

METROPOLITAN Airport News™

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Serving the Airport Workforce and Local Communities

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Cuomo Calls for \$10B Makeover of JFK Airport



At a luncheon on January 4, 2017 in New York City hosted by The Association for a Better New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced a 10 Billion dollar project to update and connect John F. Kennedy Airport with the rest of the region. The recommended plan provided by Dan Tishman on behalf of the Airport Advisory Panel addresses connecting the

terminals, considers building new terminals and consolidating older terminals, access and increase Cargo and aircraft maintenance and operations support areas.

The plan also includes re-routing the highways leading into the airport and the roadways within the airport as well as expanding the transit systems used by passengers and

employees by increasing the number of AirTrain cars. There is also a need to overhaul the Jamaica Station and possibly having LIRR direct to JFK Airport from Penn Station New York, Grand Central Terminal, and/or Brooklyn's Atlantic Avenue/Barclays.

Although specific funding plans were not mentioned, Cuomo's approach to funding the estimated \$10 billion JFK project would be similar to that employed at LaGuardia Airport, where there is a public-private partnership with the private entity LaGuardia Gateway Partners (LGP). "We can drive up to \$7 billion in private capital [at JFK]," predicted Dan Tishman, CEO of Tishman Construction Company and the head of Cuomo's Airport Master Plan Advisory Panel.

JFK Airport is currently ranked at #59 of the world's top 100 airports. JFK Airport served 60 million passengers in 2016 and supported 285,000 jobs in region according to PANY/NJ.

These proposed project plans will provide passengers, employees and the community with World Class facilities with future growth, safety and security in mind. ■

Ground Breaking Marks Construction of TWA Hotel

Shovels dug into JFK soil on December 15th to mark the official ground breaking ceremony in the re-construction of the famed TWA Eero Saarinen terminal.

The Eero Saarinen-designed landmark terminal will serve as the hotel reception area as well as location for the restaurants and bars and travelers will be able to access Terminal 5, the terminal that replaced the TWA Flight Center, through one of the tubes that originally took TWA passengers to their gates.

On hand were many former TWA employees, media, the developer MCR's officials and JetBlue staff, local politicians and Governor Andrew Cuomo. Cuomo stated "The conversion of the TWA Flight Center into a new state of the art hotel will preserve this iconic landmark while cementing JFK's status as a crown jewel of aviation.



Tyler Morse, CEO of MCR Development Addresses Attendees at TWA Hotel Groundbreaking Event.

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Westfield to Tender Specialty Retail and Duty Free at Newark

Newark Liberty Airport Terminal B commercial manager Westfield is offering 29 retail, dining and amenity business offers in seven categories, including duty free, specialty retail, health and awareness, travel essentials, ATM, currency exchange and Banking.

Westfield says the process will consider both local and international brands over the 33,000sq foot of space available and held its first meeting and Terminal B tour on December 13 last month with proposals due on January 31, 2017.

The commercial manager says it is seeking 'new, unique brands and concepts' and is promising that the new traveler experience will bring the 'heart and soul of New Jersey into the airport' and draw design inspiration from the Garden State's iconic locations.

"This will be a significant redevelopment of Terminal B and the beginning of an enhanced traveler experience," said Iris Messina, Westfield's Vice President of Leasing. We're looking for unique brands and motivated partners who are excited about working with us to reimagine Terminal B and highlight the amazing sights, sounds and flavors of New Jersey." ■



Gov. Andrew Cuomo (center) leads TWA Hotel groundbreaking ceremony.

Official Ground Breaking Marks Construction of JFK's TWA Hotel

Continued from Page 1

Said Governor Cuomo, "This groundbreaking builds on our efforts to modernize gateways across the state and we will continue working to drive growth, support thriving regional economies and build 21 century infrastructure of the caliber that New York deserves."

The \$265 million dollar project is privately financed. MCR development, the hotel company in charge, in partnership with the Port Authority of NYNJ and JetBlue has confirmed that the project will be completed by the end of 2018. Tyler Morse, CEO and owner of MCR also made remarks at the ceremony. In his remarks, Morse said; "Besides investing \$265 million, [Morse] said, he has to deal with 22 government agencies. MCR must remediate asbestos throughout the headhouse and rebuild or

update mechanical systems. If the restoration work meets government standards, however, MCR will be eligible for a credit against federal and state income taxes of an amount up to 20 percent of qualifying construction costs."

Two buildings alongside the TWA Flight center will be about 5 stories high and hold about 500 rooms. The buildings will curve around the terminal and complement its unusual shape.

The main terminal is being restored to its 1962 jet age splendor and will house eight restaurants, a food hall featuring local vendors, conference rooms, a cocktail bar and nightclub.

The TWA Hotel will be the first onsite hotel in the JFK airport complex. ■

Rotary Hosts Children's Party at JetBlue Hangar

On December 6 the JFK Rotary held their 40th Annual Children's Holiday party at Jet Blue hangar #81.

Almost 400 children from local Queens schools as well as Mill Neck School for the Deaf arrived to party. They danced to a lively band

with Mrs. M&M, volunteer elves and Sparky, the Islander mascot joining them. Immediately following that, the Aviation High School Color Guard awed the children with an impressive routine prior to reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Finally, after lunch and snacks, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on a Jet Blue airplane to hand out gifts. Each child received a t-shirt, holiday hat, balloon animals and a surprise filled backpack. The gifts and the 400 backpacks, stuffed by Aviation High School students, were donated by Westfield, the Jackman Foundation, OTG, Duty Free America, HM Host, Russo's and other generous donors.

The airplane and hangar were provided by Jet Blue. The Rotary Club, its elves and numerous volunteers made this a very special day for the children who attended. Information about the Rotary and a full slate of photos of the event may be found on <http://www.jfkrotaryclub.org>

ROBERTA DUNN



Port Authority Announces New Aviation Director

Huntley A. Lawrence, a 31-year veteran of the Port Authority, has been named the agency's new Director of Aviation, succeeding the retiring Thomas L. Bosco as head of the nation's largest airport system, the Port Authority announced.

Throughout his Port Authority career, Lawrence has managed a series of key operational initiatives, as well as safety, security and compliance enhancements, earning him a reputation as a top leader in the aviation field. Since 2014, he has served as the Deputy Director of Aviation.

"In his new role as director, I'm confident Huntley will continue the exceptional work Tom has done over the past two years, especially as we move forward with critical modernization projects at our airports," said Port Authority Executive Director Pat Foye. "His experience and record of leadership will enable us to maintain our airports as key gateways to the bi-state region and meet passenger growth for the 21st century."

Lawrence takes command of one of the world's largest airport systems, with revenues of \$2.5 billion and a staff of more than 1,300 aviation professionals, at a crucial time. Several major development projects are currently under way at the Port Authority, including the redevelopment of Terminal B at LaGuardia Airport and the redevelopment of Terminal A at Newark Liberty International Airport.

Lawrence began his career at the Port Authority in 1985 in airport operations, working at LaGuardia, Newark Liberty and John F. Kennedy International Airport before joining the Properties and Commercial Development division at Newark Liberty. In 2006, he became General Manager of Security and Technology for the Aviation Department.

Lawrence served as Deputy General Manager and later as General Manager for New Jersey Airports, before being named Deputy Director of Aviation two years ago. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the Florida Institute of Technology and an MBA from Dowl-ing College. He is an accredited member of the American Association of Airport Executives as well as a licensed pilot.

The Port Authority oversees operations at John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International, LaGuardia, Teterboro, and Stewart International airports, and has a management agreement at Atlantic City International Airport. Together, these facilities handled a record 124.2 million passengers in



Huntley A. Lawrence

2015 and helped spur regional economic growth that generated more than \$84.7 billion in economic activity.

Prior to his retirement, Bosco served as General Manager of LaGuardia Airport and in various staff and operations management positions at the World Trade Center, and at JFK and Newark airports.

A 1980 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Bosco served six years on active duty and 18 years in the Army National Guard and Reserve as an officer and helicopter pilot. He is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm and received the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone. Following 9/11, he led his National Guard battalion in providing perimeter security for emergency workers at the World Trade Center site, before retiring as a Colonel from the Army in 2004.

"Tom has made great contributions over the course of his career to the Port Authority, and we thank him for his many years of extraordinary leadership and service," Foye said. ■

LaGuardia's Redesign Will Lift You Above Ceilings That Don't Leak

Congestion is the biggest reason why LaGuardia Airport in New York is rated so poorly; neither planes nor people move in an efficient manner through a facility designed for far, far less traffic.

When it's completed in summer of 2022, a gleaming new LaGuardia will be a modern space featuring a collection of aeries and ample natural light, where passengers walk above moving airplanes as they head to their gates.



Stewart Steeves

Designers are planning to reduce the distance from curb to gate by an average of 300 feet, the project's chief executive, Stewart Steeves, said in a recent interview. New, more upscale dining and retail options are also likely. The first new gates are slated to open in the spring of 2018.

For New Yorkers faced with the prospect of using LaGuardia, going there early has always been a function of terrible necessity. No more, says Steeves, who oversees LaGuardia Gateway Partners, the consortium managing the aged central terminal and its \$4 billion, six-year overhaul.

"Our objective is to get to a place where people make a conscious decision to say, 'Let's go to the airport early and have dinner there because there's some great restaurants,' and then get on the plane," he added, "That sounds a little bit humorous in the current [airport] context."

The consortium won a contest for the project earlier this year. In June, it took over the terminal, which houses carriers that include American Airlines Group Inc., JetBlue Airways Corp., Southwest Airlines Co., and United Continental Holdings Inc.

Revenue from airlines using Terminal B will rise from an estimated \$49.9 million next year to almost \$230 million in 2025, three years after the project is scheduled to finish, according to projections filed with the April offering document the project's backers used to pitch bonds to finance the renovation. Airlines have been accepting of the higher costs, Steeves said.

"It's the price of progress, and we are big supporters of the project," said Mike Minerva, vice president of government and airport affairs at American, the second-largest carrier at LaGuardia. The higher operating cost "was already baked into everybody's thinking." ■



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NBAA President Ed Bolen Discusses ATC Privatization at LIBAA Annual Meeting

National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) President and CEO Ed Bolen thanked members of New York's Long Island business aviation community for their grassroots efforts to stop proposals in Washington, DC for creating a privatized ATC system funded by user fees, and told them their efforts would again be needed in the new year as the issue was sure to come up again in the next session of Congress.

Bolen was the featured speaker at the Long Island Business Aviation Association's (LIBAA's) annual holiday dinner and meeting on Dec. 7, which drew more than 100 attendees. Congress has been debating reauthorization of funding and programs for the FAA, and proposals to privatize ATC, and fund it with user fees, have been offered as part of that debate.

As part of the group's efforts on NBAA's work to turn back the ATC-privatization proposals, LIBAA members met several times with congressional representatives and other elected officials from the area to discuss the issue.

"The support of LIBAA members in voicing concern to your congressional representatives about ATC privatization and possible user fees has been tremendous," Bolen said. "NBAA greatly appreciates your support on legislative issues, which will continue to be needed in the coming weeks and months."

LIBAA members thanked Bolen for providing his Washington report, and added that they were optimistic about the state of business aviation in New York, where several new business aircraft have been purchased and based in the state – three of them on Long Island – since the Aviation Jobs Act was passed. The legislation is a common-sense measure for promoting the sale and use of business aircraft, similar to policies in place in neighboring states. Overall, the legislation – which had the support of NBAA and other local and regional groups – has been instrumental in spurring an uptick in aircraft sales activity in New York, according to LIBAA.

