

# U.S. CONTRACT TOWER ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AIRPORT EXECUTIVES

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## FAA BOOSTS SIZE OF CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM

FAA has added six more towers to its contract tower program, bringing the total number to 135. The newest towers to be in the program are Elko, Nev.; Ryan Field, Ariz.; Mesa/Williams Gateway, Ariz.; Mesquite, Texas; Gwinnett County, Ga., and Kissimmee, Fla.

## USCTA DEVELOPS STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE TOWER PROGRAM

USCTA officials have actively begun to outline strategies to promote and strengthen FAA's contract tower program.

A cost-sharing plan is being developed for airports that have benefit/cost ratios of below 1.0 and discussions have been initiated with the appropriate officials in Washington to determine the political and economic viability of the idea.

Further, USCTA staff and the organization's Washington consultants held a productive meeting with the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) to begin discussions on ways NATCA and the USCTA can work together as partners to

strengthen the contract tower program.

To introduce the purpose and goals of USCTA to federal officials, the organization's staff and Washington consultants have had courtesy meetings with House aviation subcommittee staff members David Schaffer, Jim Coon, David Traynham and Mary Walsh; Senate aviation subcommittee staff members Ann Hodges, Mike Reynolds and Sam Whitehorn; House transportation appropriations subcommittee staff member Rich Efford; Senate transportation appropriations subcommittee staff member Wally Burnett; Tom Zoeller of Sen. Wendell Ford's staff; Kerry Ates of Sen. Jay Rockefeller's office; Mark Ashby of Sen. John Breaux's staff; Monte Belger, acting FAA deputy administrator; Jim Hall, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Bob Francis, vice chairman of NTSB. All of these officials expressed strong support for the contract tower program and emphasized the need to keep it as cost effective as possible.

Moreover, during meetings of the National Civil Aviation Review Commission, officials have mentioned that the contract tower program enhances safety and improves air traffic efficiency.

USCTA has asked the Regional Airline Association, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the National Association of State Aviation Officials, the National Air Transportation Association, the National Business Aircraft Association, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association and the Cargo Airlines Association to send letters of support for the contract tower program to the appropriate federal officials.

In addition, USCTA staff has distributed information on the contract tower program to all interested AAAE members, urging them to contact their congressional representatives about the importance of the program.

U.S. CONTRACT TOWER  
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Editor ..... **Barbara Cook**

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*President, AAAE*

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.

Airports or ATC companies interested in joining the USCTA should contact Spencer Dickerson at the AAAE/USCTA offices at (703) 824-0500, Ext. 130.

## **USCTA POLICY BOARD DISCUSSES ACTION AGENDA**

More than 40 airport executives and other aviation officials attended the U.S. Contract Tower Association Policy Board meeting May 12 during the AAAE Annual Conference in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.

USCTA staff updated the members on activities of the organization since its inception in March, as well as Washington issues impacting the FAA contract tower program. Among the other issues discussed and debated during the meeting were the Department of Labor wage determinations, representation of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association at contract towers, the contract tower establishment benefit/cost formula, "non-fed" issues, cost sharing ideas for airports with a tower establishment ratio of below 1.0, tower liability insurance and a group purchasing program for tower equipment.

## **CONTRACT TOWER WORKSHOP SET FOR JULY 17-18**

A special workshop designed for airports with contract towers or those that will be included in the contract tower program over the next several years is scheduled for July 17-18 in Washington, D.C. (*see registration form on pages 6 and 7 of this issue*). The seminar is co-sponsored by AAAE, the U.S. Contract Tower Association and FAA.

## **USCTA MEMBERSHIP REACHES 43 TOWERS, 4 COMPANIES**

Since the U.S. Contract Tower Association was launched in March, 43 airports and four companies have joined the organization.

USCTA receives oversight from a Policy Board 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 (Kinston, N.C.), 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 of Baker, Donelson; Patrick McCann of the Wexler Group and Larry Barnett of AB Management Associates.

