



# PLANE TALK

A publication of

Statewide Aviation

## CIVIL AIR PATROL

PARTNERS WITH ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS



### ALASKA CIVIL AIR PATROL WING ALIGNS WITH DMVA TO INCREASE PARTNERSHIP, CAPABILITY

By Alan Brown

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The Alaska Wing of the Civil Air Patrol became officially aligned underneath the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs this month, opening the door for closer state-wide cooperation and partnership between the two organizations.

According to the Alaska CAP Wing commander, Col. Kevin McClure, the new alignment is a welcome change. "I've always thought we belonged under DMVA," he said. "We're here to support the state in anything they need." (continued on page 4.)

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OF STATEWIDE AVIATION

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# A MESSAGE FROM D.C. BINDER

What an outstanding summer for aviation in our state! From Ted Stevens Anchorage International winning Best Airport in North America (again), to Fairbanks International setting a UAS first with Alaska Center for UAS Integration, the achievements of our Alaskan aviators and airfield employees are evident. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides great opportunities for our aviation industry. DOT&PF is working with the FAA to allocate the record amount of funding to improve Alaska's aviation infrastructure. There is more than 40 million in additional funding for our rural airports, and an additional 20 million for our internationals. I want to encourage local communities to get involved by working with local DOT&PF planners to determine how best to take advantage of this opportunity.

As construction winds down with the change of the season, I encourage everyone to continue to make safety their number one priority by keeping the difficulties winter weather can bring at the top of mind. Our winter Air Carrier and Operations meeting went well, and as always we appreciate the cooperation of our Air Carriers making safety the top priority in our system .

Speaking of changes, congratulations to Statewide Aviation's own Rich Sewell for taking over as the new manager of Merrill Field! Rich will be missed at DOT&PF, but Merrill Field will gain a capable leader and be in good hands. Please join me in wishing him the best of luck! I also want to welcome Melany Wilson to the SWA team as we expand our GIS capability and continue to leverage technologies to more effectively and efficiently keep Alaska moving.

Thank you, everyone, for an extremely productive and safe summer. Your patience during construction season makes improving our airways possible! Enjoy the beauty Alaska offers during our short Fall. As always, fly safe!



**D.C. John Binder**



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John R. Binder III".

# MERRILL FIELD'S NEW MANAGER

*From the Mayor's Office,  
Municipality of Anchorage*

Mayor Dave Bronson selected Rich Sewell to be the Airport Manager of Merrill Field. Mr. Sewell has a deep professional history and background in Alaska aviation management. Sewell will join the Municipality from the State of Alaska, where he has 18 years of aviation planning and project management experience and served the state as the Aviation Policy Planner for the **Division of Statewide Aviation** for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AK DOT&PF).

"Rich will be an incredible asset for the Municipality. With his decades of aviation experience and knowledge, I'm confident in his ability to keep Merrill Field the top-notch airport it is," **said Mayor Bronson.**

"I am truly grateful and excited for the opportunity Mayor Bronson has given me to lead the operations and people who make Merrill Field possible. Aviation is integral to Anchorage's economy, and with Merrill Field at the heart of that I'm excited for what the future holds," **said Rich Sewell.**



Mr. Sewell has over 40-years of professional experience, going back to his time as the Regional Economist and Research Section Supervisor at the Muni's Economic Development and Planning Department under the George Sullivan Administration. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Kalamazoo College in 1979, and his Master of Business Administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 1997. Additionally, he is an avid volunteer in his community, having spent time on the boards of the University of Alaska Anchorage Alumni Association, Alaska Center for Public Policy, ASEA/ASFMCE Local 52 Health Benefits Trust, and Food Bank of Alaska. Mr. Sewell's start date with the Municipality was September 12, 2022.

# ANC WINS AWARD, AGAIN

From the ANC Press Room, Anchorage



Ted Steven Anchorage International Airport is the 2022 Best Airport in North America according to the freight and logistics heavy weights operating international businesses in Asia and the Pacific.

The award was announced at the Asian Freight, Logistics and Supply Chain (AFLAS) Award ceremony in September.

ANC is the fourth busiest cargo airport in the world, second busiest in North America, handling approximately 3.6 million metric tons of air cargo in 2021.

