



PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation



WINTER 2019

OUT OF SIGHT DRONES

Alaska First in the Country



| ASK TSA

| NEW CONCESSIONS

| NEW FACES

Message from DC Binder:



I'm excited to announce significant steps forward in Alaska's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) programs. In a big step forward for drone operations, the University of Alaska Fairbanks conducted the first beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) drone flight in the country. The flight flew 3.87 miles along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline using onboard and ground-based detection systems, instead of human observers to avoid other aircraft in the airspace. BVLOS UAS operations are critical to our vast state and will soon be utilized for conducting infrastructure inspections, mapping, wildlife monitoring, and even fish counting. DOT&PF is currently using drones for avalanche control, pavement management, guardrail, bridge, and pavement marking inspections, airport surveys, river ice monitoring, and material site surveys. As such, I'm excited to announce the addition of Ryan Marlow as the Department's first UAS Coordinator. In his position he will manage and guide drone operations throughout the state, where we already have more than 5,000 registered systems.

On the project front, five airports in Alaska are receiving \$33 million out of \$485 million in federal grant funds recently announced by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Newtok will receive \$8M towards constructing a new airport; in Bettles, \$5.2M will go toward runway reconstruction; Kaltag received \$5M for runway

rehabilitation, and \$6M will go towards runway rehabilitation in Kasigluk. Nearly \$10M was also allocated for terminal upgrades at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

Governor Dunleavy released the proposed FY21 budget last week that indicates essentially flat funding on the aviation side of the department. DOT&PF will continue to strive for efficiency across the department and I welcome any ideas the aviation community may have on how we can provide equal or better service at reduced cost.

Finally, with the New Year approaching that means the Alaska Air Carriers Association's [2020 Annual Conference and Trade Show](#) is near and is scheduled for March 4-5 at the Anchorage Airport. DOT&PF will have a presence at this conference and we look forward to meeting with the aviation community.

As we head into the holidays, I want to thank you for all you do in respective capacities to contribute to Alaska's aviation system, and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fly Safe,

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

John Binder
Deputy Commissioner



NEW FACES

Ryan Marlow
Statewide Aviation
UAS/Drone Program Coordinator
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FAI & ANC New Concessions

Mamava Lactation Suite Installed at FAI

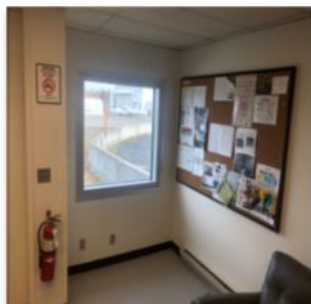
The Fairbanks International Airport has installed a freestanding Mamava lactation suite. The suite provides privacy, cleanliness, and all you need to pump or nurse an infant. The Mamava pod is secure with two spacious benches, a fold-down table, provides space for a stroller, and has power outlets to plug-in a pump. The Mamava pod can be unlocked by downloading the free app on iOS and Android devices.



Mamava is located near the passenger screening checkpoint. To learn more about Mamava visit: <https://www.mamava.com/>

FAI Upgrades GA Pilots Lounge

General Aviation pilots and their passengers now have access to free Wi-Fi in the pilots lounge. This facility also has a restroom, shower, TV/DVD for viewing FAA safety videos, and a new window.



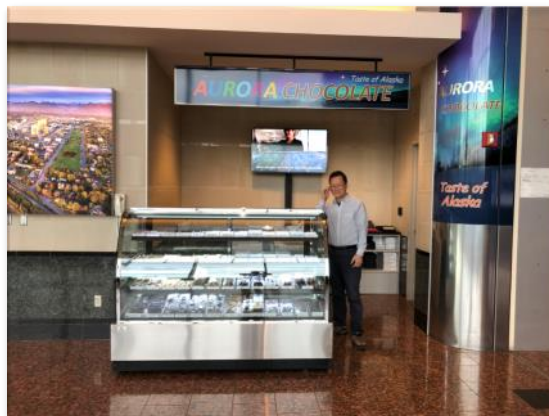
The Pilots Lounge is located on the east side of the airport, near the base of the control tower.