In addition to updating attendees about ATC privatization efforts, Bolen answered questions



National Business Aviation Association President and CEO Ed Bolen

about the aircraft carbon-emissions framework introduced at the conclusion of the most recent triennial meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization. He also discussed the status of proposed aircraft depreciation schedule changes and President-elect Trump's nominee to lead the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Elaine Chao. ■

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A Christmas Wish Granted to a Brave Young Lady

“Maybe Christmas doesn’t come from a store, maybe Christmas means a little bit more.”

Zoey Kohler, age 18 of Ohio, has a rare incurable cancer. Her Christmas wish; to see New York City and boy did Patient AirLift Services deliver!

Santa’s sleigh was an incredible King Air arranged by Talon Air, Inc. owner Adam Katz. 18-year-old Zoey touched down in Farmingdale, Long Island with her best friend, mother, and grandmother with the goal of making memories to last a lifetime.

Zoey may have a personal agenda but she’ll have to make room to see Cats the Musical, which was generously donated by PALS Pilot Tom Callahan. She is most excited about seeing the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, catching a Broadway show, and shopping in Times Square.

The generous trip was made possible by Patient Airlift Services and Talon Air, a private charter flight provider based out of Republic

Airport in Long Island. “I hope that it lightens her day, brightens her time,” said Talon Air founder Adam Katz.

Executive Director Eileen Healy-Minogue was there to greet her when she landed.

During the subsequent three days, Zoey will fulfill her lifelong dream to visit New York City for the holidays. The teen, who has been diagnosed with a rare and aggressive type of terminal pediatric cancer called desmoplastic small round cell tumor. She will explore the Big Apple’s finest holiday highlights, including browsing bright window displays on Fifth Avenue, skating at Rockefeller Center and indulging in hot chocolate at Max Brenner.

Thanks also should go to US Limo for their ground transportation to NYC and to News 12 Long Island, Newsday, NBC, CBS News, for covering the story of our special new PAL.

Jessica Toth, Zoey’s best friend who’s accompanying her on her trip to the Big Apple, says Zoey is the strongest person she knows. ■



Zoey Kohler, Talon Air President & CEO Adam Katz, and PALS Executive Director Eileen Healy-Minogue

Port Authority Teams With DHL to Bring Christmas Trees to Troops Serving Overseas

BY CHERYL ALBIEZ, PORT AUTHORITY NYNJ
MEDIA RELATIONS STAFF

Rockin’ around the Christmas tree, have a happy holiday. Everyone’s dancin’ merrily in a new old fashioned way. Rockin’ around the Christmas tree let the Christmas Spirit ring. – Lyrics and music by Johnny Marks

Traditional holiday celebrations and joyous memories are often centered around the Christmas tree. In New York, visitors from all over the world gather around the nation’s most famous Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center, the epicenter of the city’s holiday celebrations.

So what happens when celebrants can’t go to the tree? DHL, with help from the Port Authority, are making sure the trees go to them – in this case, to U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Since its inception in 2004, DHL’s Operation Holiday Cheer has delivered hundreds of Christmas trees, holiday decorations and messages of support to U.S. troops serving abroad, with flights originating from John F. Kennedy International Airport each year.

“It is an important tradition for all of us in DHL—the chance to work with community partners and deploy our global shipping network—and one we look forward to every year,” said Greg Hewitt, CEO of DHL Express U.S.. “For me personally, it’s one of the best presents I receive, because it’s a chance to give the gift of thanks to our soldiers.”

Operation Holiday Cheer began when the mother of a soldier asked Dees’ Nursery, located in Long Island, if she could purchase a Christmas tree to send to her son in Iraq. Although the nursery was willing to donate the tree to the woman, shipping would be expensive. With the help of a local businessman and a partnership with DHL Express and the Nassau County community, Operation Holiday Cheer was born.

“I am grateful to DHL for bringing this great program to our airport. This is a wonderful way to thank our military for their service and for the

sacrifices they make year-round,” said Michael Moran, General Manager of John F. Kennedy International Airport. “We are helping make memories.”

500 Christmas trees donated by Dees’ Nursery, along with donated menorahs, gifts and decorations, were loaded onto a DHL 777 aircraft on a non-stop flight to the Middle East from JFK. Local community and veteran groups, as well as the Girl Scouts, performers from the USO Show Troupe, schoolchildren and Nassau County dignitaries — and, of course, Santa — all came to help and spread the holiday cheer.

Since the program began, more than 100,000 soldiers at hospitals, headquarters and bases overseas have received 9,000 trees, 450,000 feet of lights, hundreds of pounds of tinsel and 500 ornaments, holiday cards and menorahs.

“In delivering our heroes a tree, we are really sending a special holiday moment to cherish,” Moran said. ■



House Members Urge Support for Contract Tower Program

A bipartisan total of 105 members of the House of Representatives signed a letter to the incoming Trump/Pence administration endorsing the value of FAA’s Contract Tower Program. The 105 members represented almost 25 percent of the full House —72 Republicans and 33 Democrats. The letter noted: “We urge your administration to take the necessary steps to ensure that this highly successful government and industry partnership continues to provide these critical ATC safety services, which will provide stability and economic growth in rural America. Earlier this year, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the full Senate passed separate legislation (H.R. 4441 and S. 2658) that would provide long-needed regulatory reforms to the benefit cost analysis process used by FAA to manage this program. We encourage your administration to review these measures as part of your efforts to provide regulatory relief and cut bureaucratic red tape to American industries and businesses that will help grow our economy.” ■

Kicking Off the Season With the First Annual *Metropolitan Airport News* Holiday Party

It was the start of a new yearly tradition, the *Metropolitan Airport News* holiday party. The elegant Inn at New Hyde Park was a great choice for the event.

The party was well attended by over 150 friends, family and colleagues from the metro airports and supporting businesses, all taking time to kick off the holiday season. The food was amazing, the bar never slowed down and the music left the group dancing the night away. Let's not forget the raffles! There were some very lucky winners!

The *Metropolitan Airport News* team would wish all our readers and supporters a safe, healthy and happy new year. ■

View all the photos from the party on our Facebook page, and our website.



PHOTOS BY: DOUG KEARSE PHOTOGRAPHY



A Slurpy Via Drone – Coming To Your Neighborhood

7-Eleven Teams with Flirtey for First Ever FAA-Approved Drone Delivery to Customer's Home

BY ALAN BOYLE

7 Eleven, the world’s largest convenience retailer, and Flirtey, a leading independent drone delivery service, announced they have completed the first fully autonomous drone delivery to a customer’s residence to advance research toward integrating drones into the National Airspace System. This delivery is the first time a U.S. customer has received a package to their home via drone, representing a historic milestone in both U.S. and global commerce. The delivery was conducted in celebration of the convenience store chain’s 89th birthday.

The goal of advancing drone deliveries as well as further refining Flirtey’s delivery technology and packaging were highlighted when Flirtey teamed with the Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems (NIAS) for the delivery.

“This delivery required special flight planning, risk analysis, and detailed flight procedures ensuring residential safety and privacy were equally integrated,” said Chris Walach, Director of Operations for NIAS.

In the race to make routine commercial deliveries via drone, Flirtey is going where Amazon hasn’t yet ventured: the United States. The three-year-old Nevada-based startup reported that its autonomous drones made regular



weekend deliveries of food and other convenience-store products for a 7-Eleven store during November.

Seventy-seven deliveries in all were made, using a smartphone-style app, Flirtey said in a news release.

When a customer places an order, the merchandise is loaded into a drone delivery container and flown to the house autonomously, guided by GPS readings. At each home, the Flirtey drone hovers in place and lowers the package. Average time from order to delivery: less than 10 minutes. ■



Published in Geekwire on December 20th - GeekWire aerospace and science editor Alan Boyle is an award-winning science writer and veteran space reporter.

Alaska Air Closes Virgin America Acquisition, Becomes 5th Largest Carrier

But will the Virgin brand stay or go?

Alaska Air Group became the nation’s fifth largest carrier following the closing of its acquisition of Virgin America on December 9th.

The combined carrier eclipsed JetBlue Airways, which attempted to outbid Alaska for Virgin America. It now offers 1,200 daily flights to 118 destinations in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Cuba. It will also offer more nonstop destinations from the West Coast than any airline.

The move came one week after the Department of Justice gave the two airlines the green light on the condition that Alaska scale back its code-shares with American Airlines, the world’s largest carrier.

Ben Minicucci, president and chief operating officer of Alaska Airlines, takes the additional role of CEO of Virgin America, effective Wednesday, and Peter Hunt, Virgin’s chief financial officer, will serve as president of the unit. Those appointments will remain in effect until the two carriers receive a single operating certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration, targeted for the first quarter of 2018.

The airline said it hasn’t yet made a decision as to whether to keep the Virgin America brand and what to do with that airline’s fleet of Airbus A320 aircraft. Alaska has an all-Boeing 737 fleet and said a decision on the brand should come in the next few months.

Alaska said that members of both airlines’ frequent flyer programs will be able to earn rewards on the other’s flights starting December 19 and that members with elite status on one airline will immediately receive priority check-in and boarding on the other. In addition, also starting on the December 19, travelers will be able to purchase flights on Virgin America using Alaska’s website. ■



5 Borough Food Hall Launches In Terminal 4

The main hall of Terminal 4 post security has a new culinary offering with the 5 Borough Food Hall. Developed and managed by SSP, the Five Borough Food Hall offers passengers and employees the experience of being at a market presenting New York City street food.

There are stations for an Asian Noodle House and a Greek/Middle Eastern option. There are food trucks also, a 1987 Chevy Box Truck serving Mexican, a 1956 International Harvester Metro hosting a pan-worldly sandwich shop, a fun blue camper housing a snack shack and 1966 VW Bus providing a full-service bar. The space provides flexibility to change the food being served in the future ensuring the offerings will always be on trend.

The ribbon cutting brought out the executives from JFKIAT, SSP and the designers of the space iCrave.

“Terminal 4 already features an unparalleled selection of food and beverage offerings and we are proud to welcome this unique and interesting concept to our retail hall,” said Gert-Jan de Graaff, President and CEO of JFKIAT, LLC. – the management company which operates Terminal 4. “With Five Borough Food Hall, we are able to expand our culinary offerings to the 20 million annual travelers who pass through our doors – allowing us to continue to cater to many different types of appetites. We are grateful for our continued partnership with SSP America, which allows us to offer the best names and products in the world right here at Terminal 4.”

Five Borough Food Hall joins more than 25 other restaurants in Terminal 4. When you want something quick and reasonably priced, the 5 Borough Food Hall has something for everyone. ■



Brian Willie (Director of Operations, SSP America), Paul Loupakos (Vice President of Business Development, SSP America), Michael Svagdis (Chief Executive Officer, SSP America), Gert-Jan De Graaff (President and CEO, JFKIAT), Paul Heflin (Vice President Design and Construction, SSP America), Edward Midgley (Vice President of Concession Management, JFKIAT), Pat Murray (Executive Vice President, SSP America).

Navy Seal Brandon Webb Speaks at FRG

The first of a planned Extraordinary Leader Series of Speaker events sponsored by Ventura Aviation was conducted at the Ventura Aviation hangar at Republic Airport on December 8th.

The guest speaker was Navy Seal and now entrepreneur, Brandon Webb who's has transformed his naval career into a multi-million-dollar digital data marketing enterprise, Force12 Media, which he founded and is CEO.

The topic of Brandon's talk was fear and who but a Navy Seal turned entrepreneur can make this topic come to life. Anyone involved with the military has a personal relationship with fear, whether it be long term, or immediate. A navy seal's mission makes fear a continuing reality. The gist of his talk is that fear is normal; it is how we face it and overcome it that makes us stronger.

When I interviewed Brandon, I was interested in his motivation for joining the military, and life leading up to his seal career.