“Our airport is consistently ranked among the best of the best,” said Craig Campbell, ANC Airport Director. “Our international customers recognize not just our prime location, 9.5 hours away from 90% of the industrial world, they appreciate the services ANC provides—from our ever-open runways to the cleanliness of our facilities. We also recognize that our business partners, such as the capable ground handlers and fuel operators, make sure that all the carriers can stay punctual with their busy schedules. This award acknowledges each company and individual that works to keep ANC open for business year-round.”

**ANC previously won the award in 2019 and was a finalist for the award in 2020, as well.**

“Anchorage International Airport is a spark in Alaska’s economic engine,” said Governor Mike Dunleavy. “I’m not surprised it was selected for this award, it’s a world class passenger and cargo airport, uniquely positioned in the world, and welcoming to all that come through its gates.”

AFLAS says winners are based on the votes of freight and logistics companies and clients from around Asia and the Pacific who have business internationally. During an open nomination round, companies and clients from around the region, and further afield, nominated firms in one of 49 different categories. The most nominated firms in each category were shortlisted for each of the 49 different awards, with the votes of the industry deciding the winners.



Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC), Alaska’s premiere hub, is hiring! ANC is the second busiest cargo airport in North America and fourth in the world! Each and every employee contributes to the success and reputation of ANC. Become a valued member of the ANC team – Apply for an ANC position today at [JoinANC.com](http://JoinANC.com).

## SECURITY SPOTLIGHT

By Jeremy Worrall

Many State of Alaska airports are currently going through the lengthy process of renewing airport badges. This task adds workload and stress to the users, tenants, and authorized signatories at the airports as well as the airport staff. Here are a few key reminders about badge renewal and about new badge applications that can help ensure a smooth badging process. Authorized Signatories have a large role in the process and must ensure that the renewal applications are completed and that the applicants have the appropriate identification documents ready to bring to the airport badge office.



The TSA has established specific requirements for acceptable IDs used in the badging process. **The IDs must be unexpired, and two pieces of ID are required** which most commonly include a driver's license and a US passport or a driver's license and a social security card.



Questions about which IDs are accepted should be directed to the airport badging office. There are also recurrent training requirements that must be completed onsite at the airport and coordination with the airport badging office is critical to scheduling and completing this training. Badges must be renewed prior to 30 days after the expiration date. If the badge is not renewed in that time the individual must start the entire badging process over as a new applicant. Lastly, badge fees and any other airport related fee accounts must be current and paid or badges may not be renewed. Again, questions should be directed to the airport badging office at the individual airport.

**ATTENTION**  
**You are leaving the secure area**



## CIVIL AIR PATROL PARTNERS WITH DMVA

*(Continued from cover)*

The new administrative alignment is made possible through a \$250,000 grant which will be awarded through the DMVA's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said the division director Bryan Fisher. Fisher said the Alaska legislature made the FY23 allocation for the Alaska Wing with the intent on having DHS&EM award the annual grant by the beginning of each fiscal year.

The CAP is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and operates as a federally chartered nonprofit organization, receiving most of its funding from the Department of the Air Force. According to Col. McClure, the grant will help CAP offset the essential operational and maintenance costs of its 16 detachments which support more than 500 members and 200 cadets across Alaska.



"The Alaska Wing has several missions in common with the Alaska National Guard", said Col. McClure. "Specifically, CAP units are charged through federal charter with aiding in search and rescue, disaster relief and mitigation, as well as homeland security. Units also have unique aerial photographic capabilities most recently showcased after the 2018 earthquake. The Alaska Wing launched an aircraft within an hour after the earthquake and provided aerial photos to DHS&EM that were used by the State Emergency Operations Center to conduct damage assessments across Southcentral Alaska."

In a recent mission, two CAP aircraft and crews teamed up with the Alaska Army National Guard in Bethel to support the U.S. Coast Guard's Operation Arctic Shield in remote communities across Western Alaska. Civil Air Patrol and ARNG air crews flew USCG Marine Safety Task Force members to a combined total of 20 communities to inspect approximately 50 bulk fuel storage facilities.



