

METROPOLITAN Airport NewsTM

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Serving the Airport Workforce and Local Communities

April 2017

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Alaska Airlines and Virgin America Share Vision for the Future

Brand will be defined as warm and welcoming,
with a modern, West Coast-inspired vibe

Alaska Airlines and Virgin America shared their vision for the future of the combined carrier, as the company solidifies its status as the West Coast's premier airline.

After careful consideration, the combined company will adopt Alaska's name and logo, retiring the Virgin America name likely sometime in 2019. However, the combined airline

will adopt many of the brand elements that Virgin America enthusiasts love about their favorite airline, including enhanced in-flight entertainment, mood lighting, music and the relentless desire to make flying a different experience for guests. The goal is to create a warm and welcoming West Coast-inspired vibe.

"Our goal from the very beginning of this merger was to become the go-to airline for people on the West Coast, with low fares, convenient flights, a premium product and genuine, caring service," said Brad Tilden, CEO of Alaska Air Group. "Three months in, we've dramatically grown our presence in California and are united behind a new purpose: Creating an airline people love."

Alaska has been actively growing the airlines' newly combined networks since closing the merger in December. Earlier this month, the airline announced 21 new markets with 25 new daily departures out of San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles and San Jose, California – marking the largest addition of routes in the company's history.

In addition to low fares, network growth and award-winning service, Alaska will spend the

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United Airlines Modernizes Airport Screening Experience at EWR

United became the first U.S.-based airline to open automated screening lanes at multiple airports and the first to exclusively dedicate automated lanes to a TSA Precheck security checkpoint.

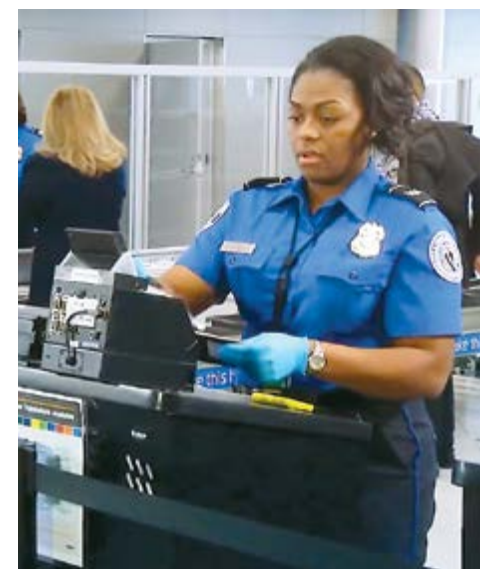
United Airlines is enabling customers to move through the screening process quicker at its hub at Newark Liberty International Airport with the opening of a fully redesigned and consolidated security checkpoint in Terminal C.

The redesigned checkpoint, which includes dedicated Premier Access and TSA Precheck security lanes, features 17 state-of-the-art automated screening lanes, making Terminal C the first checkpoint in the country to exclusively feature the new lanes.

"At United, we pursue relevant innovation in everything that we do, on the ground and in the air," said Greg Hart, United's executive vice

president and chief operations officer. "The opening of our fully redesigned, state-of-the-art checkpoint in Newark – New York's premier trans-Atlantic gateway – continues our commitment to use the latest technology to improve the airport experience for our customers."

The launch of the redesigned security checkpoint and additional automated screening lanes at Newark marks the latest step in United's ongoing strategy to leverage the latest technology to ensure customers have a reliable and enjoyable experience during their travels. United recently opened automated screening lanes at its hubs in Newark, Chicago and Los Angeles. Later



this summer, United plans to install audio and visual enhancements at security checkpoints at several hubs, utilizing cutting-edge technology to provide customers with more information.

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Alaska Airlines and Virgin America Share Vision for the Future

Continued from Page 1

next few years making major enhancements to its already award-winning guest experience and incorporating favorite elements of the Virgin America experience.

Alaska Airlines and Virgin America along with their regional partners, fly 40 million customers a year to 118 destinations with an average of 1,200 daily flights across the United States and to Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica and Cuba. ■

IATA Releases 2016 Airline Safety Performance Data

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for the 2016 safety performance of the commercial airline industry.

The all accident rate (measured in accidents per 1 million flights) was 1.61, an improvement from 1.79 in 2015.

The 2016 major jet accident rate (measured in hull losses per 1 million flights) was 0.39, which was the equivalent of one major accident for every 2.56 million flights. This was not as good as the rate of 0.32 achieved in 2015 and was also above the five-year rate (2011-2015) of 0.36.

There were 10 fatal accidents with 268 fatalities. This compares with an average of 13.4 fatal accidents and 371 fatalities per year in the previous five-year period (2011-2015).

The 2016 jet hull loss rate for IATA member airlines was 0.35 (one accident for every 2.86 million flights). While this outperformed the global hull loss rate, it was a step back from the 0.22 accidents per million flights achieved by IATA members in 2015.

"Last year some 3.8 billion travelers flew safely on 40.4 million flights. The number of total accidents, fatal accidents and fatalities all declined versus the five-year average, showing that aviation continues to become safer. We did take a step back on some key parameters from the exceptional performance of 2015; however, flying is still the safest form of long distance travel. And safety remains the top priority of all involved in aviation.

The goal is for every flight to depart and arrive without incident. And every accident redoubles our efforts to achieve that," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO. ■

United Airlines Modernizes Airport Screening Experience at EWR

Continued from Page 1

The airline is also constructing a new, state-of-the-art customer check-in area and a consolidated security screening checkpoint in Terminal 7 at Los Angeles International Airport, which the carrier expects to open later this year.

Newark Liberty Terminal C: Terminal for Today's Connected Traveler

United Airlines in recent years has introduced multiple enhancements in Terminal C to further meet the needs of its customers.

In 2014, the airline opened a new Global Services reception lobby for its top frequent flyers and collaborated with OTG to unveil an elevated dining and retail experience in the terminal, with cutting edge technology, premier

dining options and trendsetting design. Additionally, United launched its "p.s." Premium Service at Newark Liberty in 2015, offering customers on transcontinental flights from the New York area the highest levels of service on the ground and in the air.

Last month, United debuted its all-new United Polaris business class cabin on the airline's new Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, which entered service flying out of Newark. The aircraft – and its United Polaris cabin interior – will initially operate between the airline's hubs in Newark and San Francisco. United also plans to open an all-new United Polaris lounge in Terminal C later this year, offering customers chef-designed pre-flight dining, spa-like showers and sleep pods, a U.S. carrier first. ■

JFK Chamber of Commerce Meeting Features Talk By New Aviation Director

The JFK Chamber of Commerce hosted a luncheon at the Hilton New York JFK on March 29th with Huntley A. Lawrence, the Port Authority of NY\NJ Director of Aviation as the guest speaker. Mr. Lawrence gave an informative overview of the projects currently underway as well as the plans for the future of all the Port Authority airport properties. With 11 billion dollars approved by the Port Authority for redevelopment at JFK, LGA and EWR and many more billions being invested through private partnerships, Lawrence commented, "This is the most exciting time for our airports".

There are challenges of course, with the 6 Port Authority airports being able to fit into the same space that Dallas\Fort Worth occupies, our airports aging infrastructure and our airports being situated within communities, there is a lot of work to be done. Mr. Lawrence is energized about how the businesses and communities that support the metro airports will turn those challenges into opportunities. The Port Authority plans to work with resourcefulness and speed to accomplish this major revitalization to our area. ■



(L-R) Mike Moran, JFK General Manager; Jo Anne Farrell, *Metropolitan Airport News*; Huntley Lawrence, Director of Aviation PANY/NJ; Pasquale DiFulco, Aviation Communications PANY/NJ; Katie Bliss, Publisher, *Metropolitan Airport News*.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Trump’s 2018 Budget Outlines Severe Cuts Including Some In Transportation Programs

When you have grown accustomed to a sumptuous dinner of steak and eggs, it’s tough to look at a plate of franks and beans.

The first look at the Presidents 2018 budget has drawn skepticism, not only from the usual suspects, but includes many Republicans including Senate Majority leader, Mitch McConnell.

Most recognize that the proposed budget has little chance of passing congress as currently written; however, it signals the seriousness of the President in reducing federal government spending. There will be a lot of hard bargaining in what programs to cut altogether and what programs to reduce by large amounts. The fact remains that lawmakers used to an open check-book will try to both retain and grow these programs. You only have to recognize that these are the same folks who call a 5% increase in Year to Year spending a decrease if it does not fit in with their 10% requests.

Like any good negotiator, Trump is coming in with requirements that are higher than he expects to be passed.

Special focus is the reduction in spending on foreign aid. This has gained special attention especially since the administration want foreign governments to pay their way, especially in the area of national and regional defense. Just this weekend, while Merkel was in DC, Trump said Germany owed hundreds of millions of dollars in past due debts to NATO. Trump will not bend on the need for foreign governments to pay their own way.

The DOT is also on the list of agencies with proposed reductions. Even some aviation executives, agency heads and observers who normally support the President’s positions on aviation issues were shocked at this sudden trip to reality.

Wrote American Shipper Magazine in their March issue; “President Donald Trump’s administration on released a preliminary budget proposal for 2018 that would slash funding for the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The budget proposal allots \$16.2 billion for USDOT’s discretionary budget, a \$2.4 billion (13 %) decrease from this year. The cuts came as a surprise for many analysts on Capitol Hill given Trump’s campaign promises to make transportation infrastructure a top priority.

Romina Boccia, Deputy Director, Thomas A. Roe Institute, a leading fiscal and economic expert at The Heritage Foundation that focuses on government spending and the national debt

had a different take on the budget.

Boccia said; “Cuts to discretionary spending are critical to reducing the size and scope of the government and enhancing individual and economic freedom. They also make an important down payment toward the federal deficit and debt.”

Trump’s proposal would cut nondefense programs in most agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (31 %), the Department of State (29 %), and the Department of Agriculture (21 %).

Instead of across-the-board reductions such as the ones included in the 2011 Budget Control Act, the president’s proposal includes smart cuts to “drain the swamp” by weaning special interests from feeding unfairly from the federal trough.

A broad summary of the cuts is as follows; cuts for the Environmental Protection Agency (down 31 %), the departments of State (29 %), Agriculture (21 %), Labor (21 %), Health and Human Services (18 %), Commerce (16 %), Education (14 %), Housing and Urban

Development (13 %), Interior (12 %), Energy (6 %), Treasury, (4 %), and Justice (4 %), as well as the Small Business Administration (5%), and NASA (1 %).

In addition, several other departments and agencies would see their federal funding eliminated entirely, including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Chemical Safety Board, Corporation for National and Community Service, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Delta Regional Authority, Denali Commission, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Inter-American Foundation, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, Legal Services Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, Northern Border Regional Commission, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, U.S. Institute of Peace, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

The President’s budget request is simply a guideline; the real substantive negotiations



will take place when congress draws up their own spending plans, line item by line item and that’s when the real fun and games begin.

Having a background in management in private businesses, my view of budgeting is colored by past experience. No line item is sacrosanct. Year to year line item budget increases are no guarantee. The only budget increase you get is that which is underwritten on the growth of revenues and profits and reduced costs. **JOSEPH ALBA**



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JFK Cargo Association Held Its 18th Annual Expo

The JFK Cargo Association held its' 18th annual expo, JFK EXPO 2017: Cargo Linking & Forward Thinking, on March 23rd at Russo's on the Bay.

