

March 2, 2007

## User Fee Debate is “On” Safety Standdown is Sold Out

### NBAA Urges All GA Operators to Contact Congress

NBAA President Ed Bolen recently has urged members and all other GA operators to contact Congress in opposition to the Administration’s recent FAA reauthorization proposal, which among other provisions would rely primarily on user fees for future funding. As Bolen explains:

[The] proposal represents one of the greatest threats business aviation has ever faced. To keep this proposal from becoming law, you need to take action now.

The recent news excerpts alongside this message demonstrate that airline lobbying has succeeded in getting the FAA to unveil a funding plan that gives the giant airlines a major tax break while imposing massive tax hikes and onerous new user fees on the businesses that rely on general aviation.

The airlines’ FAA plan also dramatically reduces Congressional authority over the air traffic system, gives airlines a bigger say in FAA operations, and establishes a huge new multi-billion dollar bureaucracy to assess and collect user fees.

NBAA is fighting this toxic mix of massive tax increases, user fees and airline power, but our success depends on you. Your elected officials need to hear from you about the airlines’ FAA proposal, because you can be sure that every Member of Congress is hearing from the big airlines and their army of lobbyists.

NBAA has created a website which enables members and the general public to contact their members of Congress about the proposal; please visit <http://www.nbaa.org/userfees>.

### March 8 Safety Standdown Is Sold Out

Thanks to the following companies for supporting our event:

- **Bristol Associates**, for lunch;
- **Bombardier**, for sponsoring Bob Agostino as a speaker and contributing two tickets to the IRL (Indy car class) race in Richmond and an aircraft model as door prizes;
- **Gulfstream**, for the morning break and an aircraft model as a door prize;
- **Dassault Falcon**, for the afternoon break and an aircraft model as a door prize;
- **ARINC**, for printing;
- **Signature Flight Support**, for facility sponsorship;
- **Flight Safety International**, for event bags and an aircraft model for a door prize; and

- **Sky Group Associates and NBAA**, as event supporters;

*Registrants must be present to win door prizes!*

## **Bombardier Learjet 45XR on Display**

Bombardier will be displaying its Learjet 45XR aircraft at Landmark Aviation's Dulles facility, by appointment on March 7 and from 9am until 5pm on March 8. To RSVP, please contact Paula Stachowski at (316) 946-7640 or [paula.stachowski@aero.bombardier.com](mailto:paula.stachowski@aero.bombardier.com). If you can't attend, but would like to receive more information about the aircraft please contact Tien Huynh at (316) 946-2192 or [tien.huynh@aero.bombardier.com](mailto:tien.huynh@aero.bombardier.com).

## **NTSB Runway Incursion Forum**

The NTSB will hold a one-day forum on March 27 focusing on runway incursions and accidents and potential solutions. "Eliminating runway incursions and collisions is a top priority of the Safety Board and has been on our Most Wanted List since 1990," said NTSB chairman Mark Rosenker, who will preside over the forum. "The NTSB has investigated several near collisions in the past few years that could have been catastrophic if it hadn't been for sharp-eyed flight crews and luck."

The scope of the problem, how to avoid runway incursions, educational initiatives and new technologies are expected to be highlighted by representatives from the FAA, DOD, Flight Safety Foundation, Air Line Pilots Association International, AOPA and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. Speakers will also include Captain Robert Bragg, the co-pilot of the Pan Am 747 that was one of two jumbo jets that tragically collided on the ground in the Canary Islands, causing 583 deaths – 30 years to the day before the forum.

The forum will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at NTSB headquarters, 429 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, DC. Pre-registration is not required.

## **TSA Announces Additional DCA Gateway Airport and New DASSP Hours**

Readers of GWBAA News will recall that TSA has allowed business aviation operators to resume flights at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on a highly restricted basis, pursuant to the DCA Access Standard Security Program (DASSP). One of the requirements is that the flight must depart from a designated gateway airport. TSA has recently and quietly announced the designation of an additional gateway: Hanscom Field (BED) in Bedford, MA.

In addition, TSA has announced that the hours for DASSP operations will be extended to 0630-2200 local effective March 5, 2007. Because DCA's slot rules only apply to flights between 0700-01859 local, TSA notes that earlier and later flights should not require a slot from FAA.

Our thanks to GWBAA member **Russ Arena**, Raytheon's Chief Pilot, for spearheading the effort to get Hanscom Field added and to expand the hours. Excellent work, Russ!

For more information, please visit NBAA at <http://web.nbaa.org/public/ops/security/dassp/> or TSA at [http://www.tsa.gov/what\\_we\\_do/ga/ga\\_dca\\_access.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/ga/ga_dca_access.shtm).

