

MV Airport sees uptick in total operations

Collins reviews 2025 Aviation Report

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MOUNT VERNON — It was an overall successful year for Mount Vernon Outland Airport in 2025 as the facility saw a notable increase in total operations.

According to the recently released 2025 Aviation Report, the airport had 27,857 total operations last year, an increase over the prior year's total of 27,393.

Also of note in the report was the fact that the local airport had 556 turbo jet operations in 2025, a new record for the facility. The prior record was 404 which was set in 2024, said Airport Director Chris Collins.

These statistics, Collins said, help illustrate the kind of attributes that Mount Vernon Airport has. There were several occurrences last year

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when a corporate jet from outside the area did crew qualifications, avionics testing, or aircraft testing in general at Mount Vernon Airport, Collins said.

"It's the services, the infrastructure, it's uncongested airspace, because they can't fly these things in a bigger city, it's too hard to do. I know that boosted our numbers somewhat," Collins said. "But when you have the mix of the airport restaurant and the very affordable fuel prices and uncongested airspace, it's a win-win for everyone and these numbers show it."

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, the Mount Vernon Airport



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AVIATION REPORT — The Mount Vernon Outland Airport had a successful year in 2025, according to the recently released 2025 Aviation Report.

Authority Board of Commissioners heard a presentation on the 2025 Aviation Report from Collins. With the report, Collins presents information to the board every February about the previous year's operations, as well as giving board members a look at the "tenant base" from the

prior year. The tenant base refers to what kind and how many aircraft are at the airport, Sentinel archives state.

Another highlight of the most recent report was how Mount Vernon Airport had an increase in Corporate Aircraft Association (CAA) operations in 2025, from 296 to 470. This was a new record, and the previous record was 308 set in 2023. CAA operations refer to cross country fuel stops for turbine or jet aircraft.

"That's attributable to affordable fuel pricing, location, great service, the restaurant," Collins said.

In addition last year, Mount Vernon Airport had a "very respectable" 40 cargo operations and 100 military operations, Collins said.

Furthermore, the Aviation Report shows that the total number of aircraft at the airport is 46, a slight increase over the prior year's total of 40. The 46 total includes two helicopters, five multi-engine planes, three single-engine turbo props, and six Cirrus aircraft.

"So all in all, it was a fantastic year. I'm just very proud of the staff," Collins said, later adding, "We just strive to give hospitality and service to our visitors."

Other Airport Board actions on Feb. 17 included:

- The board heard a report from Collins on the

airport's purchase of a new Cessna 172 Skyhawk plane for flight training. The aircraft has arrived and is currently undergoing a check before it's put into service. Now, the airport has six training aircraft, one of the largest non-university training fleets in the region, Collins said.

- The board heard an update on the airfield signage project.

- The board heard an update on the airport's new runway de-icing system, which worked very well in its initial deployments. If anyone wants to buy any

of the liquid runway de-icing product, the airport is selling it for \$4 a gallon, Collins said.

- Collins thanked Ameren, Purcell Electric, Clinton Electric, Frisco Aviation, J&R Mechanical, Wielt Plumbing, and the other companies that helped out the airport during an electrical and maintenance crisis on the Friday and Saturday just before the major snowstorm in January.

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