



PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Summer 2018

Shaping the Future of Drones in Alaska

UAF selected for pilot program for UAS/Drone Integration –one of ten in the U.S.!

FAA selected the University of Alaska Fairbanks for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Pilot Program. FAA chose only 10 sites nationally out of 1500 + proposals. This is huge because the pilot program will help determine how to safely fly drones in the national air space. In Alaska we have more pilots per capita than anywhere else and we share our airspace with general aviation, commercial air carriers, military flights, and soon drones.



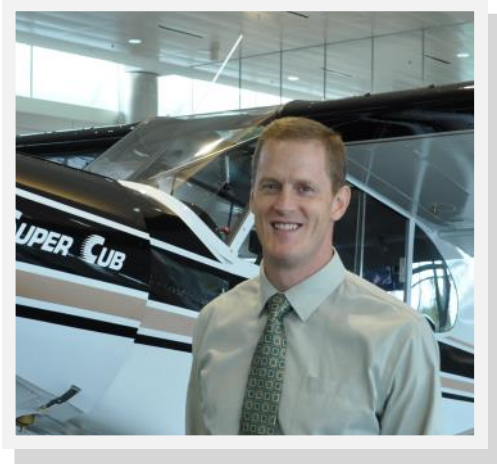
The UAF team proposed several ways to pioneer safe drone use in Alaska — to deliver medical devices to remote areas, help with search and rescue operations, survey fish and wildlife, and monitor pipelines, roads, bridges, airports, and other infrastructure.

DOT&PF joined UAF as a “participating agency” in the proposal and we’re excited about this. The department has been using drones over the past few years and considers them a great tool. They have been used in construction to explore slope stabilization, survey material stock piles and perform rudimentary 3D imaging. Maintenance & Operations has had some success in utilizing drones for avalanche control, culvert/confined space inspections and some erosion monitoring. There is a desire to expand the program in the department and explore how other transportation departments deploy drones nationally. A research project is underway with [AASHTO](#), studying UAS development, successful applications for drone use, best practices, lessons learned, and efficiencies captured by drone deployment.

The future possibilities of drone usage in Alaska are vast just like out state. There are 3,534 registered drones in Alaska from Barrow to Unalaska to Homer to Ketchikan. Educational efforts are underway to address recreational drone users and remind them of FAA requirements to register their UAS, which includes model aircraft, where to fly, and safety tips.

Prospective drone operators want to fly and fly safely. However, many don’t realize that just because you can easily acquire a UAS, it doesn’t mean you can fly it anywhere or for any purpose. “Know Before You Fly” is an educational campaign that provides prospective users with the information and guidance they need to fly safely and responsibly. <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org/> Whether you’re a novice drone pilot or have many years of aviation experience, rules and safety tips exist to help you fly safely in the national airspace. Learn more about getting started at this link - https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/

Message from DC Binder:



Now that we're well into summer it's a good time to highlight activities that are contributing greatly to the state's economy.

The Fairbanks and Anchorage International Airports are both seeing significant increases in passenger traffic thanks to increased airline seat capacities, resulting in the best April-June in the last 5 years. The available seats on out-of-state flights serving Anchorage are forecasted to increase by 5.6 percent. This growth in capacity will allow for an additional 43,000 tourists from June through August and generate much needed economic activity for Alaska's tourism industry. Fairbanks Airport is also seeing an increase in summer seat capacity thanks to seasonal carriers Delta Air Lines and United Airlines.

Anchorage continues to see solid growth in air cargo activity with FY2017 closing out 6.0% higher than last year. The ongoing expansion of e-commerce, in both North America and Asia, continues to account for a significant portion of air cargo, while the overall health of the world economy is encouraging for the near future. Though talks of trade controversies exist, the general consensus is that those items most impacted by tariffs do not typically utilize air transportation. AIAS will continue to keep operating costs low and service high to remain a strong competitor in the airport market place.

