



PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



Winter 2013 –14

Cold Bay - Strategic Airport For Over 70 years

An international flight needed to make an alternate landing while flying from Tokyo to San Francisco. The pilot was undoubtedly relieved to have a 10,200 ft. paved runway available in the Aleutian Islands. For more than 70 years the Cold Bay Airport's strategic location has supported emergency landings, military exercises, and air carriers that fly up and down the chain daily.

The history of the airfield begins in 1942 when General Buckner ordered the creation of Fort Randall, an airbase on the shores of Cold Bay, as part of a general expansion of American assets in the Aleutians. It served as a base for the 11th Air Force providing protection to the only deep water port in the Aleutians, Dutch Harbor. It was home to [Project Hula](#), the largest transfer program of WWII in which the U.S. transferred 149 ships and craft to the Soviet Union and trained 12,000 Soviet personnel in their operation in anticipation of the Soviet Union entering the war against Japan.

Today, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) owns, operates and maintains the airport which has the state's fifth-largest runway. The other four runways are located at the Anchorage and Fairbanks airports. The airport functions as a hub for traffic from Anchorage and Seattle to thriving fishing communities that surround it. Recently the Boeing Company used the airfield to test B787 and B737-900 aircraft for cross wind performance. Improvements to the airfield include a resurfaced taxiway and apron, and extended runway safety area completed in 2012.



Delta Airlines made an alternate landing at the Cold Bay airport on Oct. 30, 2013. The small community hosted 167 passengers and crew members at three different locations until another flight picked them up that afternoon.

Airport Statistics

FAA Identifier– CDB

Runways:

15L/33R- 10,180 ft. x 150 ft.

8L/26R - 6,235 ft. x 150 ft.

Latitude/Longitude

55.2090° N, 162.7143° W

Elevation - 96 ft.

Location - 626 miles southwest of Anchorage, AK.

Message from DC Hatter:



Integrity, Excellence, and Respect - the core values of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. We are committed to continually improving individual, team, and organizational knowledge, performance, and methods to provide quality service and products. We strive to do better and get the most out of our people by creating an environment of trust, collaboration, and empathy.

I invite you to take a look at the Department's [Strategic Plan](#) to better understand the commitment we are making to our core purpose - ***Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure.***

One of the key strengths of the Department is an innovative, dedicated work force with experience, expertise, and knowledge. We're building on this strength to increase the skills and training of our rural airport contractors responsible for maintaining state airports.

The Department recently partnered with Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center, Alaska General Contractors Construction Education Foundation, and Alaska Operating Engineers Employers Training Trust to provide rural airport training. Contractors from Koyukuk, Nulato, Golovin, Emmonak, Savoonga, White Mountain, Hooper Bay, Mekoryuk, Kipnuk, Akiachak, Port Heiden, Sand Point, and King Cove participate in weeklong training classes focused on airport operations, safety, equipment operation and maintenance, lighting system maintenance. Contractors are vital to their community and the statewide aviation system. They were very appreciative of the training and commented, "I learned a lot from the

instructors and will be more confident grading the runway this coming winter and years to come."

The Department has also provided three Alaska Maintenance Leadership Academies that bring our leaders together for training that will keep the organization moving in the right direction.

I'm proud of the airport manager's across Alaska's vast aviation system as they perform a multitude of tasks and duties, often in very challenging physical and resource limited conditions. In this issue we've highlighted the Wrangell Airport Manager, William Bloom. William is a testament to the commitment these men and women make daily to keep our airports safe and efficient. Congratulations William for three consecutive flawless inspections!

And congratulations to Colonel Jeff Roach as well! Jeff is yet another example of the caliber of ADOT&PF employees that serve our country and our state.

Finally, it is with both a heavy heart and a sense of personal optimism that I pen this last "Message from DC Hatter." As of the first of the New Year, I will be moving on to the private sector toward an opportunity that came to me and represents a best, stable future for me and my family.

I offer deep personal thanks to Governor Parnell and to Commissioner Pat Kemp for allowing me the privilege and opportunity to serve the State in a key leadership position over these past three years. I've been blessed to serve under visionary leaders and to labor alongside talented peers and advisors. Perhaps most importantly though, I've been honored to lead a team of exceptional public servants placed under my charge. They have accomplished much for the cause of aviation during my tenure as DC.