While mid-way on a family sailing trip around the world and at the age of 16, Brandon

decided that this was not part of his future and decided to abandon the trip, and make his way back to California. It was a tough call, but one that would ultimately change the whole direction of Brandon's future. Upon reaching California, Brandon found work in a scuba diving boat and learned quite a bit about what he wanted to do in the future. He enlisted in the Navy at the age of 18 at Coronado; his mission, to become a Navy Seal.

His first permanent assignment was as a helicopter Aircrew Search & Rescue (SAR) swimmer and Aviation Warfare Systems Operator with HS-6. In 1997 his Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) package was approved. He would class up with over 200 students in BUD/S class 215, and go on to complete the training as 1 of 23 originals.

As a Seal, he served with SEAL Team 3, Naval Special Warfare Group One (NSWG-1) Training Detachment sniper cell, and completed his last tour at the Naval Special Warfare Center (NSWC) sniper manager. As the Navy SEAL Sniper Course Manager, he developed



Brandon Webb Addresses Conferees at Ventura Aviation Event

new curricula and trained snipers, including Chris Kyle.

Through his career, Brandon completed four deployments to the Middle East, one to Afghanistan and would later go back to Iraq in 2006-7 as a paramilitary contractor. His

proudest accomplishment in the military was working as the SEAL sniper course manager, a schoolhouse that has produced some of the deadliest snipers in US military history.

Brandon Webbs website is www.brandontylerwebb.com **JOSEPH ALBA**

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Edward Trippe, Juan Trippe's son, and head of the Pan Am Foundation cuts the ribbon formally opening the Pan Am Exhibit at the Cradle of Aviation Museum. He was also inducted into the Cradle of Aviation's Hall of Fame this year. Along with Mr. Trippe are Joanne Swift, and Linda Freire, Co-Chairs with the Pan Am Museum Foundation

Cradle of Aviation Museum Hosts Pan Am Gala

On December 3, 2016 at the Cradle of Aviation in Garden City NY, the Pan Am Museum Foundation opened its first of four exhibits featuring the 314 Flying Boat. This legendary and versatile aircraft pioneered trans-oceanic flying and was later a workhorse in the military service during World War II.

An Inaugural Clipper black tie Gala took place later that evening, starting with a cocktail reception, silent auction, and ribbon cutting followed by dinner, a uniform fashion revue, a tribute to Pan Am honorees and dancing.

The Emcee, Phillip P. Keene, is well known actor and former Pan Am Steward. Honorees included Mary Higgins Clark, world famous author and Pan Am Stewardess. Trenton Fleming, well known Passenger Service Manager, par excellence, at Pan Am JFK from 1961-1991, and Delores Hoffman, Program Manager of ASDO and the first licensed female forklift operator at JFK for Pan Am.

The other two honorees, both authors, were Pan Am employees with a long history in aviation, Ronald Marasco, whose lasting legacy at Pan Am was heading up the Boeing 747 Program, from inception to scheduled service, and Captain John A. Marshall, whose long career with Pan Am included being Captain on the 707, L-1011 and 747 aircraft.

The evening was a wildly successful due to the many volunteers and members of the Pan Am Museum Foundation. For more info visit www.thepanamuseum.org

ROBERTA DUNN

Facebook's Virtual Reality Road Show at Terminal 8

A new virtual reality pop up has arrived at JFK International Airport that offers an introduction to virtual reality for travelers through Terminal 8.

American Airlines and Westfield are taking part in Facebook's Virtual Reality Roadshow, a 28-city tour that brings an immersive virtual reality experience with Samsung's Gear VR, powered by Oculus.

The pop up, which will remain in the terminal – post-security – until Jan. 27, is perfect for those who have never tried out the technology before. Travelers are transported

through a series of scenes like meeting a dinosaur up close and getting dunked on by LeBron James. “Travelers are having an absolute blast participating in such a fascinating and enjoyable virtual reality experience,” said Mike McKanna, Managing Director, American Airlines. “We’re always on the lookout for new ways to entertain travelers, and taking part in Facebook’s virtual reality tour was too good to pass up.”

“This is such a cool way to engage travelers and have some fun with technology,” said Dominic Lowe, Executive Vice President of Westfield Airports. “Working with American Airlines, we’re tapping into partnerships, brands and retailers that energize travelers by offering new experiences.”

The VR experience is free to try out and available to anyone 13 years of age or older. Travelers leave the activation with a GIF of themselves wearing the headset to share with friends.

The technology was developed in collaboration between Samsung and Oculus, a team at Facebook building entirely new virtual reality products. ■



New App Makes LaGuardia Traffic Bearable

The transformation of LaGuardia Airport is well under way. Nowhere is that more apparent than outside the terminals. There are piles of earth and equipment where there were once roads and parking structures. Traffic is being re-routed on a regular basis to accommodate the roadway work. Getting to LaGuardia Airport has been a lot more complicated for those employees that drive to work. In an effort to help employees plan their shuttle bus ride from the designated parking lots to the terminals, ABM Aviation's LGA General Manager Christopher Wallace in conjunction with the airlines launched a new app last month called NextBus.

Instead of standing out waiting for the shuttle bus in inclement weather, the employees can wait in their car until the bus is coming. The App tells you where the bus is and when it will be back at your stop based on you location. The App will also push alerts to the employees letting them of possible gridlock or construction delays so they can plan extra time to get to work.

The App is available for download through iTunes or Google Play. Visit WWW.NEXTBUS.COM for the app or more information. ■

Stop Title: Marine Air Terminal Bus Stop

Loop 15, 32 min

Last update on 12/16/2016 at 1:34 PM

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JFK AIR CARGO

United Flies Children to “North Pole” to See Santa



A group of children battling cancer, along with their families, went to the North Pole to visit Santa. Well, the fantasy version of the North Pole.

The 34 children undergoing cancer treatment took off from O'Hare International Airport — along with real United Airlines pilots and flight attendants - as part of the annual Operation North Pole event which aims to put some well-deserved smiles on their faces.

The quick trip may have given the older kids a clue, but for those who “believe”, they got to see Santa Claus.

“I’m pretty excited about this,” said Tait Wasser, a United Airlines pilot who volunteered for the assignment.

“It’s really exciting and really cool,” said Ava Lee, who was joined by her mother Esther Lee.

“They include the whole family and all the siblings. We are so thankful and really enjoying this time together,” Esther Lee said.

When they arrived at the “North Pole”, Santa greeted them and they were treated to activities, gifts and time with comfort dogs. “It’s just amazing that we can see Samantha smiling and doing this stuff,” said Mariusz Karas, father of Samantha Karas.

Cal’s Angels partnered with United to find these special passengers. The organization’s president understands what the families are going through after the passing of her step-son.

“They leave with so many material things, but the things that are really going to last are the memories that they will build as an entire family,” said Stacey Sutter, of Cal’s Angels. ■

Showcase Event Highlights Holiday Season for Newark Area Youth

We always hear it, and it is true today as it has always been; the holidays are for the children.

In the spirit of the holidays, Newark Liberty International Airport management and staff hosted a special party for schools from in and around the Newark Airport area.



The terminals at Newark Liberty International Airport were filled with joy this year as schools from surrounding communities came to the airport to spread the holiday cheers. The schools highlighted their students as carolers, dancers, poets, and even a few drama scenes from some of our favorite holiday shows.

Diane Papaiani, General Manager NJ Airports, said “This is a tremendous event where school students from our local communities can showcase their talents and spread the holiday spirit for our traveling passengers during this joyous time of the year.”

The schools were from Toussaint L'Ouverture Marquiese De Lafayette, Whiney Houston Academy, and The Newark School of Arts. Passengers traveling during the holiday season really enjoyed these performances.

YUSIMIL UN

K-9 Piper Keeps Runways at Michigan Airport Clear of Birds



Brian Edwards, Owner, handler, trainer and Piper

Don't blame tarmac delays on the birds at one Michigan airport. This dog is working hard to chase them away. Meet Piper, a Border Collie whose sole job is wildlife patrol along the runway at Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City, Missouri.

K-9 Piper's function is to increase safety by responding directly to reports of wildlife and conducting regular patrols. He spends most of his time chasing birds away from the runways and taxiways. Border Collies are perfect for this type of work because they are natural herders.

K-9 Piper is an 8-year-old, high drive Border Collie who loves to work. His handler, Brian Edwards, has been at the Cherry Capital Airport as an Airport Operations Supervisor since 2008. When they are not working, they are training. They have even won a few 5k obstacle races together!

Piper has been a hit on social media around the country. He started his job in January 2015. He wears mirrored goggles, which are probably part of the coolness factor.

Really, they just protect his eyes. He's also got earmuffs to help with the loud aircraft sound.

“He's very well equipped,” Brian Edwards, airport operations supervisor, told KTLA sister station WXMI in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The pooch is a “wildlife control K-9” and his job is to run after creatures, especially birds, chasing them out of the path of arriving and departing aircraft. Piper loves to chase snowy owls, Edwards said.

Edwards, who adopted the dog in 2012, has embraced social media, showcasing Piper on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and with a website. **BRIAN EDWARDS**



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Spirit Foundation and Fedex Bring Christmas to Fort Hood

It was Christmas trees galore at Fort Hood

Soldiers and their families braced the cold, windy weather for the chance to pick up a free tree and it was all thanks to the Christmas Spirit Foundation and FedEx. The shipping service helped drop off 275 Christmas trees.

Their Trees for Troops program helps give service members real Christmas trees -- just in time for the holiday.

"This is very convenient, too, especially for our families, you know, that don't really have the time to go buy artificial trees. But we always come to this, Trees for Troops. They give us a tree every year that we can't," Specialist Andrew Dejesus said.

Since 2005, FedEx has shipped more than 176,000 real Christmas trees to service members across the world. ■

UPS Chairman Abney Addresses Business Roundtable

CEO David Abney said the U.S. can improve its competitiveness under a Donald Trump administration. Abney also said small and mid-size businesses in the U.S. feel overburdened by regulations.

"And it's not one particular thing," Abney said on "Squawk Box" at the Business Roundtable meeting in Washington. "It can be the cost of health care. It can be tax. It can be the environmental issues. You take all of those issues and you add them together, it can just be overburdening for a smaller company."

He continued: "A company like UPS ... we're going to have the experts that can focus on these regulations and they can focus on the expectations. But it's much harder for our customers of the smaller companies."

Abney said he is optimistic about UPS under a Trump administration. During his campaign, Trump pledged to cut taxes, repair infrastructure and overturn government regulations that he said killed jobs and slowed economic growth.

"Tax reform. You hear about it over and over, but it's very important to us. Obviously investing in infrastructure." Abney said. "When you have 100,000 drivers on the road, that's important to us. Regulations and being able to eliminate some of the unnecessary regulations." ■



Miami Airport Gives Kids A Treat While Traveling

Young passengers at Miami International Airport now have a new interactive play area, where can spend their time and energies before their flights or during long layovers.

Created in collaboration with Miami's Children Museum, the new area, named Plane Fun, features six interactive, immersive and educational exhibits for children to enjoy.

Plane Fun is located after the security checkpoint in Concourse E, near Gate E5. Travelers can also gain access after security in Concourse D, the airport said.

"Plane Fun is the latest way that we're striving to make MIA as customer-friendly as possible for passengers of all ages," said Miami-Dade Aviation Director Emilio T. González. "Keeping children happy during long trips can be a challenge. Plane Fun takes some pressure off of the adults and gives their children a healthy recreational activity without leaving the airport."

Plane Fun's exhibits include the Control Tower, where kids can pretend to be virtual air traffic controllers by listening to real conversations between the tower and airplane pilots, and viewing video of arriving aircraft.

