

Numbers reveal growing use of airport

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport sees 96 military operations in 2014, up from 68 in 2013

BY EMILY ROTH
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — During Tuesday night's Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners meeting, Airport Director Chris Collins presented the Annual Aviation Report, declaring the facility "vibrant."

"We had 220 jet operations, that's more than the previous year of 194," stated Collins. "We also had more military ops in the year

that just ended than in the previous year, although out previous year number was probably in the basement as far as military operations. I think we have a real vibrant airport, and the numbers show it."

In 2014, total operations for the airport equaled 24,190, down from the 24,720 total of the year before. In 2013, the amount of jet operations was 194, and there were only 68 military operations. Overall, there is a growing trend of total operations, as 2010 through 2012 had numbers of 21,254, 22,928, and 23,050 respectively.

"As far as base tenancy is concerned, I have a list of all the base tenants here," Collins continued. "Forty-eight total aircraft are reg-

Please see **Numbers**, Page 3A

DAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015

3A

Numbers:

Continued From Page 1A

istered out in the field, 36 single engine, nine multi-engine, and three helicopters. We did lose a couple airplanes, obviously you know one that we lost on Jan. 2. We also had another single engine airplane sold. The good news is we have two replacing them very soon, so we'll be right back at 50 based aircraft here within the next month."

Collins also expressed optimism that the current low cost of aviation fuel at approximately \$4 a gallon would encourage more aviators to fly.

"It's kind of been a steady increase from 2010 until now," said Board Chairman Mike Ancona, "which that's encouraging to me, because that tells me that commercially we're stepping out. ... The other biggie is the military. I think these numbers are good for the airport. I think it reveals that the airport is healthy."

Ancona commended



Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

AVIATION REPORT — Airport Director Chris Collins updates the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners with the annual aviation report on Tuesday night during the board's full meeting. Collins reported that the total number of operations at the airport in 2014 was 24,190.

Collins for the airport's growth over time, recognizing his work as a director.

"I think the airport's in really good condition," Ancona continued. "At this time in history I think that all the parts are in place and Chris has certainly put our

name out there and the things that we're doing like the LSA [light sport aircraft] show and so forth. I think anything's possible. Things that we never even thought about is possible, I think it could happen."

eroth@morningsentinel.com