

U.S. CONTRACT TOWER ASSOCIATION

N E W S L E T T E R

FAA Federal Contract Tower Program

“The Government/Industry Partnership Dedicated to Air Traffic Safety”

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CONGRESS ADVANCES 2010 FUNDING FOR FAA CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM

The House on July 23 passed its version of the fiscal year 2010 DOT/FAA spending bill, which provides \$116.7 million for FAA’s Contract Tower Program and \$9.5 million for the cost-sharing program.

The House report stated, “The FAA’s contract tower program has provided critical air traffic safety services at smaller airports for over 27 years and currently 244 airports in 46 states participate in the program. The bill includes \$116.7 million to continue the contract tower base program, which is the same level requested in the budget. This will fund the four non-towered airports that are expected to enter the program during fiscal year 2010. In addition, the bill provides \$9.5 million to continue the contract tower cost-sharing program. The committee continues to believe this is a valuable program that provides safety benefits to small communities.

“The committee continues to acknowledge that the number of airports participating in the cost-sharing program fluctuates regularly because of changes in air traffic activity. In order to prevent program disruptions and provide more certainty, the committee continues to permit the FAA to use unsubscribed funds from the contract tower baseline program to avoid elimination of communities from the cost-share towers program. However, FAA should only employ this flexibility with surplus funds in the baseline contract tower program, after all baseline contract tower obligations have been fulfilled.”

The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved its version of the fiscal year 2010 DOT/FAA spending bill, but the measure has not advanced to the Senate floor for consideration. On most aviation issues, the Senate committee-approved bill does not

diverge significantly from the House-passed version of the measure.

House and Senate leaders have stated that they want to complete final action on all appropriations bills prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

FAA ADDS THREE TOWERS TO FULLY FUNDED PROGRAM

FAA has added three towers to the fully funded contract tower program. They are: Lonestar Executive Airport (Texas), Branson Airport (Mo.), and Palm Coast/Flagler County Airport (Fla.).

The agency’s contract tower program now includes 245 facilities.

2009 AAAE/USCTA/FAA CONTRACT TOWER WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

The FAA Contract Tower Program Workshop, held July 27-29 in Washington, D.C., was sponsored by AAAE/ USCTA/FAA and drew more than 100 delegates, representing contract tower airports, ATC contractors and government officials.

Michael McCormick, FAA’s director-terminal safety and operations support, delivered the keynote address, stressing the agency’s emphasis on safety, technology advances and improved customer service.

Tom Jones, manager of FAA’s Contract Tower and Weather Group, and Ricky Atkins, project lead of the FAA Contract Tower Program Office, provided an update on the program, including new start towers, the cost-sharing program, funding issues and future challenges.

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Jim Coon, Republican chief of staff for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Ken Mead, special counsel at Baker Botts LLP, discussed pending bills in Congress, including FAA reauthorization legislation.

Other panel presentations included case studies of current contract towers given by Jerry O'Sullivan, A.A.E., director of Greenbrier Valley (W.VA.) Airport, and Doug Kimmel, manager of Williamson County (Ill.) Airport, and a contract tower insurance presentation by Jason Niemela, president, Berkley Aviation, and Mark Dombroff, managing partner, Dombroff & Gilmore.

The 2009 Willie F. Card award, given in memory of former FAA Contract Tower Office Manager Willie F. Card, was presented jointly to Scholes International Airport at Galveston, Texas, and San Luis Obispo County (Calif.) Regional Airport.

AAAE/USCTA would like to thank the following companies for their generous financial support of the 2009 FAA Contract Tower Workshop: Midwest ATC, RVA, Serco Management Services, Berkley Aviation, Lockheed Martin TSS, Harris/SolaCom ATC Solutions, Washington Consulting Group, CT-BXaviation, Wolen LLC, Dynamic Science, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Quadrex Associates.

2009 WILLIE F. CARD CONTRACT TOWER SERVICE AWARD NOMINEES

The 2009 Willie F. Card award was presented jointly to Scholes International Airport at Galveston, Texas, and San Luis Obispo County (Calif.) Regional Airport.