The following are the members of the USCTA: Mobile Downtown Airport (Ala.), City of Phoenix

Aviation Department (Ariz.), Mesa/Williams Gateway (Ariz.), Glendale Municipal Airport (Ariz.), Texarkana Regional Airport (Ark.), San Luis Obispo County Airport (Calif.), Modesto City-County Airport (Calif.), Los Angeles County Aviation Division (Calif.), Ramona Airport-County of San Diego (Calif.), Bradley International Airport (Conn.), Boca Raton Airport (Fla.), Martin County Airport (Fla.), Naples Municipal Airport (Fla.), Titusville-Cocoa Airport (Fla.), Page Field (Fla.), Friedman Memorial Airport (Idaho), Waukegan Regional Airport (Ill.), St. Louis Regional Airport (Ill.), Williamson County Regional Airport (Ill.), Salina Municipal Airport (Kan.), Johnson County Executive Airport (Kan.), Barkley Regional Airport (Ky.), Martin State Airport (Md.), Westfield Barnes Airport (Mass.), Joplin Regional Airport (Mo.), Jefferson City Memorial Airport (Mo.), Gallatin Field (Mont.); Kinston Regional Jetport (N.C.), Burke Lakefront Airport (Ohio), Cuyahoga County Airport (Ohio), Max Westheimer Field (Okla.), Redmond Municipal Airport (Ore.), Greenville Downtown Airport (S.C.), Jackson-Madison County Airport (Tenn.), Smyrna Rutherford County (Tenn.), Stinson Municipal Airport (Texas), Laredo International Airport (Texas), Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport (Va.), Walla Walla Municipal Airport (Wash.), Wheeling-Ohio County Airport (W.Va.), Greenbrier Valley Airport (W.Va.), Central Wisconsin Airport (Wis.), Waukesha County Airport (Wis.), Midwest Air Traffic Control Services, Inc., COMARCO Airport Services, Serco Management Services and Walker Air Traffic Services.

## **GAO OFFICIAL ADVISES ON CONTRACT TOWER FUTURE**

FAA has opportunities to reduce costs by contracting out air traffic control towers and consolidating facilities, General Accounting Office Transportation Issues Director John Anderson testified recently before the Senate Commerce Committee.

As part of a discussion on ways FAA can do more to develop a managerial structure and organizational culture to achieve more cost-effective delivery of services, Anderson noted that contracting out towers and

*(continued on page 5)*

### **USCTA TAKES TO THE INTERNET!**

The USCTA now has its own Internet home page, which will provide 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/>

**FOLLOWING IS THE CURRENT LIST OF  
FAA CONTRACT TOWERS**

(as of May 1997)

AIRPORT NAME	FAA REGION	STATE	AIRPORT NAME	FAA REGION	STATE
Bethel	AAL	AK	Eagle County	ANM	CO
King Salmon	AAL	AK	Friedman Memorial	ANM	ID
Hutchinson Mun.	ACE	KS	Idaho Falls	ANM	ID
Johnson Co. Exec.	ACE	KS	Lewiston-Nez Perce Co.	ANM	ID
Philip Billard Mun.	ACE	KS	Pocatello Municipal	ANM	ID
Salina Municipal	ACE	KS	Klamath Falls	ANM	OR
Joplin Regional	ACE	MO	McNary Field	ANM	OR
Rosecrans Mem'l/St. Joseph	ACE	MO	Pendleton Municipal	ANM	OR
Central Neb./Grand Island	ACE	NE	Redmond	ANM	OR
Martin State	AEA	MD	Troutdale (Portland)	ANM	OR
Washington Co. Reg'l/Hagerstown	AEA	MD	Ogden-Hinckley Mun.	ANM	UT
Niagara Falls	AEA	NY	Bellingham Int'l	ANM	WA
Oneida County	AEA	NY	Olympia	ANM	WA
Stewart	AEA	NY	Walla Walla Regional	ANM	WA
Williamsport/Lycoming Co.	AEA	PA	Cheyenne	ANM	WY
Charlottesville-Albemarle	AEA	VA	Brookley (Mobile)	ASO	AL
Lynchburg	AEA	VA	Tuscaloosa Municipal	ASO	AL
Greenbrier Valley	AEA	WV	Athens Municipal	ASO	GA
Morgantown	AEA	WV	Fulton County	ASO	GA
Wheeling Ohio Co.	AEA	WV	Gwinnett County	ASO	GA
Decatur	AGL	IL	McCollum	ASO	GA
Meigs Field (Chicago)	AGL	IL	SW Georgia/Albany-Dougherty	ASO	GA
St. Louis Regional	AGL	IL	Valdosta Municipal	ASO	GA
So. Illinois/Carbondale	AGL	IL	Albert Whitted	ASO	FL
Waukegan Regional	AGL	IL	Gainesville	ASO	FL
Williamson County	AGL	IL	Jacksonville/Craig	ASO	FL
Gary Regional	AGL	IN	Key West	ASO	FL
Detroit City	AGL	MI	Kissimmee	ASO	FL
Anoka (Minneapolis)	AGL	MN	Lakeland Municipal	ASO	FL
Cincinnati Mun./Lunken	AGL	OH	Naples	ASO	FL
Cuyahoga County	AGL	OH	Page Field	ASO	FL
Rapid City Regional	AGL	SD	Panama City/Bay Co.	ASO	FL
Appleton	AGL	WI	Stuart/Whitham	ASO	FL
Central Wisconsin	AGL	WI	Titusville/Cocoa	ASO	FL
Kenosha Municipal	AGL	WI	Barkley Regional	ASO	KY
Rock County	AGL	WI	Owensboro/Daviess Co.	ASO	KY
Timmerman (Milwaukee)	AGL	WI	Greenville Municipal	ASO	MS
Wittman Regional	AGL	WI	Hawkins Field	ASO	MS
Groton-New London	ANE	CT	Meridian/Key Field	ASO	MS
Hartford-Brainard	ANE	CT	Kingston	ASO	NC
Tweed-New Haven	ANE	CT	Isla Grande	ASO	Puerto Rico
Barnes Municipal	ANE	MA	Grand Strand/Myrtle Beach	ASO	SC
Hyannis	ANE	MA	Greenville Downtown	ASO	SC
Martha's Vineyard	ANE	MA	Jackson	ASO	TN
Worcester	ANE	MA	Smyrna	ASO	TN
Boire Field/Nashua	ANE	NH	Alexander Hamilton (St. Croix)	ASO	Virgin Islands