New Concessions at ANC

Just in time for the holidays, Denali Pretzels and Aurora Chocolates have opened at the Anchorage Airport. Denali pretzels serves pretzels, Kaladi coffee and Krispy Kreme doughnuts. Aurora Chocolates creates hand-painted chocolates inspired by the beautiful Alaskan northern lights.



Denali Pretzels will twist and bake pretzels right before your eyes. They are located across from the Ravn Alaska ticket counter with a second location opening soon in the C Concourse.



Aurora Chocolates creates 10 flavors of made-from-scratch, hand-painted bonbons and other sweet treats. You can find them near gate C6.

Congratulations to.....



**Steve Bell, Superintendent
Kodiak/Aleutian District**

As the new superintendent for the Kodiak/Aleutian District, Steve oversees 30 airports including hub airports at Adak, King Salmon, Kodiak, Sand Point, Cold Bay, and Unalaska. Steve's been with the Department for 12 years starting in Sitka as an Equipment Operator, then promoted to Airport Manager.



Scott Smith, Valdez Airport Manager

As the new airport manager, Scott oversees the management and operations of this busy airport that also welcomes over 17,000 people for the annual Valdez Fly-In and Air Show. Scott joined the Department in 2011 as an equipment operator on the Dalton Highway.



New Officers Barenburg, Condon, Nault & Voronin!

FAI badged four new Airport Police and Fire Officers after successfully completing all of their initial training and completing their 1-year probationary period. This training includes a 16-week police academy, rigorous police field training and observation period, plus Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Aircraft Rescue Firefighter, Hazmat Operations and Emergency Trauma Technician training.



**Jim Patton, Airport Leasing Manager
and Business Development**

Jim Patton has joined the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. His position oversees the Leasing & Property Management Department managing all airline, concession, and land leases within the airport and business development.

Security Spotlight

By Jeremy Worrall

DOT&PF Maintenance
& Operations Superintendent

DOT&PF operates twenty rural airports that are regulated by TSA and this segment will feature security related news and information to help the people that work at and operate from these airports to maintain an effective culture of security awareness.

Sooner or later winter arrives bringing cold and snow to the airport ramp. While keeping in mind normal winter considerations like slip and fall prevention, there are also a few security related issues that are worth highlighting:

- Maintain snow piles well clear of security fence on both the public side and restricted area side. This helps ensure that the physical barrier the fence provides is maintained and that patrols can adequately inspect the condition of the fence.
- Lighting is important to both safety and security, so ensure ramp and facility lighting is adequate and well maintained.

Remember to always display your airport ID badge above your waist on your outermost garment, even in the cold and wind this remains a mandatory practice.

Lastly, remember the see something/say something mantra and if you see something that looks out of place or suspicious, then say something to the DOT&PF airport staff, to the police, or to your supervisor. Airport security is everyone's business, thank you for doing your part to help keep our airports safe and secure.



AskTSA

TSA Looks Forward to Assisting You

TSA works hard to make sure your travel experience is as secure and efficient as possible. They have launched a new customer service program, AskTSA, to better assist you before, during, and after your flight. Anybody can use this service – it is free and easily accessible. Travelers can simply send @AskTSA a tweet or direct message on Twitter or send AskTSA a message on Facebook. They are available from 8am to 10pm ET on weekdays, and 9am to 7pm on weekends and holidays.



Are you a TSA Pre✓® member but didn't receive the indicator on your boarding pass? TSA can help.

It's Time to Get REAL ID

Beginning in October 2020, travelers will need a federally compliant Real ID or their passport to board commercial flights. Details [here](#). The DMV encourages residents to get their Alaska Real ID soon since lines will be getting longer and longer.