Nominees for the award were:

Concord (N.C.) Regional Airport

The CRA tower, which is operated by Robinson Aviation (RVA), is staffed by a highly experienced group of controllers with an average of nearly 30 years per controller. Tower Manager Ken Johnson is active on the airport's Safety Management System (SMS) Committee, participates in safety conferences, and is involved with school tours and other mentoring programs. Members of his staff also participate in customer service activities at the airport and value their role as the first point of contact to first-time pilot visitors. As one of the busiest airports in North

Carolina, CRA is known as the base hub for the NASCAR motorsports air force. That means that for more than 30 weeks each year, many of the race teams use the airport to transport crews to and from races around the country. One letter of support for Concord's nomination for the Willie F. Card award came from Joe Gibbs Racing Inc., which said that the tower personnel "get to know the users and anticipate their needs many times without the customer making the specific request." In addition to the NASCAR activity, the staff has dealt with major construction activity, including a runway extension and taxiway widening. The controllers handle a wide mix of traffic, including a large volume of helicopter traffic. They also handle significant flight training activity. From the time the tower became a contract facility in 2001, it has had no operational errors.

Gary/Chicago International Airport

Operated by Midwest Air Traffic Control Services Inc., the Gary/Chicago tower supports eight air shows, including two night demonstrations, each year with air carrier, corporate and civilian opera-

U. S. C O N T R A C T T O W E R A S S O C I A T I O N

N E W S L E T T E R

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tions on crossing runways. During the past year, the airport has launched two major construction projects in addition to the five projects undertaken in the prior year. The tower's active participation in all projects resulted in zero runway incursions by construction crews or support personnel. This was due in large part by the air traffic manager taking the lead in developing a comprehensive vehicle safety class that included phraseology, airport layout, SIDA and right-of-way rules. To promote air safety, tower personnel have created the Aviation Safety Seminar Program in conjunction with the FAA Flight Safety Program. The controllers travel hundreds of miles annually at their own expense and on their own time to make presentations. For this, the tower has been recognized by the FAA FSDO in South Bend, Ind., with FAA Flight Safety Award and Certificates of Recognition. The chief pilot for Boeing's executive flight operations division supported the tower's nomination, saying that the Gary tower "has provided us seamless operations into and out of the Chicago area when other locations are experiencing delays." The Tuskegee Airmen Young Eagles program endorsed the nomination as well, noting that controllers participate in the flight rallies each month that average 45 young people who are being introduced to aviation. Further, the tower conducts a survey of its users on the level of customer service offered. All returned surveys have contained exceptional ratings for the tower.

Griffiss (N.Y.) International Airport

Since the opening of the contract tower, operated by Midwest Air Traffic Services Inc., in January 2007, the tower manager and personnel have served student pilots, GA pilots, corporate jets, military aircraft, and air carrier aircraft serviced by the Empire Aero maintenance facility. From the spring to the fall of 2007, half of the taxiways were closed due to construction of new taxiway lights and signage, causing all of the large and heavy aircraft to back taxi from the midfield point of the 11,820-foot-long runway for departures and landings. During the spring and summer of 2007, the controllers served AWACS (H/E3) aircraft in their training missions at the airport by coordinating with Boston Center and Flight Service to ensure that their complicated departure and air refueling routes were issued correctly. The controllers provided flawless service to two different extensive

training missions. The tower has not recorded a single operational error since opening in 2007. In addition, the controllers support the local community through presentations, orientation visits and mentoring. The controllers hold meetings at local flight schools to discuss aviation operational and safety issues.

Lancaster (Pa.) Airport

The tower, which is operated by Midwest Air Traffic Control Services, has not had any operational errors or deviations since becoming a contract tower in October 1999. The tower consistently averages 100,000 operations annually that include commercial, GA, student pilots, military and business jets. Controllers created a comprehensive and user-friendly pilots' guide to assist visiting pilots and student pilots with operating safely. Further, they operate a runway safety program and designed an effective surface error and runway inclusion plan. The tower staff participates in local career day seminars held by local school districts, are active in the aviation community, including making presentations at FAA safety seminars, and assist the airport with fly-ins and events. This includes a biannual event that attracts hundreds of aircraft. During a major runway extension project in 2005, the controller staff was instrumental in keeping the disruption of flights to a minimum. The tower's survey of users found that pilots all gave them "excellent" ratings for customer service and skill. Controllers receive positive comments on their professionalism and helpfulness on a regular basis, with no negative comments receive.

Ormond Beach (Fla.) Municipal Airport

Operated by Robinson Aviation (RVA), the Ormond Beach tower was commissioned into FAA's Federal Contract Tower program in late 2004. During 2008, the tower served 162,352 aircraft operations, including 8,500 instrument operations, an increase over 2007. Traffic is primary instructional, with several flight schools utilizing the airport, and the major of students are foreign born and bilingual. Controllers are praised for their patience and understanding when working with these students. Due to its proximity to Daytona Beach, Ormond Beach has a heavy increase in traffic during NASCAR racing

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FAA Contract Tower List (as of September 1, 2009)

245 TOWERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2009. TOWERS MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK ARE IN THE COST-SHARING PROGRAM.