It was a well- attended event with more than 40 exhibitor tables and many from the air cargo industry enjoying a day packed with networking, socializing and learning from respected experts about the future state of air cargo.

There was an informative panel discussion in the morning with presentations given by Stefano Pascucci, Executive VP Business Development of Airport Plazas on truck parking and other services, John Cuticelli and Beth Schuette-Cuticelli from The ARK at JFK on JFK's new animal handling center, and David Hopkins, Sr. Director of Aviation and Freight of the New York City Economic Development Corporation on the Greater JFK Business Improvement District.

The lunch was kicked off with key note presentation about the future of JFK and LGA revitalization initiatives by Pat Foye, Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. ■



(L.-R.) Michael Bednarz, PA Manager of Air Cargo Development; John Cuticelli, The Ark; Beth Schuette-Cuticelli, The Ark; Stefano Pascucci, Airport Plazas; David Hopkins Sr, NYCEDC; Joe Badamo, President, JFK Air Cargo Association

FedEx Contest for Apac Small Businesses To Give Away \$120K In Grants

FedEx Express is once again holding its FedEx Small Business Grants Contest. The contest is designed to provide Subject Matter Experts (SME's) with the inspiration and financial resources to take their business global, helping them to grow their footprint and sharpen their competitive edge.

The contest is giving SMEs from Hong Kong, Singapore – and this year, for the first time, China – the opportunity to win an approximate total of US\$120,000 in grants. Originally conceived in the US five years ago, the FedEx Small Business Grant contest went global for the first time last year, with contests in Brazil, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK in addition to the US. This year, as well as China, the contest makes its debut in India and Italy as well.

“At FedEx, we believe the spirit of entrepreneurialism is what drives SMEs to take their business to the next level,” said Karen Reddington, president, FedEx Express Asia Pacific. “In this digital economy, the huge array of digital tools and channels available today makes it easier for SMEs to extend their reach internationally, to find new customers and grow their businesses. I encourage all SMEs that have the passion and ideas to take their business global to take part. I’m delighted that we’ve expanded the contest into three new international markets this year, including the keystone economy of China.”

Among the FY16 winners was Singapore-based company RedWhite Apparel, whose founder, a keen cyclist, set out to produce high-performance but affordable long-distance cycling bib shorts. ■

Alliance for Aviation Across America Has Dim View of ATC Privatization

Alliance for Aviation Across America Statement on the White House Budget Inclusion of Proposal to Privatize the Air Traffic Control System

The Alliance for Aviation Across America released the following statement in response to President Trump’s FY 2018 proposed budget, which includes a provision to privatize the nation’s air traffic control (ATC) system:

“It is unfortunate that the President’s budget includes a proposal, pushed by the big commercial airline lobby, to privatize and give control over the ATC system to the big airlines, at the expense of the farms, businesses, and other important interests located in small towns and rural areas across America.

This proposal would allow certain private interests to make critical system decisions ranging from infrastructure funding, to taxes and fees, according to their own best interest rather than that of the public. Already we see that privatized systems in other countries are run to the detriment of smaller operators and communities. We urge Congress to retain oversight of the national air traffic control system to ensure that it operates in the best interest of the public.” ■



Amazon In New Freighter Order Talks

Amazon.com is believed to be in the process of putting together a significant order for additional freighters industry publication Cargo-Facts has reported.

Citing informed anonymous sources, the report indicates the US online retail giant may be involved in two possible sets of negotiations; the first entails talks with Boeing (BOE, Chicago O’Hare) for the order of 100 B767-300(F)s while the second involves talks with unspecified Wall Street investors for the financing of 400 aircraft.

Amazon ventured into the air freight sector last year signing capacity purchase agreements with each of Air Transport Services Group and Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings for the provision of twenty B767 freighters respectively.

In anticipation of a strong spurt in long-term growth in the sector, Amazon recently unveiled plans to develop Cincinnati Int’l into a key air logistics hub featuring a 280,000 sqm handling

facility. While its Prime Air services currently focus on the United States, a report in The Wall Street Journal suggests it may be extended to transpacific flights to China in the near future. Amazon is reportedly planning to offer its sellers in China the ability to transport their goods internationally using air cargo. However, the report does not specify if said transport would be undertaken by Prime Air or through other 3rd party operators.

Boeing says it will convert nine used 767 passenger jets into freighters for Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, which will use them in its cargo transport operations for Amazon.

Amazon made a splash in August when it unveiled its first branded Prime Air jet and spilled the details about its air cargo ambitions.

Boeing converts 767 passenger jets to freighters in Singapore under an arrangement with the maintenance and modification company Singapore Technologies Aerospace. ■



European Commission Re-Adopts Punitive Decision On Airfreight Cartel

The European Commission (EC) has re-adopted a cartel decision previously made against 11 air cargo carriers and imposed a fine totaling more than US\$ 835 Million for operating a price-fixing cartel. Cargolux is reviewing the decision and has not yet decided whether to lodge an application for annulment with the General Court. The Commission’s original decision had been annulled by the European Union’s General Court on procedural grounds.



Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, in charge of competition policy, explained: “Millions of businesses depend on air cargo services, which carry more than 20% of all EU imports and nearly 30% of EU exports. Working together in a cartel rather than competing to offer better services to customers does not fly with the Commission.”

The carriers had all been operating in the airfreight services market covering flights from, to and within the European Economic Area. According to the EC, the cartel arrangements consisted of numerous contacts between airlines, at both bilateral and multi-lateral level, to fix levels of fuel and security surcharges.

The companies fined in 2010 were Air Canada, Air France-KLM, British Airways, Cargolux, Cathay Pacific Airways, Japan Airlines, LAN Chile, Martinair, Qantas, SAS and Singapore Airlines.

A 12th cartel member, Lufthansa, and its subsidiary, Swiss International Air Lines, received full immunity from fines. All but one of the companies (Qantas) subject to the 2010 ruling challenged the decision before the EU’s General Court. ■

Port Authority Asian Association Celebrates Lunar Year

The Port Authority Asian American Association on March 10 hosted its annual Lunar New Year Dinner at Royal Seafood restaurant in Manhattan’s Chinatown.

About 100 people came out to celebrate the Year of the Fire Rooster. Chief Operating Officer Stephanie Dawson was in attendance, as were staffers representing 19 departments, retirees, and family members.

“Among the twelve Chinese zodiac signs, the Fire Rooster is characterized as being observant, courageous, and resourceful, with a strong sense of responsibility at work – that’s the PA,” said outgoing PAAAA President Joy Chiu. “As an agency, we exemplify a dedicated spirit to ensure our employees and customers are always traveling through all our facilities in the safest manner.”

Attendees enjoyed a lion dance performed by the Wan Chi Ming Gar Institute and a Cantonese family-style banquet with more than 10 courses. Other activities included a game to see who had the best penmanship in writing the Lunar New Year greeting “Gung Hay Fat Choy” in Chinese characters (恭喜發財). PAAAA member Victor Chung won for his table.

PAAAA’s next event is the Asian American Heritage Month Breakfast in May. Email paaaa@panynj.gov for details. **JENDAYA WORDMAN**



Port Authority Asian Association celebrates New Year

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Americans Believe Improved Ground Transportation Links to Airports Are Needed

Rail transit to airports preferred, if more efficient than cars



As airports plan future improvements to enhance the air travel experience, they may want to look at what's outside their front doors. A new HNTB America THINKS national public opinion survey found that more than nine in 10 Americans (93%) believe airport terminals could be better connected to the region's ground transportation and transit networks.

The survey, "Airport Terminals-2017," found that four in five (84%) Americans would use rail transit if it could get them to the airport and back more efficiently than by car. The survey also found that more than four in five believe parking (81%) and drop-off or pick-up curbs (81%) have either stayed the same or gotten worse in the past 10 years.

"Ground access to the airport terminal, the movement of automobile traffic, passenger pick-up/drop off and parking are factors that increasingly determine the quality of the air travel experience," said Laddie Irion, HNTB's national aviation sector market leader and senior vice president. "The interest in public transit access to airports is very strong. In planning for improvements, airport authorities should consider partnering with transit agencies to create the public transportation access that travelers seek. They should also recognize that facilitating ease

of movement in and around airport terminals along with the amenities found within the terminal building are factors that directly affect the quality and satisfaction of the air travelers' experience."

A prime example of excellence in rail transport is Denver Airports Hotel and Transit Center which provide easy transit connection to airport terminals as well as downtown. HNTB leveraged building information modeling technology for spatial coordination, clash detection, structural design analysis, design review, collaboration, cost analysis and construction scheduling.

The Hotel and Transit Center provides lodging, conference space and commuter rail service to and from downtown Denver. It is the DEN's largest project to date and the first time an integrated hotel and public transit center have been connected directly to an airport terminal.

Waiting Equates to Hating When It Comes to Airports

According to the survey, nearly all (97%) Americans find something frustrating about air travel, and a third (34%) feel waiting in lines at the airport is the most unsatisfying aspect. However, other than lines, there are relatively low levels of frustrations about many aspects of air travel.

Airport security in particular seems to cause the most pain points. More than three in five (62%) feel the security process at their most frequently used airport is time consuming. And again, it's waiting that causes the most irritation with 28 percent of air travelers reporting that time spent in line is the part of the security checkpoint process they generally dislike most. Having to get their belongings ready for security without assistance (21%) or having to go through body-scanning X-ray or pat down (15%) rounded out the top three.

"We are all well aware of the need for robust airport security, but there are opportunities to make the process more

comfortable such as flooring that is comfortable for passengers without shoes, soothing and comfortable lighting, and creating a pleasant area for passengers to re-compose themselves after completing the screening process," said Irion.

Biggest Desired Areas of Improvement

Among those who feel something needs to be improved at airports, more than three in five (61%) believe TSA security check-in points need to be revamped. And nearly two in five (37%) of Americans who travel by air believe upgrading security should be airports' top priority. Other areas which need attention include: passenger check-in (46%), departure gate lobbies (37%), drop-off or pick-up curbs (36%) and parking (33%).

Technology's Role

Evolving technology may be the answer for some. GPS-enabled tags embedded in luggage that link it to the owner appeal to 45 percent of Americans. Forty-three percent believe advanced technologies allowing pilots and air traffic controllers to more effectively manage the reliability of flight schedules would improve the travel experience. More than a third (34%) believe technology that helps with self-serve bag tagging and the check-in process would benefit them as an air traveler and improve their experience. And one-third would appreciate mobile apps allowing them to order and pay for in-flight food which would be waiting for them on the aircraft.

"In this day and age, air travelers confront never-before-seen challenges, but with a comprehensive focus on customer experience, airport authorities have the opportunity to effectively meet today's needs in a manner that also anticipates the future," Irion said. ■

About the Survey:

HNTB's America THINKS survey, "Airport Terminals-2017," polled a random nationwide sample of 1,054 Americans ages 18+ between December 1-8, 2016. It was conducted by Kelton Global, which used an e-mail invitation and online survey. Quotas were set to ensure reliable representation of the entire U.S. population ages 18 and over. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 %.

United Optimistic On Prospective Mid-Range Boeing

United likes the look of Boeing plane in development

United Airlines has taken a close look at an all-new jetliner that Boeing Co engineers are developing for trans-Atlantic flying and said it likes what it sees.

"What we've seen so far is very, very interesting to us," United chief financial officer Andrew Levy said in an interview. "We certainly hope Boeing launches the airplane. We think there is a need for it." An endorsement from United, a large Boeing customer, would go a long way toward making the business case for so-called middle-of-market jetliners.