The Toddler Play Space contains a sit-in airplane, crawl-through fuselage tunnel and other tactile-learning activities for the smallest aviators. Also, older children can Learn to Fly by taking the controls of a remote-controlled plane and practice landings and takeoffs, or tour Miami by sitting inside the cockpit of a model airplane as they Clear for Takeoff.

Simulated hot air balloon rides are available in the I Spy Miami from the Sky exhibit, and Last but not least, Plane Fun participants can take a photo selfie in front of unique aircraft on a five-foot-tall touch screen monitor and email themselves a lasting memory at Plane Crazy. ■

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IAG Cargo Launches New Paris to New York Route Through Open Skies

IAG Cargo has launched the start of a new Paris Only to Newark New Jersey route, its first ever direct cargo route between France and the USA.



The service is expected to appeal to French forwarders looking to access the US market through a more local hub. The route will be served by a wide bodied Open Skies B767-200 aircraft and will operate four times a week. It is anticipated that fashion and textiles, perishables and spare machinery parts will make up a significant proportion of the commodity mix. Express products will be shipped under IAG Cargo's Prioritize offering while must travel emergency shipments will travel under the carrier's newly launched Critical product.

IAG Cargo's premium product portfolio benefits the wide range of businesses operating across multiple industries wishing to ship goods to the US. The new route complements the carrier's existing operation into the US which comprises 22 gateways and over 800 flights per week into North America. In total IAG Cargo offers businesses access to a network of more than 350 destinations. ■

ATA's Spear Tells Congress of Trucking's Commitment to Security

In testimony before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation's Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, American Trucking Associations President and CEO Chris Spear underscored the trucking industry's commitment to keeping the supply chain efficient and secure.

"ATA places great emphasis on security," Spear said in his testimony. "Our focus is on strengthening transportation security without undermining economic security."

In his testimony, Spear said the trucking industry continues to be frustrated by the redundancy in the number of background checks that drivers must endure, and that the Transportation Worker Identification Card, or TWIC should be the single standard for the transportation industry.

"Adopting a 'one credential or screening, many uses' policy would fix this problem. Absent this policy, ATA's highest security priority will continue to be the multiplicity of background checks and their associated costs and burdens," he said. "This is why ATA supports the TWIC as the potential single credential and Security Threat Assessment that, in turn, can demonstrate and provide compliance with multiple programs and regulations."

The reforms necessary to fully unlock the TWIC's potential are part of the Surface Transportation and Maritime Security Act, which ATA supports.

Spear also said ATA was mindful and ready to work to ensure that as autonomous vehicle technology advances, proper cybersecurity safeguards are in place. ■

Boeing and Iran Air Have Reached Agreement Over An Order For 80 Aircraft

The Tehran-based carrier has signed a contract for 50 737 MAX 8s, 15 777-300ERs and 15 777-9s, valued at \$16.6-billion at list prices. The deal is based on a memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed in June and was reached within the terms of the US Government license issued to Boeing in September. In a statement the manufacturer said it "coordinated closely with the US Government throughout the process leading up to the sale and continues to follow all license requirements as it moves forward to implement the sales agreement". ■



Pigs Taking Jobs Away From Dogs?

I haven't seen any Labrador retrievers with signs proclaiming, "Save our Jobs", however, a new trend in airport greeting has pigs doing the long-held job of our canine friends. Now we have two airports using these highly intelligent animals to welcome passengers.



Bacon Bits

A pig has joined the ranks of the animal ambassadors greeting passengers at New York's Albany International Airport. November 30th was the first day on the job for Bacon Bits, a 20-month old potbelly pig who prances around the passenger with a practical purpose.

"He brings smiles to everybody's faces," says Terry Hutchison, Bacon Bits' owner. Hutchison says she knew right away when she purchased her pet porker that pleasing airline passengers would be a perfect placement for him.

"We started talking him to the nursing home just to watch him interact with folks," she recalls, "it's just unbelievable, it's heart melting."

I wonder is Ms. Hutchison has mixed feelings about naming her pet after a product used after the pig has well; you know been dispatched to pig-heaven.

And then we have LiLou; the therapy pig joins SFO's Wag Brigade. Eat your heart out Miss Piggy, Babe and Peppa Pig, there's a new girl in town, San Francisco International Airport's new therapy pig, LiLou!

LiLou, a Juliana-breed pig, is now a certified member of the airport's Wag Brigade of pets and promises to surprise and delight guests at SFO with her winning personality, charming costumes, and painted nails.

She becomes the first known therapy pig in the US after being approved by SPCA's Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) program. According to the airport, she loves performing tricks for her audience, and also visits several other facilities in San Francisco including senior centers and hospitals.

Launched in December 2013, the SFO Wag Brigade brings trained animals to the airport terminals to make passenger travel more enjoyable. **JOSEPH ALBA**



LiLou

Atlas to Operate Nippon Cargo 747-400 Freighters

Purchase, New York-based air cargo operator Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings has contracted with Japan's Nippon Cargo Airlines (NCA) to operate a Boeing 747-400 freighter for the Narita International Airport-based cargo carrier, the two companies announced Dec. 1.

Atlas Air said the agreement is initially for one aircraft to be flown on transpacific routes connecting Asia and the US; service is scheduled to begin in January 2017. Additional aircraft may be added to the agreement in the future, Atlas Air said.

"We look forward to providing [NCA] and its customers with [our] service and a platform for future expansion," Atlas Air president and CEO William Flynn said.

"[As we] begin this strategic arrangement with Atlas Air ... we look forward to having a long, mutually beneficial relationship," NCA president and CEO Fukashi Sakamoto said.

Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings is the parent company of Atlas Air, Southern Air Holdings and Titan Aviation Holdings, and is the majority shareholder of Polar Air Cargo Worldwide, Inc.

Nippon Cargo operates a fleet of eight Boeing 747-8F and five 747-400F aircraft; the airline operated 684 flights in October 2016. From its hubs in Tokyo, Osaka and Kitakyushu, NCA flies directly to Amsterdam, Milan, Shanghai, Taipei, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Anchorage, San Francisco and Los Angeles, with connections to Frankfurt, New York JFK, Chicago O'Hare and Dallas/Fort Worth. ■

Alha Group Ships Horses From Milan to Qatar

ALHA Group, the Italian handler, has helped with the movement of 30 horses from Milan-Malpensa Airport (MXP) to Doha, its first such shipment since the reopening of the MXP Equine Handling Centre, the dedicated facility operated by ALHA Airport in Malpensa Cargo City.

The 30 horses flew out of Milan-Malpensa destined for Doha, Qatar, on 18 November aboard an Etihad Cargo freighter. The Equine Handling Centre has direct access to the apron and the infrastructure for veterinary support as well as relevant health and sanitation equipment.

The reopening of the Center is said by ALHA to provide “added value to the already complete range of handling cargo services offered in Malpensa”.



Alessandro Capella, ALHA Group general manager, explained: “This reopening is for ALHA a moment of pride, both at national and international level.

Also in November, Etihad Cargo, the freight division of UAE flag-carrier Etihad Airways, flew a total of 72 racehorses on a single flight between London and Kuwait. Flying out of the UK at the end of the European racing season, the horses were flown to the warmer climes of the Middle East, where they are to spend the winter training and in further racing.

ALHA GROUP: the first horse transportation has been successfully completed after the relaunch of the equine handling center in Malpensa. ■

SAS Ponders Overseas Bases As Part of Structural Changes

SAS is to evaluate establishing airline operations outside of Scandinavia, as it considers a range of structural measures to tackle competitive disadvantages versus lower-cost rivals.

The Scandinavian carrier has disclosed it made a pre-tax profit before one-off costs of SKr941 million (\$103 million) at the end of the fiscal year. This was down on the SKr1.17 billion posted in the previous year, though pre-tax profits were roughly on a par with 2014-15, and its net profit improved by SKr365 million to SKr1.32 billion.

But the Star Alliance carrier pointed to a toughening market climate – both through higher costs and lower yields. While the airline still expects to be profitable for its coming financial year as a whole, it has warned that first-quarter earnings will be significantly lower than the previous year. The airline more than halved its pre-tax loss to SKr309 million last year.

“The deterioration in market conditions – together with maturing borrowings and the aircraft financing need – all underline the importance of maintaining a high and ambitious

pace of change,” states SAS chief executive Rickard Gustafson.

The airline will almost double to SKr1.5 billion its efficiency enhancements target for the period 2017-19. It says it has identified additional opportunities for these savings, covering a range of initiatives in flight operations, ground handling, maintenance and administration.

“However, we need to do more,” says Gustafson. “We are therefore planning further structural actions.” “To leverage the market potential, we have to create the conditions to compete on equal terms with our competitors,” the airline says. “Therefore, we are considering changing the focus for parts of our production by establishing airline operations based outside of Scandinavia.”

Notably, rival Nordic carrier Norwegian has established bases and operations outside of Scandinavia, and recently secured US approval – after much opposition from US carriers and unions – for its controversial application to operate transatlantic services through its Irish subsidiary Norwegian Air International. ■

Elaine Chao to Oversee Transportation Departments



Elaine Chao

The federal Transportation Department, which oversees the FAA and air traffic control, will be headed by Elaine Chao when the Trump administration takes office.

Chao is a former labor secretary and also is married to Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell. The post is currently filled by Anthony Foxx, who has served since 2013. The DOT has a budget of more than \$70 billion and employs more than 55,000 workers. The agency oversees all air, maritime and surface transportation in the U.S.

Chao previously served as the deputy secretary of transportation from 1989 to 1991, and as secretary of labor from 2001 to 2009. Most recently she has held a position as a distinguished fellow at the Hudson Institute. Earlier in her career, Chao also worked for United Way and the Peace Corps, and earned an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School.

Trump’s ambitious infrastructure plan makes this a particularly important cabinet pick, as Chao would be charged with implementing much of the \$1 trillion proposal if it were to get through Congress.

It’s not clear what her feelings on electric and autonomous vehicles are, or other issues that might face the Department of Transportation over the next four years, but much of Chao’s work at the Heritage Foundation think tank in post-Bush years has focused on jobs and growth.

Chao has a longtime connection with transportation, working as deputy administrator of the Maritime Administration during the Reagan presidency, then as chairwoman of the Federal Maritime Commission from 1988 to 1989. Her father was a merchant mariner and founded a successful shipping company.

She was born in Taiwan and was the first Asian-American woman and the first Taiwanese-American to serve in a presidential cabinet. She is also the wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). In a surprising footnote, Secretary Chao is the second woman (after Elizabeth Dole) to hold the offices of secretary of labor and secretary of transportation, and whose spouse has been Senate majority leader. ■



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JetBlue Increase New York Flights to Bermuda

JetBlue is “increasing its commitment to Bermuda” with additional direct flights from New York and Boston boosting the number of available seats by about 70,000 per year.

The airline announced two additional year-round daily flights and a third summer seasonal round-trip flight between its northeast “focus cities”.



JetBlue will operate all Bermuda routes using its 150-seat Airbus A320, which will replace the 100-seat craft.

Senator Michael Fahy, the tourism minister, told a press conference: “This announcement will provide further opportunities for our east coast guests to visit our shores and help meet the increasing demand for seats. This has been a very positive year for tourism in Bermuda and I am thrilled for 2016 to conclude on such an encouraging note.”

From May 18, JetBlue will operate daily year-round flights between New York’s JFK International Airport and Bermuda’s L.F. Wade International Airport with an evening departure from New York and a morning departure from Bermuda. ■

How United Airlines Stepped Up Big Time To Help Stranded Young Tap Dancers

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of United Airlines employees in multiple markets, 82 young American tap dancers and their chaperones managed to get to Germany for a major tap dance competition late last month.