AIRPORT NAME	STATE	AIRPORT NAME	STATE
Bethel	AK	Gainesville	FL
Kenai Municipal	AK	Hollywood	FL
King Salmon	AK	Craig (Jacksonville)	FL
Kodiak	AK	Key West	FL
Brookley (Mobile)	AL	Kissimmee	FL
Dothan	AL	Lakeland Municipal	FL
Tuscaloosa Regional	AL	Leesburg International	FL
Fayetteville	AR	Melbourne	FL
Northwest Arkansas Regional	AR	Naples	FL
*Rogers Municipal-Carter Field	AR	New Smyrna Beach Mun.	FL
*Springdale	AR	Opa Locka (Miami)	FL
Texarkana Mun./Webb Field	AR	Ormond Beach Mun.	FL
Chandler	AZ	Page Field	FL
Flagstaff Pulliam	AZ	Palm Coast/Flagler County	FL
Glendale	AZ	Panama City/Bay Co.	FL
Goodyear (Phoenix)	AZ	Pompano Beach	FL
Laughlin/Bullhead City	AZ	St. Augustine	FL
Phoenix-Mesa Gateway	AZ	Stuart/Witham	FL
Ryan (Tucson)	AZ	Titusville/Cocoa	FL
Castle	CA	Athens Municipal	GA
Chico	CA	Fulton County	GA
Fullerton	CA	Gwinnett County	GA
Hawthorne	CA	Macon	GA
Mather (Sacramento)	CA	McCollum	GA
Modesto	CA	SW Georgia/Albany-Dougherty	GA
Oxnard	CA	Valdosta Regional	GA
Palmdale	CA	Agana	Guam
Ramona Airport	CA	Kalaeloa	HI
Redding Municipal	CA	Kona/Keahole	HI
Riverside	CA	Lihue	HI
Sacramento Executive	CA	Molokai	HI
Salinas Municipal	CA	Dubuque	IA
San Carlos	CA	Friedman Memorial (Hailey)	ID
Brown Field (San Diego)	CA	Idaho Falls	ID
San Luis Obispo	CA	Lewiston-Nez Perce Co.	ID
Santa Maria	CA	Pocatello Municipal	ID
Vandenberg Air Force Base	CA	Bloomington/Normal	IL
Victorville	CA	Decatur	IL
Whiteman (Los Angeles)	CA	So. Illinois/Carbondale	IL
William J. Fox (Lancaster)	CA	St. Louis Regional	IL
Eagle County	CO	Waukegan Regional	IL
Front Range	CO	*Williamson County (Marion)	IL
Grand Junction	CO	Columbus Municipal	IN
Bridgeport	CT	Gary Regional	IN
Danbury	CT	*Monroe County/Bloomington	IN
New London (Groton)	CT	*Muncie/Delaware County	IN
Brainard (Hartford)	CT	Forbes Field (Topeka)	KS
Tweed-New Haven	CT	*Garden City	KS
Waterbury/Oxford	CT	Hutchinson Mun.	KS
Albert Whitted (St. Petersburg)	FL	Johnson Co. Exec.	KS
Boca Raton	FL	Manhattan	KS
Cecil Field (Jacksonville)	FL	New Century Air Center (Olathe)	KS

