA

- New Benefit/Cost numbers for all contract towers are expected to be released Jan. 15, 1999. FAA will contact airports with the results.

FAA URGED TO RESOLVE TOWER ISSUES

AAAE/USCTA urged FAA to adopt a national policy for the installation of the Terminal Automated Radar Display and Information System (TARDIS) at VFR air traffic control towers. The association explained that airports want FAA's Air Traffic and Airways Facilities branches to resolve any differences concerning the system's installation.

The program currently is on hold with seven installations across the country and roughly 10 additional sites in the planning stages. With the contract tower program budgeted for growth to include 177 towers, the demand for TARDIS is likely to grow as well, AAAE said. Airports such as Laredo, Texas; Salina, Kan., and Cobb County, Ga., have expressed their willingness to enter into agreements to reimburse FAA for system installation costs.

This program is an example of how FAA and airport sponsors can partner in order to improve ATC services and safety, AAAE/USCTA said. "Prompt resolution of policy differences between Air Traffic and Airways Facilities concerning this equipment is essential to advancing this important safety initiative."

OFFICIALS VISIT VIRGINIA CONTRACT TOWER

A number of key congressional staff members, FAA officials and representatives of DOT's Office of the Inspector General (IG) recently participated in a one-day trip to view the contract tower



Participants Paul Feldman (far right), Democratic Counsel, House aviation subcommittee, and Tom Zoeller (second from right), FAA deputy assistant chief counsel, talk with general aviation pilots.

operations at Charlottesville-Albemarle (Va.) Airport.

The trip, organized by AAAE, the U.S. Contract Tower Association (USCTA), the Charlottesville airport and the Virginia Department of Aviation, provided congressional staff from the House and Senate aviation subcommittees and transportation appropriations



Bryan Elliott, A.A.E., director of the Charlottesville airport, welcomes the visiting officials.

subcommittees, personal staff from individual House and Senate members and FAA and DOT IG officials an opportunity to observe firsthand the operations of an FAA contract tower.



Listening to a briefing during the Charlottesville airport visit are (left to right) Valerie Carlson, staff assistant to Sen. John Warner (R-Va.); David Mrozowski of DOT's Office of the Inspector General, and Kerry Ates, legislative assistant/counsel to Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.).

They also visited with Charlottesville flight schools and FBOs about the value of the contract tower program to pilots and talked with contract air traffic controllers.

AAAE/USCTA expresses appreciation to Bryan Elliott,

A.A.E., director at the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport Authority; Ken Wiegand, A.A.E., director of the Virginia Department of Aviation, and Sid Robinson of RVA Inc. for their support and assistance with the organization of this trip.

USCTA REACHES 69 AIRPORTS, FIVE COMPANIES, STATE OF ALASKA

The U.S. Contract Tower Association now has 69 airport members, five companies and the state of Alaska. USCTA receives oversight from a Policy Board

GIVE US A CALL!

We're looking for feature news about your contract tower to publish in this newsletter. Do you have anecdotal information about safety or economic development issues relating to your contract tower, or stories about individual air traffic controllers at your airport? Please contact Barbara Cook at (703) 824-0500, Ext. 133, or e-mail barbara.cook@airportnet.org.

comprised of the following members: Roger Engstrom, A.A.E., (Mobile, Ala.), Jack Schelter, A.A.E., (Phoenix, Ariz.), Ted Soliday (Naples, Fla.), Richard Baird (Hailey, Idaho), Tim Rogers, A.A.E., (Salina, Kan.), Ron Craft (Jefferson City, Mo.), Steve Stockam (Joplin, Mo.), Steve Brian (Brunswick, Ga.), Bryan Elliott, A.A.E., (Charlottesville, Va.), Glenn Januska, A.A.E., (Waukesha, Wis.) and James Hansford, A.A.E., (Mosinee, Wis.). Shane Cordes of Midwest ATC serves as an ex-officio member of the Policy Board. Spencer Dickerson, executive vice president of AAAE, serves as executive director of the USCTA. Consultants to the association are Linda Hall Daschle and Bert Randall of Baker, Donelson; Patrick McCann of the Wexler, Group and Larry Barnett of AB Management Associates.

