



The Fort Worth Aviator

V. 1, 9th Ed.

Look Who's in the News!



Local Museum Designated a Blue Star Museum

The Veterans Memorial Air Park has been designated as a Blue Star Museum. This designation is a partnership among Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more than 750 museums in all 50 states to offer free admission to military personnel and their families from Memorial Day, May 31, 2010, through Labor Day, September 6, 2010.

The Veterans Memorial Air Park has recently renovated their new location at 3300 Ross Avenue on the south end of Meacham International Airport. Although not yet open to the public, the new facility held a preview open house during the recent Cowtown Warbird Roundup. The air park is also the home of the Forward Air Controller's Museum and the B-36 Peacemaker Museum. The air park plans to be open twenty hours per week starting July 1st, 2010.

In order to open to the public, the museum needs Visitor Guides. Guides will present the museum's collection, stories and experiences. The three goals of the museum are preservation, inspiration and education, so the only real requirement to be a guide is a willingness to serve. For more information about the museum or to become a guide, please call 800-575-0535 or visit www.facmuseum.org.



**Cowtown Warbird Roundup
2010**



#1 U.S. FBO for the Second Year



Subscribers to *Professional Pilot* magazine voted Texas Jet the #1 U.S. FBO and the #1 Independent FBO in the magazine's 37th annual PRASE (Preferences Regarding Aviation Services and Equipment) Survey. The magazine's subscribers ranked their favorite FBO selections by writing scores within six categories: Line Team, Customer Service Representatives (CSRs), Facility, Amenities, Promptness & Efficiency, and Value for Cost. Voters gave numbers to the FBOs in those categories on a scale of 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent). Scores were averaged to determine each FBO's overall rating. To qualify for ranking in 2010 for the Best U.S. FBO division a facility needed to receive a minimum of 25 votes.

Readers also recognized the Best CSR for which Texas Jet's Customer Service Manager, Holly Hopkins, was voted the #2 Best CSR for the third year in a row.

The Texas Jet crew has once again put their best foot forward; Meacham Airport is very proud to have them as a part of the family. We want to say "thank you" for the excellent service you continue to provide.

As you can see from the picture above, Texas Jet is a class act and we're keeping our fingers crossed for a three-peat next year.

Congratulations from all of us in Aviation
on a job well done!



Kent Penney, Airport Systems Director

Downtown Area Heliport

The Aviation Department for the City of Fort Worth is currently examining the possibility of a heliport to provide convenient access to the downtown area of Fort Worth. This need was first identified in 1983 through a study conducted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The "Year 2000 Metroplex Heliport Study" identified that four particular areas of the metroplex needed public heliports. These were downtown Dallas, downtown Fort Worth, Addison/North Dallas area and the Irving/Las Colinas area. Since that study a heliport was established in downtown Dallas and a heliport was established in Garland. The others were not created. Since 1983 it is clear, however, that growth in the area has increased as well as traffic congestion, meaning there has been no change in the fundamentals which originally identified the heliport needs.

As we pursue this effort, I am often encountering questions about the need for a heliport in the downtown Fort Worth area. My best explanation is that we travel based upon 'door-step' to 'door-step' time. Being involved in aviation you all know how aviation is used to narrow this time to the door step. The reason downtown Fort Worth has been identified is that it is the 'door-step' in many metroplex area trips since it is the western economic/business center for the metroplex. Our airports fulfill a 'door-step' role for long distance trips, but regional trips, which use a helicopter, require a more precise 'door-step' location. This was the reason the 1983 NCTCOG study originally identified the four metroplex business center locations.

The highest-rated site for this new heliport would be on the east side of the intersection of State Highway 121 and Interstate 35W with access to downtown via 4th Street. It is our belief that this new heliport will fulfill a much-needed role for aviation in the Fort Worth area. The capital and operating expenses of the facility will use only Aviation Department funds and no general tax dollars will be used. The Aviation Department has worked with URS Corporation to provide planning assistance in this project. The process involved reviewing the need as well as identifying potential sites. This information is available in detail at www.fortworthgov.org/aviation/heliport.



Like to receive information such as this newsletter electronically from the Fort Worth Airport System? Send us an e-mail at aviationwebmail@fortworthgov.org and we will add you to our email distribution list.

Bill Welstead, Meacham Airport Manager

Progress

There is nothing more exciting than progress, especially when it is well-planned. The anticipated development plan for the Meacham terminal area is coming to an end. As we move forward with development phasing we will, as always, keep you updated on how this development will affect you.

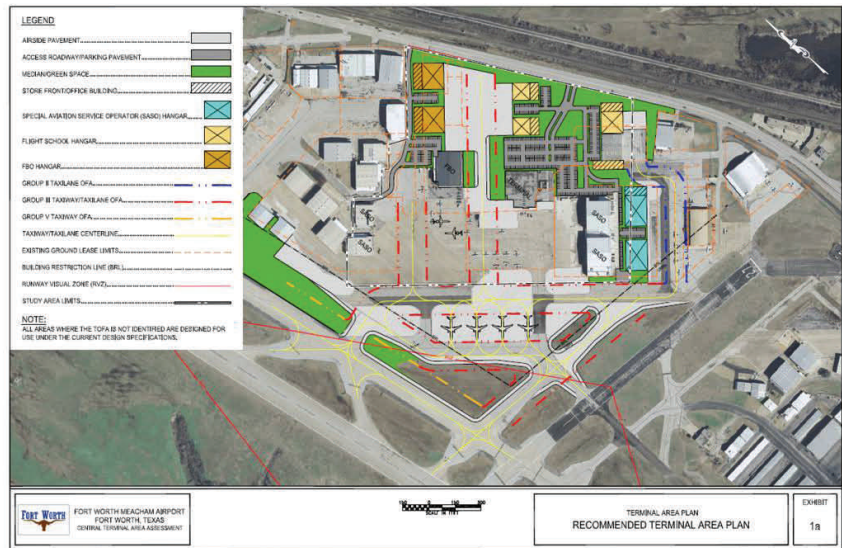
It has taken a full year to get to this point; there have been meetings, interviews, surveys and a fine tuning of the development alternatives through tenant and airport management review and an excellent job by URS Corporation, our airport planner. Without the input of Meacham's tenants we could not have gotten to where we are today. The development plan certainly shows many of their thoughts and ideas.