AIRPORT NAME	STATE	AIRPORT NAME	STATE
Philip Billard Mun. (Topeka)	KS	Double Eagle II	NM
Salina Municipal	KS	Farmington Municipal	NM
Barkley Regional (Paducah)	KY	*Lea County/Hobbs	NM
Owensboro/Daviess Co.	KY	Santa Fe Co. Mun.	NM
Acadiana Regional	LA	Henderson (Las Vegas)	NV
Alexandria	LA	Francis F. Gabreski	NY
Chennault	LA	Tompkins County	NY
Houma	LA	Niagara Falls	NY
Shreveport Downtown	LA	Rome-Griffiss	NY
Barnes Municipal	MA	Stewart	NY
Beverly	MA	Bolton Field (Columbus)	OH
Hyannis	MA	Burke Lakefront (Cleveland)	OH
Lawrence	MA	Cuyahoga County (Cleveland)	OH
Martha's Vineyard	MA	Lunken Mun. (Cincinnati)	OH
New Bedford	MA	Ohio State University	OH
Norwood	MA	*Ardmore Municipal	OK
Worcester	MA	Enid Woodring Mun.	OK
Easton	MD	Lawton-Ft. Sill Regional	OK
Martin State (Baltimore)	MD	Univ. of Oklahoma/Westheimer	OK
Salisbury-Wicomico	MD	Stillwater	OK
Washington Co. (Hagerstown)	MD	Wiley Post	OK
Battle Creek	MI	Klamath Falls	OR
Detroit City	MI	McNary Field (Salem)	OR
*Jackson	MI	Medford	OR
Sawyer	MI	Pendleton	OR
Anoka (Minneapolis)	MN	Redmond	OR
St. Cloud Regional	MN	Troutdale (Portland)	OR
Branson	MO	Capital City (Harrisburg)	PA
Columbia	MO	Lancaster	PA
*Jefferson City	MO	Latrobe	PA
*Joplin Regional	MO	*Williamsport/Lycoming Co.	PA
Rosecrans Mem'l (St. Joseph)	MO	Isla Grande	Puerto Rico
Saipan International	MP	Rafael Hernandez Airport	Puerto Rico
Golden Triangle Regional	MS	Greenville Donaldson Center	SC
Greenville Municipal	MS	Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach	SC
Hawkins Field (Jackson)	MS	Greenville Downtown	SC
Meridian/Key Field	MS	Hilton Head Airport	SC
Olive Branch	MS	Rapid City Regional	SD
Stennis International Airport	MS	Millington	TN
Tupelo Regional	MS	Smyrna	TN
Gallatin Field (Bozeman)	MT	McKeller-Sipes (Jackson)	TN
Kalispell	MT	Arlington Municipal	TX
Missoula	MT	Brownsville Int'l	TX
Concord	NC	Denton Municipal	TX
Hickory Regional	NC	Easterwood	TX
Kinston	NC	*Fort Worth-Spinks	TX
New Bern	NC	Galveston	TX
Smith Reynolds (Win.-Salem)	NC	Georgetown	TX
Minot	ND	*Grand Prairie	TX
*Central Neb. (Grand Island)	NE	Laredo International	TX
Boire Field (Nashua)	NH	Lone Star Executive (Conroe)	TX
Lebanon Municipal	NH	McAllen	TX
Trenton	NJ	McKinney Municipal	TX

AIRPORT NAME STATE

Redbird	TX
Rio Grande Valley (Harlingen)	TX
San Angelo	TX
Stinson Municipal (San Antonio)	TX
Sugar Land	TX
Tyler	TX
Victoria	TX
Waco TSTC	TX
Ogden-Hinckley	UT
Provo Municipal	UT
Charlottesville-Albemarle	VA
Lynchburg	VA
Henry E. Rohlsen (St. Croix)	Virgin Islands
Bellingham Int'l	WA
Felts Field (Spokane)	WA
Olympia	WA
Renton	WA
Tacoma Narrows	WA

AIRPORT NAME STATE

*Walla Walla Regional	WA
Yakima	WA
Appleton	WI
Central Wisconsin	WI
Chippewa Valley	WI
Kenosha Municipal	WI
Lacrosse	WI
Rock County (Janesville)	WI
Timmerman (Milwaukee)	WI
Waukesha County Airport	WI
Wittman Regional (Oshkosh)	WI
Greenbrier Valley	WV
Morgantown	WV
Parkersburg	WV
Wheeling Ohio Co.	WV
Cheyenne	WY
Jackson Hole	WY

(Continued from page 3)

events. During 2008, the tower coordinated air tanker and helicopter flights closely with the U.S. Forest Service as firefighters battled a large wildfire not far from the airport. Since the tower was commissioned, the local aviation community has acknowledged receiving excellent service and has provided 95 percent positive feedback through surveys. During almost five years of operation, the tower has not recorded a single operational error deviation. This encompasses nearly 700,000 operations. Further, the tower recently received an Outstanding full facility audit conducted by FAA. Controllers host runway safety meetings, user group meetings, supply speakers at aviation-related seminars and welcome local pilots, students and instructors to the facility.

Phoenix Goodyear Airport

The tower at Phoenix Goodyear has been federally contracted since Sept. 1, 1996, and is operated by Serco Management Services Inc. The airport, a designated GA reliever to Phoenix Sky Harbor International, is among the busiest single runway operations in the national airspace system and is the busiest single runway contract tower operation in the U.S. Located near Luke AFB, the Phoenix Class B airspace and neighboring Glendale Airport, Phoenix Goodyear controllers must coordinate complex operations. The Goodyear Safety Action Team, jointly developed by the tower and airport management, meets monthly to discuss safety, security and efficiency at

the airport. The tower staff works daily with foreign national students who train at the airport and require a good deal of time and effort to understand the meaning of instructions. In 2008, the tower controlled 187,657 operations with the use of a single runway. The tower has an unblemished safety record of zero operational deviations or errors in more than 1.7 million operations. The tower team instituted local gate hold procedures to reduce delays and associated safety risks; and implemented an innovative runway incursion prevention device to increase awareness of vehicles and personnel on the runway and prevent accidents/incidents.

Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport

Operated by Serco Management Services Inc. since January 1997, the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway tower handled more than 232,000 aircraft operations in 2008. With the promotion of Gateway Airport as the reliever for Phoenix Sky Harbor and as the only other controlled instrument landing system airport in the valley, Gateway is a magnet for airplanes and new growth. Tower personnel have handled heavy aircraft, including C-17s, 747s, and the Antonov 124 and 225. Each summer, a unit from the U.S. Forest Service operates fire suppressant tankers and makes Gateway its home. Airships are based at Gateway when covering an event in the valley or as they travel to events across the nation. Further, Gateway is home to federal agencies such as the U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Im-

migration and Customs Enforcement. The controller staff developed a pilot assistance program to help students improve their radio skills and phraseology. Controllers participate in community events, host tours and speak at flight schools. They also participate in the Phoenix Air Space Users Working Group and the Gateway Airport speaker's bureau. They were the recipients of the Airport Aviation Safety Award from the Arizona Aviation Safety Advisory Group.

Redmond-Roberts Field (Ore.) Airport

Redmond-Roberts Field Airport has been federally contracted since it opened on Jan. 15, 1997. The tower is operated by Serco Management Services. The airport is the commercial and GA hub for Central Oregon and serves a combined population of almost a quarter of a million people and is a base for several aviation-related businesses. Despite the challenges of near double-digit growth in air traffic, the controllers have maintained a consistent level of service and professionalism. The airport is at the heart of an active aviation training program and aircraft production center in the state, which means the controllers have diverse responsibilities in handling air traffic. In addition, the tower supports year-round smoke jumper and pilot training operations. The tower provides special and expeditious handling to these aircraft. Tower personnel initiated negotiations with the Seattle Air Route Traffic Control Center that culminated in a new letter of agreement directly addressing improved provision of service to VFR aircraft conducting practice instrument approaches to Redmond. New procedures now provide excellent service to pilots and ensure a much safer operating environment for all aircraft operating in the vicinity. Tower personnel host orientation tours, serve as mentors to students interested in an aviation career, and support an aviation program at Crook County High School.

Sacramento Mather Airport

Mather's tower is operated by Serco Management Services and has been federally contracted since June 1, 2000. In 2008, Mather Airport had more than 90,000 error-free operations and no departure delays. The airport's safety record has remained untarnished for more than six years. Mather serves as a reliever and alternate airport for flood response to

Sacramento International and handles a wide variety of aircraft, including military jet transport aircraft. A flight school in Napa, Calif., which trains foreign national pilots, regularly flies to Mather for both IFR and VFR pattern training. In spite of the complexity and mix of traffic, Mather controllers accommodate the flying community in a professional, courteous manner and with a safety-conscious approach. The airport is home to the California Capital Air Show, which receives strong support from the tower staff. Further, tower staff has contributed significantly in the revision of procedures with Beale AFB to aid in ensuring a safe operation in a community sensitive to aircraft noise. The controllers have developed a training program that integrates safety at each step, from knowing the operational area to teaching proven techniques to control high-performance military aircraft. The tower staff participates in all airport tenant meetings and provides training classes to flight school students and airport workers on safety-related subjects.

San Luis Obispo (Calif.) County Regional Airport

Operated by Serco Management Services and federally contracted on Sept. 1, 1995, the San Luis Obispo tower serves a region that has experienced significant expansion and economic growth. The tower has been operational error/deviation free since it became a contract facility. Tower personnel make multiple outreach efforts to the community, including launching a Web site in 2008 to keep local pilots up to date on the airport, and holding open houses to familiarize the community with the tower. Individually, the controllers conduct community outreach through mentoring programs that introduce young people to flying, and the Angel Flight program. In 2008, the tower team increased its outreach efforts to the local aviation community by developing safety presentations that they delivered at local FAA safety seminars. The Santa Barbara Tower/TRACON endorsed the efforts of the San Luis Obispo controllers in a letter that stated, in part, that the San Luis Obispo controllers exhibit a level of cooperation, professionalism and air traffic acumen that "is second to none."