(continued on following page)

AIRPORTNAME	FAA REGION	STATE	AIRPORTNAME	FAA REGION	STATE
Fayetteville	ASW	AR	Chandler	AWP	AZ
Texarkana Mun./Webb Field	ASW	AR	Flagstaff Pulliam	AWP	AZ
Acadiana Regional	ASW	LA	Glendale	AWP	AZ
Esler Regional Reg'l	ASW	LA	Goodyear (Phoenix)	AWP	AZ
Farmington Municipal	ASW	NM	Mesa/Williams Gateway	AWP	AZ
Lea County/Hobbs	ASW	NM	Ryan	AWP	AZ
Santa Fe Co. Mun.	ASW	NM	Fullerton	AWP	CA
Ardmore Municipal	ASW	OK	Hawthorne	AWP	CA
Enid Woodring Mun.	ASW	OK	Modesto	AWP	CA
Univ. of Oklahoma/Westheimer	ASW	OK	Lake Tahoe	AWP	CA
Wiley Post	ASW	OK	Oxnard	AWP	CA
Brownsville Int'l	ASW	TX	Palmdale	AWP	CA
Easterwood	ASW	TX	Sacramento Executive	AWP	CA
Grand Prairie	ASW	TX	Salinas Municipal	AWP	CA
Laredo International	ASW	TX	San Carlos	AWP	CA
McAllen	ASW	TX	San Louis Obispo	AWP	CA
Mesquite	ASW	TX	Santa Maria	AWP	CA
Redbird	ASW	TX	Whiteman	AWP	CA
Stinson Municipal (San Antonio)	ASW	TX	William J. Fox	AWP	CA
Tyler	ASW	TX	Agana	AWP	Guam
			Lihue	AWP	HI
			Molokai	AWP	HI
			Elko	AWP	NV

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is (202) 267-5305.

*(continued from page 2)*

consolidating facilities “often result in considerable opposition by local communities as well as FAA employees.”

He stated that FAA is already contracting out Level I towers and added that “the next logical step is to examine the feasibility of contracting out high-volume Level II towers.”

**MANAGERS LOBBY CONGRESS  
ON TOWER FUNDING**

A number of members of the U.S. Contract Tower Association have sent letters to their members in Congress, both in the House and the Senate, urging them to support the contract tower program in the DOT/FAA fiscal year 1998 appropriations process.