Construction activity is in full-swing around the state, especially at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (TSAIA). Rehabilitating one of the main runways at this busy airport has been well orchestrated and will inject \$100 million into the local economy.

Investments are also being made by the airport's tenants with Alaska Airlines nearing completion of their \$40 million dollar hanger and ROTAK Helicopter Services announcing construction of a \$2.2 million hangar at the Kulis Business Park. There are also large airfield projects underway in Bethel, Dillingham, Galena, Saint Michael, Golovin, Haines, and King Salmon.

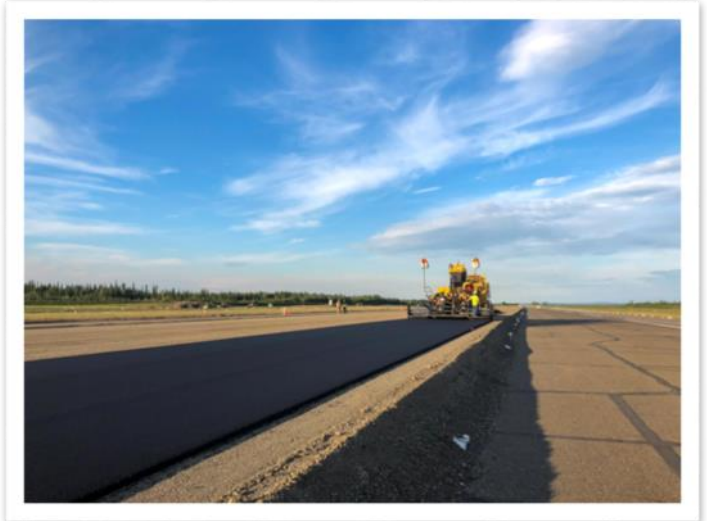
DOT&PF recently co-sponsored the National Aviation System Planning Symposium held in Anchorage with an attendance of 100 delegates. The symposium assesses the state of the art in system planning, current airport and aviation industry issues and research needed for future planning. This fall TSAIA is a major sponsor of the 2018 F. Russell Hoyt National Airports Conference bringing over 200 meeting participants to Anchorage. This conference is one of the foremost events in the industry for education, networking and professional development and will address many current challenges including the industry pilot shortage and the integration of unmanned aircraft systems.

I feel blessed to live and work in Alaska and be a part of our dynamic aviation industry. Thank you for all you do for our state and airport system, and I hope you're having a great summer.

Happy Landings!

John Binder

Deputy Commissioner



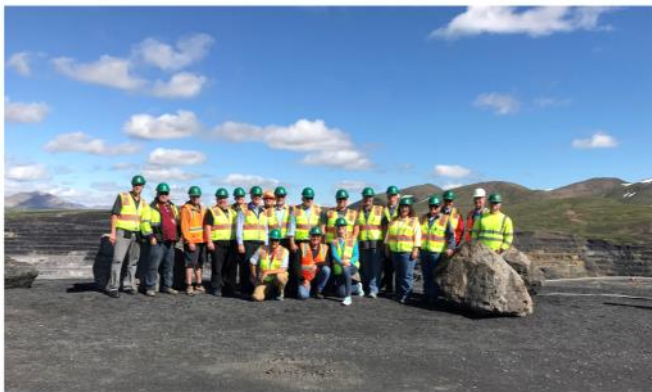
Galena Airport Improvements project paved the main-line runway this summer under some beautiful summer weather. Photo thanks to Larissa Figley, DOT&PF

GOVERNOR WALKER APPRECIATES AVIATION

Recognizing the importance of aviation in the State of Alaska, Governor Bill Walker signed an executive [proclamation](#) naming May as Aviation Appreciation Month. The signing took place at the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering, a premier event that attracts over 25,000 aviation enthusiasts. The proclamation noted that aviation provides a vital link for 82 percent of Alaska's communities, and contributes \$3.5 Billion to the state's economy.