Fly Safely,

Steve Hatter
Deputy Commissioner

Alaska Maintenance Leadership Academy



DOT&PF maintenance superintendents and foreman at the end of a week of leadership training.

Rural Airport Contractors Receive Airport Operations Training



Rural airport contractors received training on airport operations, safety, equipment operation, and maintenance at the Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center.

Free Admission for School Groups

The [Alaska Aviation Museum](#) is offering free admission to all school groups from December 2013 to June 2014, thanks to a grant from British Petroleum. The museum has many exhibits, planes and a flight simulator to get students excited about aviation. Last year over 2,000 students and teachers participated in the program.

For more information, contact the museum at (907) 248-5325.

Nenana High School Students Soar In "Pilot" program

Nenana High School's new aviation education program has already seen seven of its eight students successfully fly solo with all eight on track to receive their private pilots license by May 2014. The program was initiated in August for students to learn flying skills and aircraft maintenance. The ground school program includes the Science of Flight and Meteorology. Students that apply have to pass Algebra I and must be enrolled in upper level Math.

The Medallion Foundation provided the school a flight simulator to help students practice and hone their skills. The simulator is also available to the flying public.



Nenana student William Horn stands with his arm on the cowling of the aircraft he flew on his first solo flight. (Photo courtesy of Proflight of Alaska)

LKSD Holds Successful ACE Academy

The Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) recently held its second annual middle school Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy. Out of 130 applicants, 24 youth from 13 villages were chosen to attend this 4-day ACE academy.

Students visited several local aviation businesses including the Yuut Yaquingviat Flight School, the AMP Maintenance facility who graciously allowed the academy to use their hangar for some indoor flying activities, Northern Air Cargo, Yute Aviation, Life Med the NOAA Weather Balloon facility, Fish & Wildlife Services hangar, the ATC Contract tower and the National Guard Readiness armory. Evening meals were prepared and served by the Bethel High School JROTC cadets.

Given the importance of aviation to rural Alaska, the LKSD has made a commitment to developing and offering aviation programs to its students. In the spring semester, they will offer a residential semester long class to high school juniors and seniors.

For more information on Aviation Career Education Academies, please contact Angie Slingsluff, FAA Aviation and Education Coordinator at (907) 271-5228 or Angie.Slingsluff@faa.gov



ACE Director Julie McWilliams and students check out the cockpit at the ACE Academy held in Bethel.

Perfect Inspections at Wrangell Airport

William “Willie” Bloom has worked for ADOT&PF since November 1986. He started as an equipment operator and earned the respect of his peers as a hardworking, no-nonsense person who takes the steps needed to see tasks to completion. In 2011 Willie was promoted to Wrangell Airport Manager.

In his tenure, Willie managed three consecutive FAA certification inspections that were perfect. This year he had a flawless TSA security inspection. The TSA Inspector said that he had never been to an inspection where everything was laid out in an organized manner. All security paperwork was in order, all training had been completed, all security systems were functioning, and all airport tenants knew the security rules of the airport. The inspector was so impressed that he presented a plaque commending William Bloom for his remarkable performance.



Willie Bloom pays attention to detail!

Paul Khera, Airport Safety & Security Officer, says, “William is well liked and respected by his employees. He has an aptitude for getting the work done, doing it right the first time, and keeping it as simple as allowable. Willie’s success strategy is straightforward. He knows that an inspection is coming and he knows what the regulators want. He

simply prepares to provide them with what they want. Both the FAA and the TSA have departed the Wrangell Airport extremely impressed and content that their agencies’ missions have been fulfilled.”

Jeff Roach Promoted to rank of Colonel in Alaska Army National Guard

Jeff Roach, was recently promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Alaska Army National Guard. Col. Roach commands the 38th Troop Command, a unit with more than 1,000 troops stationed around Alaska. His deployments have included a tour in Europe, Afghanistan, and Kosovo.

Jeff serves as the Northern Region Planning Manager, Aviation and Highways. He supervises the rural area transportation planners and oversees all rural aviation planning for the Northern Region and manages all surface planning (highways, trails, ports and harbors, and transit) outside of Fairbanks.

