



# The Fort Worth Aviator

## *Fort Worth Alliance Airport Shines—20 Year Anniversary*

It has been 20 years since Fort Worth Alliance Airport (AFW) transformed Texas prairieland into the world's first industrial airport. In the two decades since its opening, the airport has become a catalyst and model for successful public-private partnerships and has influenced master-planned developments throughout the world. Today, AllianceTexas is home to more than 220 companies, one of North Texas' leading retail developments, 28,000 jobs and 7,100 single-family homes. Moreover, the AllianceTexas development has generated more than \$36.4 billion in economic impact during the life of the project. The Alliance Airport story begins with the success of another – DFW Airport.

In the mid-1980s, due to the growing air traffic congestion in the DFW Airport area, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began to review the aviation needs of the North Texas region for the foreseeable future. An additional study commissioned by the North Central Texas Council of Governments revealed that by the year 2000 there would be a need for four general-aviation airports (located in DFW Airport's four adjacent quadrants) to relieve the growing corporate and general-aviation traffic from DFW Airport.



With direct ramp access to the runway, capability of direct service to Asia, and an on-site U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility, the airport serves as AllianceTexas' gateway to the world.



In the years preceding the study, the H. Ross Perot family began buying sizable real estate interests in the northwest vicinity of DFW Airport. H. Ross Perot, Jr., a former U.S. Air Force pilot and aviation world-record holder, had been tapped to oversee the emerging real estate portion of the family business and believed that there would be strong future growth in Tarrant and Denton counties.

"The timing couldn't have been better for the FAA or the Perot family," says Tim Ward, president of Alliance Aviation Services. The positive response from the Perot family to the FAA set several events in motion that led to an eventual partnership with the City of Fort Worth. The airport opened on December 14, 1989 to much fanfare with civic and corporate leaders attending a Texas-sized celebration.

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Kent Penney  
Airport Systems  
Director

### Department Evaluation and Assessment

This summer I announced to you that the City of Fort Worth Aviation Department was being reviewed through an Evaluation and Assessment. The evaluation was conducted by Jacobs Consultancy and also involved a Blue Ribbon Task Force appointed by the City Manager. The evaluation has been completed and informally reported to city staff and the Blue Ribbon Task Force. The highlights of Jacobs Consultancy's findings are as follows:

- The airports are financially self-sufficient, with significant opportunities to enhance revenues;
- The airports compare favorably to other general aviation airports in key operating and financial metrics;
- The airports have a reasonable authorized staffing level (27 positions) but were operating with only 19 employees. At this level of employees, the airports are operating in a mode that is more reactive than proactive;
- The Airports have a unique funding source for capital improvements (gas well revenues). This significantly improves the Airport's ability to proactively develop facilities and improve their competitive positions in the marketplace.

Jacobs also reviewed whether it would be advisable to outsource the management of the Airports. Jacobs found "no compelling reason to do so", and cited two specific criteria for when it would be advisable. First if the Airports require a general fund subsidy for operations, and second if there is a need for funding for development/capital needs for the Airports. This is not the case for the City of Fort Worth's airports on either criteria.

The next steps for the Aviation Department will be to focus on the following:

- Establish a Strategic Business Plan for the Aviation Department;
- Update the Airports Minimum Standards and Rules & Regulations;
- Formalize the Airport Leasing Policy;
- Complete filling positions and training staff.

Our Aviation staff looks forward to improving ourselves based on what has been found, and providing excellent facilities for the aviation needs of our area.

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"At this point, a collective vision between Perot, the FAA and the City of Fort Worth emerged – the designated parcel would be home to the world's first industrial airport. Moreover, the airport would support the growth of all aviation-related activities in North Texas."

Ward goes on to add, "With Hillwood donating the land to the city, Fort Worth was able to leverage the value of the property with the FAA, resulting in the FAA providing 90 percent of the funding. It is remarkable looking back, that a project of this magnitude has generated so much tax revenue for the region, and was debt-free upon completion."

For additional information see [www.alliancetexas.com](http://www.alliancetexas.com)



## Fort Worth Meacham Winter Operations

Bill Welstead, Meacham Airport Manager

Snow – who would have thought I'd find myself waking up to snow in sunny Fort Worth, Texas. Now I know I shouldn't be surprised being from the Midwest, but that's exactly what I found at Meacham Airport in mid November when we received that dusting of white powder. Of course the pilots and businesses at Meacham had nothing to worry about since the pavement and subgrade temperatures were well above freezing, but when I showed up to Meacham I couldn't help but check the pavement myself, just to make sure.

So what is Meacham Airport's plan when winter weather is forecasted, besides the coyotes keeping the pavement warm that is. I'll try not to bore you with too much detail on anti-icing and deicing terminology, but I feel it is important that you know we have a plan.

Meacham Airport Operations monitors impending weather much the same way pilots do, by reviewing the METARS, TAFS and contacting the National Weather Service forecaster. By doing this, Airport Operations is able to identify and respond to inclement weather at Meacham in a timely manner.

During an event, NOTAMS will be issued by Airport Operations to consistently report the current pavement conditions. These NOTAMS are updated as the conditions change.

Meacham airport has the equipment and chemicals on-site to deice the runway pavement if there is ice accumulation. In fact, we have stock piled shotted deicing chemical at our immediate disposal. When inclement weather is expected, Airport Maintenance will be placed on standby or remain at Meacham overnight. If Airport Operations determines that a chemical application is necessary, maintenance staff will be tasked with treating Runway 16/34. The granule form of deicer we use will react with the ice and dissolve, causing the ice to melt. Maintenance will continue to apply the chemical as needed. A little radiant heat never hurts either, so we always hope for a sunny day as well.