L-R Alaska Airmen Association Board Members, Doug Bradbury, Sven Lincke, and Kevin Campbell with Governor Walker at the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering.



Commissioner Luiken, the Aviation Advisory Board, and the FAA held a board meeting in Kotzebue that included a tour of Red Dog, one of the world's largest zinc mines. The transportation system at the mine includes a 52 mile long haul road that connects the mine to the Red Dog port facilities on the Chukchi Sea. The Red Dog Airport supports Alaska Airlines jet service and numerous small aircraft from villages around the area.

Russian Delegation Meet With Alaska Aviation Stakeholders



Russian Far East government and aviation officials in Anchorage for the Russian American Pacific Partnership Conference also made time for an overview of general aviation in Alaska. The Division of Statewide Aviation facilitated a tour of Merrill Field Airport and Grant Aviation's air taxi operation. Briefings were provided by the Alaska Airmen's Association, UAA Aviation Technology Division, FAA, and DOT&PF. As general aviation expands in Russia, there is great interest in how Alaska's aviation system is managed, maintained, and sustained.

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC)

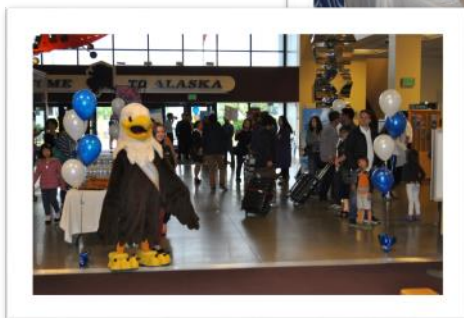
ANC Welcomes Back International Passenger Flights - Scheduled & Charter!



International passenger air carriers are back for the summer offering scheduled flights from Anchorage to destinations around the world! Non-stop service is available on Air Canada to Vancouver; Condor to Frankfurt; Icelandair to Reykjavik-Keflavik, and Yakutia to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

Passenger charter flights are also back this summer with Korean Air flying between Seoul and Anchorage and Japan Airlines out of Tokyo. A complete list of international flights (passenger & cargo) and contact information is available online at this link:

<http://dot.alaska.gov/anc/travelerInfo/INTLairlineInfo.shtml>



ANC welcomed passengers arriving on Korean Air's first charter flight this summer from Seoul.

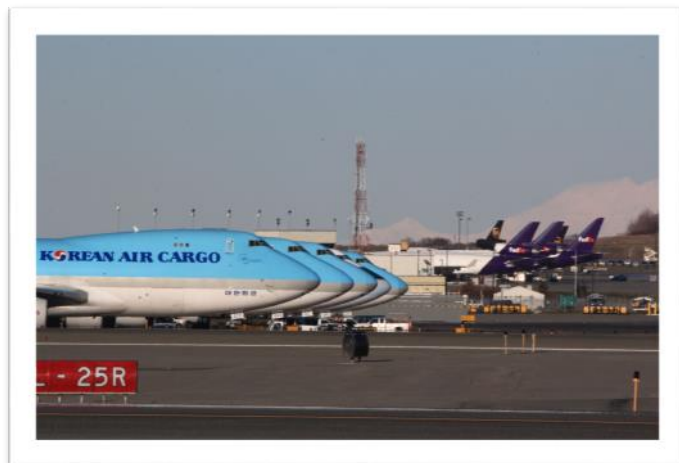
Robust Air Cargo Growth at ANC for First Half of 2018

ANC is reporting strong air cargo growth for the first half of 2018. Air cargo tonnage is up 5.2 percent, to more than 1.34 million metric tons, for January thru June. The Anchorage Airport's strategic location gives air cargo operators the ability to fly fully-loaded aircraft between Asia, the United States, Europe, and Latin America.

Jim Szczesniak, Airport Manager said, "You can fly a fully loaded freighter to Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo, Seoul, Taipei, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Mexico City, Amsterdam, and Frankfurt from Anchorage. This one location provides you global access."