Boeing has honed its design to seat between 225 and 260 passengers, while working to bring production costs in line with prices that airlines are willing to pay.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there is a decision to offer by this year," Air Lease Corp chief executive officer and cofounder John

Plueger said of the first step in Boeing's process to formally introduce a new jetliner. "That might be a bit early, a bit aggressive, but that would not surprise me."

United had been among the skeptics of the jets that Boeing has spent years developing to fill the gap in its product lineup between the largest of the narrow-body 737 models and the smallest 787 Dreamliners.

While Boeing is designing a twin-aisle aircraft with the range to fly from London to New York, budget carriers are shifting more mid-range flying to relatively inexpensive narrow-body jets such as Airbus Group SE's A321neo. After delving deeper into the Boeing design, "we're convinced, we get it. We understand the economics," Levy said in an interview at the ISTAT annual conference in San Diego, California. "We thought a twin



made no sense, but we walked through it and had our questions answered. From what we've seen, we like it, but it's a paper airplane. Hopefully they'll launch it."

Boeing's jet, which would probably be known as the 797, might begin flying in 2025, said Steven Udvar-Hazy, who cofounded Air Lease and is influential in shaping product strategy for Boeing and Airbus.

The engine technology and breakthrough design of the new aircraft would be critical since it might fly through 2060, he said. ■

The Aviation Industry Empowers America



UNITED AIRLINES

Around the world, U.S. passenger and cargo airlines directly employ hundreds of thousands of people with high-quality careers – and the vast majority of those positions are based right here in America. A 2016 analysis by the Federal Aviation Administration showed that airlines and their customers, along with airports, manufacturers and suppliers, ultimately

supported more than 10 million jobs across the country in related industries such as research and development, manufacturing and tourism. That's an impressive one out every 14 jobs throughout the U.S. economy.

It is no coincidence that as the finances of U.S. airlines in particular have improved, they have steadily boosted staffing and wages for

their workforce, with obvious spillover benefits not only for airline customers but also for the economy at large. In fact, for every 100 airline jobs, approximately 300 more are supported directly or indirectly outside the industry.

Combined, U.S. passenger and cargo airlines ended 2016 with nearly 700,000 workers on their payrolls – the highest level in 16 years. With seven consecutive years of profitability, these airlines added 33,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers from 2010 to 2016, with expenditures on wages and benefits rising 44 percent over that same timeframe to \$44 billion. And, further evidence that the airline industry is truly powering our economy, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics recently reported that employment among U.S. passenger airlines has grown year-over-year for 38 consecutive months, with the rate of growth hovering at 4 percent – twice the rate of job growth for the overall economy.

Meanwhile, with many stories being written about wage stagnation across the U.S. economy, the average wage at U.S. passenger airlines in 2016 rose 35 percent from 2010 and remained well above the U.S. private-sector average. In fact, the most recent available data show that U.S. passenger airline employees enjoy wages 38 percent higher than the U.S. pri-

vate sector average.

Few industries are as integral to our 21st century way of life as the airlines. Because of our globally competitive industry, the safe, rapid intercity – and intercontinental – transport of people and goods is something we can all rely on at a moment's notice.

And while half the U.S. population flew in 2016 – up from just a fifth in the early 70s, the other half still depended on our nation's airlines to bring them valued products through our cargo carriers, who ship nearly 50,000 tons every day.

The more freely and efficiently we can grow, so too will the airlines be able to contribute to the growth of U.S. workers and wages. ■



This article was written by **John P. Heimlich**, Vice President and Chief Economist at Airlines for America. Mr. Heimlich joined Airlines for America (A4A) in April 2001

and currently serves as Vice President and Chief Economist. Prior to A4A, Heimlich spent five years at United Airlines in financial planning, financial analysis and international and regulatory affairs.

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#SayHAPPY Random Acts of Kindness Program at Newark Airport

February, is a month filled with many reasons to be happy. The obvious falls on February 14th, when love abounds and kindness comes easy. Other February days that embrace and share happiness are National Pizza Day (2/9), National Love Your Pet Day (2/20), and National Clam Chowder Day (2/25) just to name a few! The Westfield team at Newark Liberty International Airport took happiness to the next level last month. Training EWR employees to be secret agents of kindness, these exuberant agents-of-surprise delighted airport guests with random acts of kindness.



Sherri Smith, General Manager of Westfield Airports at EWR shared her thoughts about the evolution of their #SayHAPPY program and its impact on airport employee and guests.

"We are training our frontline customer service associates to be 'secret agents of happiness'. These secret agents of happiness will target a few random customers to provide an infusion of joy to enliven their travel experience with random acts of kindness.

We want every traveler who comes through Newark Liberty to have an efficient, memorable journey, and these random acts of kindness are a fun chance to deliver smiles along the way."

Travelers love the Random Acts of Kindness initiative. There's power in the joy it creates, and travelers even pay it forward. For example, we worked with an operating partner to target a few customers waiting in line to buy coffee and donuts and offered to pay for their purchase. The customers were so moved by this act of kindness, they in turn purchased meals for others. There was this awesome snowball effect of kindness, and it showed the manager what a program like this can do.

At Newark Liberty, Random Acts of Kindness is empowering our frontline customer service agents in not only customer service excellence but also in security and safety. They're becoming "hybrid" agents of service and safety who will be invaluable in providing a great experience while keeping travelers safe.

The staff at Westfield are aware that the airport is a transient place. Many times, people are not themselves. For many people, traveling can be overwhelming and frustrating. Sherri added; "I always tell myself not to take anything said or done personally. Instead, treat everyone with authentic kindness. This will take training and practice. And even though it is much easier said than done, it can be done." ■

Homeland Security Issues Electronics Ban On US Bound Flights from Middle East and North Africa

US authorities have required airlines from 13 nations to forbid passengers from carrying any electronic or electrical device larger than a cell-phone onto a flight. Those items such as laptops, iPads and cameras must be in checked bags. The new edict was distributed in an email described as "confidential" from the US transportation safety administration (TSA) effective March 21st.

The new U.S. ban of carry-on electronic devices on airplanes originated with information collected from a U.S. commando raid in Yemen, which included detailed bomb-making techniques.

The ban covers ten airports in eight countries: Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Homeland Security said that airlines were notified on Tuesday, March 14th at 8 am ET and they have 96 hours within which to comply. There is no end date for the ban.

There is no impact on domestic flights in the US or flights originating in the US, even to the impacted countries and airports.

Britain Also Issues Ban On Electronics

Following the US ban, The UK government announced a cabin baggage ban on laptops and tablets on direct flights to the UK from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia.

Downing Street said it was "necessary, effective and proportionate". The government has not given a start-date for the ban, but says airlines are "in the process of implementing it". ■

Port Authority Celebrates International Women's Day

BY ROZ HAMLETT

Portfolio Editor

"If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again!" Sojourner Truth, 1851

Elizabeth Colon raised a daughter while working progressively to advance through the ranks of the Port Authority. She somehow found time to complete her college degree along the way. Today, Colon, a supervisor in General Patron Services for the Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals department, understands fully the challenges of a woman striving for the top in an otherwise male-dominated profession.

Elizabeth Colon (second from left) captivates her audience as she explains how she balanced her responsibilities as a single mom while working at the Port Authority.

"I had to show my daughter that you can do this, even though I'd been a single parent and I worked rotating shifts. So I missed Christmas and holidays sometimes," said Colon, a 34-year PA employee.

Colon began as a toll collector, later working as a Holland Tunnel agent who had to do the dirty work of a mechanic. "I was also learning CPR. I was learning firefighting. I was towing buses. I was towing trucks," she said. "I was doing all these things and all the while asking myself, 'how is this happening?' But I stuck with it. It was challenging for me, but I told myself I'm going to do this because I can do this, and I did it."

Colon was one of several senior PA women leaders who shared their experiences during a

special International Women's Day conference on Wednesday at Port Authority headquarters, an event featuring Veronique "Ronnie" Hakim, a veteran public transportation executive and interim president and CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).

"Women continue to face obstacles to professional success, institutional bias and the role that women take upon ourselves to strike the delicate balance between success in the workplace and a meaningful family life," said Hakim. "Given that it's 2017 and we haven't yet achieved equal opportunity and equal pay for women, should we give up hope? No. Should we celebrate that women are here and are integral members of the workplace? Yes, yes and yes."

Hakim recalled being approached by a tearful young engineer, a mother of two with a long commute, who was struggling and on the brink of giving up. She told Hakim she didn't ever think she could juggle it successfully the way Hakim had.

"I said 'whoa.' Are we doing a disservice by appearing like it's all easy. It's not," she said. "A lot of things didn't go right. A lot of dinners didn't get made. A lot of lunches were forgotten. But I am proud I've never left a kid on the sidewalk."

The event was sponsored by the PA Women's Council, which has been in existence for a year. The organization was created by PA assistant chief engineer Denise Berger, the president of the group, to empower women in their careers at the PA.

As part of the event, Port Authority Chief Operating Officer Stephanie Dawson was given an award by Executive Director Pat Foye, honoring her service over the years to the agency. ■



Trailblazing PA women speak from the Board dais: (from left) Hilary McCarron, Elizabeth Colon, Annesa Lau, Gloria Frank, Evelyn Crespo, Renee Spann, Amanda Rogers, and Crelle DeGraffe

MIKE DOMBROWSKI

NYAMA Goes to Albany for Aviation Advocacy Day

Aviation industry leaders from across New York State traveled to Albany on March 21st and 22nd for the New York Aviation Management Association's (NYAMA) annual Advocacy Day to educate legislators on the importance of a strong aviation industry to the economic future of the state. For more information about NYAMA visit www.nyama.aero ■



Boeing To Open First European Facility

Boeing revealed its plans to spend \$24.98 million in launching its first facility in Europe to manufacture aircraft parts, according to Reuters.

The company chose Sheffield, UK for its 25,000 square feet establishment, where actuators for Boeing's next-generation 737, 737 MAX and 777 aircraft will be produced. During various states of flight, actuation systems extend and retract wing flaps.

The Sheffield factory is due to cooperate with the Portland, Oregon facility which produces machine parts, gear systems and flight controls. Starting from 2018, the new plant is expected to employ about 30 people.

The company stated that this investment is Boeing's step to reduce costs in its supply chain by starting in-house manufacturing of main actuation components and systems in the United States and the UK.

Additionally, in October, 2016, Boeing announced building its first offshore plane factory in China. ■



Russian Airlines Will Need 2,000 New Aircraft By 2035

Russian airlines will require from 1,700 to 2,000 new passenger aircraft through 2035. More than a half of this number, from 1,100 to 1,300 units will be mainline airliners, Russia's vice-minister for transport, Valeriy Okulov forecasted this week. The government hopes to meet with demand with locally made commercial aircraft.



UAC works to produce the entire range of commercial airliners in the most demanded segments.

"The average annual acquisitions rate stands at 60-70 aircraft per year. With replacements factored in, the average number of deliveries reaches 75-85 aircraft per year. In the last decade airlines received in average of 82 aircraft per year," Okulov said. He also added that about two thirds of deliveries are aircraft with the seating capacity of 50 to 110 and 140 to 220 passengers.