This process began in July 2009 with the kickoff development meeting that described the long, but necessary process to redevelop Meacham's terminal area. By September, URS had developed thirteen preliminary development alternatives for airport tenant and management consideration. The alternatives covered a wide range including everything from minor hangar development to full demolition of the ter-

minal. In the end, after refining these thirteen alternatives down to four, we were able to identify a plan that best matched the vision of Meacham Airport's tenants and management team. And, no, the terminal is not being demolished.

The last tenant meeting was held in January 2010, resulting in a hybrid of the final four alternatives. An alternative that is

financially, politically and geographically feasible. The hard part is yet to come with design, phasing and the eventual construction of this plan. I hope that you've enjoyed being part of this process or at least taken pleasure in knowing that your airport and its management team is moving forward with a well-planned vision for this exceptional airport.



Meacham Operations, 24/7 - - - 817-994-0653

Aaron Barth, Spinks Airport Manager

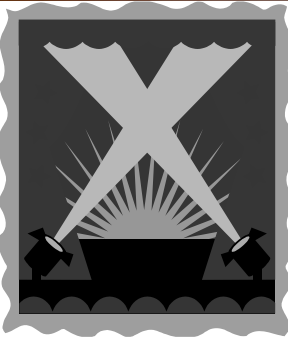
Interim Accommodations for Cook Children's Healthcare System

Spinks Airport has had a welcome addition recently from the Cook Children's Healthcare System. Although it is only temporary, their Teddy Bear Transport Team needed to base their emergency response vehicles and additional personnel at Spinks while their permanent facility is being constructed at Meacham Airport.

Cook Children's has been based at Spinks Airport since 1989 with approximately ten pilots and technicians based here (employees of their aviation vendor). During that time, the only aircraft in the hangar was a King Air. The Teddy Bear Transport Team has brought with it 40 additional personnel, an EC145 helicopter and ambulance equipment. As you can imagine, this addi-

tion brought with it a few details to work out with landside parking and office space. The teamwork of Spinks staff and Harrison Aviation facilitated Cook Children's moving their Transport staff into office space within the terminal building, and with the addition of an automatic gate, ambulances have been based on the west side of the airport.

With the plan to relocate their operations to Meacham at the beginning of 2011, we are sad to see them go but know this will be a great opportunity for Cook Children's and for Meacham as they inherit a great tenant.



The Spot Light is on Semper Fi Aviation

Welcome to the newest Meacham Terminal tenant, Semper Fi Aviation and its owner Phillip Gregory Esparza. You'll find Semper Fi Aviation located on the first floor of the Terminal, in Suite 130E. Phillip is an FAA-appointed Designated Maintenance Examiner (DME) for the Fort Worth area and brings thirty two years of aviation experience with him, which all started with the United States Marine Corp.



Phillip G. Esparza in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Semper Fi Aviation offers Designated Maintenance Examination services, aircraft purchasing consulting, interior completion representation, A&P, IA support, and Boeing in-flight technical support to include aircraft interior rework. Semper Fi Aviation has a global network of clients, and understands customers' needs. As Phillip says, "If it has anything to do with aviation, we can support you."

Phillip is from the Fort Worth area, is married to Ruth Ellen, and has two children who themselves are involved in aviation, and three grandchildren that enjoy going out to the hangar and sitting in the airplane. Phillip hopes that someday they will be running the business and chasing clouds.

To learn more about Semper Fi Aviation and Phillip's exciting aviation career, please visit www.semperfiaviation.com, or stop by the next time you're in the Terminal.

New Face on the Airfield

Robert joined the Department in May 2010. He holds a B.S. in Aviation Management and a Masters in Public Administration from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Having worked at both Denver and Dayton International Airports, Robert brings with him experience in Aviation Operations as well as Airport Operations. Robert has also worked for Atlantic Coast Airlines as a Flight Operations Supervisor/Tower Maintenance Coordinator. Robert holds certifications in Commercial Multi/Single Engine Land and Instrument Airplane and is a Certified Flight Instructor. *WELCOME ABOARD ROBERT*



Robert Peterson
Meacham Airport Operations Officer



Meeting Announcements

Aviation Advisory Board
3rd Thursday of the Month
July 15, August 19

Meacham Tenant Meeting
1st Thursday of the Month
July 1, August 5

Spinks Tenant Meeting
Every other Month, 1st Thursday
August 5

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If you have a press release or an article to feature along with some great pictures, share them electronically at

Jonnie.Huitt@fortworthgov.org and we'll do our best to get them in.