**“Having been a member of the Civil Air Patrol, I understand the value they bring to the state. Their skills and capabilities complement the DMVA and National Guard in many ways and serve as a great force multiplier,” - Maj. Gen. Torrence Saxe**

According to Col. McClure, the most prominent mission CAP shares with the National Guard is statewide, overland search and rescue. His wing works closely with the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center, a mission staffed by Alaska Air National Guardsmen of the 176th Wing, supported by Alaska Air and Army Guard rescue and aviation units along with other state and volunteer organizations. Col. McClure said CAP regularly accepts mission requests from the RCC to assist in the search for activated emergency locator beacons, lost or injured citizens in remote Alaska, and even downed aircraft.

Most recently, the RCC requested CAP support to locate two activated 121.5 emergency beacons in the Mat-Su Valley, one on Sept. 4 and another on Sept. 6. In both cases, CAP launched a Cessna 206 and quickly located the non-distress beacons in Big Lake and Wasilla respectively, according to RCC mission summary reports

The Alaska Wing also provides mentorship, training and education to more than 200 cadets across the state. Col. McClure said the organization’s focus for cadets (12 and older) is character development, STEM education, and familiarization with various aspects of aviation. Although not a specified focus, Col. McClure said, CAP cadets frequently continue their pursuit of leadership and character development by joining in the military after high school, particularly the Air Force and Air National Guard.

Fisher said that the mission-related alignment between CAP, DHS&EM, and DMVA is not without precedent. The agencies have shared a memorandum of understanding which outlines guidance and procedures through which, according to the MOU, the state may request and “utilize services of CAP and its volunteers for the public good.”

Fisher said the timing of the grant is conveniently aligned with upcoming renewal of the MOU, which will continue to solidify how CAP, DMVA and the Alaska National Guard work together during emergencies.



The commissioner of the DMVA and adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, Maj Gen. Torrence Saxe, said the new alignment is a natural fit. “Having been a member of the Civil Air Patrol, I understand the value they bring to the state. Their skills and capabilities complement the DMVA and National Guard in many ways and serve as a great force multiplier,” said Maj Gen. Saxe.

# SAAB 2000 TOUCHES GROUND IN UNALASKA

*By Theo Greenly*

*from KUCB, [www.kucb.org](http://www.kucb.org)*

A Saab 2000 aircraft landed in Unalaska Wednesday morning for the first time in three years.

It was a test flight for Aleutian Airways, a new regional carrier operated by Sterling Airways, to demonstrate to the Federal Aviation Administration they are qualified to land the Saab 2000 aircraft at Tom Madsen International Airport. Brian Whilden is the general manager for the nascent airline, and he was on the flight, Sterling Airways 1001, which touched down just after 11 a.m.

"We're here to show the FAA that we understand how to do this, understand this market, and we can operate here successfully," Whilden said. "It was a smooth flight, and we're happy to be in Unalaska."

The Saab 2000 is the same kind of aircraft that was involved in a fatal plane crash in Unalaska in 2019. This is the first time that aircraft has landed at Tom Madsen Airport since.

In August, the FAA cleared the airline to fly to Cold Bay, King Salmon and Dillingham, but required the airline to go through more inspections before approving them for Unalaska and Sand Point.

Whilden said they had to go through a rigorous safety and approval process before being cleared to land. He reassured the community that their pilots used to fly for PenAir, a former regional airline, so they have thousands of hours of experience landing Saab 2000s in Unalaska.

An FAA representative was onboard the test flight to monitor operations. Unalaska Vice Mayor Dennis Robinson met with her after the flight landed and said she deemed it successful.

"She said she'd sign off on it as soon as she gets home to Florida," Robinson said.

The highly-anticipated arrival comes at a particularly fraught time for air travel nationwide, and especially in Unalaska. Soaring fuel costs, inflation and a pilot shortage have all contributed to extremely high ticket prices and unpredictable travel.

Those effects are particularly hard felt on the remote Aleutian island, where a short runway and inclement weather create additional challenges. Ravn Alaska has operated the only commercial nonstop flights to Anchorage for the past three years, and many locals have been awaiting the arrival of a competing airline.

"Next steps are we finish the certification process with the FAA and then we launch a schedule," Whilden said.

He did not say if they were on schedule to meet their anticipated launch in the fall.

"We're hoping," he said.





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