Russia's total mainline airliner fleet, which currently stands at 579 aircraft, is expected to expand by 140 units by 2020, according to the forecast made by State

Research Institute for Civil Aviation. For the same period up to 300 aircraft currently in operation will have to be replaced.

Russian carriers currently operate 494 Western-built aircraft with the average age of 11 years. Western-built aircraft comprise about one third of the fleet in the regional segment.

According to Okulov, the majority of Western-built aircraft are leased for the period between seven and 12 years (in 80% of cases - between seven and 12 years, and 5% - more than 12 years).

"It's safe to forecast that by 2030-2031 all of the aircraft currently in operational leasing with Russian airlines will be phased out. They will be replaced either with next generation Russian-made aircraft or foreign-built aircraft," Okulov emphasized.

"We need to proceed with creating conditions for consistent step-by-step transfer to operating primarily Russian aircraft, which would meet international standards, within the time-frame of 10 to 15 years," Russia's vice-premier Dmitry Rogozin said. He encouraged Russian aircraft manufacturers, financial and leasing bodies to join efforts to elaborate a coordinated strategy and measures that would stimulate Russian airlines to acquire locally-built aircraft. The government promised that those carriers that will operate Russian-made aircraft will have preferences in receiving subsidies and commercial rights. ■

Posted on March 10th, 2017 by Russian Aviation Insider in Air Transport, Russia

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“The Hotel at JFK” Presentation On TWA Flight Center

Open House New York’s “Project in Planning: The TWA Hotel at JFK”, held on March 7th at the SVA theater in New York, was an incredibly informative event with not an empty seat in the house.

The panelists (from left to right) were: Richard Southwick, Director Historic Preservation, Beyer Blinder Belle, Jim Steven, Manager JFK PONYA, Anne Marie Lubrano, Lubrabo Ciavarra Architects, Tyler Morse, CEO, MCR Development, and Moderator, Gregory Wessner, OHNY Director.



ROBERTA DUNN

The presentation discussed the process and problems of transforming the TWA Flight Center into the TWA Hotel. Tyler Morse, whose company MCR is spearheading the project, discussed the many problems, which included the crumbling exterior concrete, the interior asbestos, the replacement of the 500 pane window wall, (not one of which is the same size as the other), and restoration to the original after many years of additions and alterations.

The process involved 22 government agencies, 9 law firms, and 124 consulting firms! Other panelists brought to light the incredibly advanced architecture, the 30-hour continuous concrete pour to form the building, the mere four points of contact with the ground which supported the terminal, and the difficulty and importance of getting the details right in the restoration.

More immediate concerns included questions regarding the noise issue at the hotel, solved by an eight times thickness glass, tested in Italy, to ensure a blissful night’s sleep, and the cost of a one night’s stay - \$250.00.

The TWA Hotel will have 505 rooms, conference and meeting spaces, restaurants, bars, a gym, an observation deck and a museum featuring New York as the birthplace of the modern Jet Age. It is expected to reopen to the public in late 2018 - 2019. **ROBERTA DUNN**

Iceland’s Wow Air Eyes More US Flights After Cheap Tickets Fly

Icelandic low-cost airline Wow Air is looking to fly daily from Europe to the United States, after cut price tickets were snapped up for the five times a week flights it will start from next year.

The airline offered tickets at 99 pounds one way from London to Boston via Iceland starting from March. “At that price, frankly, it sold out overnight,” Skuli Mogensen, founder, owner and chief executive of Wow, told Reuters in an interview on the sideline of a travel conference in London.



He said this had given the airline confidence to try to boost services, and it would add four more planes to fly between Iceland and the United States from 2016.

“We’ve been working hard to find additional capacity because clearly we see that there is a huge opportunity to do what we’re doing.”

London to Boston flights on the Wow Air website typically sell for around 317 pounds, including booking charges, similar to flights offered on the British Airways website. Budget airlines have historically

found it tough to make money on long-haul flights, where longer flying times mean there are fewer options to cut costs, and transatlantic travel has been a tough nut to crack given high competition.

Norwegian Air Shuttle, another low-cost carrier, began flying transatlantic routes in 2013, although plans to expand have met with resistance in the United States, and even Ryanair has said it will be several years before it has the planes to operate effectively.

Wow currently operates four Airbus A320 planes on lease between Iceland and European destinations including London, Berlin and Copenhagen. Two Airbus A321 planes will fly passengers to Boston and from June, also to Baltimore Washington International, around 32 miles northeast of Washington D.C.

“I don’t see why the low cost model will not have a 30 percent market share (of trans-Atlantic) in the next five to ten years,” Mogensen said, up from about 1 percent currently. ■

American Airlines Appoints Rick Elieson As President of Cargo

American Airlines has appointed Rick Elieson as president—cargo overseeing all aspects of the US carrier’s worldwide cargo business.

Elieson will report to Jim Butler, who recently succeeded Art Torno as senior vice president—international and cargo, following Torno’s retirement. “We often look at cargo as an airline within an airline,” said Butler, adding: “Leading this fantastic team requires a wide range of experience, which Rick brings to the position.”

“His history in leading large-scale strategic partnerships, pricing and revenue management and complex technology implementations, combined with his goal of building collaborative and empowered teams, is the perfect recipe for supporting the future success of our cargo division.”

Elieson began his career on the Japanese desk in American’s Fort Worth reservations office in 1994. He has since held numerous positions in revenue management, pricing strategy, loyalty, digital, marketing and as the head of American Airlines Vacations.

Most recently he served as vice president—global partner marketing.

Elieson is a 20+ year veteran with American Airlines and in his most recent role oversaw a \$3bn part of the organization across 40 countries. He will be transitioning into his new role over the next several weeks, but should be fully in place in May and will be based at the airline’s headquarters in Dallas/Fort Worth in the US.

Elieson will be taking over Butler’s role on the IATA Cargo Committee and other industry bodies where American is represented.

He is a fluent Japanese speaker and lived in Japan for two years. ■



Rick Elieson



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Air China Plans More International Routes

Air China will start five new international routes, including Beijing - Zurich, Beijing - Astana, Beijing - Jakarta, Shanghai - Barcelona and Shenzhen - Los Angeles. Against the background of newly started international routes slowing down and business travel picking up, these new routes will give Air China more access to international markets and reflect Air China's confidence in expanding its international presence in 2017.



During the Spring Festival transportation period that just ended, the increase rate of the domestic and international passengers on Air China was higher than that of the equipment the airline put on various routes, and the airline's payload and operating revenues both increased significantly and better than expected. The demand for outbound tourism remained robust - especially during the 7-day Spring Festival, outbound tour-

ists amounted to 6 million, and Air China delivered an impressive performance on routes to destinations like Britain, Spain, Italy, New York, Los Angeles and Hawaii, with seat utilization of 82.4% on its international routes, up 3.1 percentage points.

A look at the distribution of passenger traffic during the Spring Festival suggests that passengers were more aware of avoiding travel peak periods. Families traveling out together increased significantly, helping smooth out the demand curve of the Spring Festival period and bringing good revenues to Air China.

In 2017, when international oil prices tend to stabilize and the fluctuations of Chinese yuan plateau, Air China will actively respond to the strong demand for travel, further expand its presence in popular international markets, seize opportunities, and constantly improve its global route network deployment. This will undoubtedly help Air China move forward towards its goal of becoming "a large global network carrier with international competitive edge". ■

Emirates Set for Non-Stop From Athens to Newark

Emirates commenced daily passenger service between Newark Liberty International Airport and Dubai International Airport, via Athens International Airport. A VIP delegation and contingent of international media were aboard the inaugural flight, which carried passengers from Athens, Dubai and points beyond.

Newark becomes Emirates' 12th U.S. gateway, and is the second serving the greater Tri-State Area, complementing Emirates' existing four daily flights from Dubai and John F. Kennedy International Airport. Passengers embarking from Newark and Dubai will have the option to disembark in Athens or continue to their final destinations.

"This new route will connect America's largest metropolitan area and Dubai through one of Europe's great capitals," said Hubert Frach, Divisional Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations West, Emirates. "The launch of this year-round daily service will allow us to offer Emirates' unique product and award-winning service to passengers on a route long neglected by other airlines. We expect this service to generate consistently high demand and enhance business, culture and leisure connections on both sides of the Atlantic."

"It is always a great pleasure to announce new air services, route expansions and partnerships at our airport," said Diane Papaanni, the General Manager at Newark Liberty International Airport. "Our airport has a vast network of destinations, and we are delighted to have Emirates join our airline family and offer more travel options to our customers."

"Emirates' direct, year-round operations on the Athens-New York route is a spectacular development for the Athens' market, enhancing its connectivity and presenting the traveling public with new travel options on Emirates' excellent product. At the same time, Athens' strong traffic volumes to/from the US, underpinned by the vibrant Greek-American community, signify the potential and the success of the route. We wish to our airline-partner all the best to this ground-breaking endeavor", said Dr. Yiannis Paraschis, CEO, Athens International Airport.

"The United States is a priority market for Greece," said Consul General of Greece in New York, Konstantinos Koutras. "Greece has experienced a double-digit increase in arrivals from the United States in the past two years. The establishment of the new direct flight Dubai-Athens-New York will significantly empower Greece's appeal among the U.S. travel audience."

Emirates will serve the route with a wide-body Boeing 777-300ER powered by General Electric GE90 engines, offering eight seats in First class, 42 seats in Business class and 304 seats in Economy class, as well as 19 tons of belly-hold cargo capacity.

The new route will be a great benefit to the United States' substantial Greek community of approximately 1.3 million people, many of whom live in the New York metropolitan and Tri-State area. ■



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Maersk, IBM Collaborate On Blockchain Solution

Maersk and IBM said they intend to work with a network of shippers, freight forwarders, ocean carriers, ports and customs authorities to build the new global trade digitization solution, which is expected to go into production later this year.

For customs authorities, the solution is intended to give real time visibility, and for shippers, it could help reduce trade documentation and processing costs.

Danish shipping company Maersk and Armonk, N.Y.-based global technology company IBM announced a new collaboration to use blockchain technology to help transform the global, cross-border supply chain. IBM and Maersk are developing the new global trade digitization solution using the Hyperledger Fabric framework, and it is expected to go into production later this year.

Both companies said they intend to work with a network of shippers, freight forwarders, ocean carriers, ports and customs authorities to build the new solution. "The solution will help manage and track the paper trail of tens of millions of shipping containers across the world by digitizing the supply chain process from end-to-end to enhance transparency and the highly secure sharing of information among the trading partners," according to an IBM press release.

IBM said the solution has the potential to save the industry billions of dollars, and noted how costs associated with trade documentation processing and administration are estimated to be up to one-fifth the actual physical transportation costs. ■

Medal of Honor Recipients Feted By American Airlines On Honor Flight

Heroes enjoyed a ceremonial send-off and chartered flight to our Nation's Capital

American Airlines team members reaffirmed their commitment to our nation's military with annual events paying tribute to Medal of Honor recipients the week of March 20th. The events culminate with a charter flight carrying 25 recipients and their families to Washington D.C. for National Medal of Honor Day events and activities.

"American Airlines and our more than 100,000 team members are proud to partner with the National Medal of Honor Society to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the recipients of our nation's highest military award for valor in combat," said David Seymour, senior vice president, Integrated Operations at American and graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Today we demonstrate along with the hundreds of our team members who volunteer thousands of hours every year to causes like this and so many more that are so close to our hearts."