But most in the group presumed all was lost when a Lufthansa Airlines strike suddenly left the tap group stranded in Boston over the busy Thanksgiving travel period with no apparent option to get to Germany in time for the competition.

A sympathetic United flight attendant Jordan Bacon was the first United employee to learn of the tap group’s predicament. He alerted United operations control center, which set a series of events in motion.

First United’s customer care unit greenlighted the creation of what in airline parlance is known as an “extra section”. In plain English that meant the tappers were put on a special flight to get the entire tap contingent — more than 190 people altogether — from Boston to United’s largest hub at Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport.

From there, United management made the decision to route the stranded tappers through the airline’s hub at Dulles International Airport outside Washington, D.C., where the tap group finally boarded a plane bound for Frankfurt, Germany.

Noted Paul Arthur, United’s airport operations supervisor in Boston: “We did whatever it took to get them to their destination. The kids and their parents were a little panicked, but they were all very patient and well-mannered. Everyone did a great job in the midst of the holiday traffic to make it happen.”

Of course, it hasn’t always been the case for other passengers stranded due to cancelled flights or weather or other issues that can affect air travel in a heartbeat these days. But this tap dance saga clearly suggests what United can do when it makes a really special effort. ■

ICAO Ambassador Lawson Addresses Vaughn Students

International Civil Aviation Organization Ambassador Michael Lawson was a guest speaker at Vaughn College on Tuesday, December 13. An invited guest of the College’s management department, Lawson spoke about the function of ICAO, its history and his career track in a fast-moving industry.

“This profession is unlike any other out there,” said Lawson. “This industry takes another approach to safety and has no tolerance for not addressing issues, focusing on finding out what happened to cause an accident and identifying how we can prevent it from happening again to save lives.” ■



Michael Lawson, US Ambassador, International Civil Aviation Organization speaks to Vaughn College students.

New Airport Operations Agents Graduate From Vaughn College

On December 13, 2016, the Port Authority’s Aviation Department graduated 11 new Airport Operations Agents (AOAs) upon their completion of a four-week course at the Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology.

This course was the successful result of a first-time partnership between the Aviation Department, Vaughn College, the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), and the TWU to provide our incoming AOAs with top-notch classroom and hands-on instruction to prepare them for this critical position in airside operations at our three major airports.

The graduation ceremony included a presentation of certificates to the graduates by Vaughn College President Sharon DeVivo, Aviation Director Huntley Lawrence, AAAE President and CEO Todd Hauptli, JFK General Manager Michael Moran, and the course’s instructor, retired Aviation Assistant Chief Operations Supervisor Peter Florio. Also in attendance at the ceremony were FAA Deputy Administrator for the Eastern Region Maria Stanco and US Ambassador to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Michael Lawson.

The Aviation Department would like to extend its gratitude to Teakoe Coleman, AAAE Vice President of Training and Business



Development for his support in fostering this partnership and making it a success. The coordination at Vaughn College by Dr. Maxine Lubner, Professor and Chair of the Management Department, and Ernie Shepelsky, Vice President of Enrollment Services, ensured that the students were well-equipped, comfortable, and had the support and services they needed to complete the course. Finally, our sincere thank you to Peter Florio, who utilized his decades of aeronautical experience to

prepare these individuals to operate safely and successfully on the airfield as AOAs. The graduates expressed their gratitude to him throughout the ceremony and acknowledged him with a standing ovation at the end of the ceremony.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue this partnership as we bring in the next class of AOAs, who are scheduled to start their course at Vaughn College on February 14, 2017. ■

Air France-KLM Cargo Announces Cargo Chief



Marcel de Nooijer has been appointed executive vice president Air France-KLM Cargo. He will join the Air France-KLM Group Executive Committee.

De Nooijer replaces Bram Gräber, who stepped down as executive vice president of the airlines' joint cargo arm in June 2016. De Nooijer, aged 48, holds a business administration and management degree from the Erasmus University (Rotterdam) and a Master of Science in Geology from the Utrecht University. He joined KLM in 1995 and has gained commercial and operational experience working in various positions at Dutch carrier KLM, and its cargo division, as well as at Air France-KLM.

Marcel de Nooijer

He has been general manager South East Asia & South West Pacific of KLM from 2000 to 2003, vice president EMEA KLM Cargo from 2003 to 2006, vice president Europe Air France-KLM Cargo from 2006 to 2009. He took the position of vice president commercial Europe & North Africa Air France-KLM, from 2009 to 2012.

De Nooijer was appointed as managing director at Martinair Holland and member of the executive committee of KLM in 2013. Since November 2013, he has held the post of executive vice president KLM Cargo. ■

Fedex CEO: Trump Should Reform, Not Reject Trade Agreements

FedEx Express Chairman and CEO Fred Smith said President-elect Donald Trump should seek changes in the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP) negotiated among the U.S. and eleven other countries, rather than outright reject it.



Fred Smith

"We urge the Trump administration to put its stamp on a revised TPP by addressing any concerns it sees, and making any additional improvements to promote trade, rather than restrict it," he said during a speech last week before the U.S. Council on Competitiveness' National Competitiveness Forum.

Similarly, he advised that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Mexico and Canada be updated and strengthened. Withdrawal from the agreement "would have massive economic repercussions," Smith said. Global trade is a path to jobs and economic growth, Smith contended.

"Trade has made America great, and expanding trade has been a bi-partisan pursuit for over 80 years," he said. The failure to continue to do so would be a severe mistake with enormous consequences for America and the world."

FedEx said that according to the Department of Commerce, the 20 countries that the U.S. has free trade agreements with buy nearly half of the nation's exports. "The U.S. enjoys a surplus with those trading partners in manufacturing, and has global surpluses in services and agriculture," Smith said. ■

The Breitling DC-3 Circles The Globe



From March to September 2017, the Breitling DC-3 will be doing a grand world tour in several stages, an amazing accomplishment for this legendary plane that will be celebrating its 77th birthday. The crew will not be alone in flying from one continent to the other, since a 500-piece Navitimer limited edition will also be on-board throughout the journey.

A privileged partner in the con-

quest of the skies, Breitling demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding the aeronautical heritage by supporting the restoration of legendary aircraft – such as the Lockheed Super Constellation and the Douglas DC-3. This twin-engine propeller plane launched in 1935 revolutionized air travel. Nicknamed the "Normandy landings plane", it enjoyed its moment of fame in June 1944. More than 16,000 were built and most major airlines acquired them as part of their fleet.

Today there are less than 150 DC-3 aircraft in flightworthy condition worldwide, including the Breitling DC-3. This DC-3 HB-IRJ was delivered to American Airlines in 1940 and first used by the American military between 1942 and 1944, before resuming service on behalf of various commercial airlines.

Restored by a group of dedicated enthusiasts, it now flies under Breitling colors and participates in a variety of airshows.

In 2017, Breitling will launch its DC-3 on a major round-the-world tour in several stages that will notably encompass the Middle East, India, South-East Asia, North America and Europe. This World Tour will begin and end in Switzerland, starting from Geneva in March and winding up in September at the Breitling Sion Airshow 2017. It will be punctuated by numerous stopovers providing opportunities to organize events and take part in air shows. Certain privileged passengers will be welcomed aboard for certain stretches.

Breitling has also chosen to mark the event by introducing a 500-piece limited edition of its famous Navitimer aviation chronograph. This steel Navitimer 01 (46 mm), powered by Manufacture Breitling Caliber 01, will notably be distinguished by its caseback engraved with the Breitling DC-3 World Tour logo.

In launching this Breitling DC-3 World Tour, Breitling once again displays its determination to share its passion for aviation with a broad audience. See you in March 2017 for the great takeoff. ■

Southwest to Carry Cargo On International Flights

For a carrier that flies only 737 narrow-body passenger aircraft, Dallas-based Southwest Airlines carries a substantial amount of freight throughout its domestic network – some 98,400 tons in 2015. Despite various interline agreements with international carriers, Southwest still lacks the ability to carry cargo to any of the international destinations in its network. Next year this will begin to change.

Wally Devereaux, Southwest's senior director, cargo and charters, told Air Cargo World that, in 2017, the airline will unveil a new point-of-sale and back-office IT system that will enable the carrier to make international freight bookings for the first time.

In 2011, when Southwest Airlines acquired Orlando-based AirTran Airways, it picked-up eighty-eight 717s and access to seven new international cities, giving Southwest's network a strong boost in Latin America. Although the integration was more or less finished on the passenger side by the close of 2014, and the former AirTran 717s were slowly transferred to Delta Air Lines,

Southwest has yet to carry cargo on its international routes. Even today, "we are still not able to put cargo on those international flights," Devereaux said. "And that is certainly something we

wanted to be able to do – to be able to grow [cargo], as Southwest Airlines grows, beyond the United States."

Speaking of schedule redundancies, during e-commerce panel discussions at recent air freight industry conferences, panelists have said Southwest's unique cargo network could be adapted to handle express packages. (Perhaps even similar to 12Send, a recent partnership between Schiphol Airport, KLM and Parcel International). Devereaux said Southwest was already engaged in e-freight shipments, as some of its customers, "are large players in the e-commerce space and are able to leverage our space and frequencies."

Moving into 2017, Southwest plans to replace its some of its aging 737-300s with new -800s and MAX variants. ■



Innovation In Shipping Wood Pellets



The Enviva wood pellet domes at the Port of Wilmington are operational and loading the first export shipments to Europe.

The Enviva terminal, which includes two storage domes that can hold up to 45,000 metric tons of wood pellets each, is estimated to have a total impact on the local economy of more than \$16 million per year and ship more than 1 million tons of pellets annually. “The Port of Wilmington is a key nexus for global commerce and an economic engine for the state of North Carolina,” said Enviva CEO John Keppler. “We are excited to be an important part of the port’s ever-increasing volume of trade.”

Wood pellets can be delivered to the Port of Wilmington by both truck and rail. The rail link has the capacity to handle approximately 50 percent of the total volume with the remainder of the product arriving by truck.

“The Enviva domes are an important part of our ports modernization plan,” said North Carolina Ports Executive Director, Paul J. Cozza. “This project will increase bulk exports, thus expanding the business of our general terminals which is a vital portion of our strategic plan.”

With facilities that include the terminal at the Port of Wilmington and the Enviva wood pellet production facility in Sampson County, Enviva employs over 100 people in the Cape Fear Region and anticipates an annual economic impact of approximately \$160 million. The company has signed a 21-year lease with two five-year renewal options with North Carolina Ports.

In addition to Enviva, another public-private partnership, the Port of Wilmington Cold Storage Facility (PWCS) recently started its operation at the Port of Wilmington. PWCS is a 101,000 square foot refrigerated warehouse used to maintain specific temperatures for the storage of perishable goods, such as fruits, vegetables and proteins. The warehouse is located within the gates at the Port of Wilmington and is not only the first on-port cold storage facility in North Carolina, but one of a select few such facilities in the entire nation. ■

Norwegian Air Gets OK for US Service

Norwegian Air’s Irish subsidiary has chosen Stewart International Airport near Newburgh as their New York state base.

The low-cost carrier explained they will be using Boeing 737s for their non-stop flights from Ireland, a single aisle aircraft that carries 150 fewer passengers than the Boeing 787 Dreamliner that they will continue to use on other routes to Logan airport.

“To operate the Boeing 737s ... from a primary airport becomes much more expensive with a small aircraft type than a larger aircraft type due to limited passenger numbers,” stated Norwegian spokesman Anders Lindstrom.