Scholes International Airport at Galveston (Texas)

Robinson Aviation (RVA) was awarded the con-
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THE JULY 27-29, 2009



AAAEIUSCTAIFAA CONTRACT TOWER WORKSHOP



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tract to staff the tower, which was constructed in 2006. At first, airport tenants, the flying public and airport employees had to be trained to operate on a field under the supervision of a control tower. The tower staff conducted classes and worked to build relationships with airport users. Since then, tenants and the flying public have given the tower staff excellent ratings in user satisfaction surveys conducted annually since the tower opened. In September 2008, Galveston Island was hit with Hurricane Ike, and the airport closed on Sept. 12 in anticipation of the storm. The tower staff worked to evacuate based aircraft and helicopters. By Sept. 14, the airport was able to reopen for daytime operations as a non-towered airport. The tower staff stayed until the end before the hurricane struck to ensure that all aircraft safely departed and then worked to activate the tower as quickly as possible when the airport reopened. Tower chief James A. Steszewski and the controller staff received certificates of appreciation from FAA's Thomas Jones in December 2008 in recognition for their efforts during the hurricane evacuation and relief efforts.

SIXTEEN AIRPORTS PARTICIPATE IN CONTRACT TOWER COST-SHARING PROGRAM

Sixteen facilities were participating in FAA's contract tower cost-sharing program as of Sept. 1, 2009.

They are: Rogers Municipal (Ark.), Springdale (Ark.), Williamson County (Ill.), Bloomington (Ind.), Muncie/Delaware County (Ind.), Garden City (Kan.), Jackson (Mich.), Jefferson City (Mo.), Joplin Regional (Mo.), Central Nebraska/Grand Island (Neb.), Lea County/Hobbs (N.M.), Ardmore Municipal (Okla.), Williamsport/Lycoming Co. (Pa.), Fort Worth-Spinks (Texas), Grand Prairie (Texas) and Walla Walla Regional (Wash.)

FAA, NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION AGREE ON CONTRACT

FAA and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) announced that they have reached a new agreement that FAA described as a "landmark" contract.

FAA said, "After years of strained relations, the joint decision to engage in mediation was an important first step, and today's proposed agreement represents a milestone on the final road to settlement..."

NATCA members must vote on the proposed

agreement. The five issues decided by mediators, however, including compensation, are not subject to the member ratification vote.

FAA described the contract as providing employees with greater flexibility in their work schedules, child care support, a new grievance review process and a variety of other gains. The agency added that, "At the same time, it affords FAA the flexibility to more effectively redeploy labor to congested airports using controller incentive pay. The agreement also restores a more equitable pay standard, to benefit new hires as well as veterans nearing retirement. The associated costs will be phased in over the three years of the contract, which helps ensure that FAA will not have to tap into its budget for critical capital investments in order to handle increased personnel costs."

FAA REDUCES EMPHASIS ON BLAME IN REPORTING OF OPERATIONAL ERRORS

FAA announced in August that it has taken another step toward a new safety culture by reducing the emphasis on blame in the reporting of operational errors by air traffic controllers.

"We're moving away from a culture of blame and punishment," said FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt. "It's important to note that controllers remain accountable for their actions, but we're moving toward a new era that focuses on why these events occur and what can be done to prevent them."

Effective immediately, the names of controllers will not be included in reports sent to FAA headquarters on operational errors, which occur when the proper distance between aircraft is not maintained. The controller's identity will be known at the facility where the event took place. Necessary training will be conducted and disciplinary action taken, if appropriate, the agency said. Both will be recorded in the controller's record. Removing names on the official report will allow investigators to focus on what happened rather than who was at fault.

"We need quality information in order to identify problems and learn from incidents before they become accidents," Babbitt said. "The best sources of that information are our front-line employees. Our success depends on their willingness to identify safety concerns."

In order to avoid disrupting operations, controllers will not be removed automatically from their positions following an operational error unless it is deemed necessary to remove them. Another change

designed to avoid disruptions allows reports to be filed by the close of the next business day unless the operational error is significant. Reports previously had to be filed within four hours.

FAA said that this action is part of the transition to the agency's new non-punitive reporting system for controllers. The Air Traffic Safety Action Program (ATSAP), which now covers one-third of the country, allows controllers and other employees to report safety problems without fear of punishment unless the incident is deliberate or criminal in nature. The change in the reporting requirements for operational errors provides for a more seamless transition as ATSAP is rolled out to the entire country.

The reporting changes do not alter the investigation and analysis of operational errors, FAA said. They also do not change the requirements for addressing the causal and contributing factors to those events.