The celebrations began when 25 of the 75 living Medal of Honor recipients and their guests attended the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's annual Circle of Honor dinner at the New York Stock Exchange. The event celebrates their courage, selfless service and patriotism.

The events continued on March 25th with a hero's sendoff at John F. Kennedy International Airport before boarding an Airbus 321T bound for the nation's capital. Upon arrival at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, they were greeted with a water cannon salute and a large employee and community welcome. Recipients and their families were escorted to a special luncheon hosted by American in their honor at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City, during which American recognized team members for their efforts and recording the most volunteer hours with military and veterans' organizations.

"American Airlines is a phenomenal partner who provides a better-than first-class flying experience for America's truest heroes, the recipients of the Medal of Honor," said Ron Rand, president and CEO of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. "We deeply appreciate American's support and service — from the NYC-to-DC charter flight to the smallest details — during National Medal of Honor day events and activities.

Since 2009, American has been involved with the foundation by supporting the Medal of Honor recipients and the organization's activities. In 2011, the company became the first airline to offer all current and future Medal of Honor recipients top-tier Executive Platinum® status in its AAdvantage® loyalty program. Given to only its most elite customers, this status ensures these heroic individuals will have access to all elite amenities during their travel experience. In September, American will once again serve as the official airline of the National Medal of Honor Convention, which will take place in Pueblo, Colorado.

American Airlines has long-standing ties to the nation's armed forces. With more than 6,000 team members who are veterans or still serving in the reserve component, the airline places a strong emphasis on these initiatives via in-kind contributions to nonprofit organizations. These organizations include Snowball Express, Honor Flights, and the Gary Sinise Foundation. ■



American Airlines Honor Flight at JFK

IATA Memo to Trump: Cut Aviation Taxes and Return to the Principles of Deregulation

In a Washington policy speech aimed primarily at the new US administration of President Trump, IATA's top boss Alexandre de Juniac has urged governments to support the vital role aviation plays in connecting people and commerce around the globe.



Alexandre de Juniac

"Our world has grown much wealthier through trade and travel. Air travel liberates people to live better lives and makes our world a better place," Alexandre de Juniac, the global airline group's director general and chief executive, told the US Chamber of Commerce 2017 Aviation Summit this week.

The aviation sector contributes \$680.1bn dollars to GDP in the US and supports 6.2m jobs. "Aviation is the business of freedom and we must continue to work together to make it so," said de Juniac.

Looking to the agenda for the Trump Administration, de Juniac called for a reduction in the tax burden on aviation and air travelers, and a new approach to the provision of air traffic services. "The tax burden needs to be reduced. Airlines for America estimates that taxes account for more than a fifth of the cost of the average domestic ticket."

"The US is falling behind in the introduction of new and more efficient technology. Now is the time to move forward with innovation in the provision of air traffic services. IATA supports the creation of an independent, corporatized non-profit entity to manage US skies. IATA hopes that this will be one of the achievements of the Trump Administration and the 115th Congress."

De Juniac also urged the Trump Administration to return the country to the principles of airline deregulation. ■

Dinh-Zarr Becomes Acting NTSB Chairman

US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) vice chairman Bella Dinh-Zarr has taken on the role of acting chairman following the expiration of Christopher Hart's term as NTSB chairman. A new permanent chairman would have to be nominated by US President Donald Trump and confirmed by the US Senate.

Dinh-Zarr has been NTSB's vice chairman since March 31, 2015. She became an NTSB board member on March 23, 2015, following a tenure serving as director of the US office of the FIA Foundation, an international philanthropy that promotes safe and sustainable transportation.

Hart became NTSB's acting chairman when former chairman Deborah Hersman resigned from the board on April 25, 2014. He was nominated to become the chairman in January 2015 by President Barack Obama and became chairman on March 15, 2015, following a 97-0 Senate confirmation vote. Hart will remain with NTSB. ■



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Alaska CEO Says Privatization Is Only Way To Get ATC Operations

Alaska Air Group Inc. CEO Brad Tilden said the nation's air traffic control system should be privatized and modernized to deal with congestion and delays.



Brad Tilden

"We need to move faster," Tilden told members of the House of Representatives in testimony before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee on aviation in Washington, D.C.

In a story reported by the Seattle Registers Andrew McIntosh on March 11th, SeaTac-based Alaska Airlines is the West Coast's largest airline and the nation's fifth largest. Tilden's remarks put the airline at odds with a growing anti-privatization movement that's opposed to carving air traffic control operations out from the Federal Aviation Administration.

"ATC reform, including the separation of ATC operations from the FAA and into an independent not-for profit, non-government corporation – as many other industrialized countries have done - is needed in order to put our country on the path of true aviation infrastructure improvement," Tilden said.

President Donald Trump has hinted that he favors ATC privatization to help accelerate plans to modernize the U.S. air system's infrastructure.

Noting that he's a pilot himself, Tilden agreed. The Alaska Airlines boss praised air traffic controllers as "highly talented" professionals responsible for the safest airspace system in the world.

"However, under the current governance and funding system, we run a real risk that demand for airspace is going to rise at a rate that is more rapid than our rate of technological innovation, worsening delays," Tilden added.

"Therein lies the specific, big opportunity: We need to modernize the system to connect the en-route navigation structure with the approach phase of the flight using today's technology," he added. Updated technology would allow more airplanes into the U.S. air system, reduce fuel consumption and travel times and cut emissions, Tilden said. ■

Delta Cargo Launches Real-Time GPS Tracking for DASH Critical & Medical Same-Day Shipments

Delta Cargo is introducing DASH Critical & Medical, the first fully GPS-enabled, same-day product offered by a U.S. freight carrier. The new service provides real-time tracking and monitoring of any eligible shipment, and customers can ship items up until 45 minutes prior to scheduled flight departure. DASH Critical & Medical is now available from ten locations nationwide namely Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, LaGuardia (New York), Los Angeles, Memphis, Minneapolis, Rochester and Seattle with service to 89 mainland U.S. destinations and Hawaii.

"We've tailored and developed this product around our customer needs with the highest boarding priority of any Delta Cargo product, and the fastest transit times in the logistics industry. No one else offers a comparable service," said Gareth Joyce, Delta's Senior Vice President - Delta Cargo.

DASH Critical & Medical shipments have clearly visible, unique pink packaging and include GPS tracking that is proactively monitored by a dedicated team throughout the journey. This helps to ensure that important shipments are in the right place at the right time throughout the shipping process.

Delta's DASH Critical & Medical offers



premium domestic service for time-sensitive, small packages such as medical commodities, legal documents, essential machinery parts and aircraft on the ground (AOG) components. FAA Lifeguard/Medevac-designated shipments must ride as DASH Critical & Medical.

If delivery is impacted by irregular operations, such as limited flying due to bad weather, the monitoring team will proactively contact local airports to help coordinate the export, transfer and import of all DASH Critical & Medical shipments. DASH Critical & Medical is available for anyone shipping items less than 16 oz. ■

Argentina's First Low Fare Airline Is Conceived: Flybondi

As long-distance bus fares in Argentina get more expensive, businessmen Gastón Parisier and Julián Cook have been attempting to drive down the price of a different kind of bondi altogether. Introducing Flybondi, the first Argentine budget airline (we hope!).

The company, looking for investment of US\$75 million to start operations in Argentina, is currently making headway and plans to formally request a government hearing in order to be granted permission for the routes within the next two weeks.

Flybondi is asking for authorization for destinations so far including Iguazú, Córdoba, Mendoza, Bariloche, Salta, Neuquén, Tucumán, Ushuaia, El Calafate, Comodoro Rivadavia, Resistencia and Río Gallegos. Following the application for a hearing, the government has 90 days to come to a decision, and once permission is granted (fingers crossed), the company has six months to take off — pun definitely intended.

In the meantime, the first rounds of negotiations with trade unions are due to begin and Cook has expressed that he has no concerns these will impede operations in any way. If all goes to plan, the first bargain flights should be taking to the air in the third quarter of 2017.

Within five years, Flybondi plans to have 30 planes and transport eight million passengers in domestic and regional flights.

One of the main reasons why low cost air travel has never come into play in Argentina has to do with government restrictions. For years, the country has had a system imposing a minimum and maximum price on flights. Earlier this year, however, the maximum boundary was removed but the lower bound still remains, which is what creates problems for entrepreneurs wanting to create any kind of budget airline. ■



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Passenger Demand Growth Hits Five-Year Peak

IATA Report shows strong growth and optimistic trends

In a March 7th Press Release, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) indicated that global passenger traffic results for January 2017 showed demand (revenue passenger kilometers or RPKs) rose 9.6% compared to January 2016. This was the strongest increase in more than five years.

Results were positively affected by traffic associated with the Lunar New Year celebrations, which occurred in January this year, compared to February in 2016. IATA estimates the holiday-related travel contributed up to one-half a percentage point in extra demand growth. January capacity rose 8.0%, and load factor



International Passenger Markets

January 2017 (% year-on-year)	Wonder Share ¹	RPK	ASK	PLF (%-pt) ²	PLF (level) ³
Total Market	100.0%	9.6%	8.0%	1.2%	80.2%
Africa	2.2%	5.2%	3.9%	0.9%	70.1%
Asia Pacific	32.9%	14.3%	11.1%	2.2%	81.5%
Europe	26.4%	8.4%	7.0%	1.0%	79.4%
Latin America	5.2%	4.9%	3.7%	0.9%	83.2%
Middle East	9.6%	13.5%	11.2%	1.6%	79.4%
North America	23.7%	3.4%	4.1%	-0.5%	80.0%

1. % of industry RPKs in 2016 2. Year-on-year change in load factor 3. Load factor level

climbed 1.2 percentage points to 80.2%.

Overall capacity was up 8% compared to January 2016; the total air passenger market load factor (PLF) for the month was 80.2%, up 1.4 points from a year ago.

IATA senior economist David Oxley said the pick-up in passengers “reflected a combination of passengers adjusting to the multiple terrorism and political ‘shock’ events seen in early 2016 as well as an upturn in the global economic cycle.” The month’s passenger surge was also likely fueled by the Lunar New Year, which occurred in January this year as opposed to its February occurrence in 2015.

“2017 is off to a very strong start, with demand at levels not seen since 2011. This is supported by the upturn in the global economic cycle and a return to a more normal environment after the terrorism and political ‘shock’ events seen in early 2016,” said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA’s Director General and CEO.

January international passenger traffic surged 9.3% compared to the year-ago period. Capacity rose 7.5% and load factor climbed 1.3 percentage point to 80.3%. All regions recorded year-over-year increases in demand led by the Middle East and Asia Pacific.

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ATA Announces First Annual Economic Summit

July 20 Event will Gather Experts from Many Industries to Discuss Trends and Economy

The American Journal of Transportation posted in their March 15th bulletin that they will be hosting the first annual ATA Economic Summit July 20 in Arlington, Va., for its motor carrier and private fleet members.

“We know trucking is the backbone of the supply chain,” said ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello, “and with this summit, we want to bring together experts from other adjacent industries to explore the state of the economy and trends that impact trucking and the U.S. economy at large.”

The Summit will bring together chief economists from several trade associations for an outlook on their respective industries, spanning from manufacturing to construction to retail. Attendees will gain a broad perspective on the state of the economy and forecasts in the supply chain ecosystem that they can use to strategize their budgets and future plans.

“Knowledge is power,” said ATA President and CEO Chris Spear, “and this Summit will offer the opportunity for fleet executives to gain the insights and knowledge necessary to make informed decisions.”