U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow issued the following statement on the Obama administration’s long-awaited decision to allow flights by low-cost carrier Norwegian Air International into U.S. cities:

“The American travel community is ecstatic at the decision by the Obama administration to allow new service to U.S. cities by Norwegian Air International. If ever there were a trade policy that brings jobs to U.S. soil, this is it: NAI is flying and will buy more America-made planes, their passengers will spend money in American businesses, and American travelers will have more and cheaper options when they fly. This announcement is an unmistakable endorsement of competition, connectivity and Open Skies agreements, and a welcome repudiation of protectionist, anti-competitive policymaking.”

This is for real,” Orange County (N.Y.) Executive Steve Neuhaus says to the local Times Herald-Record newspaper about the development for the airport in his county. “The county has been working with the Port Authority on this for six, nine months – it’s got a lot of moving parts – and we’re very confident we’re finally going to see the ‘international’ in Stewart International Airport.”

Neuhaus said he expects the airline to launch 21 flights a week from Newburgh to destinations in England, Scotland, Ireland and Norway.

“These are the routes that will launch with \$69 fares and have average return fares of \$300 (to) \$350, including taxes. In order to operate such flights profitably, they need to be served by medium-sized/smaller airports within the Greater Boston and NYC areas.” ■



Port of Long Beach Releases On-Dock Rail Facility Draft Environmental Study

To our readers: Although this topic is not strictly air cargo, it demonstrates a fast-growing trend in domestic air, rail and ocean terminals to re-build their terminal traffic flow and combine their infrastructure in order to make transfer of cargo from one shipping mode to another faster, less bureaucratic and probably cheaper. Anyone who wishes to submit an article on this subject is welcome to do so, or simply send us an email and give us your opinion regarding the feasibility of doing this at one of our facilities. The Editor

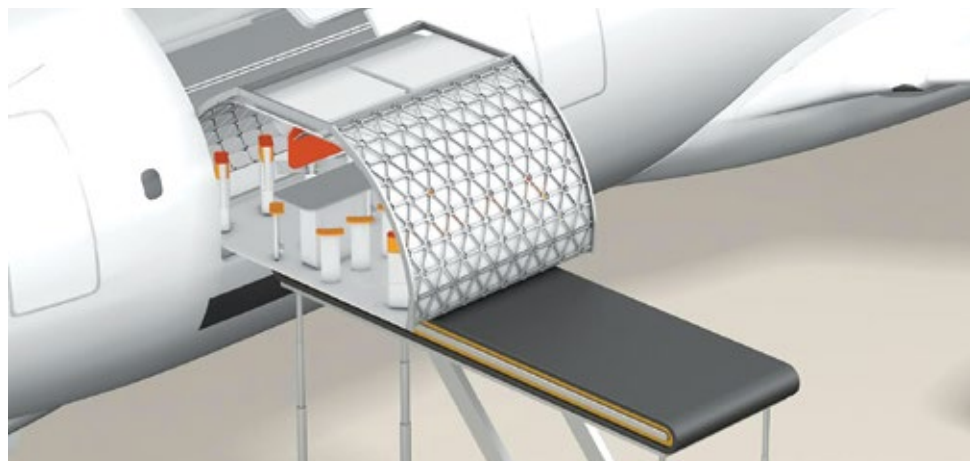
The Port of Long Beach released a draft environmental study on a proposal to redevelop a rail yard to allow for the assembly of longer trains within the Harbor District, moving cargo faster while making operations more sustainable. The proposed Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility would shift more cargo to “on-dock rail,” where containers are placed directly on trains at marine terminals. No trucks would visit the facility.

The rail yard would be operated by Pacific Harbor Line, a switching railroad that has converted its fleet to clean diesel locomotives that reduce air pollution and save fuel. The proposed development would enhance the efficiency of goods movement at the Port of Long Beach,” said Interim Chief Executive Duane Kenagy. “This project is vital to our efforts to modernize the Port and continue to lead the way in environmental sustainability.”

The Port has prepared a draft environmental impact report (DEIR) analyzing the impacts of the proposed development, and the mitigation measures that would be used to address those impacts. The Port welcomes comment on the study through Feb. 13, 2017.

The document is available at: www.polb.com/ceqa ■





Airbus To Test Flexible Architecture In Cabins

Would passengers select one airline over another if they could dine inflight in a brand-name restaurant or meet with co-workers in a Starbucks? Would businesses partner with airlines to put their gym or spa on the aircraft? Would advertisers pay to brand a novel passenger experience? Airbus aims to find out.

Through its Silicon Valley outpost A3, Airbus plans to develop and flight-test a cabin architecture that allows aircraft interiors to be rapidly and flexibly configured using modules that are pre-equipped by airlines or partners with options ranging from sleeping bunks to a soundproof playroom.

A3's Transpose concept is aimed initially at equipping widebody freighters with modular interiors as they come off the assembly line but, if the idea catches on with passengers and airlines, future aircraft could have the reconfigurability designed in, says project executive Jason Chua. ■

Finding Homes for Dogs – Mission of American Airlines Companion Animals Team



From Texas to the East Coast, dozens of dogs in need will be finding new homes this holiday season thanks to Society for Companion Animals, a Dallas-based non-profit, and the American Airlines Cargo team.

Society for Companion Animals transported a record-breaking 61 dogs in two days, each rescued from streets and shelters. The dogs flew to their forever homes via 19 American Airlines flights. Each pet, wearing a sweater of its own, traveled from DFW to New York (LGA), Philadelphia (PHL) and New Jersey (EWR).

“Our team puts in a lot of effort to ensure these animals receive the same level of attention and care a human passenger would,” said Chuck O’Connell, manager – Cargo Services, DFW. “And

it’s all worth it knowing each will make it safely to a new home for the holidays.”

The dogs were transported to their flights from the American Airlines Cargo Priority Parcel Service (PPS) Center at DFW.

“The customer service and care that American Airlines Cargo has for our rescue dogs is heartwarming,” said Tawana Couch, president of Society for Companion Animals. “Every dog is treated exceedingly well and looked after during the process of traveling to his or her forever home. These rescue dogs really feel loved by the American Airlines Cargo workers who oversee their flights.” ■

VOLUNTEER

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5:00PM - 8:00PM	

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Pharma Focus Nurses Air Cargo Recovery

Growth in air cargo pharmaceutical traffic is driven largely by shippers switching from the use of general cargo to more specialized freight products.

Speaking at *Air Cargo News*' Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical conference, Seabury Group commercial director Dirk de Rooij said that the pharmaceutical industry was growing by around 4%-5% per annum while airlines were seeing pharma growth rates of up to 30%. He said the difference between air cargo growth for the traffic type and the pharmaceutical sector was down to the fact that shippers were increasingly switching to specialist products from airlines rather than just shipping medical goods as general cargo.

De Rooij said that one of the reasons for the switch to specialized pharma products was a regulatory drive from authorities to improve supply chains for medical products through programs like the European Union's Good Distribution Practice (GDP).

“There has been a shift away from general cargo, although as we know from other conferences certain shippers still decide to ship as a general cargo service, they data log it and they take that as a risk analysis in their own work,” he said. ■



Seabury Group commercial director Dirk de Rooij Speaking at *Air Cargo News* Life Science Conference

AIR FREIGHTER DATA DASHBOARD

If you want to analyze air cargo traffic by region, check out Air Freight Dashboard, a service of *Air Cargo News*. –The Editor www.aircargonews.net/data-hub/data-dashboards.html



Bombardier Delivers First CS300

Bombardier has delivered the first CS300 aircraft to Latvia's airBaltic.

The CS300, the first of an order for 20 from the Latvian flag carrier, was handed over at Bombardier's Montreal plant in Canada.

"We are thrilled to be taking home the first CS300 aircraft," airBaltic chief executive Martin Gauss said. It will "enable airBaltic to open new routes and connect people all across Europe," he added.

The CS300 is the larger of the two CSeries aircraft from Bombardier. airBaltic will operate it in an all-economy configuration with 148 seats. Its first commercial flight is scheduled for December 14, from Riga to Amsterdam. ■

FAA Adopting ICAO Flight Plan Format

In a press release, the FAA has announced it is adopting the ICAO format for domestic flight plans starting sometime early this year, likely by the end of January. What this means is that an airline will need to provide additional information when filing flight plans, using the format previously used for international flights. Pilots are encouraged to use the ICAO format for all flights now to ensure a smooth transition once the domestic flight plan format is eliminated.

There are many similarities between the former domestic FAA flight plan format and ICAO. However, when it comes to aircraft equipment suffixes, there are some major differences. The ICAO format requires a wake turbulence category based on the aircraft. ICAO also has more specific coding for transponder equipment, which specifies ADS-B Out and In, for example, and avionics installations, which includes several additional codes for avionics capabilities such as LPV approaches. The more detailed codes can be included to provide more information for ATC, but they are not required. The ICAO format also includes codes for emergency equipment, which will be helpful in search and rescue situations.

Another major difference with the new flight plan form is the format for the departure or destination airport if the airport identifier is not in the standard four-letter format. If one of your planned airports does not have a four-letter code, you need to enter ZZZZ in the departure or destination section of ICAO form and specify the identifier in Field 18 of the form.

The switch was originally set to take effect in October of last year, but aviation advocate groups convinced the FAA to delay the transition. In addition to providing pilots and flight plan provider services more time to get used to the format, the training course required for the SFAR area in Washington, D.C., needed to be revised based on the new ICAO format. ■

FAA Promotes Drone Safety Video

Drones are proliferating in our skies, and the holiday season is sure to bring thousands of new users outside to try their skills. To reach out to those beginners, the FAA has created a new video that explains the rules and regulations drone pilots are required to follow. The new video also explains how users can download the FAA's free B4UFLY smartphone app, which provides the latest information about airspace restrictions that might affect drone flyers.

The FAA has been working on many fronts to keep drones safe and separated from manned aircraft — an effort that seems to be working, so far, since verified reports of conflict have been rare. Drones have proved popular with hobbyists and photographers, and sales already have doubled from last year, according to the recode website.

DJI has retained leadership of the market, with about 70 percent of sales, according to recode, and its new Mavic model, which folds up to a portable size and offers lots of advanced features, has plenty of orders. GoPro, Parrot and Yuneec also have popular models, though GoPro's new design, Karma, was recalled due to performance failures. Camera-capable drones are selling for about \$100 up to \$1,000. **MARY GRADY, AV WEB**

Watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/W0dogXd89fs>

Department of Transportation Levies Hazmat Fines

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposes civil penalties ranging from \$57,400 to \$72,000 against three companies for allegedly violating the Hazardous Materials Regulations.

The cases are as follows:

- **\$72,000 against Posan Industry Co. Ltd., of Goyang City, South Korea**



The FAA alleges that on Sept. 15, 2014, Posan offered to DHL Express a shipment containing flammable solvents, paint, resins and naphthenates for air transportation to Ontario, Canada.

On Sept. 19, 2014, workers at the DHL package sorting facility in Erlanger, Ky., discovered the shipment was leaking.

The FAA alleges Posan failed to use proper packaging for the shipment; properly mark and label it; and provide shipping papers indicating the amount, type and hazardous nature of the material inside. The FAA also alleges that the company did not provide required emergency response information with the shipment and failed to ensure the person who prepared it had received required hazardous materials training.

Posan has been in communication with the FAA about the case.

- **\$63,000 civil penalty against Power Distributors of Columbus, Ohio.**



The FAA alleges that on June 7, 2016, Power Distributors offered UPS a shipment containing two 32-ounce plastic containers of corrosive wood cleaner for air transportation from Pendergrass, Ga., to

Martin, Tenn. Workers at the UPS package sorting facility in Louisville, Ky., discovered both bottles leaking.