Alaska DMV staff at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport reminding travelers of the upcoming REAL ID requirement.

AAAE - Advancing Aviation

The Northwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives held its annual conference in Fairbanks the last week of September. While this conference has been held in Anchorage many years ago, this was the first time the event was held in Fairbanks. The conference was a huge success with over 180 attendees and featured three days of workshops and informational sessions. Attendees also got to enjoy some of what Fairbanks has to offer when they visited the Museum of the North and later experienced a sled dog demo. Some intrepid night owls got to experience the Aurora Borealis and the conference banquet included a keynote address featuring Alaska's own Wilfred and Lee Ryan, of Ryan Air, who regaled the crowded ballroom with tales of aviation in Alaska.

Airport managers and operators from across the state received advanced airport technical and management training through certification programs offered by [AAAE](#). They are the world's largest professional organization for airport personnel.



Lee Ryan, President of Ryan Air, at the NWAAAE Conference held in Fairbanks.



AAAE's Certified Member Academy Class Participants from DOT&PF and airports across the state spent five days in an intensive training class focused on comprehensive airport management.



AAAE's Airport Certified Employee (ACE) Operations Class

The ACE Operations program is a Part 139-based curriculum designed to educate and challenge airport personnel with airfield operations responsibilities.

Merrill Field Airport - Open for Business!

By Ralph Gibbs, Airport Manager

To better serve Alaska and its interior, Merrill Field (MRI) has partnered with the FAA to upgrade the airport's taxiways and parking ramps. Given austere winters, all tie downs have been upgraded to provide electric outlets for heat blankets and all ramps are well lit with new light poles.

Merrill is the state's oldest general aviation airport and is currently the second busiest airport in Alaska. Based on annual airport operations, it is second only to Ted Stevens Anchorage International.

Airport services include AVGAS and Jet A, five flight schools, University of Alaska Anchorage Aviation Program, Super Cub avionics, airframe parts, and Tundra Tire dealers. MRI is the only airport with fixed-wing medevac ramp for life flight services accessing a hospital. A listing of all Merrill Field services can be found at <https://www.airnav.com/airport/PAMR>

Merrill is supported by a non-precision RNAV instrument approach and one of the few airports in Alaska with ATCT tower control. There are three runways: RWY 7/25, RWY 16/34, & RWY 5/23. RWY 7/25 and RWY 16/34 have paved asphalt surfaces. RWY 5/23 has a gravel surface. It is available for tundra tires during the summer and skis in the winter.

Merrill is staffed with airport maintenance crews for snow removal and runway/taxiway support. The airport manager staff provides interface between airport users and the municipal government, to include management of leases and tie down assignments. Merrill Field is a Municipality of Anchorage enterprise department, meaning it does not receive local tax dollars to support its operations or capital investments.

In 2020, Merrill Field turns 90. Plans include a fly-in, static display, and birthday BBQ celebration. In fact, if you are looking for a new home for your Super Cub, come join us permanently at **Merrill Field, the Gateway to Alaska's Interior**. For next steps to join us at the "Gateway," call the airport manager at (907) 343-6301.

DOT&PF Promoting Careers in Aviation

The Department supports opportunities to talk with youth about the exciting careers and benefits of working in the aviation industry. Aviation is huge in Alaska where 35,000 people are employed in the industry and job openings are abundant. Many students dream of a job in aviation they just don't know where to begin. Contact Statewide Aviation for a list of aviation resources to help get started - (907) 266-2596 or email linda.bustamante@alaska.gov



Students from the Lower Yukon School District, Kusilvak Career Academy receive a tour and briefing from the Airport Police & Fire Department at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.



Calvin Schaeffer, Western District Superintendent, talks about the importance of runway safety and careers in aviation at this year's [Elders and Youth Conference](#).



Our mission is to:

***"Keep Alaska Moving through
service and infrastructure."***

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

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