Among the organizations expected to be represented at the Summit are ACT Research, the American Chemistry Council, the Associated General Contractors, the Beer Institute, the National Automobile Dealers Association, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Restaurant Association and more to be announced later. Bob Costello will also give an outlook for the motor carrier industry. ■



VOLGA-DNEPR

Volga-Dnepr's An-124 Carries Four Helicopters In A Single Flight

US-based Helicopter Express called upon Volga-Dnepr Airlines for an urgent delivery of helicopters to fight the outbreak of wildfires that were plaguing the Chilean countryside.

Helicopter Express, contractors to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Department of Interior (DOI), are experts in fire-fighting operations and provide services such as aerial water delivery, prescribed burning, rappelling operations, and personnel delivery. For this mission, they were contracted by the Chilean government.

One of Volga-Dnepr's An-124-100 freighters touched down at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport less than three hours after the helicopters arrived at the airport for 11-hour flight to Santiago. The An-124-100 transported all three Bell 205 helicopters, a K-MAX 1200 helicopter and a flatbed truck and trailer onboard a single flight.

According to Volga-Dnepr, the total weight of the payload onboard the An-124-100, which took up the entire floor of the cargo hold, was 25 tonnes.

Peter Baldauf, Key Account Manager, Aerospace at Volga-Dnepr, Houston, Texas, said: “This was a case of two companies that are experts in their fields of operations joining forces to provide a fast solution to help the Chilean government tackle the wildfires in central and southern Chile.” ■

Port Authority Defenders Teach Self-Defense

The Port Authority Police's Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club and Women's Law Enforcement Association joined forces on March 2 to hold a martial arts class for members of the community.

The class was held at Renzo Gracie Academy in Fort Lee, New Jersey, and led by Police Officer Paul DeNunzio, President of the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club, and his fellow member, PO Alex Baez. The WLEA was represented on the mat by Police Officer Priscilla Sanchez.

The officers taught participants several basic self-defense techniques, such as effective hand, elbow, and knee strikes; arm locks; and defensive maneuvers against a choke and bear hug.

To learn more about the WLEA's activities, email President and PO Kristen Lynch-Stambuli at wleapapd@gmail.com. For the Jiu-Jitsu Club, email PO DeNunzio at pdennunzio@panynj.gov. ■



PO Sanchez (right) practices a hammer-fist strike with PO Baez.

The JetBlue Foundation Fuels STEM Education

JetBlue announced the latest round of grants provided by the JetBlue Foundation, an education-focused entity which furthers the airline's effort to place aviation top-of-mind as a career choice for students. The JetBlue Foundation will help fuel six aviation programs with \$162,000 in grants for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) based initiatives.

The JetBlue Foundation seeks out programs focusing on communities traditionally under-represented in STEM fields including women, minority groups and veterans. Beyond just grants, the JetBlue Foundation provides in-kind support, mentoring, internships and more to make a difference for the next generation of aviators, dispatchers, aircraft mechanics and pilots. Over the past four years, the Foundation has built lasting relationships with more than 26 aviation-focused programs and provided \$512,000 in grants to help these programs take off.

“According to the FAA, less than seven percent of commercial pilots and three percent of aircraft mechanics are women. For people of color, these statistics are just as low,” said Joanna Geraghty, president of The JetBlue Foundation. “We must fuel the talent pipeline now with diversity and focused educational training to ensure the future of our industry. Our goal is to provide access early on to prepare students for jobs after high school or for college.”

On March 31, the JetBlue Foundation hosted its fourth annual grant presentation with a special event at the New York Hall of Science, a hands-on, energetic educational museum where students can indulge their curiosity and creativity. In addition to a tour of the museum, aspiring aviators, administrators and students were treated to a special behind-the-scenes tour of JetBlue's home terminal – T5 at New York's JFK Airport – where they were able to see the inner works of an airline. The event also included opportunities for the students to learn more about the various career opportunities available at JetBlue.

This year's JetBlue Foundation grant recipients included two from New York: Vaughn College of Aeronautics & Technology, and the New York Hall of Science.

Vaughn College will use this grant to purchase a flight simulator and develop programming. Their goal is to expose 600 New York City area high schoolers and Vaughn College students to flight learning and related careers. The funds will also further enhance the college's flight operations training curriculum.

New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) will use their grant to support the Science Career Ladder initiative – a nationally recognized program for engaging under-represented groups in STEM. The Science Career Ladder recruits high school and college students as “Explainers” to interact with NYSCI's visitors, fostering conversations about science exhibits and activities.

The JetBlue Foundation will also provide support and special consultation to three developing programs to help them expand on new aviation-focused initiatives.

JetBlue supports STEM education through a variety of initiatives. The airline hosts a unique education pathway from relationships with elementary school students and mentoring high school and college students to its University Gateway Program, which leads to positions as Pilot Trainees with JetBlue. ■

Why Airports Should Stop Relying On Car Parking Revenues

BY MILDA MANOMAITYTE
Director Global Air Rail Alliance

Several weeks ago, I had a privilege to speak at the annual Passenger Terminal Conference, celebrating its 20th year anniversary in Amsterdam. With nearly 7000 visitors, speakers and conference participants, the Passenger Terminal Expo & Conference is clearly the biggest and most important annual gathering for global airports and suppliers.

Among 11 different conference tracks “Airport Cities, Transport Connections & Tourism” session discussed various airport access issues.

Over the years, as the director of the Global AirRail Alliance, I have been asked one question so many times, that I thought it would be a good idea to address it in my presentation, titled “Why airports should stop relying on car parking revenues”, and maybe challenge the “we’ve always done it this way” thinking.

And the question that I’m asked very often is – “why should we, the airport, invest in rail links when most of our revenue comes from people parking their vehicles at our car parks?”

That is a fair question, as according to the Airports Council International (ACI), car parking revenue brings about 20% of total operational (aeronautical and non-aeronautical) revenue for airport hubs of all sizes. In the mean-time passenger airline landing fees bring about 18% of total operational revenue. The numbers shift a little bit if you look at Large (19% car parking and 16% airline fees), Medium (15% and 24%), and Small (10% and 26%) airports.

And even though car parking and car rental concessions are still a core revenue stream for airports, they can no longer be taken for granted as a consistent source of business.

According to ACI, real per-passenger revenues from each fell by -3.6% and -4.2% in 2013 alone. Compared to 2008 levels, revenues are down -14% and -25.1%, respectively.

So will future airport car parks become something like Olympic stadiums from the past? Probably not, but there are two major disruptors that will impact car parking business at airports – new technology and change in behaviour.

The biggest disruptor for this business model will be the arrival of driverless cars. A report by KPMG found that 74% of UK automotive executives think that by 2025, more than half of car owners today will not want to own a vehicle, as self-driving technology and Mobility as a Service will take priority. This massive change is less than a decade away and now is

the time for airports to seriously consider how it will affect their ground transport services and terminal design.

The increase in uptake of ride hail and shared economy is also making a significant impact to car parking business at airports. Beijing International Airport reported car parking revenue dip in 2015 due to the decrease in long-term car parking because of the rise in the car-hailing and valet parking services.

Uber is available at airports in over 400 cities worldwide and Lyft serves over 130 airports in USA.

At the Passenger Terminal Conference sessions airports emphasized the struggle they are facing in dealing with car-hailing companies where this service is still illegal. That includes blocking the Uber app on the airport wifi or working with taxi drivers who spot and report uber drivers lingering at the airport.

But this approach in no way benefit the passengers. And one passenger group is bringing a massive change in the way we will travel in the future - Millennials are the biggest generation that is now approaching their peak spending age.

According to the American Public Transportation Association, the reasons and motivations for transportation choices are pragmatic - 46% of millennials state that a need to save money drives their choices; 46% also note convenience, 44% want exercise, and 35% say they

live in a community where it just makes more sense to use transit.

Millennials are multimodal, they choose the best transportation mode (driving, transit, bike, or walk) based on the trip they are planning to take. Communities that attract Millennials have a multitude of transportation choices. So, naturally, they will want the same from airports.

In fact, in the beginning of March a national public opinion survey found that 93% of Americans believe airport terminals could be better connected to the region’s ground transportation and transit networks.

To cater the future travellers, airports must think about multimodal hubs that will integrate rail, bus, car hailing or sharing, driverless, cycling and walkable travel options. By doing so, airports really need to think about the passenger journey experience and create a seamless and intuitive flow and wayfinding to, from and through terminals.

Airports cannot afford to be protective of the car parking revenues, because the market is changing rapidly and this business model is no longer reliable to sustain its financial growth.

Nobody really knows how the new technology and the new generations of travellers will affect car parking business, but one thing is clear, there needs to be a focus on providing multimodal seamless travel options for the connected passenger. ■



Intrepid Aviation Announces Delivery of 4th A330-300 to Turkish Airlines

Intrepid Aviation announced today the delivery of an A330-300 on long-term lease to Turkish Airlines following completion of an interior cabin reconfiguration and other works performed by SR Technics in Zurich. This marks the fourth of seven Rolls-Royce powered A330 aircraft to be delivered to the Istanbul based flag carrier.

Intrepid Aviation is a privately held commercial aircraft lessor. Intrepid and its team of experienced professionals invest in and manage a fleet of modern, in demand commercial jet aircraft on long-term lease to airline customers worldwide. Intrepid is headquartered in Stamford with offices in Dublin and Singapore. ■

Gulf Carriers Solve Electronic Ban With Enhanced Services

Etihad Airways announced it will provide business-class and first-class passengers with iPads. At the same time, Doha-based Qatar Airways has decided to offer the use of laptops for business-class passengers. In addition, Emirates will provide all passengers with a specialist handling service whereby passengers can keep their large electronic devices until boarding and receive the devices back upon reaching their destination.

These are measures which have been rapidly rolled out by three of the Gulf’s major carriers in response to both U.S. and U.K bans on electronic devices larger than a smartphone in cabins on specific flights from eight predominantly Muslim countries as part of increased security measures.

Where Qatar Airways is concerned, Business Class passengers travelling on all US-bound flights, laptops can be collected after boarding. Qatar is offering a special service at the gate for all passengers, whereby any electronic items prohibited by the new ban will be collected and securely packaged. These will then be tagged, loaded as check-in baggage and returned.

Said Akbar Al Baker, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive: “As an award-winning and global airline we truly appreciate the importance of being able to work on board our aircraft and that is why I have insisted on offering only the best possible solution for our customers. ■

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6 months experience working in retail or food service environment is essential. High school diploma preferred. Verbal and written communication is essential. Must be able to read, speak, and understand the English language in order to communicate with guests and receive instructions. Experience in dealing with problems involving guest service.

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PAPD Father and Son Continue St. Patrick's Day Tradition

John J. Collins (left) and his son John M. Collins, both retired Port Authority Police Captains, joined their fellow members of the PAPD Emerald Society in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade last week – an event in which the two have now participated 52 and 32 times, respectively.

The elder Mr. Collins retired from the PAPD in 1982 after a 27-year career and was a founding member of the PAPD Emerald Society, established in the mid-1960s. He's only missed marching with the society twice since it started participating.

His son retired from the PAPD in 2008 after 23 1/2 years. He began marching with his father in 1985, missing only one parade since then. ■

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The Patrouille De France Tours the American Skies

New York City was the first stop for the famed French aviation acrobatic group, Patrouille de France. The tour kicked off on March 25th when the French flight patrol began their US tour with a flyover of the Statue of Liberty in New York City. This is particularly noteworthy since the famous lady in the harbor was created by France and gifted to the United States.

