

(ORLANDO) EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR NEARLY A CENTURY

by **Cyrus Callum**, Director of General Aviation, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority

It was a celebration few in Central Florida had ever seen. An estimated 40,000 people from across the state converged on Orlando to celebrate the arrival of commercial aviation. Orlando Municipal Airport was dedicated in the Fall of 1928, ushering in the promise of an exciting future.

For nearly a century, the airfield has evolved to serve the community's needs. From its earliest activity facilitating Air Mail delivery; to pilot training during World War II at the re-designated Orlando Army Air Base; to the region's primary passenger service provider at the renamed Herndon Airport; to its current status as Executive Airport, one of the nation's busiest general aviation (GA) facilities, Orlando's original airport enjoys a rich legacy of commercial, military and private air service.

Today's Executive Airport continues to enhance the quality of life in Central Florida and serve as a vital component of the region's economy. Operated by the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, with input from the Executive Airport Advisory Committee, Executive Airport is located in the heart of the city. Designated as the main reliever airport for Orlando International Airport (MCO), Executive Airport sits on 1,000 acres of land, only three miles from downtown Orlando. This central proximity provides convenient access to the city's business and leisure district, along with the area's convention centers and world-class attractions, via a number of major highways and roadways.

While a prime location is an important advantage, our reputation as a premier GA airport has been achieved as a result of performance.

A combination of personnel, facilities and amenities make the airport a favorite of corporate aviation departments and private pilots alike. From the ground up, Executive Airport features a pair of intersecting, paved runways of 6,004 and 4,625 feet, capable of handling a variety of aircraft from single engine planes to the largest corporate jets to military cargo transports.

Facilitating Executive Airport's brisk operational pace are two Fixed Base Operators (FBO). Sheltair and Atlantic Aviation offer 24-hour service to both locally-based and transient customers, including fuel sales, aircraft maintenance, flight instruction and weather information.

Flight activity is as diverse as it is robust. In addition to piston and jet powered fixed-wing aircraft, Executive Airport serves as the base for law enforcement, air ambulance and local news helicopters. The airport also provides the staging area for blimps when they are in town for events. Other important features include a 100-foot, FAA-staffed Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT); full all-weather Instrument Landing System (ILS) capability; Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) on field; and a U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility.

Aside from the day-to-day activity, there are also yearly and bi-annual events that make Executive Airport special. Since welcoming the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) convention and exhibition for the first time in 1996, Executive Airport and the City of Orlando hosted the annual event 12 times.

We also take great pride in assisting the local community through events like the annual Run for the Angels 5K. Each year hundreds of participants walk or run on one of the airfield's runways to raise funds for Angel Flight Southeast. The airport has also welcomed the famed Hurricane Hunters on their statewide tour to promote storm awareness and safety.

Our airport has been both a civic and business partner with Central Florida. According to FDOT statistics, Executive Airport supports more than 4,500 jobs and generates a total economic impact of nearly \$623 million. By providing fiscal energy, top-flight services and direct access to the nation's most-visited destination, Executive Airport remains positioned as one of the region's most valuable transportation assets.

BUSINESS IS BOOMING AT EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

by **Cyrus Callum**, Director of General Aviation, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority

A popular phrase states: "A rising tide lifts all boats." Those words continue to ring true in Central Florida, where a rising economic tide is certainly lifting business at Executive Airport. While our airport is operated by the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, we strive for financial self-sufficiency through a number of on-airport tenants and multiple commercial properties.

Executive Airport's operating budget in fiscal year 2019 was \$3.8 million. An increase of \$275,000 over 2018 was a result of increases in commercial properties, aviation-related revenues and other revenue. Those critical outside sources of revenue include three shopping centers on Executive Airport property. Located adjacent to the airport along one of the city's busiest main arteries, these three properties generate 60 percent of Executive Airport's revenue. Included are a gas station, grocery store, a variety of restaurants, and a music store. Additionally, a fitness center will be opening soon, and in the past year, we have renovated several properties to promote occupancy by businesses seeking to take advantage of the area's growth and the airport's vitality.

When it comes to aviation-centric revenue, we have no more valuable partners than our two Fixed Base Operators (FBO) Atlantic Aviation and Sheltair. During their tenure at Executive Airport, each has made significant improvements to their facilities. Atlantic has 55 acres of

leasehold space with hangars that can accommodate aircraft up to the size of a G650 and Sheltair has recently drastically improved its Executive Airport operation to a new level. This past June, Sheltair opened a brand new, multi-million dollar corporate aviation and hangar complex that promises to maximize efficiencies while offering unprecedented amenities.

"Our commitment is a \$17 million statement regarding how Sheltair Aviation views the future of Executive Airport and the communities it serves," said Todd Anderson, Sheltair Senior Vice President for Real Estate and Development. "Executive Airport is the preferred airport for many traveling to Orlando's downtown businesses, sports, entertainment venues, Winter Park, University of Central Florida and its research and business parks."

There are two new hangars with 22,600 square feet of space. The centerpiece is a new 36,000 square foot, four-story executive terminal with 9,000 square feet of terminal space and 27,000 square feet of class A office space featuring spectacular views.

"We're building for the future," Anderson said. "We want to be a first-class front door to the City of Orlando."

Located minutes from the heart of the city, Executive Airport is positioned to provide the access and quality of service essential to keeping that front door wide open.

KEY SELLING POINTS OF EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

by **Cyrus Callum**, Director of General Aviation, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority

Central Florida has grown into much more than just a leisure destination. The region now boasts a vibrant and diverse mix of globally-recognized corporations, along with high-tech and medical research companies, that complement our world-class theme parks and attractions. And right in the middle of this powerful economic amalgam is Executive Airport, providing convenient access for corporate and private aviators.

Proximity is a valuable commodity when time is money. Accordingly, one of Executive Airport's strongest assets, when it comes to maintaining current customers and attracting new ones, is our ability to serve as a professional and expedient gateway. Located three miles from Downtown Orlando, Executive Airport is minutes from the city's business and entertainment district and only a short drive from the region's top attractions and niche destinations, like Winter Park.

Another major selling point in Executive Airport's efforts to expand our global footprint is the capability to accommodate an international clientele. Executive Airport is among a select group of General Aviation (GA) airports to serve as a port of entry with a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facility. Friendly service and flexible scheduling are among the regular compliments Executive Airport's CBP officers receive. The reputation for customer attentiveness has sparked a significant increase in international traffic. In 2019 alone, CBP operations have eclipsed monthly records with 112 operations in March and 105 in May, surpassing the previous mark of 102 in June of 2018. The Customs facility is on pace for close to 1,000 operations for the year.

International flights have landed at Executive Airport from 35 cities in 27 countries. From England, France, Italy and Germany in Europe; to Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil in South America; to South Korea in Asia, the points of origin span the globe. Major international companies like Lockheed-Martin, Tupperware, Darden Restaurants, Germany's Siemens Energy, Japan's Mitsubishi-Hitachi Power Systems, Spain's Indra System and Australia's Adacel have a presence in Orlando. In total, more than 150 companies, representing about 20 countries, have facilities here. By serving as an economic catalyst, Executive Airport is an important component in the region's worldwide partnerships.



The airport is often the first and last impression many business and leisure visitors have of Central Florida, so it is important that we strive to improve our facilities and services to continue to support increasing demand and the dynamic growth of the region.



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