Special air cargo transfer rights contribute to the strength of ANC's air cargo network. Airlines are allowed to transfer cargo between aircraft just like passengers making a connection at a hub airport.

Szczesniak says "We are seeing air cargo customers utilize these special transfer rights to increase the efficiency of their networks and that gives them the ability to open new markets. We are also seeing a lot of growth and interest in using ANC as a connection point between Asia and Latin America."



ANC is the world's fifth busiest air cargo airport and the major gateway for trans-Pacific air cargo. ANC welcomes over 150 wide-body freighter aircraft per day and hosts significant operations from major integrators UPS, FedEx, and DHL.

Fairbanks International Airport News (FAI)

Congratulations to Aaron Danielson New Chief of Police & Fire

Aaron Danielson has been promoted as the new Chief of the Police and Fire Department for the Fairbanks International Airport. Chief Danielson brings an extraordinary wealth of experience to the position, having served more than 11 years with the Airport as an APFO I, II, Sergeant, and Deputy Chief. He has worked in all facets of Airport Police and Fire in his career. He is an AAAE Certified Member and received multiple commendations and awards for his service to the department. He was most recently recognized by the Interior Fire Chiefs Association as the 2017 Chief Officer of the Year for his leadership and dedication to the profession. He grew up in Fairbanks, and has been a lifelong resident of Alaska.



FAI Summer Airline Seat Capacity Increases for 2018

FAI summer seasonal carriers, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines have increased seat capacity on their flights adding a combined total of 1,940 additional seats. The Fairbanks airport is the gateway to Alaska's Interior as well as Denali National Park, seat capacity increases are crucial for the community and also support additional seats needed by the growing cruise industry that offer land tour packages.

Commercial airlines operating at FAI this summer include Air North, Alaska Airlines, Condor, Delta Air Lines, 40-Mile Air, Ravn Alaska, and United Airlines.

FAI Receives \$750,000 Grant to Increase Air Service



U.S. Department of Transportation's Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) awarded a \$750,000 grant to Fairbanks to help improve airline service. The grant will be used as a revenue guarantee and marketing for new non-stop service to Los Angeles, California and/or Phoenix, Arizona.

The Fairbanks International Airport worked collaboratively with community partners to secure this grant. Working together, Fairbanks International Airport and Explore Fairbanks established robust public-private partnerships with many local businesses. These partnerships enhance the community's participation through local financial resources to supplement federal support as well as in-kind contributions to further support air service initiatives. These partnerships play a key role in proving local support and community commitment when applying for the SCASDP grant.

FAI Economic Impact Facts:

- FAI is responsible for one in twenty Fairbanks jobs - that's 1,900 Jobs!
- \$225 million in economic output
- Ranked 85th in the nation in weight of total mail and freight

Improving Backcountry Airstrips - New Windsock at Gold King By Tom George, AOPA Alaska Regional Manager



If you fly into Gold King (PAAN), look for the new windsock on the north east corner of the field. The old windsock remains at the other end of the airport, giving pilots an additional “tool” to evaluate the wind before landing on this backcountry strip, on the northern flank of the Alaska Range. While it might not seem like a big deal, this represents a collaborative effort between a small group of stakeholders that rely on the airstrip and the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT), who owns the facility. While it took over a year and two work parties to complete, this is a success story about improving a backcountry airstrip.

New Windsock

Dave Pott is the AOPA Airport Support Network Volunteer at Gold King. He is retired and spends the majority of the year living just off the airport. Working with other land owners, a volunteer group keeps an eye on the airport, and has banded together to do limited maintenance on the field. Last year, he reached out to DOT and requested their assistance to replace the windsock, which was in a state of disrepair. DOT responded by supplying a new windsock assembly. They had it delivered to the airport in the fall of 2017, along with bags of cement to properly anchor it, deep in the ground.