He’s been with ADOT&PF in Northern Region Planning for 15 years and is a licensed commercial instrument rotorcraft pilot with more than 30 years of aviation experience in Alaska.



(L-R) SFC James Corbin, BG Mike Bridges, Commander, Alaska Army National Guard, Jeff Roach and his wife Sheri at promotion ceremony on Oct. 25th

Akutan Airport—Award Winning Project !



The Akutan Airport has been recognized as an award winning project by the Design - Build Institute of America and Construction Management Association. The design-build airport project, located on the uninhabited island of Akun in the Aleutian Island Chain, consists of an airport runway, taxiway, apron, access road, and hovercraft maneuvering pads, as well as support buildings for the airport and hovercraft. The team successfully and unprecedentedly completed the project from award to final completion in two years.

FAA ID: 7AK

Owner: ADOT&PF

Design - Builder: Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.

Engineer: PND Engineers, Inc.

Specialty Consultant: R&M Consultants, Inc.

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

17th - [International Aviation Art Contest](#) - entries must be postmarked by this day!

FEBRUARY

5th-6th Aviation Advisory Board Meeting– Juneau

18th-20th Alaska Air Carriers Association [Annual Convention](#) -Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage



Scholarships Available for Alaska Aviation Students

The Alaska Air Carriers Association encourages students to apply for the [Forrest Jones Memorial Scholarship](#). Established in 1999 this scholarship honors Forrest Jones, a dedicated aviation maintenance professional and role model who combined innovative thinking and a common sense approach to everyday problems. AACA gives two—three \$3,000 scholarships at their annual convention banquet.

Additional scholarship information available at these links:

[Alaska 99s](#)

[Alaska Airmen's Association](#)

[UAA Community & Technical College](#)

[Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation](#)

[UAF Aviation Maintenance Technology](#)

Barrow Tests Airport Emergency Plan

By Jeff Roach

Transportation Planner, DOT&PF

The fire bell went off at 1:55 pm at the Barrow Airport. The Barrow Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting crew were in route to the scene of the accident when they were told of the nature of the emergency, aircraft type, and number of crew and passengers onboard. Barrow flight service station personnel activated the Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) and called the Barrow dispatch center for mutual aid. The North Slope Borough Fire Department and Police Department arrived on scene to assist in the rescue and secure the scene of the accident. The hospital and other emergency responders were put on alert to assist if needed. When they arrived on scene emergency responders learned that this was an unannounced disaster drill for the Barrow Airport's AEP.

Barrow residents wearing moulage make-up, applied to represent mock injuries for the purpose of training emergency response teams and other medical personnel, were positioned in an abandoned vehicle intended to represent an aircraft involved in an accident on the airfield. Emergency responders immediately went to work to extricate the victims and provide required emergency medical assistance per the scenario prepared for the disaster drill. The response to the drill was then evaluated and important lessons learned were captured. This time it was just a drill, but in the event of an actual emergency the training received during this type of exercise may mean the difference between life and death to those involved in an aviation-related accident on the Barrow Airport.

Disaster drills are a key component of exercising and evaluating an airport's AEP and training the emergency responders who may be involved in an airport emergency. According to John Olsen, Airport Manager and Incident Commander on scene during the drill, "the emergency plan is reviewed yearly and a full-scale disaster drill is required every three years on certificated airports. There is a need to test the plan for flaws and to see where we, as first responders and care givers, are lacking."

The North Slope Borough Fire Department, the Barrow Volunteer Fire Department, the North Slope Borough Police Department, and the Arctic Slope Native Association Hospital provide mutual aid, or emergency assistance, in response to an emergency on the airport. According to Olsen, "most, if not all, airports with an airport emergency plan have mutual aid agreements for emergencies." Without mutual aid agreements with local emergency responders the State of Alaska DOT&PF would require significant increases in personnel and resources at each airport to adequately respond to emergencies.



Photos courtesy of Shannon Esparza, North Slope Borough Fire Department and Frederick Brower, North Slope Borough Risk Manager.



Our mission is to:

“Keep Alaska Moving through

service and infrastructure.”

To learn more visit our website: www.dot.alaska.gov

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Return Service Requested

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