

# GEORGIA AIRPORT ADVOCATE



A Periodic Newsletter of the GEORGIA AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION

Summer 2007

## Annual General Aviation Airport Manager Security Training

by Lee Rimmel, AAE; Airport Director, PDK, ATL

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### IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message .....	2
Around the State.....	3
GA Security Remains Priority ..	4

### MISSION STATEMENT

"To provide, develop and expand a safe and efficient airports system to meet the future economic growth of Georgia through the full implementation of the State Aviation System Plan."

Your Board is seeking to clarify where we are regarding the security training requirement for general aviation airport managers legislated in Senate Bill 243 (2004). To refresh memories, this Bill established an 'Airport Anti-Terrorism Training Committee'. The Committee was tasked to establish and maintain an annual training program for persons who serve as airport managers. At the time, the Bill did not differentiate between airport managers directing commercial service or general aviation airports.

The question posed immediately after the enactment of the Bill asked whether commercial service airport directors already under Federal security training and inspection requirements were required to attend this training or not. It was opined that the Federal requirements superseded all state requirements. Therefore, only airport managers of the general aviation airports in the state were required to attend this training.

The Bill states that each airport manager in Georgia complete 14 hours of initial training and 8 hours of annual training thereafter. The Committee is tasked that by agreement or contract to arrange for the annual training required to be administered by the Georgia Aviation Technical College. As you may or may not know, what we knew as "GATC"

located in Eastman, GA, is now a part of the Middle Georgia College. Tuition costs for providing the mandated training were to be paid for "from funds appropriated or otherwise available to any department represented on the Airport Anti-Terrorism Training Committee or may be paid in whole or in part by the airport managers being trained or any combination thereof." Consequently, the funding source for annual initial or recurrent training was never established, and now we've discovered that with the transition of the GATC into the Middle Georgia College, there is no real remaining corporate knowledge of this requirement.

It would be easy, but it would not be prudent, to just "ignore" this requirement as if it did not exist. We would only need one airport security incident at an airport and one Open Records Act request asking for records about the mandatory security training accomplished by the airport manager to bring into question our collective compliance with a legislated mandate.

As your representatives to the Board of Directors of GAA, it is our responsibility to get these questions answered for you and/or to get the legislature to reconsider and/or revise its original mandate.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming annual conference. The facilities are truly top-notch, and I think we've uncovered a gem in Augusta that we've overlooked for some time. ✈



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**President’s Message**

By Mike Van Wie

Greetings Members and Friends of Georgia Airports Association,

**Conference Preparations** – It’s filling up fast. Make your reservations and get registered now!! If I don’t say so myself, we have a great agenda that includes FAA Regional Administrator Doug Murphy, DayJet’s Director of Aeronautical Research Bruce Holmes, and Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee Senator Jeff Mullis. Additional subjects include Benchmarking your Airport / FBO, Environmental Permitting, Airport Compliance, TERPS, AirGeorgia update, and the results of the Georgia Pavement Study. Additionally, we’ve secured a great golf course and have a wonderful wine & cheese boat tour planned. Don’t miss the opportunity for education, entertainment, recreation, and **JUST PLANE FUN.**

**Legislative Update** – Although the legislature has not been in session, there is still good work being done. The Joint Study Committee on Transportation Funding, co-chaired by Senator Jeff Mullis and Representative Vance Smith, is investigating Georgia’s transportation needs and more importantly, how to pay for it. I had the pleasure of speaking to the committee on the importance of aviation to the state, aviation needs and how we, GAA, have approached our funding issues. Subsequent committee meetings included presentations by Bill Ashbaker, Director of the Florida DOT Aviation Programs Office; and Henry Ogrodzinski, President & CEO of the National Association of State Aviation Officials who spoke on traditional funding mechanisms employed by other states. I look forward to hearing their findings at the conference.

**Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)** – Carol Comer and I represented GAA at the GMA annual conference the end of June. We had a great time and met a lot of influential people from around the state. Participating in these conferences is paying off. Our issues made GMA’s legislative agenda this year and we hope to be on their agenda next year.

**Service** – As many of you know GAA’s Officer and Board Members serve voluntarily. Although we only meet four times per year, we communicate frequently in carrying out the organization’s business. To that end we, the Officers and Board Members of GAA, need help. If you are interested or could be coerced (just kidding) into serving either as a Board member or in an elected position please contact Tim Weegar at Augusta Regional Airport. Tim’s contact information is located on our website. GAA is accomplishing great things and we all need to pitch in, to continue the mission.

Finally, it has been my pleasure to serve as your president this past year. I’ve had a great time, met a lot of great people, and hopefully not disappointed too many of you. I’d like to thank the Board for their guidance and direction and thank you for allowing me to serve. ✈️

Join us at the beautiful Augusta Marriott and Conference Center

October 24 – 26, 2007 for

Education, Recreation, Entertainment and

**Just Plane Fun!**

For more information contact Cheryl Cosby (770) 936-5440 or  
visit [www.georgiaairports.org](http://www.georgiaairports.org) for more information.

## Around the State . . .

### Airport Licenses to Expire Soon

State Airport licenses expire on September 30, 2007. Airports who have not received their licenses prior to the expiration date should contact Tom Carr, GDOT-Aviation Programs at 404-651-5208.

### State Airport Directory to Update

Aviation Programs has requested an update to airport information contained in the State Airport Directory for the upcoming publication. Airports should submit this information as soon as possible, but not later than September 15, 2007. Contact Tom Carr at (404) 651-5208 for information.