Other highlights include a reception with the French Ambassador on March 27th in Washington DC, and a visit to the Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama to pay respects to those injured fighting in France during WWI on April 7-9th. Several of those injured will be present at the ceremony.

The highlight of the voyage: a flyover at the official ceremony of the 100th anniversary of the United State's entry into WWI, on April 6th in Kansas City, Missouri, organized by the World War I Centennial Commission. PAF's presence at the ceremony is a "symbol of the enduring friendship and the historic relationship that connects these two countries," explained one of the organizers of the event. ■



ARMÉE DE L'AIR/EPAA/SIRPA AIR

Air France-KLM Appoints Stéphane Ormand Vice President & GM of Air France-KLM USA

Air France-KLM has appointed Stéphane Ormand to the executive position of Vice President & General Manager of Air France-KLM USA. In his new position, Ormand will oversee all Air France and KLM activities within the United States.



"I am eager to take on this role and lead the Air France-KLM team in the United States in delivering best-in-class airline travel and innovative service," said Ormand. "One of my first roles within the company almost 20 years ago was analyzing the Paris-New York route. It feels serendipitous to now be in New York City fostering the great relationships between American travelers and Air France-KLM, and the company and our joint-venture partner Delta."

Ormand most recently worked at the company as the Vice President of Pricing and Revenue Management for short and medium haul, beginning in 2014. Prior to this position, Ormand held leadership roles in the digital and e-commerce departments for Air France-KLM.

"We are delighted to welcome Stéphane and his breadth of expertise to the United States. He will play a vital role in the company's strategy to differentiate the exceptional full-service delivered by Air France-KLM, and our unique joint-venture with Delta," said Marnix Fruitema, Senior Vice President, Air France-KLM North America.

Ormand began his career at Air France in 1998 in the revenue management department where he worked as a flight analyst in charge of the Paris-New York route. Ormand would go on to spend the next several years with Air France, serving as a team leader in Africa and the Middle East, working as the Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice President, and becoming the Head of Strategic Planning in the Development Department. Ormand has a degree in engineering from Ecole Centrale de Lyon and a master's degree in business administration from the University Paris Sorbonne. ■

Emirates Teams Up With Google for Creative On-Ground Digital Experiences

Interactive VR technologies were showcased
at Emirates Airline Festival of Literature

Emirates and Google are engaging visitors at this year's Emirates Airline Festival of Literature with innovative on-ground experiences ranging from virtual reality 3D painting tools to an e-book reading lounge. Emirates' on-ground activations ran until 11th March at the InterContinental Hotel Festival City in Dubai.

Boutros Boutros, Divisional Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications, Marketing and Brand for Emirates said: "Technology impacts our lives in different ways, and this year we wanted to meaningfully connect with visitors in an immersive manner at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature. We wanted to make sure that our activations are cutting - edge so we partnered with Google for some of the latest virtual reality innovations to showcase the breadth of our destination network and onboard product.

Emirates is partnering with Google to feature Google Tilt Brush, a virtual reality tool that allows users to paint, draw and even sculpt in a 3D space. Specially commissioned artists and Emirates Cabin Crew recreate famous landmarks through three-dimensional strokes in some of Emirates' most popular destinations on a large screen for visitors to see. Visitors were able to try the technology and draw their own life size paintings, using features that recreate stars, light and even fire. This is the first time that Google Tilt Brush were showcased in the region to the public.

Emirates and Google offered visitors the chance to explore popular titles in English and Arabic at a specially designed reading lounge. Visitors were able to flip through and read a vast selection of e-books in the Google Play Store on tablets. Last year, Emirates and Google collaborated to reach millions of smartphone users in the region, to support the UAE's Year of Reading efforts to nurture an entire generation of lifelong readers in the region.

In addition, those visiting the Emirates stand experienced Google Daydream and put on the virtual reality headset to simulate strolling through the Emirates A380 on Google Streetview. In addition to virtual reality experiences, visitors played the Emirates 'Destination Dash', an augmented reality game where they can connect routes across the airline's network.

Children interacted with Emirates onboard animals at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature. They were able to have a traditional Polaroid photo taken by Cabin Crew with Emirates on-board animal mascots, Shane the Koala and Leila the Camel. ■



Emirates and Google are also offering visitors the chance to explore popular titles in English and Arabic at a specially designed reading lounge.

IAG Launches Long Awaited Long Haul Airline

On Friday, March 17th, International Airlines Group (IAG) launched a new airline called LEVEL.

According to IAG, the parent company of British Airways, Iberia, Vueling, and Aer Lingus, LEVEL will be the a long haul low-cost carrier that will connect Europe with destinations across the Atlantic.

“LEVEL is an exciting new IAG airline brand which will bring a stylish and modern approach to flying at prices that are even more affordable,” IAG CEO Willie Walsh said in a statement.

Based out of Barcelona, Spain, the airline will use a pair of new Airbus A330 jets and will be operated by Iberia’s pilots and flight attendants. LEVEL is expected to begin passenger operations this June with service from Barcelona to Los Angeles and Oakland, California. The company will also launch flights from Barcelona to Buenos Aires, Argentina and Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic this summer. Tickets are already on sale with fares starting at just \$149 for a one-way ticket.

Flight between Barcelona and LA will launch first on June 1, with service twice a week. Service to Oakland will launch one day later with three flights a week. Punta Cana flights will commence on June 10 and Buenos Aires service will launch on June 17.

Each one of LEVEL’s Airbus A330s will be equipped with 21 premium economy and 293 economy seats. Passengers flying in premium economy will have access to complimentary meals, in-flight entertainment, seat selection, and a piece of checked luggage. However, these features will be a la carte for those flying in economy.

LEVEL is the latest carrier to enter the fray of low-cost, trans-Atlantic flights. In recent years, Norwegian Air and Iceland’s WOW Air have made waves in the marketplace by offering exceedingly low fares and bare-bones service. ■

Routes Asia Opens In Okinawa



Okinawa hosted the first Japanese Routes Asia air service development forum the weekend of March 17th to boost international transport connections.

Now in its 15th year, Routes Asia brings together airlines, airports, tourism authorities and governments to plan new flights and increase existing services. Over 930 route development professionals from 110 airlines, 170 airports and 20 tourism authorities are expected to attend this year’s event at Okinawa Convention Centre.

Japan has become a more affordable tourist destination in recent years due to the emergence of low-cost carriers and the depreciation of the Japanese yen. Between 2011 and 2016 the number of overseas visitors surged from 6.2 million to over 24 million, while Japan’s international market capacity grew by 43% to 52.5 million seats.

Okinawa has also experienced a tourism boom with over eight million people travelling to the prefecture every year to enjoy the subtropical climate, serene beaches, crystal clear sea, lush forests, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and unique culture. ■

Azul: First to Fly The E195-E2

In a March 9th Press Release, Embraer Aviation Brazil’s Azul Linhas Aéreas will be the first airline to fly the E195-E2, Embraer’s largest commercial airplane. The new-generation is on schedule for delivery in the first half of 2019.

In 2014, Azul placed an order for up to 50 E195-E2s. The carrier is both the launch customer and launch operator of the aircraft. Since it acquired its first E-Jet back in 2008, Azul has captured one third of Brazil’s domestic market. Today, it flies more than 70 E-Jets and is the carrier with the largest fleet of E195s in the world.

Azul Brazilian Airlines will be the first carrier to operate the Embraer E195-E2 in service, the Brazilian manufacturer said.

Azul, which placed the launch order for the E195-E2 at the 2014 Farnborough Airshow, will take delivery of its first of the type in the first half of 2019. Azul has 30 E195-E2s on firm order, plus purchase rights for 20 more.

The São Paulo-based carrier is not a surprise selection to be the launch operator of the E195-E2, which it will configure with 130 seats in a single-class layout. “Azul played a key role in the E195-E2 development, actively participating in the design specification of the aircraft,” Embraer Commercial Aviation president and CEO John Slattery said in a statement.

Azul today operates 73 current-generation E-Jets in its fleet. ■



US Based Super Tankers Battle Chilean Forest Fires

An international force of air tankers has been tackling the forest fires that have wiped out thousands of square miles of Chile, and U.S.-based Global SuperTanker says it’s been a record-setting effort for their converted Boeing 747. A wealthy Chilean living in the U.S. footed the multimillion-dollar bill to get the jumbo jet to Chile, and according to a news release from the company, it’s been put to good use.

“During its deployment in Chile, the Global SuperTanker set a world record for liquid dropped in a single day by a land-based aerial tanker at 134,400 gallons,” the release said. “The SuperTanker, which has now been deployed in Chile for nine days, achieved this milestone through seven sorties on February 1, which far surpassed the previous known world record of 110,000 gallons.” The aircraft can drop 19,000 gallons of liquid in as many as six different drops. It’s working alongside another jet air tanker from the other side of the world.

Russia sent an Il-76 waterbomber to Chile and it’s also been busy. The Il-76 can carry 11,000 gallons of water or retardant. The two big tankers have been joined by aircraft from Canada, Brazil, Colombia, France, and Portugal. The fires have relented in recent days and Chile has ended its state of emergency in the affected areas.

The government has spent \$333 million battling the blazes, which blackened 500,000 hectares, destroyed 1,610 houses and killed 11 people, including five firefighters. While the worst of the fires have been extinguished, there are still sporadic flare ups south of Santiago. ■

Northern Ireland Works With Aviation Industry to Increase International Flights

Belfast will be hosting the Routes Europe forum, April 23-25, to bring new flights and improved international connections to Northern Ireland.

Routes Europe provides a meeting place for airlines, airports, tourism authorities and government bodies that want to plan new flights and increase existing services. It moves to a new city every year to highlight different aviation markets to Europe's leading airlines. Increased investment in Northern Ireland and a tourism boom have helped to stimulate the demand for travel. Scheduled air traffic has increased by around 4% a year since 2013 – higher than the wider European region. Belfast International Airport and George Best Belfast City Airport handled 7.8 million passengers last year, and the numbers are forecast to rise during 2017.

Low-cost airlines are responsible for much of the growth. Ryanair's new base at Belfast International Airport has had the biggest impact, introducing flights to Berlin and Milan and a

service to London Gatwick that operates four times a day. Thirteen additional routes will be operated during the summer 2017 schedule.

Belfast City Airport's new routes include Eastern Airways' regional UK flights and Icelandair's three-times-a-week service to Reykjavik (starting in June) which will provide easy connections to its network of destinations in the US and Canada.

City of Derry Airport has also secured a new airline to Northern Ireland – bmi regional. The carrier will launch a high-frequency service to London Stansted at the beginning of May.

Northern Ireland is welcoming more visitors every year, creating the scope for further route development. Visits to the country's attractions reached an all-time high of 17.5 million in 2015, with the most popular sites being the Giant's Causeway and Titanic Belfast. The numbers will continue to grow as tourism is developed into an industry that delivers £1 billion to the economy by 2020 (a target of the Northern Ireland Executive).

A greater choice of destinations would better serve local people as well as visitors -1.2 million Northern Ireland residents passed through Dublin Airport in 2015. In addition, as many as one million inbound passengers used Dublin as a gateway to Northern Ireland. New routes from North Ireland's airports would help to meet the demand that already exists in the market.