## First-Half 2007 SIFL Rates Released

The Department of Transportation has released the terminal charge and Standard Industry Fare level ("SIFL") mileage rates which are to be used to calculate the taxable value of non-commercial flights on employer-provided aircraft for the first six months of 2007. The terminal charge is \$37.92. The SIFL rates are \$0.2075 for the first 500 miles; \$0.1582 per mile for 501 miles through 1,500 miles; and \$0.1521 per mile miles over 1,500. For more information, please visit <http://web.nbaa.org/member/ops/taxes/sifl/2007-1.php>.

## Regional News Roundup

The Worcester County Commissioners and the Ocean City Council held a public informational meeting on February 12 to discuss plans to expand **Ocean City Municipal Airport**. The city has proposed to lengthen both runways, which would require moving neighboring Route 611 as well as purchasing 17 parcels of land, including four homes. 95% of the project would be funded by FAA grants, with the rest being paid by the state and local government. The next step, a formal public hearing on the environmental assessment for the proposal, has not yet been scheduled.

Aero-News Network recently published a profile of the Coast Guard's National Capital Region air defense operations; as readers of GWBAA News may recall, the Coast Guard assumed the responsibility for guarding the greater Washington area's ADIZ from CBP in September 2006. To read the article, visit <http://www.aero-news.net/index.cfm?ContentBlockID=02cda11d-88ec-4175-96a5-5bf56601cd51&>.

## Upcoming Aviation Events

- **March 8:** Mark your calendar for the half-day **GWBAA Safety Standdown**. For more details, see above.
- **March 13:** The FAA Safety Team will sponsor a talk at 7pm on "**Weather Expectations**" and the use of weather evaluation tools by Jack Crawford and Ace Stutz at Maryland Airport in Indian Head, MD. For more information, call Jack Crawford, (301) 283-6202, or visit [http://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event\\_details.aspx?eid=14128](http://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=14128).
- **March 27:** The NTSB will sponsor a one-day **Runway Incursion Forum**. For more details, see above.
- **April 7:** The FAA will sponsor an **ADIZ Seminar and "Operation Raincheck" TRACON Tour** at the Potomac Consolidated TRACON in Warrenton, Virginia. The seminar will include a general Q&A session with FAA controllers and management. For more details, visit [http://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event\\_details.aspx?eid=13912](http://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=13912).
- **April 14:** The **1st Semi-Annual National Capital Region Airline Collectible Expo** will be held at Holiday Inn Washington Dulles Airport, from 8am-3pm. For more details, visit [http://www.specialtyexpo.com/Washington\\_IAD\\_Airline\\_EXPO.html](http://www.specialtyexpo.com/Washington_IAD_Airline_EXPO.html).

- **April 30:** John J. Nance will speak on aviation safety issues, as a featured part of **Virginia Aviation Safety Week**, at 7pm at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. For more details, visit <http://www.doav.virginia.gov/calendar.htm> or call (804) 236-3639.
- **May 7-17:** George Washington University's Aviation Institute will offer its **Aviation Safety & Security Certificate Program** at its Ashburn campus. For more details, visit <http://www.gwu.edu/~aviation/Flyers-v2.pdf>.

## GWBAA Offers Online Benefits

We continue to add member information for GWBAA's electronic membership directory – <http://www.gwbaa.com/directory.html>. This service is available to GWBAA members at no cost. Please contact Bob Blouin ([info@gwbaa.com](mailto:info@gwbaa.com)) if you want to post your company's information.

## GWBAA Contacts

GWBAA President Bob Blouin ([info@gwbaa.com](mailto:info@gwbaa.com)) and GWBAA Secretary Jol Silversmith of Zuckert, Scoult & Rasenberger, LLP ([jasilversmith@zsrlaw.com](mailto:jasilversmith@zsrlaw.com)) write and edit GWBAA News. GWBAA's success and ability to make a difference depends on the breadth of its support and your participation – so please send any ideas or comments for future newsletters, or for GWBAA, in general, to Bob or Jol, or any of the following people:

Mary Miller, Treasurer: [mary.miller@signatureflight.com](mailto:mary.miller@signatureflight.com)

Cassandra Bosco, Communications Chair: [cbosco@tailwindscomm.com](mailto:cbosco@tailwindscomm.com)

Greg Cirillo, Events Chair: [gcirillo@wrf.com](mailto:gcirillo@wrf.com)

Bob Rockwood, Membership Chair: [racersblue@earthlink.net](mailto:racersblue@earthlink.net)

Jim Lumley, Operations, Safety and Security Chair: [jpilot3@aol.com](mailto:jpilot3@aol.com)

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