In early June, the locals held a work party to start the installation. The volunteers provided a back hoe to excavate a hole for the base and flew in a cement mixer to support the project. On July 5th, a second work party took place to put the stand on the base and raise the windsock. We owe both DOT and the Gold King volunteers a big THANK YOU for working together to keep this airstrip in good condition. In these times of tight budgets, collaborative efforts between stakeholders will be essential to keep backcountry airports across Alaska in good working order. Look for projects in your part of the state, and if possible, lend a hand! (Read the entire article at this link: <https://blog.aopa.org/aopa/2018/07/18/improving-backcountry-airstrips/>)

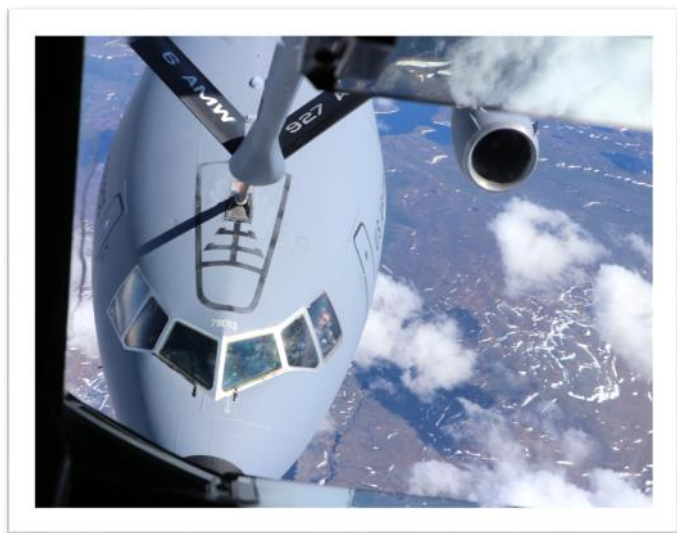
(Photos - New windsock flies on the north east corner of the Gold King Creek airstrip. Work party two: mounting the windsock stand on the base. Volunteer crew placing the form for the base.)



Training Exercises

Red Flag – Alaska

RED FLAG-Alaska is a realistic air combat training exercise held up to four times a year at Eielson AFB and Elmendorf AFB. Training occurs in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex, which provides more than 64,000 square miles of air space, three bombing ranges containing 510 different types of targets and 45 threat simulators which make it the world's largest instrumented air, ground and electronic combat training. Participants include the U.S. Navy and Air Force, NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control (AWACS) force and the Israeli Air Force.



Local media were invited to observe a refueling flight including Erica Williams, Environmental Specialist at Fairbanks International. She can be seen snapping pictures from her window seat of the KC-135 Stratotanker as it refueled F-16's, F-15's, and a KC-10. The tanker has the ability to refuel up to 15 receivers in one flight.



Full-Scale Emergency Preparedness Exercise held at ANC

Fire crews, law enforcement, first responders, airport personnel, and over 100 volunteers gathered at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport for a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise on August 4th. The exercise provides the means for the Airport Fire Department, and other airport entities to interface with the off-airport mutual aid who would also respond in the unlikely event of a real accident.

The event completes the FAA mandate that the airport conduct an exercise every 36 calendar months involving a minimum of 100 'victims' for an airport of its size. UAA nursing students applied make-up and other simulated wounds to volunteer 'victims' mimicking the injuries, blood, bumps, and bruises one would expect in such an incident. 'Victims' play a critical role in creating a scenario that places emergency responders in the stressful situations they would expect to experience in a real-life accident.

The exercise concluded with a BBQ and a raffle for gifts donated by many generous sponsors: UPS, BAC Transportation, Duluth Trading Co., Holiday Gas Stations, and Bear Tooth Theatre and Pub.



Airport mutual aid, AFD, carts away this 'victim' on a gurney for an ambulance ride back to the North Terminal.



Our mission is to:

“Keep Alaska Moving through

service and infrastructure.”

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