The following are the members of the association: state of Alaska; Mobile Downtown Airport (Ala.), City of Phoenix Aviation Department (Ariz.), Mesa/Williams Gateway (Ariz.), Glendale Municipal Airport (Ariz.), Flagstaff (Ariz.) Pulliam Airport, San Carlos Airport (Calif.), San Luis Obispo County Airport (Calif.), Modesto City-County Airport (Calif.), Los Angeles County Aviation Division (Calif.), Ramona Airport-County of San Diego (Calif.), Salinas (Calif.) Municipal Airport, Eagle County (Colo.) Regional, Boca Raton Airport (Fla.), Kissimmee (Fla.), Martin County Airport (Fla.), Naples Municipal Airport (Fla.), Titusville-Cocoa Airport (Fla.), Page Field (Fla.), Lakeland (Fla.) Linder Regional Airport, Vandenberg Airport (Fla.), Southwest Georgia Regional Airport, Glynco Jetport (Ga.), Friedman Memorial Airport (Idaho), Pocatello (Idaho) Regional Airport, Columbus (Ind.) Municipal Airport, Waukegan Regional Airport (Ill.), Meigs Field (Ill.), St. Louis Regional Airport (Ill.), Williamson County Regional Airport (Ill.), Johnson County Municipal Airport (Kan.), Salina Municipal Airport (Kan.), Manhattan (Kan.) Regional Airport, Bowling Green (Ky.), Barkley Regional Airport (Ky.), Martin State Airport (Md.), Westfield Barnes Airport (Mass.), Joplin Regional Airport (Mo.), Jefferson City Memorial Airport (Mo.), Cape Girardeau Regional (Mo.), Gallatin Field (Mont.), Missoula (Mont.), Central Nebraska Regional Airport; Henderson (Nev.) Executive Airport, Kinston Regional Jetport (N.C.), Hickory Regional Airport (N.C.), Ohio State University in Columbus; Bolton Field (Ohio); Burke Lakefront Airport (Ohio), Cuyahoga County Airport (Ohio), Max Westheimer Field (Okla.), Redmond Municipal Airport (Ore.), Greenville Downtown Airport (S.C.), Hilton Head (S.C.),

Smyrna Rutherford County (Tenn.), Stinson Municipal Airport (Texas), Laredo International Airport (Texas), Harlingen Valley International (Texas), Brownsville/South Padre Island International (Texas), Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport (Va.), Walla Walla Municipal Airport (Wash.), Olympia Airport (Wash.), Wheeling-Ohio County Airport (W.Va.), Greenbrier Valley Airport (W.Va.), Milwaukee Timmerman (Wis.) Airport, La-Crosse (Wis.) Municipal, Central Wisconsin Airport (Wis.), Waukesha County Airport (Wis.), Cheyenne (Wyo.) Airport, Midwest Air Traffic Control Services, Inc., COMARCO Airport Services, Serco Management Services, RVA Inc. and Hoyle, Tanner and Associates Inc.

Airports and companies interested in joining the organization should contact Spencer Dickerson of AAAE at (703) 824-0500, Ext. 130.

CONTRACT TOWER ENDORSED BY FREQUENT AIRPORT USER

Salina (Kan.) Municipal Airport received an endorsement of its contract tower program from an airport user who conceded that at first he was hesitant about the switch to a contract tower.

Chester Peterson Jr. wrote to Salina Airport Authority Executive Director Tim Rogers, A.A.E., that, "There are a lot of good tower people in the Midwest; however, the Salina tower operators are every bit as good as any I've experienced and better than most. In addition, they seem to be able to maintain their humor quite well even when the sky around the airport is full of students, bizjets, and all the rest of us like bees returning to the hive. Bottom line: they do an impressive job of safety and efficiently handling local traffic."

USCTA TAKES TO THE INTERNET!

USCTA has its own Internet home page, which provides association members with the latest in publications, meeting announcements, press releases and Internet links to other valuable web sites. The address is: <http://www.airportnet.org/cta/>. In addition, FAA's Federal Contract Tower Program now has a home page on the Internet. You can find them at <http://www.faa.gov/ats/ato/ato310.htm>.



Did You Miss The FAA/AAAE/USCTA Contract Tower Workshop?



If you were not able to attend the FAA/AAAE/U.S. Contract Tower Association Contract Tower Workshop held July 27-28, 1998, in Washington, D.C., you can't afford to miss out on the important information discussed there! Listed below are the valuable handouts that were distributed at the workshop. For a copy of these handouts (250 total pages!), fill out the information below, include your payment information and return this form to AA AE.

