



A Salute to Director Hrabko

If you've been around aviation in Missouri, let's say, anytime during the past 45 years or so, you've probably run across Dick Hrabko. After a long and brilliant career in Missouri aviation, Dick retired Dec. 31, 2009, as director of St. Louis International Airport.

Prior to this appointment, Dick served as the director of aviation for Spirit of St. Louis Airport for 27 years.



He started at Spirit in 1964 and held positions as an air traffic controller, executive vice president and general manager.

Prior to coming to Spirit, Dick served for seven years in the United States Navy as a naval aviator and air traffic control supervisor.

For many folks, Dick is the face of Missouri aviation. He was a founding

member of the State Aviation Advisory Committee. He was a co-founder of the Missouri Airport Managers' Association and of the Missouri State Aviation Council. He was a member of the Missouri Pilots' Association and has also served as the past president and CEO of the St. Louis County Fair and Air Show and on the Boards of Wings of Hope, the Missouri USO and Commerce Bank-West Group.

A lot has happened with aviation in Missouri during the past 45 to 50 years, and Dick has been involved in most of it. Dick started at Spirit when it opened as a private corporate airport in 1964. Over five million operations later, Spirit has flourished to become one of the most successful corporate and business-use reliever airports, not only in the state, but the entire country. From humble beginnings, Spirit has grown to more than 1,200 acres and 125 businesses employ-



ing nearly 3,000 people with an annual economic benefit of \$400 million. It is now a home base for 450 aircraft including 125 corporate jets.

In 1993, with rains and river levels increasing and chances of flooding becoming more prevalent, the Spirit Airport evacuated approximately 700 aircraft.

On July 31, the Monarch Levee

located near the airport broke, unleashing a wall of water toward the airport. Evacuation and repositioning of aircraft continued until the last aircraft took off as water enveloped the airport.

Dick gave a poignant interview to a local television station while the airport was flooded. The interview was done in a boat while looking over flooded facilities. It was a heartfelt interview and is still remembered by many in the aviation community today. During that interview, Dick vowed to get the airport back up and running, and to make it better than it was before.

More recently, Dick has served as director of St. Louis International Airport where he oversaw a department with annual revenues of more than \$175 million and a staff of more than 500 employees. Dick negotiated the airport's largest multi-use real estate development project, kicked off a new air-service marketing program and created a business advisory committee comprised of representatives from top companies with extensive travel programs.

In December 2009, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission honored Dick at its meeting in St. Charles. The MoDOT Aviation Section would like to salute and congratulate Dick on a brilliant and highly successful career. Congratulations, Dick!



New Branson West Airport

The new Branson West Airport opened to air traffic Dec. 15, 2009. The new airport, owned by the City of Branson West, includes a 5,000-foot long by 75-foot wide runway capable of handling corporate aircraft, a full-length parallel

taxiway, an aircraft-parking apron and T-hangar taxi lanes. The city continues to work on the completion of aircraft storage hangars, a maintenance and terminal facility, an automated weather station, non-precision approach capabilities and a fueling facility. Fuel and other services are expected to be available in February 2010, and the city is planning a summer 2010 grand opening.

AeroPremier Jet Center is under contract with the City of Branson West to provide airport management services and to operate as the fixed-base operator. Cirrus and Wells Aircraft is in preliminary negotiations with the airport operator to bring in a certified pilot training service center for the new Cirrus aircraft.

MoDOT administered approximately \$12 million in federal airport improvement program funds and \$4 million in state aviation trust funds for the airport's construction. The Branson West Airport is the seventh new airport constructed in Missouri since MoDOT became a State Block Grant state in 1990.

Congratulations

This issue of the Show Me Flyer highlights the accomplishments of Dick Hrabko and Cindy Kever. Dick, who retired as director of St. Louis International Airport, has more than 45 years of service in the aviation industry. I've worked with Dick for a long time as have many others in the Missouri aviation community, and I consider him a great friend and mentor. He has given a tremendous amount and has accomplished many things for Missouri aviation. Cindy Kever was selected by NASAO as a recipient for its 2009 Distinguished Service Award for state aviation employees. This is great that Cindy can be recognized for the work she does in MoDOT's Aviation Section. The great thing for others and me here at MoDOT is that we get to see Cindy in action everyday. Congratulations, Dick and Cindy!



Ken Smith, left, City Manager of Branson West, lands on the city's new runway.

Distinguished Service Award in State Aviation

Cindy Kever is a 2009 recipient of the National Association of State Aviation Officials' Distinguished Service Award. Cindy is the first Missourian to receive this annual award, which recognizes individuals who have excelled in their service and dedication to aviation progress and development in their state.

"Cindy has a tremendous work ethic and continues to challenge herself in new areas every day," said Joe Pestka, MoDOT's aviation administration. "She takes on increased responsibilities and plays a vital role in the day-to-day operation of the aviation section. She also has a very good working relationship with our aviation partners and is committed to providing quality customer service."