### Airport Pavement Study Continues

The update of Georgia's Airport Pavement Management System (APMS) for 103 airports statewide is well underway. Thanks to the helpfulness of the airport sponsors, all the pavement condition evaluations were completed in July. The preliminary analysis shows that the ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation efforts at the airports are working – the overall condition is holding steady when compared to the 2001 conditions, and the overall condition of the aprons and taxiways has improved.

The project team of Applied Pavement Technology (APTech), assisted by Wilbur Smith Associates and AVCON, is now working with Aviation Programs to identify pavement needs across the State and to develop a 5-year maintenance and rehabilitation plan for the preservation of the pavement infrastructure at the airports. It is anticipated that this plan will be completed by December and that the individual airport reports will be distributed in the first quarter of 2008.

### AIRGeorgia Runway Projects Near Completion

The AIRGeorgia projects for runway extensions and construction at the **Cochran Municipal Airport** and the **Camilla-Mitchell County Airport** are nearing completion. Airports interesting in applying for funding assistance from AIRGeorgia should contact Carol Comer, Aviation Programs at (404) 651-5207.

### Presentations Made to Funding Committee

Aviation Programs and GAA made presentations on July 10th in Savannah to the Legislature's Joint Study Committee for Transportation Funding. The committee, co-chaired by aviation supporters, Sen. Jeff Mullis and Rep. Vance Smith are exploring future funding alternatives for all modes of transportation including aviation. For more information on this initiative and to view all presentations log on to [gatransfunding.com](http://gatransfunding.com).

### Richard B. Russell Breaks Ground for Education

Also on August 15, 2007, officials from Floyd County's **Richard B. Russell Airport** broke ground on the construction of new facilities that will house the Coosa Valley Technical College's new avionics curriculum.

### Paulding County Receives Excellence Award

In a ceremony on August 15, 2007, the U.S. Department

of Commerce awarded **Paulding County** the "2007 Excellence in Economic Development Award." This national award was in recognition of the innovative plans for the airport and surrounding development on adjacent properties.

### Ribbon Cutting Held for New Savannah Terminal Gates

On July 25th the Savannah Airport Commission held a ribbon cutting for the official opening of its expanded air carrier terminal adding five new gates.



### Boshears SkyFEST 2007

Save the dates of October 20th and 21st for the 15th Annual Boshears SkyFEST at **Daniel Field (DNL)** in Augusta. Activities and rides for the children include the Stealth for Kids, which is a 1/3 scale model of the F-117A Nighthawk. The Sky Soldiers will be back again giving rides in their Huey helicopter. Draco the Dragon breathes and spits fire from his mouth, and when Draco is not "all fired up" he'll be crushing cars with his jaws.

Admission is \$12 in advance and \$15 at the gate. Children under 12 are admitted for free accompanied by an adult. If you plan to fly to the show, admission is FREE. For more information about the show, visit the Boshears website at [www.boshears.com](http://www.boshears.com) or call Augusta Aviation, Inc. at 706-733-8970.

### Banquet Celebrates Centennial of Aviation in Georgia

The Ben T. Epps Memorial Banquet in Celebration of the Centennial of Aviation in Georgia will be held October 20th at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens. This banquet is the culmination of events around the state celebrating the first flight in Georgia in October of 1907.

The keynote speaker is Major General Patrick J. Halloran (USAF Ret), former squadron commander of the SR71 Blackbird Squadron. He was among the first group of pilots to fly the SR71 and the U2 reconnaissance aircraft. He served at the Pentagon in the Office of the Joint Chiefs, and retired after more than 34 years of service and more than 8000 flying hours. Tickets are \$100, with proceeds going toward a bronze statue of Ben T. Epps to be placed in downtown Athens. Tickets are tax deductible. For invitations, send your name and address to [patcardin@charter.net](mailto:patcardin@charter.net). The deadline for reservations is Friday, October 12th. 🐉

# GA Security Remains Top Priority

Reprinted from <http://www.nbaa.org>

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) are reviewing new security protocols for general aviation (GA). What can the industry do to reduce its exposure to threats and maximize the flexibility required for operational missions?

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, NBAA's staff has continually met and worked with federal security officials on a number of security policies and initiatives for business aviation. The Association has reminded government officials that the industry has voluntarily adopted many measures since 9/11 to ensure that GA is hardened against terrorist threats. Most importantly, NBAA has articulated the unique needs and challenges of business aviation operations, telling regulators that a one-size-fits-all policy for GA security would be ineffective and likely unworkable.

This year, the TSA could release a number of programs designed to enhance security for business aviation operations. While the TSA programs could include both regulatory mandates and advisory guidance, it is important to note that the industry and NBAA will have an opportunity to provide

feedback before any requirements are finalized. NBAA will ensure that the Membership receives sufficient notice to provide constructive feedback.

NBAA's staff has worked constantly since 9/11 to help federal security officials understand the unique nature of business aviation, so that any new security protocols will not merely be an adaptation of airline security programs, but will be tailored to the specific needs of the GA community. Additionally, NBAA has underscored the need for flexibility in complying with any new requirements.

In the meantime, NBAA offers many resources for Members interested in following industry best practices. The Association's Security web site at [www.nbaa.org/ops/security](http://www.nbaa.org/ops/security) is devoted to best practices, frequently asked questions and various federal and industry security initiatives. A link to NBAA's directory of security services vendors also is provided on that site. To access NBAA's list of frequently asked questions on business aviation security, visit [www.nbaa.org/ops/faq](http://www.nbaa.org/ops/faq). Contact NBAA's Operations Service Group to learn more about business aviation security. E-mail questions to [info@nbaa.org](mailto:info@nbaa.org) or call (202) 783-9250. ✈



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