The FAA alleges the package was not properly marked, labeled, packaged or accompanied by shipping papers indicating the amount, type and hazardous nature of the material inside. The agency also alleges the company did not provide required emergency response information with the shipment and failed to ensure its employees had received hazardous materials training.

Power Distributors is scheduled to meet with the FAA in early January to discuss the case.

- **\$57,400 against Consolidated Container Company, LLC, of Atlanta, Ga.**



The FAA alleges that on Aug. 13, 2015, Consolidated Container offered a box containing four one-gallon plastic containers of flammable liquid xylenes to FedEx for air transportation from Katy, Texas, to Dallas, Texas. Two of the containers leaked during transit.

The FAA alleges the shipment was not accompanied by a shipper's declaration of dangerous goods and was not properly classed, described, packaged, marked, labeled or in a condition for shipment.

Additionally, the agency alleges Consolidated Container failed to provide emergency response information with the shipment and failed to ensure its employees had received required hazardous materials training.

Consolidated Container is scheduled to meet with the FAA in late January to discuss the case. ■

Brazil to Announce Streamlined Regulation Package for Airlines

Recognizes how over-regulation is crippling aviation industry

It seems the United States is not the only country struggling through volumes of new transportation regulations.

Brazil is expected to announce details next week of an act that will streamline some of the complex web of regulation it currently imposes on the country's airlines.

Brazil is in what has been described as a "perfect storm" of political and economic crisis that has affected not just the Brazilian air transport industry, where domestic capacity has fallen 12% and international 4%, but which has also impacted the wider Latin American airline industry because of Brazil's size and regional significance.



Peter Cerda

IATA regional VP-Americas, Peter Cerda gave a media briefing on the situation Dec. 8 from the association's Geneva headquarters.

He explained that Brazil's Central Bank anticipates a negative growth rate of -3.8% for 2016 and the country's unemployment rate is 11.3%. Yet air passenger demand in the region is expected to more than double from 97.8 million in 2015 to 167.7 million in 2035 and if met, would lead to aviation supporting 1.8 million jobs and contributing \$72.3 billion to the GDP.

Despite those potential economic and social benefits, Brazil has become one of the most expensive and difficult countries for airlines to do business. Domestic fuel costs as much as 50% more in Brazil than elsewhere, making it difficult for local airlines to compete with their international rivals, Cerda said. Brazil's airlines are also weighed down by bureaucratic, complicated and costly regulations covering everything from delays regardless of whether the airline was at fault, bag handling, and customer complaints.

Cerda explained that IATA held an aviation day in Brazil to communicate how these costs and regulations are hurting the country's airlines' ability to compete and grow. IATA will also, from 2017, locate a permanent representative in Brasilia to help communicate aviation needs and potential to government officials. ■

Bombardier Banking On Global 7000 To Boost Revenues

Bombardier Aerospace's new Global 7000 is expected to lift revenues at its business jet division by \$3 billion between the twinjet's service entry in 2018 and the end of 2020.

The new Global 7000 is expected to drive up Bombardier Business Aircraft's revenues by \$3 billion between its service entry in 2018 and the end of 2020, division president David Coleal said today at Bombardier's investor day. To date, the Global 7000 has logged more than 30 hours over 15 flights, with certification flying to ramp up next year as more flight-test vehicles come online. The aircraft is sold out "through 2020," he added.

Coleal also said that Bombardier's business jet division is looking to double its aftermarket revenues from now until 2020. The installed base of Bombardier business jets will climb beyond 5,000 aircraft in 2020, fueling growth in service and part sales, he noted.



According to Coleal, Bombardier's business jet deliveries will remain flat next year at 135 units, though he said the division is poised to increase production if business picks up. But after a flat year, Coleal said he is optimistic about the 2018 to 2020 period, when he expects stronger worldwide GDP growth and recovery of emerging markets—events that would improve business jet usage and sales. ■

Salvador Named CAP's Chief Operating Officer

Col. Jayson Altieri, chairman of Civil Air Patrol's Board of Governors, announced today that the board has selected John Salvador as CAP's chief operating officer. The COO administers the day-to-day affairs at CAP National Headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.



John Salvador

Salvador, who has served as interim COO since August, has held numerous leadership positions at CAP National Headquarters over the past two decades. From July 2010 to August 2016 he served as senior director. His background at national headquarters also includes service as director of missions, director of operations and chief of aerospace education. In addition, he served as CAP-U.S. Air Force director of operations.

A retired Air Force officer, Salvador is an Air Force command pilot with more than 3,600 hours in operational support, trainer and light civilian aircraft. He is also an FAA commercial pilot. He graduated from the Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering. Salvador also has a Master of Arts degree in management from Webster University. ■

American Fined \$1.6 Million for Breaking Tarmac Delay Rule

The US Department of Transportation has fined American Airlines USD\$1.6 million for violating a rule prohibiting long tarmac delays.

DOT found that in 2013 and 2015, American Airlines allowed a number of domestic flights to remain on the tarmac for more than three hours without allowing passengers the opportunity to disembark. The fine is the highest amount assessed against an airline for violating the delay rule, matching a USD\$1.6 million fine against Southwest Airlines in 2015.

The department found that 20 flights at Charlotte Airport on February 16, 2013, six flights at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport on February 27, 2015, and one flight at Shreveport Regional Airport, Louisiana on October 22, 2015 broke the tarmac delay rules.

The delays in Charlotte included flights operated by US Airways, now part of American, and regional affiliates.

Under DOT rules, US airlines operating aircraft with 30 or more passenger seats are prohibited from allowing domestic flights to remain on the tarmac for more than three hours without giving passengers an opportunity to leave the plane. Exceptions are permitted only for safety, security, or air traffic control-related reasons.

"Our tarmac rule is meant to prevent passengers from being trapped in aircraft on the ground for hours on end," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said. "We will continue to take enforcement action as necessary to ensure passengers are not kept delayed on the tarmac for lengthy periods of time."

Of the USD\$1.6 million fine, \$602,000 will be credited for compensation provided to passengers on the affected flights, and \$303,000 towards the airline's costs of a surface management system at Charlotte and Dallas-Fort Worth airports to monitor the location of each aircraft on the airfield, DOT said. ■



JetBlue and Premier Aviation Sign a 5 Year Heavy Maintenance and Paint Agreement

Premier Aviation (Premier) and JetBlue together announce the signing of a five-year Embraer 190 heavy maintenance and paint agreement. Under the terms of the agreement the aircraft maintenance of 2 lines of E-190 aircraft begin in Rome, New York today, and will grow to support the painting of two lines of aircraft, which will initially be supported at Premier’s Trois-Rivieres, Quebec facility in 2017.

This agreement confirms JetBlue’s confidence in Premier Aviation, and long history of supporting the region. The maintenance and paint lines are expected to add skilled jobs to the Oneida area and recruitment for the Rome, NY facility is ongoing.

“From our very first flight from JFK to Buffalo, we’ve been committed not only to providing a safe, comfortable, and reliable service for our customers, but supporting and promoting the state we call home. With a strong presence in the northeast, including eight airports across New York served by our E-190s, we’re excited to have a local partner like Premier with a similar commitment to excellence, while supporting jobs in the region.” Says Jeffrey Martin, Executive Vice President Operations for JetBlue.

“We are pleased to welcome JetBlue to Premier. It is gratifying that our significant success in the E-175/190 fleet has led to the winning of this contract. We have become the leading choice for many aircraft fleets in North America. Attracting highly regarded customers such as

JetBlue confirms the benefits of working with an experienced MRO and further solidifies our strong position within the industry.” Says Ronnie Di Bartolo Chief Executive Officer for Premier Aviation.

Premier Aviation maintains an exemplary performance record on the Embraer aircraft and a long-standing reputation for excellence on Regional, Narrow-body and Wide-body aircraft. With four facilities located in the U.S. and Canada the company is increasingly expanding its footprint within the MRO industry. Premier has completed over 250 events on the Embraer platform to date and currently has multiple lines of E-175/190s in their Rome, New York and Trois-Rivières, Quebec facilities. ■

The Russian-Chinese Aircraft Makes Another Step Closer to Reality

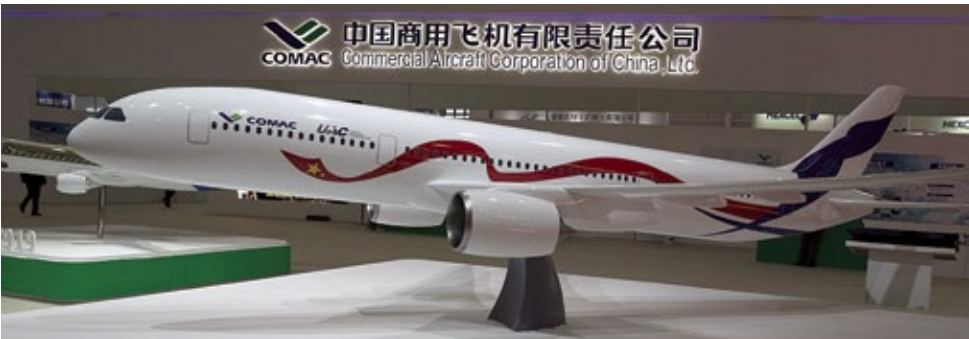
The mock-up of the Russian-Chinese widebody jet was for the first time demonstrated at Airshow China 2016.

From an article in the December 13th edition of *Russian Aviation and Aerospace Insider*, *Metropolitan Airport News* has learned that the board of directors of Russia’s United Aircraft Corporation approved establishment of a joint venture with Chinese plane-maker COMAC, the company’s representative said. The new venture will be in charge of the joint program for development of the future widebody long-haul aircraft. Apart from design and production, it will be responsible for both sales and after-sale services.

The parties initially planned to create the joint enterprise by the end of 2016, however, the decision was put off till Q1 2017. The headquarters will be located in Shanghai and, according to the plan, China will do the assembly of the aircraft whereas engineering and designing works will be conducted in Russia.

The cooperation agreement between Russia and China on the development and production of a 280-seat wide-body jet dubbed as C929 was signed in June 2016. A scaled mock-up of the future airliner was for the first time displayed at Airshow China in Zhuhai, in November. Currently the parties are on the hunt for engine suppliers for the new aircraft.

The C929 deliveries are scheduled to commence in 2025-2027. ■



EFVS Final Rule Allows ‘No Natural Vision’ Landings

As reported by Matt Thruber of *AIN ONLINE*, effective March 13, pilots flying in the U.S. with an enhanced flight vision system, such as Dassault’s FalconEye, will be able to continue the approach to landing using only the images displayed by the EVS on the HUD, all the way to landing “in lieu of natural vision.”



This rule was approved by the FAA via AC #20 167A released on December 16th.

The rule outlines new processes that will allow pilots flying airplanes equipped with enhanced flight vision systems (EFVS) to fly certain IFR approaches all the way to landing “in lieu of natural vision” from the previously allowed elevation of 100 feet above touchdown zone. What this means is that EFVS-equipped airplanes now have greatly improved utility.

Current rules allow descent to 100 feet on some approaches when using a head-up display (HUD) and enhanced vision system (EVS, generally infrared imaging). Under the new rule, which becomes effective March 13, 2017, pilots flying with EFVS will be able to continue those approaches to landing using only the images displayed by the EVS on the HUD.

The new rules are quite flexible and, in fact, don’t specify that a HUD is even required for the pilot flying. This is to pave the way for future technologies that might not be HUD-based, such as wearable displays or other methods for delivering flight symbology and EVS imagery to the pilot flying, who must still be able to look forward through the windshield.