Mel Chittock, executive director of finance and operations at Invest Northern Ireland said: "Northern Ireland is an up and coming destination with huge aspirations for export, tourism and investment growth."

John McGrillen, chief executive of Tourism NI added: "Hosting Routes Europe will highlight the significant scope which exists for further route development from Northern Ireland and demonstrate why Northern Ireland is a great place to work, live, visit and do business."

Steven Small, brand director of Routes said: "Direct and convenient air access is vital for Northern Ireland's economy and future



George Best Belfast City Airport

prosperity. Routes Europe is a brilliant opportunity to show the aviation industry why new services are needed."

Northern Ireland has a range of partners committed to the success of Routes Europe 2017 in Belfast. Stakeholders include the Department for the Economy and its agencies – Invest NI and Tourism NI – as well as Belfast City Council, Visit Belfast, Tourism Ireland, George Best Belfast City Airport, Belfast International Airport, City of Derry Airport and the Belfast Waterfront. ■

VOLUNTEER

WE NEED THEM. THEY NEED US. WE NEED YOU.

★ **USO CENTER T5/JFK NOW OPEN** ★

Are You Willing to Lose Some Sleep to Support Our Military and Their Family?
Well the USO has the perfect opportunity for you!

We are recruiting volunteers to support an overnight shift (11:00pm to 5:00 am) at our center located at JFK Airport –Terminal 5. Volunteer's responsibilities includes: checking military ID, restocking snacks, keeping the center clean and most importantly thanking our military for their service and sacrifice to our great country. Training and parking will be provided.

For more information call (212) 695-5590 to sign up today!

VISIT USONYC.ORG/VOLUNTEER



JFK Rotary Club's 5K Runway Run

Bud Hening Memorial Run at JFK International Airport

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Open to All Categories and Age Groups

Walkers Are Welcome

Free Parking & Bag Check

Race Starts and Ends at JFK Building 14

QUESTIONS?

E-Mail: Info@jfkrotaryclub.org

Registration / Sign-in / Bib Pick-up:
7:00am-8:15am

Last bus leaves for starting line at 8:40am

Rain or Shine, Race starts at 9:00am
(subject to airport security)

www.jfkrunwayrun.org



Upcoming Events

April 1 & 8

VAUGHN COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE
Vaughn College, Flushing, NY
Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for a continental breakfast.
www.vaughn.edu

April 4 & 18

SWISSPORT EMPLOYMENT OPEN HOUSE
JFK Airport Building 151, JFK Airport, Jamaica, NY 11430
www.swissport.com

April 4

SKAAMCO APRIL MEETING
Radisson Hotel Martinique, New York, NY
www.skaamco.org

April 5

LAAMCO APRIL MEETING
United Conference Room 3721
www.laamco.com

April 6

VAUGHN COLLEGE SPRING CAREER FAIR
Vaughn College, Flushing, NY
www.vaughn.edu

April 6

2017 BISHOP WRIGHT AVIATION INDUSTRY AWARDS LUNCHEON
Russo's on the Bay, Howard Beach, NY
www.christfortheworldchapel.org

April 8

AMERICAN AIRPOWER MUSEUM 2ND ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
American Airpower Museum, 1230 New Highway, Farmingdale, NY
www.americanairpowermuseum.org

April 9

JFK ROTARY CLUB'S 5K RUNWAY RUN
JFK Airport, Jamaica, NY
www.JFKRunway.org

April 11

CALMM APRIL MEETING
JFK Airport, Building 14, Jamaica
www.calmm.com

April 11

REPUBLIC AIRPORT (FRG) COMMISSION MEETING
7150 Republic Airport, East Farmingdale, NY
www.republicairport.net

April 20

AVIATION FLIGHT CENTER 5TH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME DINNER
Farmingdale State College, Farmingdale, NY
www.farmingdale.edu

April 12

JFK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTORS GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING
JFK Airport, Building 14 Conference Room "A"
www.jfkairportchamberofcommerce.org

April 22

VAUGHN COLLEGE FAMILY, FRIENDS AND ALUMNI DAY
Vaughn College, Flushing, NY
www.vaughn.edu

April 26

APOLLO 17 DINNER & PANEL DISCUSSION
Cradle of Aviation Museum, Charles Lindbergh Blvd., Garden City, NY
www.cradleofaviation.org

April 27

JFK AIR CARGO ASSOCIATION APRIL LUNCHEON
Hilton New York, JFK Airport, Jamaica, NY
www.jfkaircargo.net

April 29

USO 5K RUN/WALK
Pier 84 – Hudson River Park, 555 12th Avenue, New York, NY
www.usonyc.org

May 24

14TH ANNUAL LIBAA/PAMA GOLF OUTING
Rock Hill Country Club, 105 Clancy Road, Manorville, NY
www.libaa.org

Emergency Beer Delivery Reaches Thirsty Texans

March 17 is St Patrick's Day, and one of the most important days in the Irish calendar requires celebrating on both sides of the Atlantic.

American Airlines Cargo's general sales agent in Dublin – IAM – sprang into action to ensure that expats and locals alike could enjoy their traditional tippie on the big day. IAM was asked to oversee the shipment of over 13 tons of beer to Texas in time for the upcoming holiday.

The barrels were collected from their point of origin in Ireland and delivered by truck to American's London Heathrow facility.

Once at the UK's busiest airfreight gateway, the barrels were prepared for loading onto one of American Airlines' Boeing B777-300 widebody aircraft for a flight to Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. From DFW, the precious cargo was moved by truck to Houston just in time for St Patrick's Day and its celebrations. ■



Spaceman Lands at the Cradle of Aviation Museum

On March 30th, the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, NY, hosted a presentation and book signing with retired Astronaut, and Long Island Native, Mike Massiminio.

The presentation took us through the surreal wonder and beauty of his first spacewalk, growing up in Franklin Square, and the development of his enduring love for the Hubble Telescope—which he and his fellow astronauts were tasked with saving on his final mission.

Attendees lined up to have their copy of his book, *Spaceman: An Astronaut's Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe*. Space-man invites us into a rare, wonderful world where science meets the most thrilling adventure, revealing just what having "the right stuff" really means. ■



THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

Norwegian Air Service at SWF

Good news for travelers who are thinking about hopping across “the pond” this summer!

A new subsidiary of Norwegian Airlines will start offering low-cost flights between Stewart International Airport and Europe starting July 1, 2017.

At the recent unveiling of this new non-stop service, the PA-NYNJ Pipes & Drum Band performed in the Main Terminal of the airport, where light refreshments were served to gathered Port Authority and airport employees, and Norwegian Airlines representatives.

PA Executive Director Pat Foye, who joined in the festivities noted that Stewart Airport’s first regularly scheduled international service is projected to carry hundreds of thousands of passengers in the first year alone, and he is hopeful this will cause other domestic airlines to add connecting flights to Stewart’s roster. Last year SWF handled 275,313 passengers.

Both Huntley Lawrence, the PA’s Aviation Director and Ed Harrison, Stewart’s General Manager concurred that they have long envisioned this kind of international service at SWF as a way to develop domestic expansion.

Norwegian Airline’s service will start with a total of 19 scheduled weekly flights to and from Dublin & Shannon, Ireland, Edinburgh, Scotland and Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The new transatlantic routes will operate on brand new Boeing 737 Max Aircraft, which seats 180 passengers in a single-class economy cabin, and offers a longer range than existing single-aisle planes. Passengers will have the option to purchase hot & cold foods onboard.

To accommodate this air new schedule, Coach USA, the parent company of Shortline, will be offering Express Bus service between Stewart Airport and the Port Authority Bus Terminal in mid-town Manhattan as soon as flights begin.

For more information visit www.norwegian.com ■



Port Authority Aviation Director Huntley Lawrence (left) and Executive Director Pat Foye (right) join the celebratory procession as Norwegian Air inaugurates daily flights to Ireland and Scotland from Stewart International Airport.

The ARK Opens at JFK



Welcome to The ARK. The world’s first privately owned animal terminal, and quarantine center recently opened at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

This 178,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility offers round-the-clock service to animals of all sizes, whether they are arriving, departing, or in-between flights.

Pet owners can simply drop off their furry friends for a quick pre-flight walk, and highly trained staff will make sure they get to the aircraft at departure time.

And if your pet is arriving, staff members will be there to meet it at the plane, and handle all the customs regulations. Afterwards each animal receives a relaxing bath, grooming, something to eat, and a nice stroll around the wide lawn. Plus the staff will also clean the travel crate, and put the animal in its own individual kennel until it is picked up, or continues to travel to the ultimate destination.

The Port Authority Board of Commissioners first approved the construction of this 21st Century animal handling facility at JFK in 2012, and after the two final phases of its opening are completed later this year, the ARK will also include an Import-Export Center featuring equine quarantine, a groom’s lounge, an aviary, a full-service Veterinary Clinic & Laboratory, a grooming service and pet boarding facility.

The PA estimates the ARK will create almost 200 new jobs, with over \$12 million in wages, and generate approximately \$50 million in economic activity during its 20-year lease.

The ARK is located in Cargo Area D, and with 14.4 acres of surrounding ground area, there is ample room for parking.

For more information please visit www.arkjfk.com ■

Blue Angels to Headline 2017 NY Air Show at SWF

Air Show fans take note! The 2017 New York Air Show at Stewart International Airport is taking place earlier this year in order to accommodate the schedule of its main attraction, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels.

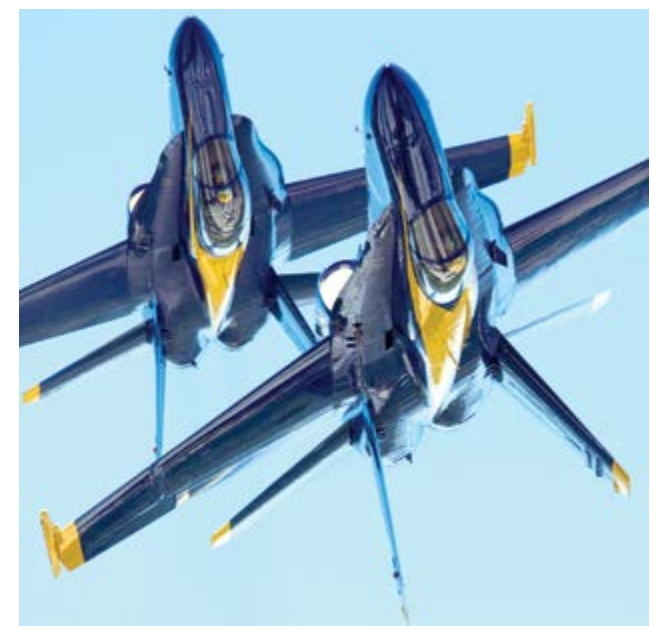
So, mark your calendars for July 1 & 2, instead of the originally scheduled dates of September 9 & 10.

Considered as one of the best fighter pilot teams in the world, the “Angels” are always a crowd favorite, and this year, they are sure to be the highlight of any July 4th weekend celebrations.

So far, other featured acts include New York Air Show regulars like the West Point Parachute Team, who usually open the show with a sky jump while holding a giant American flag, and the GEICO Skytypers with their vintage WWII aircraft.

The New York Air Show is proudly co-sponsored by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates Stewart International Airport. ■

Tickets are on sale now at Early Bird prices.
For more information visit www.airshowny.com



Sometimes a bag
isn't just a bag.

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