



Nov/Dec 2007 News from King County International Airport/Boeing Field



A fire fighter in full gear “rescues” a mannequin from the smoke-filled cabin of the airport’s surplus DC3 during a training exercise in October.

Fire fighters get new—and old—equipment

Since he became our chief of Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) a year ago, Captain Jerrell Wills has made many changes and improvements, including the acquisition of new self-contained breathing apparatuses (the packs worn while fighting fires), a new command vehicle, and new fire hoses and tools on the fire trucks.

You may also have noticed that the surplus DC3 that formerly graced our lawn has been moved. After the aircraft was prepped for safe transport to its new location, our own maintenance personnel repositioned it as a crane operations training exercise. In its new location, the DC3 continues to serve us as a training prop for ARFF drills on techniques including search and rescue, evacuation and extrication, ventilation, and thermal imaging. With the addition of our new training officer, Tim McClung, exercises that simulate brake fires, engine fires, and incidents involving hazardous materials will be incorporated into our monthly and quarterly training.

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Message from the Airport Director



Bob Burke

Happy holidays and let’s be prepared

High winds and freezing winter conditions have already made their appearance, and we all need to be prepared for more as winter progresses. Now is a good time to check your aircraft and its surroundings. Make sure hangar doors are secured and tie-down straps are in good order and firmly fastened. During adverse weather, our operations and maintenance staff always give priority to the airfield with the intention of keeping planes flying safely and on time. We turn our attention to parking lots, buildings, and roads as staff and equipment are available. If you have questions any time about Boeing Field operations or winter weather policies and procedures, contact the KCIA 24-hour Operations Information Line at 206-296-7334.

Please enjoy the holiday season that lies ahead and I wish you, your family, and your business a bountiful and peaceful time.

Important Dates

Monday, Jan. 14
5 p.m.
Airport Roundtable
(Airport Terminal Building)

LEGEND

KCIA = King County International Airport
BFI = Boeing Field International

Share your memories

KCIA/Boeing Field will turn 80 next July, and we’d like to invite you to help us mark the occasion. Watch for announcements about the celebration in future issues of this newsletter and other KCIA publications. In the meantime, if you have any memories, photos, or other memorabilia related to the airport’s history that you are willing to share, please contact Rita Creighton at 206-296-7431 or rita.creighton@kingcounty.gov.





The AN-225 touches down during its visit to BFI in August.

World's largest aircraft visit Boeing Field

Boeing Field was visited by members of a big family this past summer when some of the largest aircraft in the world dropped in to deliver cargo to The Boeing Company. Built by the Antonov Design Bureau, based in Kiev, Ukraine, these aircraft are the workhorses of aviation heavy-lifting.

At the end of August, the only fully operational AN-225 in the world arrived with a payload of jet engines for Boeing. Designed to carry the Russian space shuttle, the AN-225 has a 290-foot wingspan, a 275-foot-long fuselage, and a maximum gross weight of 1,411,000 pounds. It required special precautions during its arrival, departure, and taxi operations. Before its visit, Airport Operations, Air Traffic Control, and Boeing representatives developed a precise taxi and parking plan. Twenty-four hours before the jet's arrival, we checked the airfield signs to confirm that all were securely fixed to their pads. As a further safety precaution, we closed the short runway and Taxiway Bravo just before the AN-225's arrival. After the jet landed and taxied into place, we carried out a full airfield inspection. We followed the same procedures for the aircraft's departure. We're pleased to report that the visit went smoothly and without incident.

After this visit, there were several scheduled trips to BFI by the smaller but still impressive AN-124 aircraft throughout the late summer and fall. The AN-124's smaller wingspan (only 240 feet) allowed airport staff to park the AN-124 on the airport's east-side public ramp. However, we employed similar precautions as those used with its "big brother" to ensure the safety of airport facilities and aircraft.

Airport Security to receive an upgrade

Six years after the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon in September 2001, threats to aviation remain a prime topic of discussion throughout the industry. Airport security is constantly scrutinized and we are reminded repeatedly that airports could be the next targets. As government agencies continue to make strides toward addressing these concerns, KCIA has made a commitment to its users and tenants to do its part.

The airport provides tenants and users with badges and gate codes to allow access to the airfield, and encourages them to report any suspicious activity. Unfortunately, these codes often get passed around, requiring that we change them frequently. A recent evaluation of security at KCIA showed that even though we maintain a safe and secure environment, we can make improvements to better control and monitor all airport entry points.

To address this need, the airport has hired a consultant to design a wireless access control system that can link all of the entry points into one system. This system, scheduled to be installed early next year, will give us the option to issue new proximity badges to our tenants that, when used, will register into a monitoring station. Not only will this increase our awareness of who's accessing the airfield, but will also provide a more comprehensive tracking system and allow instant approval or denial of access privileges.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to do his or her part to keep KCIA a safe and secure place by displaying your badge, making sure the gates close behind you, and not sharing your airport access badge or gate with anyone who does not have authorized access to the airfield.