HANDOUTS INCLUDE:

- FAA's Update of the Contract Tower Program
- FAA Contract Tower Investment Criteria
- FAA Terminal Area Forecast
- FAA Establishment and Discontinuance Criteria for Air Traffic Control Towers
- U.S. District Court Ruling on NATCA Lawsuit and FAA's Response
- Minutes from the FAA/AAAE/USCTA March 1998 Contract Tower Summit
- Contract Tower Case Studies from Greenville (S.C.) Downtown Airport and Naples (Fla.) Airport
- Perspective of the Contract Tower Program from an ATC Contractor
- Perspective of the Contract Tower Program from the DOT Inspector General

H A N D O U T O R D E R F O R M

Name _____ Title _____

Airport/Company _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

PRICE: (Check the appropriate fee)

- U.S. Contract Tower Association (USCTA) Member \$125
 Non-USCTA Member \$160

Payment Method:

- Check
 Charge my (circle one): **American Express** **MasterCard** **Visa**

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

RETURN TO:

Ellen Horton • 4212 King Street • Alexandria, VA 22302 •
 Phone (703) 824-0504 • Fax (703) 671-8622

REMAINING LEVEL I TOWERS
TO BE CONTRACTED IN FISCAL 1999

Following is the list of Level I towers scheduled for conversion in Fiscal 1999.

STATE	FACILITY (Location)	FAA REGION	STATE	FACILITY (Location)	FAA REGION
Alaska	Kenai Municipal	Alaskan	New Hampshire	Lebanon Municipal	New England
California	Chico Municipal	Western Pacific	New Jersey	Trenton	Eastern
California	Redding Municipal	Western Pacific	North Carolina	Smith Reynolds (Winston Salem)	Southern
California	San Diego Brown Field	Western Pacific	Oklahoma	Lawton Municipal	Southwest
Colorado	Grand Junction	Northwest Mountain	Oregon	Medford	Northwest Mountain
Connecticut	Danbury Municipal	New England	Pennsylvania	Capital City	Eastern
Florida	Opa Locka	Southern	Pennsylvania	Lancaster	Eastern
Florida	Melbourne	Southern	Texas	Rio Grande Valley (Harlingen)	Southwest
Georgia	Macon	Southern	Washington	Felts Field	Northwest Mountain
Hawaii	Keahole-Kona	Western Pacific	Washington	Renton	Northwest Mountain
Illinois	Bloomington/Normal	Great Lakes			
Montana	Missoula	Northwest Mountain			

FOLLOWING IS THE CURRENT LIST OF
FAA CONTRACT TOWERS
(AS OF DECEMBER 1998)

AIRPORT NAME	FAA REGION	STATE	AIRPORT NAME	FAA REGION	STATE
Bethel	AAL	AK	Meigs Field (Chicago)	AGL	IL
King Salmon	AAL	AK	St. Louis Regional	AGL	IL
Kodiak	AAL	AK	So. Illinois/Carbondale	AGL	IL
Dubuque Iowa	ACE	IA	Waukegan Regional	AGL	IL
Forbes Field	ACE	KS	Williamson County	AGL	IL
Hutchinson Mun.	ACE	KS	Gary Regional	AGL	IN
Johnson Co. Exec.	ACE	KS	Battle Creek	AGL	MI
Philip Billard Mun.	ACE	KS	Detroit City	AGL	MI
Salina Municipal	ACE	KS	Jackson	AGL	MI
Columbia	ACE	MO	Anoka (Minneapolis)	AGL	MN
Joplin Regional	ACE	MO	Minot	AGL	ND
Rosecrans Mem'l/St. Joseph	ACE	MO	Burke Lakefront	AGL	OH
Central Neb./Grand Island	ACE	NE	Ohio State University	AGL	OH
Martin State	AEA	MD	Cincinnati Mun./Lunken	AGL	OH
Washington Co. Reg'l/Hagerstown	AEA	MD	Cuyahoga County	AGL	OH
Ithaca	AEA	NY	Rapid City Regional	AGL	SD
Niagara Falls	AEA	NY	Appleton	AGL	WI
Oneida County	AEA	NY	Central Wisconsin	AGL	WI
Stewart	AEA	NY	Kenosha Municipal	AGL	WI
Williamsport/Lycoming Co.	AEA	PA	Lacrosse	AGL	WI
Charlottesville-Albemarle	AEA	VA	Rock County	AGL	WI
Lynchburg	AEA	VA	Timmerman (Milwaukee)	AGL	WI
Greenbrier Valley	AEA	WV	Wittman Regional	AGL	WI
Morgantown	AEA	WV	Bridgeport	ANE	CT
Parkersburg	AEA	WV	Groton-New London	ANE	CT
Wheeling Ohio Co.	AEA	WV	Hartford-Brainard	ANE	CT
Decatur	AGL	IL	Tweed-New Haven	ANE	CT
			Barnes Municipal	ANE	MA
			Beverly	ANE	MA