U.S. CONTRACT TOWER ASSOCIATION GAINS NEW MEMBERS

Members of the USCTA Policy Board are: Walt Strong, A.A.E., Norman, Okla., **chair**; Tim Rogers, A.A.E., Salina, Kan.; Steve Stockam, Joplin, Mo.; Russ Chandler, Jacksonville, Fla.; Jerry O'Sullivan, A.A.E., Greenbrier, W. Va.; Richard Baird, Hailey, Idaho; Robert Bryant, A.A.E., Salisbury, Md.; Steve Harvey, Chennault, La.; Richard Lewis, Concord, N.C.; Tim Whitman, Denton, Texas; Christopher Rozansky, C.M., McKinney, Texas; Scott Driver, Tucson, Ariz.; Gary Johnson, C.M., Stillwater, Okla.; Keith Kaspari, C.M., Gwinn, Mich.; Tracy Williams, A.A.E., Millington, Tenn.; Doug Kimmel, Marion, Ill.; Bryan Rodgers, State College, Pa.; Charles Mangum, A.A.E., Marana, Ariz.; Rex Tippetts, A.A.E., Grand Junction, Colo.; Shane Cordes, Midwest ATC, ex-officio member; Steve Christmas, Serco Management Services, ex-officio member; Charles Dove, RVA, ex-officio member; Tim Abberton, AirServices Pacific, ex-officio member; Christopher Toale, Dynamic Science, ex-officio member; Brian Lally, CT-BXaviation, ex-officio member; and Dave Byers, C.M., Quadrex, ex-officio member.

Members of USCTA are: the State of Maryland, Hawaii Department of Transportation, South Carolina Division of Aeronautics, Oklahoma Airport Operators Association, Dothan Airport (Ala.), Mobile Downtown Airport (Ala.), Tuscaloosa Regional Airport (Ala.), City of Phoenix Aviation Department (Ariz.), Chandler Municipal Airport (Ariz.), Phoenix-



Gregory Poole (left) receives the 2008 RVA Controller of the Year Award from Charlie Taylor, vice president for air traffic services.

Mesa Gateway (Ariz.), Flagstaff (Ariz.) Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport (Ariz.), Marana (Ariz.), Pulliam Airport (Ariz.), Tucson (Ariz.) Airport Authority, Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport, Fayetteville Drake Field (Ark.), Texarkana Regional Airport (Ark.), Marana Regional Airport (Ariz.), Castle Airport (Calif.), San Luis Obispo County Airport (Calif.), Modesto City-County Airport (Calif.), Los Angeles County Aviation Division (Calif.), Ramona Airport-San Diego (Calif.), Redding (Calif.) Municipal Airport, Salinas Municipal Airport (Calif.), San Bernardino (Calif.), Santa Maria Public Airport District (Calif.), Ventura County Department of Airports (Calif.), Front Range Airport (Colo.), Greeley-Weld County Airport (Colo.), Grand Junction Walker Field Airport (Colo.), Tweed New Haven Airport (Conn.), Boca Raton Airport (Fla.), Gainesville Regional Airport (Fla.), Jacksonville/Craig and Cecil Field (Fla.) Airports, Flagler County Airport (Fla.), Kissimmee (Fla.), Lakeland Linder Regional Airport (Fla.), Martin County Stuart/Whitham Airport (Fla.), Melbourne International Airport (Fla.), Naples Municipal Airport (Fla.), New Smyrna Beach Municipal Airport (Fla.), Opa Locka (Fla.), Page Field (Fla.), Panama City-Bay County International Airport (Fla.), Titusville-Cocoa Airport (Fla.), St. Augustine Airport (Fla.), Valdosta Regional Airport (Ga.), Cobb County McCollum Airport (Ga.), Gwinnett County Airport (Ga.), Friedman Memorial Airport (Idaho), Idaho Falls Regional Airport (Idaho), Pocatello Re-