Letters have been sent by: Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport (Idaho); the County of San

Luis Obispo (Calif.); Salisbury-Wicomico County Regional Airport (Md.); Glendale Municipal Airport (Ariz.); Olympia Airport (Wash.); Friedman Memorial Airport (Idaho); Edwin Putzell Jr., the Naples Airport Authority (Fla.); Walla Walla Regional Airport (Wash.); the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority (Fla.); the Greenville Airport Commission (S.C.); Kissimmee Municipal Airport (Fla.); the Nashua Airport Authority (N.H.); Max Westheimer Airport (Okla.); the Mobile Airport Authority (Ala.); Southwest Georgia Regional Airport; the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport Authority (Va.); the Los Angeles County Aviation Commission (Calif.); the Lee County Port Authority (Fla.), Cheyenne Airport (Wyo.), San Angelo Airport (Texas); Lakeland Linder Regional Airport (Fla.); the state of Connecticut; Flagstaff Municipal Airport (Ariz.), and the National Air Transportation Association.



The American Association of Airport Executives,  
the U.S. Contract Tower Association and  
the Federal Aviation Administration

## FAA CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM WORKSHOP

July 17-18, 1997 • Washington, D.C. • Meeting #970703

In 1994, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced comprehensive plans to expand the FAA's contract tower (FCT) program to all Level I VFR control towers as part of Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review. The FCT program has been in place since 1982 and currently provides for the contract operation of air traffic control (ATC) services at approximately 129 low activity control towers. The FAA plans to add approximately 40 Level I VFR control towers to the program during the next two years. The expansion of the FCT program will enhance aviation safety by allowing communities to continue receiving quality ATC services with no impact on local operations, according to the FAA.

To assist airports that currently are in the FCT program and those that are scheduled for inclusion over the next several years, FAA headquarters, AAAE and the U.S. Contract Tower Association are pleased to present a special management workshop on the FCT program, July 17-18, 1997, in Washington, D.C. Airport management at current contract towers, non federal control towers, ATC companies, aviation users and other officials interested in the FCT program do not want to miss this special opportunity to learn more about this program. Speakers will include airport directors from facilities that currently have contract towers, FAA and congressional representatives and officials from ATC companies.

Topics for the workshop will include procedures and plans for future contract towers; the role of the local airport operator and the FAA in the contract tower program; contract tower liability insurance issues; review of the benefit/cost criteria used in the program; wage determinations; tower maintenance issues; operational status of the program; general challenges associated with contract control tower services; an update on how ATC companies operate, and future FCT issues and trends. There will also be ample time for airports and the FAA to discuss and debate the challenges associated with the program. Past workshops have resulted in substantive changes and enhancements to

the program from an airport operator perspective.

This special management workshop will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, and will end at 5 p.m. on Friday, July 18.

The registration fees include all handouts, coffee breaks, one lunch and one reception. Please refer to the following page for registration fee and hotel information, or register on-line at <http://www.airportnet.org/depts/meetings/calendar/calpub.htm>. Confirmation of your registration will be sent 7-10 days before the meeting. For additional registration information, please contact Cathy Gau, AAAE, at (703) 824-0500, Ext. 132, or send an e-mail to [cathy.gau@airportnet.org](mailto:cathy.gau@airportnet.org). For further program information, contact Spencer Dickerson at Ext. 130.

### AGENDA

*(subject to change)*

#### THURSDAY, JULY 17

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Welcome Reception

#### FRIDAY, JULY 18

8 - 8:30 a.m. Workshop Registration  
8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Welcome and Workshop Overview  
8:45 - 9:15 a.m. Keynote Address  
9:15 - 11:15 a.m. Update of the FAA Contract Tower Program  
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Case Studies of Current Contract Towers  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon  
2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Contract Tower Operations from the Perspective of the Industry  
3:15 - 3:30 p.m. Coffee Break  
3:30 - 5 p.m. Open Discussion of the Contract Tower Program  
5 p.m. Workshop Adjournment



The American Association of Airport Executives,  
the U.S. Contract Tower Association and the Federal Aviation Administration

## FAA CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM WORKSHOP

July 17-18, 1997 • Washington, D.C. • Meeting #970703

Register on-line at <http://www.airportnet.org/depts/meetings/calendar/calpub.htm>

**Hotel reservations**—Rooms are being held at the Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, DC 20024, phone (202) 484-1000. All attendees will receive a special rate of \$130 single or double occupancy. **Reservations must be made by June 27 in order to guarantee this rate.** Reservations made after this date can only be honored on a space available basis. To make your hotel reservations, call (800) 635-5065 or the hotel directly at (202) 484-1000 and identify yourself as part of the AAAE meeting.

