



STATE OF THE AIRPORT FY 2017/2018

AIRGO, INCORPORATED

Airgo became the significant contributor to Mt. Vernon Outland Airport many thought it would. The international airline pilot training academy provided a large boost to the airport in the form of aircraft operations, tenancy, and fuel sales. During its first complete calendar year, Airgo operated as many as eight single engine Cessna, two multi engine Piper, and two twin turboprop King Air aircraft. The average number of students assigned to Mt. Vernon Outland Airport was thirty. Ten to twelve company employees were on site including flight instructors, schedulers, and aviation maintenance technicians.

The AIRGO program takes the student from zero time to Commercial Multi-Engine in 18 months. Graduates complete the curriculum with 20 hours of high altitude, twin turboprop training. Several months of Boeing 737 or Airbus A319/320 simulator training await the graduate upon returning to China. The final assignment – the cockpit of a China Southern Airliner.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DOMESTIC AIRLINE INDUSTRY

In addition to the AIRGO Students, Mt. Vernon Outland Airport contributed several professionals to the global airline industry. Airgo's instructor program itself is a pathway to a domestic airline pilot career, Three KMVN based AIRGO Instructors left southern Illinois during the past year and are now in the cockpit flying for domestic commuter airlines Envoy, GoJet, and PSA. On the aircraft maintenance side, SRT Aviation's Airframe and Powerplant Maintenance Technician Apprentice Program graduated one mechanic over the previous twelve months. That A&P Mechanic left the airport and now works for American Eagle. A previous graduate is the Maintenance Manager for Cape Air.

AVIONICS INSTALLATION & REPAIR

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport based FAA Certified Repair Station SRT Aviation was very busy with avionics repair and installation work over the last year. A large portion of the work was associated with the January 1, 2020 FAA mandated ADS-B Transponder technology upgrade. Many aircraft owners from across the Midwest brought their aircraft to Mt. Vernon Outland Airport due to the expertise and facilities of SRT Aviation. Bringing outside work to Mt. Vernon has been and continues to be a goal of everyone on Team MVN.

NATIONAL EXPOSURE

Mount Vernon Outland Airport was recognized on a national level on multiple occasions in 2017. Events such as the Midwest LSA Expo and EAA AirVenture Cup Race garnered attention from the aviation community, and additional public exposure came from last summer's total eclipse.

The remarkable November 2017 *AOPA Pilot* cover shot, titled "Total Eclipse," captured by AOPA Senior Photographer Chris Rose, was connected to Mount Vernon Outland Airport through Eric Whyte, ONE Aviation Chief Demo Pilot. Whyte and AOPA's Dave Hirschman conceived the idea of the total eclipse in the background of the Eclipse 550 Jet at Sun 'n Fun in April. The pair chose Mount Vernon Outland Airport due to its close proximity to totality, and the nine page article mentions the airport on nearly every page. The November edition of *EAA Sport Aviation* also featured an article covering the total eclipse, with several southern Illinois airports mentioned.



The 9th Annual Midwest LSA Expo, held in early September, generated articles in the November 2017 *Powered Sport Flying* magazine and the December 2017 edition of *EAA Sport Aviation*. Mount Vernon Outland Airport Manager Chris Collins remarked about the recent media attention: "With so much going on in the aviation industry, it is a rare occurrence to be featured once in a national magazine. To be mentioned this many times in a single year is truly special!"

AVIATION EXPLORER POST

Mount Vernon Outland Airport officials recently reviewed their partnership with Boy Scouts of America. The airport hosted a five day Bug Hunter Day Camp for Cub Scouts in July, provided training and Young Eagle Flights for nearly 60 Aviation Merit Badge candidates in September, and introduced aviation careers to several youth through the newly established Aviation Explorer Post #1155. Visits to SIUC, Boeing, the St. Louis-Lambert International Airport Control Tower, the 126th Air Refueling Wing at Scott AFB, and the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio were just a few of the trips made by the region's only Aviation Explorer Program.

MILESTONE EVENTS

The 20th Anniversary of the EAA Airventure Cup Race initiated at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport in July. Almost 100 aircraft, owner, pilots, crew members, and race staff spent two days and nights in Mt. Vernon before departing for Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The airport

hosts the race every other year. Airport officials are quick to state “there is only one starting and one ending point each year!”

The National Run for the Wall made its only Illinois stop at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport in May. Nearly 500 motorcycles, their riders, passengers, and support staff stopped for lunch and a brief program as they made their way West to East for a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Riders were escorted from the airport East through Wayne County to Interstate 64 by Kash Helicopter Services and their suspended 40’ by 60’ American Flag!

AIRPORT VIEW SYSTEM

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport became the first Illinois airport to participate in the Airport View Network. Airport View allows pilots, farmers, residents, and weather enthusiasts to see nearly real-time conditions at participating airports. The system utilizes high definition cameras looking toward the runway ends thereby allowing anyone with a computer or smart phone to see actual sky cover and conditions. Using the site’s time lapse technology, users can see weather systems develop or dissipate. The site is packed with National and local weather information. Notices to Airman, airport information, sponsorship opportunities, and the ability to upload other items await users in the future.