We may not have a fleet of plows, brooms and blowers, but we will diligently respond with the resources we have. Remember to check your NOTAMS and as always, be safe this winter. If you have any questions contact Airport Operations at 817.392.5410.

## New Airport Operations Officer - Meacham International Airport

Samantha Door comes to Fort Worth from Everett, Washington where she most recently served at Harvey Airfield. Prior to working as an Airport Management Operations Intern she was the Airport Management and Operations Intern for Yakima Air Terminal in Yakima, Washington. She will be joining us at the end of December, just in time for winter operations.

She is a graduate of Central Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management. She is also a fellow pilot, receiving her Private Pilot License in 2008. The Aviation Department would like to welcome her to the City of Fort Worth and we look forward to adding her experience to this Aviation Team.

## Fort Worth Spinks Welcomes New Airport Manager

Aaron Barth has been named the new manager at the Spinks Airport. He is leaving the airport manager position at the Guthrie-Edmond Regional Airport and beginning his new duties in Fort Worth on December 21. "I've laid some good groundwork for myself professionally," Barth said. "My new job will have me working for an established airport system that will expose me to many and different opportunities. I feel like I am ready to pursue this challenge."

Welcome, Aaron

## Farewell Manuel Basaldu and Ed Cessna

On January 1, 2010, the Aviation Department will be minus two wonderful and hard-working employees, whose years of service together total nearly a quarter century. Manuel and Ed have chosen to take advantage of the Early Retirement Incentive Program offered by the City of Fort Worth. We are losing two fine workers and friends, two men who have given many years to serving the Aviation Department and they deserve our thanks.

Ed and Manuel, enjoy your retirement and Best wishes to you both.

**TOWER TALK  
FROM  
BILL MILLER  
AT SPIKES  
AIRPORT**

Spikes federal Contract Tower passed the two year in service date this past September. We were operating in Class G airspace until October 22, 2009. We now operate in Class D airspace. Fortunately, the pilots have treated us as if we had been in class D airspace all this time. The transition to Class D was a “non-event”, everything went smoothly. The Spikes Class D Air Space is a

4.1 mile radius around the airport up to, but not including 3,000 msl.

We want to thank the Aviation Department for getting us an upgraded AWOS operational monitor and computer. We can now see the monitor day or night, and the graphic presentation is easier to read.

Spikes Airport recently hosted a fly-in that showcased flying musicians/pilots. The event, from the tower perspective, was a success.



**HOLIDAY HOURS OF  
OPERATION**

City offices and buildings will be closed, unless it is occupied by a department that is excepted from closure. Exceptions include departments such as Police, Fire, Water, Aviation and Public Events.

The City of Fort Worth offices will be closed for the holidays on December 24–27 and will reopen on December 28. City offices will also be closed on January 1, 2010 in observance of the New Year’s Day holiday.

For assistance at either Meacham or Spikes during these days contact the Airport Operations Officer on duty at 817.994.0653.

**LEASE COORDINATOR  
JONNIE R. HUITT**

Jonnie has joined the Aviation Department, as of November 2009, but is no stranger to the City of Fort Worth. Jonnie began her tenure with the City nearly five years ago, in the Fiscal Management Office of the Police Department. She brings to Aviation a strong background in business, customer relations and a love of watching airplanes.

Jonnie holds a B.A. in Fine Arts with an emphasis in Business Administration from Arizona State University. Although Jonnie is a native Arizonan, she has resided in the Fort Worth area for 14 years with her husband.



Like to receive information like this newsletter electronically from the Fort Worth Airport System? Send us an email at [aviationwebmail@fortworthgov.org](mailto:aviationwebmail@fortworthgov.org) and we will add you to our email distribution list.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Where do I pay my rent?** City of Fort Worth Aviation Dept, Attn.: Jonnie Huitt  
4201 N. Main St, Suite 200  
Fort Worth, TX 76106

**Do I need to submit a notice prior to vacating my leased hangar space?** Yes, a 30-day notice is required prior to vacating a leased space. If a 30-day notice is not given, the tenant will still be responsible for the lease payment for that month.

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**AIRPORT SYSTEM STAFF**  
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Kent Penney  
Airport Systems Director  
817.392.5400  
[Kent.Penney@fortworthgov.org](mailto:Kent.Penney@fortworthgov.org)

Bill Welstead  
Meacham Airport Manager  
817.392.5402  
[Bill.Welstead@fortworthgov.org](mailto:Bill.Welstead@fortworthgov.org)

Aya Ealy  
Administrative Manager  
817.392.5406  
[Aya.Ealy@fortworthgov.org](mailto:Aya.Ealy@fortworthgov.org)

Jonnie Huitt  
Lease Coordinator  
817.392.5409  
[Jonnie.Huitt@fortworthgov.org](mailto:Jonnie.Huitt@fortworthgov.org)

Pablo Valadez  
Building Services Supervisor  
817.392.5411  
[Pablo.Valadez@fortworthgov.org](mailto:Pablo.Valadez@fortworthgov.org)

Diana Lama  
Newsletter Editor  
817.392-5432  
[Diana.Lama@fortworthgov.org](mailto:Diana.Lama@fortworthgov.org)

[www.fortworthgov.org/aviation/](http://www.fortworthgov.org/aviation/)

**4201 N. Main St, Suite 200 Fort Worth, TX 76106 817.392.5400**