**Airline reservations**—Delta Air Lines Inc., American Airlines and Connections Travel Department have been selected as the official air carriers and agency for this meeting. Attendees can receive 10% off Delta's and American's full coach fare or 5% off all other published fares. Rules and restrictions apply. To take advantage of Delta's and American's quality service, convenient schedules and special fares, call Connections Travel at (800) 738-1840 from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and identify yourself as part of the AAAE group, or call Delta directly at (800) 241-6760 from 8 a.m.-11 p.m. eastern time daily and refer to file # T0127 or call American Airlines directly at (800) 433-1790 and refer to star # S9811.

**Ground transportation**—A taxi cab ride from Washington National Airport to the Loews Hotel is approximately \$12 each way and takes less than 10 minutes. The hotel is located at the L'Enfant Plaza stop on the blue, orange, yellow and green metro (subway) lines. From Washington National Airport, take the blue or yellow line to L'Enfant Plaza.

NOTE: AAAE reserves the right to cancel this program if the number of registrants is insufficient. In this event, we will notify all registrants and refund the registration fee in full. **However, any costs incurred by the registrant, such as hotel cancellation or airline penalties, are the responsibility of the registrant.**

### COMPLETE INFORMATION BELOW AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR IN THE AAAE DATABASE.

Nickname for Badge \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Airport/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK HERE IF THIS IS A NEW ADDRESS

### REGISTRATION FEES *(In U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank)*

(includes all handouts, the opening reception and one luncheon)

All attendees ..... \$285

ARDF\* members ..... \$270

\*ARDF—the Airport Research and Development Foundation

*Registrations and cancellations must be submitted in writing. Refunds are issued after the seminar and subject to a U.S. \$50 cancellation fee.*

### PAYMENT METHOD

Enclosed is my check payable to AAAE  Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_

Upon receipt of this form, please charge my *(circle one)*: American Express MasterCard Visa

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO: AAAE • 4212 King Street • Alexandria, VA 22302 • Phone (703) 824-0500 • Fax (703) 671-8622**

**Internet Address** <http://www.airportnet.org>

## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION SUPPORT GOOD TOWER RELATIONS

Coffee and good conversation, both indulged in frequently, are elements that go a long way toward building a partnership between airport executives and contract tower personnel, according to airport managers.

John Black, manager of Smyrna Rutherford County (Tenn.) Airport, said that he tries to involve representatives from the tower in all airport matters that relate to them, such as construction and safety updates. "It makes a tremendous difference," he said. "They are the front door and the first impression of the airport." Black's office works with the controllers toward mutual goals, such as securing additional equipment for the tower and making other improvements in the facility, sometimes as basic as replacing window shades.

Tim Rogers, A.A.E., executive director of Salina (Kan.) Airport Authority, related that one way he has included contract tower personnel in the workings of the airport involves the community's public service food drive, known as Project Salina. All airport personnel and tenants during the month of May cooperate in collecting food for the city's emergency food

bank and a Salvation Army food bank. Weekly meetings were held during May to coordinate activities of the food drive, with Rogers providing "donuts, coffee and usually small giveaways." Other ways of keeping in close touch with controllers include monthly meetings with the tower manager to discuss operating issues and inviting the tower personnel to the quarterly airport tenant and user meetings. "We make a point of letting the facility manager and all controllers know that they are a part of the airport community," he said.

At Central Wisconsin, Airport Manager James Hansford, A.A.E., describes his relationship with contractor Midwest Air Traffic Control Services Inc. as "not a typical contracting type of relationship" but one that is based more on a "friendly relationship." Central Wisconsin is under a sole source contract, rather than a national contract, which allows for a more direct partnership with the supplier. Hansford is a pilot as well as the airport manager and he notes that, "I fly in the system, so I evaluate the capability of the tower continuously." He advocates a "continuing dialogue" with tower personnel to discuss "their ideas and suggestions."

## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AIRPORT EXECUTIVES

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