AIRPORT NAME	FAA REGION	STATE	AIRPORT NAME	FAA REGION	STATE
Hyannis	ANE	MA	Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach	ASO	SC
Lawrence	ANE	MA	Greenville Downtown	ASO	SC
Martha's Vineyard	ANE	MA	Smyrna	ASO	TN
New Bedford	ANE	MA	Alexander Hamilton (St. Croix)	ASO	Virgin Islands
Norwood	ANE	MA	Fayetteville	ASW	AR
Worcester	ANE	MA	Texarkana Mun./Webb Field	ASW	AR
Boire Field/Nashua	ANE	NH	Acadiana Regional	ASW	LA
Eagle County	ANM	CO	Esler Regional Reg'l	ASW	LA
Friedman Memorial	ANM	ID	Houma	ASW	LA
Idaho Falls	ANM	ID	Farmington Municipal	ASW	NM
Lewiston-Nez Perce Co.	ANM	ID	Lea County/Hobbs	ASW	NM
Pocatello Municipal	ANM	ID	Santa Fe Co. Mun.	ASW	NM
Klamath Falls	ANM	OR	Ardmore Municipal	ASW	OK
McNary Field	ANM	OR	Enid Woodring Mun.	ASW	OK
Pendleton Municipal	ANM	OR	Univ. of Oklahoma/Westheimer	ASW	OK
Redmond	ANM	OR	Wiley Post	ASW	OK
Troutdale (Portland)	ANM	OR	Brownsville Int'l	ASW	TX
Ogden-Hinckley Mun.	ANM	UT	Easterwood	ASW	TX
Bellingham Int'l	ANM	WA	Grand Prairie	ASW	TX
Olympia	ANM	WA	Laredo International	ASW	TX
Tacoma Narrows	ANM	WA	McAllen	ASW	TX
Walla Walla Regional	ANM	WA	McKinney Municipal	ASW	TX
Yakima	ANM	WA	Redbird	ASW	TX
Cheyenne	ANM	WY	San Angelo	ASW	TX
\Dothan	ASO	AL	Stinson Municipal (San Antonio)	ASW	TX
Brookley (Mobile)	ASO	AL	Tyler	ASW	TX
Tuscaloosa Municipal	ASO	AL	Chandler	AWP	AZ
Athens Municipal	ASO	GA	Flagstaff Pulliam	AWP	AZ
Fulton County	ASO	GA	Glendale	AWP	AZ
Gwinnett County	ASO	GA	Goodyear (Phoenix)	AWP	AZ
McCollum	ASO	GA	Mesa/Williams Gateway	AWP	AZ
SW Georgia/Albany-Dougherty	ASO	GA	Ryan	AWP	AZ
Valdosta Municipal	ASO	GA	Fullerton	AWP	CA
Albert Whitted	ASO	FL	Hawthorne	AWP	CA
Gainesville	ASO	FL	Modesto	AWP	CA
Hollywood	ASO	FL	Oxnard	AWP	CA
Jacksonville/Craig	ASO	FL	Palmdale	AWP	CA
Key West	ASO	FL	Riverside	AWP	CA
Kissimmee	ASO	FL	Sacramento Executive	AWP	CA
Lakeland Municipal	ASO	FL	Salinas Municipal	AWP	CA
Naples	ASO	FL	San Carlos	AWP	CA
Page Field	ASO	FL	San Louis Obispo	AWP	CA
Panama City/Bay Co.	ASO	FL	Santa Maria	AWP	CA
Pompano Beach	ASO	FL	Whiteman	AWP	CA
Stuart/Whitham	ASO	FL	William J. Fox	AWP	CA
Titusville/Cocoa	ASO	FL	Agana	AWP	Guam
Barkley Regional	ASO	KY	Lihue	AWP	HI
Owensboro/Daviess Co.	ASO	KY	Molokai	AWP	HI
Greenville Municipal	ASO	MS	Elko	AWP	NV
Hawkins Field	ASO	MS			
Meridian/Key Field	ASO	MS			
Kingston	ASO	NC			
Isla Grande	ASO	Puerto Rico			

