

2009 Florida Aviation Awards

Aaron Smith, State Aviation Manager, announced the winners of the 2009 Florida Aviation Awards at the Florida Airports Council Conference in August.

Aviation Professional

Robert M. Ball

Robert M. Ball, A.A.E., Executive Director of Lee County Port Authority, directs the operations of Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field General Aviation Airport. He is responsible for the unprecedented success of the airports and is committed to working with other community partners.

Bob Ball initiated a plan to revitalize Page Field and make it prosperous again. The plan included adding hangar facilities, repaving runways and parking aprons, adding airfield guidance signage, upgrading airfield lighting, leasing the vacated airline terminal building, and developing non-aeronautical revenues.

Bob has had many leadership roles including his recent appointment to represent the FAC on the Strategic Intermodal System leadership committee.

General Aviation Airport

Albert Whitted Airport

Albert Whitted has a rich history dating back to its construction in 1917. As early as the 1960s, however, the community began questioning the use of airport property. By 2002 there was a significant move to close the airport, but the citizens overwhelmingly voted to keep the airport operational.

Support from airport users, citizens, and AOPA, along with city leadership, transformed Albert Whitted to a first-class general aviation airport. It embodies the spirit of a community airport.

We congratulate Richard Lesniak, Airport Manager, and the staff of Albert Whitted Airport, the city of St. Petersburg, and the citizens of St. Petersburg.

Commercial Service Airport

Miami International Airport

Miami International Airport met the challenges of the past year and excelled



Clockwise from top left: Aviation Professional: Bob Ball; GA Airport Project: Nick Nesta of CDM, Martin County Airport Manager Michael Moon, Aaron Smith, Lisa Waters of Hanson Professional Services, Ted Baldwin of HMMH; GA Airport: Albert Whitted Airport Manager Richard Lesniak; Commercial Service Airport Project: Mil Reisert of URS Corp.; Aaron Smith; Peter Horton, Director of Airports, Key West Int'l; Jim Ault, Morganti Group. Not pictured: Commercial Service Airport Miami Int'l.

in the face of adversity. Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) turned around its troubled Capital Improvement Program, addressing decreased traffic while also increasing customer service and bringing hundreds of thousands of new terminal square footage on line.

Staff members of Miami International Airport demonstrate exceptional skills and represent a significant contribution to airport development, sustainability, efficiency, capacity, and safety.

We congratulate Airport Manager Jose Abreu and the staff of MDAD.

GA Airport Project

Noise Abatement Departure Profile Demonstration Project

Martin County and the project team demonstrated exceptional skills and sensitivity to concerns of the community in conducting the demonstration project.

The project has increased efficiency of the airport's noise abatement program and the safety of aircraft operations, and it has significantly contributed to the well-being of the communities surrounding the airport.

We congratulate Airport Manager Michael Moon, the staff of Martin County Airport; the airport Noise Advisory Committee; CDM; Fair Wind Air Charter; Hanson Professional Services; and Harris Miller of Miller & Hanson.

Commercial Service Airport Project

Key West International Airport McCoy Terminal Complex

The terminal complex project employed Construction Management At Risk, enabling a team approach that was not possible under any other method.

New terminal enhancements include improved traffic flow, improvement to the passenger security screening process, and a significant reduction in passenger boarding delays.

The associated parking deck is now used for Monroe County's emergency response equipment and critical items to protect them from storm surge.

We congratulate Peter Horton and the staff of Key West International Airport and Monroe County, URS Corporation, and the Morganti Group Inc.