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Old aircraft finds new use

There aren't many DC3s still flying, but our new prop still provides us with a realistic venue for simulating operations in confined spaces, for working with our roof- and bumper-mounted turrets, and for practicing overall incident management. We are grateful to all the airport staff members who worked together to make this possible.

2007 Inspirational Employee Award goes to Alarcon

If you need to get something done, you can count on German “Al” Alarcon, KCIA maintenance worker. Al came to KCIA in 2001 after his former workplace, the Kingdome, was demolished. A very quiet and shy person, he leads by example. He took temporary seasonal workers under his wing and taught them good work ethics as well as the skills needed to accomplish their assignments. He also took the lead this past summer when the maintenance crew tackled an additional shift and worked at night to provide maintenance to the main runway with the least possible disruption



German “Al” Alarcon receives the 2007 Inspirational Employee Award from Airport Director Bob Burke.

to airport users. Getting the job done helps keep the airport safe and operational, and we’re glad to have Al on our team.

Our customers have spoken

Last July, KCIA distributed more than 200 customer satisfaction surveys to its tenant businesses, tie-down and t-hangar occupants, and transient customers. We had a return rate of about 25 percent, and overall, the results were very positive. We received favorable ratings on our tenant communications, which include Airport Advisory notices, tenant meetings, and our 24-hour operations telephone line. Respondents rated our airside facilities as good, but said the airport roads and major parking lots need repair. They rated our building facilities as clean and professional, and had high praise for our grounds maintenance and landscaping.

The area identified as requiring the most improvement was airport security—in particular, access control. These concerns will be addressed with security upgrades that are scheduled for 2008 (see page 2).

We appreciate the feedback provided by all those who responded.



Thomas F. Tilson, Kenmore Air’s director of flight operations, is flanked by Customer Services Manager Andrew Otterness, left, and Captain Pete Brady, chief pilot, right.

Kenmore Airlines provides KCIA passenger service

“Do the right thing” has been the philosophy of Kenmore Air since 1946. That was the year three high school friends, reunited after World War II, founded the company near a swamp at the north end of Lake Washington. They started out with one airplane and a single hangar, and from those humble beginnings Bob Munro, Reg Collins, and Jack Mines built what was to become the largest and most respected seaplane airline in the world.

In 2003 the company began a switch in focus from seaplanes to land-based aircraft with the birth of Kenmore Air Express, with a goal of providing scheduled airline service to regional communities. The new service began in June 2004 with a single Cessna Grand Caravan making five daily flights to Port Angeles. Today, Kenmore operates five Caravans and provides scheduled airline service to five destinations around Puget Sound and in Canada.

“We are fortunate to be operating from BFI,” said Peter R. Brady, Kenmore’s chief pilot. “The facilities and the admin staff here are extremely supportive, and, without a doubt, this relationship has also been critical to our success.”

Today Kenmore Air provides a wide range of services, from scheduled passenger and charter flights to aircraft sales and flight lessons. For more information, visit them in the KCIA Terminal Building, call 425-486-1257, or visit www.kenmoreair.com.



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Boeing Field

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Sound insulation program

The KCIA Sound Insulation Program provides noise-reducing improvements to eligible homes, schools, and other structures in the areas most affected by airport noise. These areas fall within the neighborhoods of Georgetown and Beacon Hill and the city of Tukwila.

Developed after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved the airport's Part 150 Noise and Land Use Compatibility Study in 2005, the multi-year, \$65 million Sound Insulation Program offers improvements to qualifying single- and multi-family homes in areas with average 24-hour airport noise levels of 65 decibels or more. Improvements may include weather-stripping, windows, chimney flaps, doors, and ventilation provided by the program at no charge to the homeowner.

In July, the airport announced that the FAA had qualified the first 210 homes to receive improvements under the program. To start things off, a pilot project will insulate the 10 noisiest homes, which are located in the Beacon Hill neighborhood. A design and engineering team began meeting with residents of those homes in August, and will continue doing so throughout the construction phase. At the same time, the Sound



Noise Officer Sharyn Parker talks with attendees at a Sound Insulation Program briefing session in September.

Insulation Program will be coordinating the schedule for the next 200 homes.

The airport's goal is to install sound insulation in the noisiest homes — known as Phase I homes — over the next three years. The Airport Roundtable Community Advisory Committee has approved the method that will be used to determine which homes will receive improvements first.

A program briefing session was held at the airport on Sept. 25 for Phase I participants who live in the first 210 homes. At this session, residents met with the Program Manager and the design and engineering consultants, and had an opportunity to view the windows, doors, and other products that will be used to reduce airport noise in their homes.