Some of Cindy's achievements and contributions include working on a new Web-based software database that helps aviation partners manage their capital improvement programs, airport layout plan certifications and coordination of grant administration programs.



Joe Pestka, Cindy Kever and Victor Bird, Chairman of NASAO

Cindy, a 30-year MoDOT employee, is a senior administrative technician in the Aviation Section of the Multimodal Operations Division within MoDOT.

Is Your Airport Part of the AOPA Airport Support Network?

The AOPA Airport Support Network (ASN) is a special group of volunteers dedicated to promoting and protecting community airports. The program's goal is to have an ASN volunteer appointed at every public-use airport in the country to serve as an "early warning system" for local airport issues.

Visit www.aopa.org/asn to see if your airport has a volunteer. If it doesn't, consider nominating yourself or someone you know for this critically important role.

While some ASN volunteers go above and beyond the basic responsibilities, there are two key duties: (1) stay informed about issues that may impact your airport; and (2) communicate concerns about airport issues with AOPA through the ASN staff. Ideally, ASN volunteers are pilots who are based at the airport (whether they own or rent aircraft) for which they represent.

For more information about AOPA's Airport Support Network, contact Jesse Romo, Director Airport Support Network, AOPA at 301-695-2401.

Aviation Webpage Updated

There's updated guidance on the MoDOT Aviation Unit's Web page regarding various grant programs and documentation requirements, and it's in an easy outline for airport sponsors and consultants. Do you have a question about. . . ?

- How do I submit my airport CIP?
- How do I apply for a federal AIP or state aviation grant?
- How do I select an airport consultant?
- Where can I get the latest on FAA airspace, airport design and construction requirements?
- Is my airport in compliance with federal grant assurances?
- What project plans and specifications should I use?

Your answer: Check out the Web information at: <http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/aviation/aviationgrantdoc.htm>.

It's all there! It's a great information source to routinely review and become familiar with what's there. It's where MoDOT gets its information, too!

Sikeston Memorial Municipal Airport

Sikeston is a city of approximately 18,000 located halfway between St. Louis, Missouri, and Memphis, Tennessee, in Scott County. The Sikeston Memorial Municipal Airport, a 732-acre, city-owned, public-use airport located two miles northeast of Sikeston's central business district and five minutes from the Sikeston Business, Education and Technology Park, serves the area.

Dedicated on July 4, 1934, as the Harvey Parks Airport, Sikeston Memorial Municipal Airport was the site of the Missouri Institute of Aeronautics. In 1938, General Henry "Haps" Arnold asked Parks to train military pilots and mechanics, thus tripling the school's enrollment. Sikeston became one of five training schools operated by Parks for the U.S. Army Air Corps. By 1944, more than 170 planes per day were flying over Sikeston. World War II flying ace Robert S. Johnson was among the many pilots trained at the Sikeston facility. By the end of the war, the institute had trained more than 24,000 commissioned pilots and thousands of aeronautical mechanics.

In May 1948, the U.S. government formally transferred ownership of its land, runway (now 4,300 feet in length and 75 feet in width), barracks, equipment and a \$300,000 warehouse to the City of Sikeston. This was accomplished primarily through grants approved by the War Assets Administration. At the

time of the transfer, made during the tenure of Mayor Marvin Carroll, airport assets increased to nearly \$1 million.

In 1981 and 1987, additional properties were acquired to expand approach surfaces. Improvements completed in 1985 increased the runway to 5,500 feet in length by 100 feet in width, added a 40-foot wide parallel taxiway and five connectors. Today, the Sikeston Memorial Municipal Airport, located at an elevation of 315 feet above Mean Sea level has a paved asphalt runway, designated 2/20, which measures 5,502 feet by 100 feet. The Sikeston Fixed Base Operator manages the terminal building with pilots' lounge and restrooms, parking and fuel points. Both public and privately owned hangars are located on the airport premises.

In 2006, federal funding obtained through MoDOT aviation grants provided \$593,931 for the reconstruction of the airport apron. In 2009, work began on a multi-phase airport expansion and improvement project. Approximately \$2 million from federal stimulus and non-primary entitlement funds have enabled the city to relocate 1,200 feet of the taxiway's southern end, to relocate a street running parallel to the airport and to remove obstructions in the runway object free areas. The runway and connectors have been repaved and new markings applied.

Future phases will relocate the parallel taxiway, upgrade runway lighting and expand the apron.