gional Airport (Idaho), Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport (Idaho), Decatur (Ill.), Joliet (Ill.), Southern Illinois Airport, St. Louis Regional Airport (Ill.), Waukegan Regional Airport (Ill.), Williamson County Regional Airport (Ill.), Monroe County Airport (Ind.), Delaware County Airport (Muncie, Ind.), Columbus Municipal Airport (Ind.), Gary/Chicago International Airport (Ind.), Dubuque Regional Airport (Iowa), Johnson County Municipal Airport (Kan.), Manhattan Regional Airport (Kan.), Metro Topeka Airport Authority (Kan.), New Century (Kan.), Manhattan (Kan.), Salina Municipal Airport (Kan.), Garden City Regional Airport (Kan.), Paducah Airport (Ky.), Alexandria International Airport (La.), Chennault International Airport (La.), Shreveport Airport Authority (La.), Easton Airport (Md.), Frederick Municipal Airport (Md.), Hagerstown Regional Airport (Md.), Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico (Md.) Regional Airport, Martin State Airport (Md.), Beverly Municipal Airport (Mass.); Martha's Vineyard Airport (Mass.); Westfield-Barnes Municipal (Mass.), Metropolitan Airports Commission (Minn.), St. Cloud Regional Airport (Minn.), Coleman A. Young International Airport (Mich.), W.K. Kellogg Airport (Mich.), Sawyer International Airport (Mich.), Golden Triangle (Miss.), Jackson Municipal (Miss.), Meridian Regional Airport (Miss.), Olive Branch Municipal Airport (Miss.), Stennis International Airport (Miss.), Tupelo Regional Airport (Miss.), Branson Airport (Mo.), Columbia Regional Airport (Mo.), Joplin Regional Airport (Mo.), Jefferson City Memorial Airport (Mo.), Rosecrans Memorial Airport (Mo.), Glacier Park International (Mont.), Gallatin Field (Mont.), Central Nebraska Regional Airport, Henderson Executive Airport (Nev.), Nashua (N.H.) Airport Authority, Trenton-Mercer Airport (N.J.), Lea County Airports (N.M.), Albuquerque Double Eagle II Airport (N.M.), Coastal Carolina Regional Airport (N.C.), Concord Regional Airport (N.C.), Craven Regional Airport (N.C.), Hickory Regional Airport (N.C.), Winston-Salem Smith Reynolds Airport (N.C.), Columbus Bolton Field (Ohio), Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport (Ohio), Cincinnati Lunken Field (Ohio), Ohio State University Airport (Ohio), Ardmore Municipal Airport (Okla.), Max Westheimer Field (Okla.), Stillwater Municipal Airport (Okla.), Lawton-St. Sill Regional Airport (Okla.), Wiley Post Airport (Okla.), Eastern Oregon Regional Airport, Klamath Falls Airport (Ore.), Oregon Department of Aviation/Aurora

State Airport (Ore.), Redmond Municipal Airport (Ore.), Rogue Valley-Medford International Airport (Ore.), Southwest Oregon Regional Airport, Arnold Palmer Regional Airport (Latrobe, Pa.), Capital City Airport (Pa.), University Park Airport (Pa.), Donaldson Center (S.C.), Greenville Downtown Airport (S.C.), Rapid City Regional Airport (S.D.), Millington Municipal Airport (Tenn.), Jackson Madison County Airport (Tenn.), Arlington Municipal Airport (Texas), Denton Municipal (Texas), Dennison (Texas), Galveston Municipal Airport (Texas), Harlingen Valley International (Texas), Brownsville/South Padre Island International (Texas), Lone Star Executive Airport (Texas), Grayson County Airport (Texas), Collin County Regional (Texas), City of Ft. Worth (Texas), San Angelo Regional Airport (Texas), San Antonio Stinson Municipal Airport (Texas), Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport (Va.), Lynchburg Regional Airport (Va.), Spokane Felts Field (Wash.), Bellingham International Airport (Wash.), Olympia Airport (Wash.), Walla Walla Regional Airport (Wash.), Greenbrier Valley Airport (W.Va.), Chippewa Valley Regional Airport (Wis.), Kenosha Regional Airport (Wis.), Milwaukee Timmerman (Wis.) Airport, LaCrosse Municipal (Wis.), Central Wisconsin Airport (Wis.), Waukesha County Airport (Wis.), Cheyenne Airport (Wyo.), Jackson Hole Airport (Wyo.), Oklahoma Airport Operators Association, South Central Chapter/AAAE, ADACEL Systems, AirServices Pacific, AJT& Associates, Berkley Aviation, CTBXaviation, Dynamic Science, Inc., Leo A Daly, Lockheed Martin TSS, Marsh USA, Midwest Air Traffic Control Services Inc., Quadrex Associates, Robinson Aviation (RVA), Sensis Corp., Serco Management Services, SolaCom Technologies, Washington Consulting Group and Wolen LLC.

CONTRACT TOWER CONSTRUCTION DATABASE UPDATED

The FAA Contract Tower Construction database on the USCTA Web site has been updated with new locations, many new photos, dates and names. The database was prepared by Brian M. Lally, P.E., CTBXaviation and may be found at www.contracttower.org.

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