Added benefits of the new final rule are that it opens up EFVS approach capabilities at more runways with a larger number of approach types and allows commercial operators to dispatch when destination weather is worse than currently allowed, including initiating and continuing an approach when visibility is below minimums. This should help reduce ground-stop delays due to below-minimums weather at the destination, for airline aircraft that are EFVS equipped and with appropriately trained flight crews.

The FAA’s discussion of the new rule also addresses combined vision systems (CVS), in which EVS and synthetic vision imagery is combined on a display such as a HUD. According to the FAA, “A CVS consisting of an enhanced flight vision system and synthetic vision could be approved for EFVS operations if it met all the requirements of the EFVS regulation.” ■

New York 5 Star Restaurant Dishes Now Served on Delta Flights

Delta Air Lines announced that it has rolled out its new Delta One winter menu on December 1. The menu featured dishes created by executive chef Jason Pfeifer of Maialino, a noted New York Italian restaurant.

Menu items include prosciutto e mozzarella, braciolo di manzo and cavatelli con salsiccia di maiale. New dishes will be added to the menu on the first of every month through February. The meals will be prepared daily in the Union Square Events kitchen in Chelsea and will be transported to JFK for loading onto the aircraft.

The new menus will be available for passengers flying in Delta One cabins on select transatlantic flights to Europe, as well as on transcon flights between New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport and both Los Angeles and San Francisco. ■



Louis Luncheon: The Birth of America's Most Famous Sandwich

I woke up on Saturday, December 17th, peeped through the blinds, and sure enough, the predicted 4 to 6 inches of snow was mostly accumulated and worse, the snow was still coming down and blowing sideways. The snow and the 30 mph winds were sure signs that this cowboy was staying inside for the morning, and probably the rest of the day.

The joy of living in a hilly area in Orange County, New York.

I decided to have a day of reflection. This involves me not doing any work and sitting in the kitchen with a cup of coffee and thinking. To really enjoy doing nothing, your thoughts have to flow randomly. For example, who was the first person to eat an artichoke? And how could they digest those sharp leaves that grow out of the core? Or, who was the first person to make a sunny side up egg? Was it an accident? An egg broke, fell into the pan with the yoke intact, and voila, a sunny side up egg. These reflections have replaced the fantasies of youth.

Most of my other fantasies have been erased from memory, and can never return. Like a floppy disk, they are gone forever. What's a floppy disk grandpa?

While in my thought process, my wife had



Louis Luncheon in New Haven, CT

removed chopped meat from the fridge and a thought occurred. Who made the first hamburger? This is the kind of thing that may have many answers. I know the Italians and Chinese have a running battle over who first discovered spaghetti or noodles and those theories are endless. Personally, I've declared a truce and enjoy both. But how about hamburgers; do we have a known originator?

In 1960, I would have had to go to my Colliers Encyclopedia, and other readable sources and looked up hamburgers. Today, I have a PC, WIFI and ten fingers so I did a google and came up with Louis Luncheon.

Louis Luncheon is in New Haven, Connecticut so at least we have something of practical use coming out to this town. With Yale University only a few blocks away, and all those snowflakes floating around the town, I wonder if Louis Luncheon has a "safe space" to carry on conversations.

The beginnings of the hamburger sandwich as we all know it today was really quite simple. One day in 1900, a gentleman hurriedly walked into Louis' Lunch and told proprietor Louis Lassen he was in a rush and wanted something he could eat on the run. In an instant, Louis placed his own blend of ground steak trimmings between two slices of toast and sent the gentleman on his way. And so, the most recognizable American sandwich was born.

Today, Louis' great grandson, Jeff Lassen, carries on the tradition. The hamburgers have changed little from their historic prototype and remain the specialty of the house. Burgers are made fresh daily; hand-rolled from a blend of meat varieties and cooked to order in the original cast-iron grills dating back to 1898. The Lassen family hold firm on their desire not to offer any condiments. The Louis Lunch experience is about the taste and simplicity of a fresh burger

grilled to perfection. Cheese, tomato, and onion are the only acceptable garnish.

There is a sub-text to this story; the restaurant was threatened with demolition in the early 1970's to make room for a new high rise. Scores of devoted patrons from all over the world took up the cause for its preservation. Plans for the restaurant's safe relocation were finalized just hours before the deadline. The historic building was loaded onto a truck and made a thirty-minute journey to its final resting place on Crown Street. In an effort to help with the reconstruction, friends and supporters sent thousands of bricks to rebuild its revered walls from every corner of the globe. Each one has its own unique story.

With New Haven, Connecticut only a few hours away from Orange County, maybe a trip to Louis Luncheon is in order; does the Spring sound about right? **JOSEPH ALBA**



Louis Lassen, inventor of the hamburger.

A Fairy Tale In New York



British Airways has created a fairy tale in New York by surprising a couple from Cambridge with the ultimate honeymoon.

Hanna and Tom Bowran had to delay the special holiday, after their daughter Lucy was born suffering from a rare condition which

meant she needed vital hospital treatment.

So months later when they arrived at Heathrow for their December honeymoon to New York, they were astonished to find out that the airline had pulled out all the stops to secretly upgrade their entire trip into an unforgettable

first class experience, with special Christmas treats along the way.

A behind-the-scenes video, capturing the touching moment they found out about their upgraded trip, is available to view on the BA website: www.ba.com/unforgettable

On arrival in New York, the couple were whisked to the plush Intercontinental New York Barclay hotel, where the keys to their standard room were swapped for a set to the sumptuous Presidential suite, which normally costs a jaw-dropping \$30,000 a night. The 3,400 square foot suite, has played host to high profile celebrity guests and includes an impressive marble entrance, gym, library office and even a baby grand piano.

Hanna Bowran-Pavey, said: "We couldn't have prepared ourselves for the surprises British Airways had in store for us. It's been a rollercoaster of a year for us both, and the trip has been emotional as it's the first time we'd left Lucy to take some time for ourselves.

"It was my first visit to New York, and it's true what they say – New York is a magical place, especially in the build up to Christmas, it was the perfect place to celebrate our marriage, and in real style."



Adam Daniels, British Airways' chief commercial officer, said: "A honeymoon is one of the most memorable trips you'll ever take, but we really wanted to make Tom and Hanna's trip an extraordinary one, to reflect the difficult year they'd had.

In 2017 we'll be creating even more unforgettable flights and holidays for all our customers all over the globe."

British Airways is also inviting customers who have booked a trip with them in 2017 to email their stories in, in the hope of making another person's trip #unforgettable. ■

TRAVEL & DINING

Antica Sambuca Shrinks Its Classic Spirit to Fit On Airlines

ROBERTA DUNN

Travel and Dining Editor

Good news for us Sambucca lovers; Liqueur specialist, Rossi D'Asiago will be launching a miniature 5cl sized bottle of its Antica Sambuca Classic spirit, developed especially for airlines and cruise ships, in early 2017.

Export Director, Nicola Dal Toso comments: "Our full-sized bottle is ideal for the airport shop floor, but we realized we would need to adapt its size if we wanted to offer our Sambuca both inflight and on ships.

"The new size is perfect for airlines and cruise ships that want to offer something different to drink to their passengers, and don't want to just stick to the usual spirit choices."

Currently only offering the 'Classic' Antica Sambuca in the new 5cl, Rossi D'Asiago aims to release additional flavors in the near future.

"Our Antica line offers a wide range of flavors including: Licorice, Raspberry, Banana, Apple, Coffee, Cherry and Tropical," adds Dal Toso.

"For the moment, we have just focused on our classic Antica Sambuca product [but] when the timing is right and there is more of a demand, we will add to the portfolio with more flavors." ■



Like Lobsters? You Can Thank Halifax Stanfield International Airport

Millions of dollars' worth of Nova Scotia seafood was shipped this holiday season and, once again, Halifax Stanfield International Airport played a key role in the huge operation.

"This time of the year is the busiest for our cargo business," says Bert van der Stege, Halifax International Airport Authority (HIAA) vice president, business development and chief commercial officer. "Each cargo flight that leaves Halifax Stanfield generates approximately \$1 million in new exports for the province."



"The cargo freighters stated that once the month of December is complete we estimate more the \$15 million in lobster will have been sent from Halifax Stanfield."

In 2015, the overall value of exports from Halifax Stanfield was \$447 million, up approximately \$75 million over 2014. A new cargo pad is now complete to accommodate parking these large cargo freighters while lobster is loaded on to the aircraft.

"The addition of our new cargo pad makes Halifax Stanfield more attractive to cargo operators who are interested in doing business in Nova Scotia," notes van der Stege. ■

Upcoming Events

January 7:

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER
QUIET EVENTS BASH

Silent disco party, with 3 DJ's spinning.
You decide what you want to party to!
Aviator Sports and Events Center
Brooklyn, NY
www.aviatorsports.com

January 4

JFK ROTARY DINNER MEETING
Giardinetto's Restaurant, 5:00PM
www.jfkrunwayrun.org

January 11

KAAMCO GENERAL MEETING
JFK International Airport,
Jamaica, NY Bldg.14
www.kaamco.org

January 11

JFK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
JFK International Airport,
Jamaica, NY Bldg.14, 8:30AM
www.jfkairportchamberofcommerce.org

January 16

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

January 17

INTERFAITH REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
FOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
Christ for the World Chapel
12:15pm in the T4 Conference Room
www.christfortheworldchapel.org

January 18

JFK ROTARY LUNCH MEETING
Hilton Garden Inn, 148-18 134th Street,
Jamaica, NY
www.jfkrunwayrun.org

January 19

KAAMCO SECURITY at 10:00AM
KAAMCO GROUND OPS at 11:30AM
JFK International Airport,
Jamaica, NY Bldg.14
www.kaamco.org

January 20

14TH ANNUAL LIVING
LEGENDS OF AVIATION AWARDS
Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA
www.livinglegendsofaviation.org

January 25-26

MRO LATIN AMERICA 2017
Cancun, Mexico
mrolatinamerica.aviationweek.com

January 26

JFK AIR CARGO
ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON,
Speaker, Brandon Fried, Executive Director
of The Airforwarders Association,
JFK Hilton 11:45pm
www.jfkaircargo.net

January 18

JFK FREIGHT FORWARDERS
AND BROKERS MEETING
Russo's on the Bay
Howard Beach, NY
www.jfkbrokers.com

January 26

KAAMCO CARGO MEETING
JFK International Airport,
Jamaica, NY Bldg.14
www.kaamco.org

January 26:

THE WINGS CLUB LUNCHEON
Speaker: Pedro Heilbron, CEO,
Copa Holdings S.A.
The Yale Club, New York, NY
www.wingsclub.org

January 27

Queens Borough President's 2017 State
of the Borough Address,
Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center,
10-12noon
www.queensbp.org

February 2

NY/NJ FOREIGN FREIGHT
FORWARDERS & BROKERS
ASSOCIATION
Centennial Dinner Celebration
NY Marriott Marquis Hotel
New York, NY
www.nynjforwarders-brokers.org

February 7-10

NBAA SCHEDULERS &
DISPATCHERS CONFERENCE
Fort Worth Convention Center,
Fort Worth, TX
www.nbaa.org

Metropolitan Airport News calendar events must be received by mail, fax, or e-mail:
events@metroairportnews.com, one week before it is intended to appear in the issue.
Upcoming events are also online at www.metroairportnews.com/airport-events

A photograph of an airport waiting area. Several people are seated on black airport-style chairs. A woman in the foreground is looking at her phone. A man is sitting next to a large, round, grey planter containing a small tree. A bright blue suitcase is on the floor next to the planter. Other passengers and luggage are visible in the background. Large windows on the right side of the frame offer a view of the airport tarmac and sky.

Sometimes a bag isn't just a bag.

Scan your surroundings and report anything suspicious.

800.828.7273