Annually, Sikeston's Memorial Municipal Airport supports over 10,000 aircraft operations, serving both single and multi-engine aircraft and small jets. Currently, 25 aircraft are based at Sikeston's airport. The largest craft to use Sikeston's facility has been a Boeing 737. Additionally, the airport serves as a fueling site for military helicopters operating out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Sikeston has an economic environment that features both agricultural- and distribution-based industries. Located at the intersection of Interstates 55



New Missouri Airport Directory on Final Approach

Sikeston Memorial Municipal Airport

and 57, and U.S. Highways 60, 61 and 62 with rail access to Burlington-Northern Railways, Sikeston provides excellent surface transportation opportunities.

Recognizing the Sikeston Memorial Municipal Airport is a valuable tool to economic development, the city has made a commitment to maintain high-quality airport facilities. The improvements already made to the runway and the future taxiway improvements are important to attracting major industrial prospects to Sikeston and the surrounding area.

For additional information regarding the Sikeston Memorial Municipal Airport, contact Steve Lee at 573-475-3731 or e-mail at streets@sikeston.org.

News from FAA: E-filing On-Airport Part 77 Notification

The on-line filing of Part 77 notices has brought both blessings and frustrations. On the positive side, the e-filer controls the receipt of the notification to the FAA – nothing gets lost in the mail or delivered to an incorrect address. The study attachments are received and recorded permanently with each case, and electronic notifications and determinations are easily accessible using the internet. However, one of the chief complaints regarding e-filing Part 77 notification is that a request for additional or corrected information can sit in the e-filers account for months without action.

To address this issue, the FAA Central Region has implemented a new policy. E-filed case data is reviewed usually within a few days of receipt. If the data is found to be missing or incorrect, we will notify the e-flier via e-mail and place a letter requesting additional and/or corrected information in the e-filer's account. If additional information is not received within 30 days of the letter date, the aeronautical study will be terminated. To reactivate the aeronautical study, the e-filer will need to initiate a new aeronautical study with the additional and/or corrected information. This new policy will help ensure requests do not sit idle in the system.

*Article prepared by:
Federal Aviation Administration
Angie Muder, Airports Airspace Specialist
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The 2010-2011 Missouri Airport Directory and Travel Guide produced by the Missouri Department of Transportation will soon be available to the public. The directory is a flight-planning tool that provides facility information to pilots and users of Missouri's system of public-use airports.

The new directory has a five-inch square aerial photo of each airport with facility information such as runway length, communication frequencies, lighting and navigation aids and fuel availability.

"We are always excited about having the opportunity to update the directory and think it will prove to be a useful tool for Missouri's aviation community," said Joe Pestka, MoDOT's administrator of aviation.

The directory is provided free-of-charge. Funding for this and all state aviation programs comes from aviation fuel taxes and not from general revenue or highway funds.

For more information on the 2010-2011 Missouri Airport Directory and Travel Guide, contact Bryant Walker at 573-751-7477 or Bryant.walker@modot.mo.gov.



Projects Under Construction



Boonville
AWOS, construct taxilanes

Brookfield/Marceline
Relocate tower

Branson West
AWOS, terminal area

Caruthersville
Airfield pavement maintenance, NAVAIDS

Eldon
Runway extension, partial parallel taxiway

Farmington
Parallel taxiway

Kennett
Airfield pavement maintenance, T-hangar

Linn State Technical College
Airfield pavement maintenance

Memphis
Airfield lighting

Mexico
Terminal area improvements, widen T-hangar taxilanes

Mount Vernon
Airfield pavement maintenance

Neosho
Construct taxilanes

Waynesville/St. Robert
Construct taxilane

Spirit of St. Louis
Runway guard lights, centerline lighting

Sullivan
Obstruction removal



Sikeston runway rehabilitation



Branson West Airport

Projects In Design



Albany

Airfield pavement maintenance

Bismark

Airfield pavement maintenance

Bolivar

AWOS

Camdenton

AWOS

Cassville

Lighting improvements

Clinton

New runway

Clay County

AWOS

Creve Coeur

Airfield pavement maintenance

Fredericktown

Terminal building

Grand Glaize

Airfield pavement maintenance

Hannibal

Terminal building

Harrisonville

Airfield pavement maintenance

Hornersville

Airfield pavement maintenance, apron expansion

Kirksville

Runway safety area grading

Lewis County

Hangar

Malden

Airfield pavement maintenance

Mansfield

Airfield lighting

Moberly

Apron rehabilitation

Nevada

Apron rehabilitation

Point Lookout

Taxiway and apron pavement maintenance

St. Joseph

Taxiway Alpha rehabilitation

Spirit of St. Louis

Ground runup enclosure

Thayer

Airfield pavement maintenance

Waynesville/St. Robert

Terminal building

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Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend

- **March 24, 2010**
State Aviation Day
State Capitol
Jefferson City
- **April 14, 2010**
Missouri State Aviation Council
Lodge of the Four Seasons
Lake Ozark
- **April 15 and 16, 2010**
Missouri Airport Managers Spring Meeting
Lodge of the Four Seasons
Lake Ozark