FAA CONTRACT TOWER REGIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT:

Alaskan Region

222 W. 7th Ave., Number 14
Anchorage, AK 99513

Hank Williams, AAL-510
(907) 271-5828
(907) 271-2850 fax

Norman Gommoll, AAL-540J
(907) 271-5887
(907) 271-5850 fax

Patricia Norsworthy, AAL-422J
(907) 271-5834

Great Lakes Region

O'Hare Lake Office Center
2300 East Devon Ave.
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Jim Krieger, AGL-510
(847) 294-7583
(847) 294-7457 fax

Denise Mason, AGL-540.2
(847) 294-7549
(847) 294-7230 fax

Jim Soper, AGL-470
(847) 294-8480
(847) 294-7417 fax

Southern Region

1701 Columbia Ave.
College Park, GA 30337-2745

Sandy Byrom, ASO-510
(404) 305-5546
(404) 305-5523 fax

Juan Fuentes, ASO-540.3
(404) 305-5623
(404) 305-5631 fax

Teresa Burkett, ASO-423.2
(404) 305-6589
(404) 305-6553 fax

Central Region

601 E. 12th St.
Kansas City, MO 64106

John Mayorga, ACE-510D
(816) 426-3400
(816) 426-2302 fax

Charles Raymond, ACE-541B
(816) 426-3048
(816) 426-2187 fax

Scott Luechert, ANI-521
(816) 426-2242

New England Region

12 New England Executive Park
Burlington, MA 01803

Bill Tobin, ANE-510
(781) 238-7515
(781) 238-7598 fax

Deborah James, ANE-540
(781) 238-7544
(781) 238-7597 fax

Steve Wojcicki, ANE-473
(781) 238-7497
(781) 238-7459 fax

Southwest Region

2601 Meacham Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76137-4298

Lawrence Perkins, ASW-510J
(817) 222-5516
(817) 222-5979 fax

Susan Ruddy, ASW-540.9
(817) 222-5552
(817) 222-5433 fax

August Riccono, ASW-472AMR
(817) 222-4722

Eastern Region

JFK International Airport
Fitzgerald Federal Building
Jamaica, NY 11430

Joe DeDonatis AEA-511.5
(718) 553-4515
(718) 995-5692 fax

Patricia Reilly, AEA-541.16
(718) 553-4578
(718) 995-5709 fax

Ed Salvesen, ANI-251D
(718) 553-3468

Northwest Mountain Region

1601 Lind Ave., SW
Renton, WA 98055-4056

Wes Price, ANM-510.1
(425) 227-2522
(425) 227-1510 fax

Dan Cunningham ANM-540
(206) 227-2544
(206) 227-1557 fax

Herbert Zwygart, ANM-470
(425) 227-2489

Western-Pacific Region

15000 Aviation Blvd.
Hawthorne, CA 90009

Chris Kleen, AWP-540.9
(310) 725-6583
(310) 536-8410 fax

Craig DePauw, AWP-540.3
(310) 725-6543
(310) 536-8540 fax

Celinda Bruns, AWP-470
(310) 725-3439

FAA Headquarters**Contract Services Branch**

800 Independence Ave., SW, Rm. 635
Washington, DC 20591

Willie F. Card, manager,
ATO-140
(202) 267-9336
(202) 493-4285 fax

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
AIRPORT EXECUTIVES
4212 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1034
Alexandria, VA



TWO AIRCRAFT COLLIDE AT EASTON, MD., AIRPORT

Two small planes collided Nov. 28 on a runway at Easton (Md.) Airport, slightly injuring two people. One aircraft, operated by a student pilot and his flight instructor, was landing at the airport when it hit a single engine Cessna on the runway.

The airport operates without a manned air traffic control tower and investigators so far think that one of the pilots failed to communicate his position.

Another Maryland airport, Salisbury-Wicomico Regional, is expected to finish construction by the end of 1998 on a \$700,000 control tower.

GROUPS SUPPORT CONTINUED CONTRACT TOWER FUNDING

A number of aviation groups wrote to key House and Senate appropriations committee members in support of continued funding for FAA's Contract Tower Program. Organizations that have sent supporting letters are AAAE, the U.S. Contract Tower Association, Air Transport Association, Regional Airline Association, National Business Aviation Association, National Air Transportation Association, General Aviation Manufacturers Association, National Association of State Aviation Officials and the Air Traffic Control Association.