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AIRLIFT INSIDER

NOVEMBER | 2013



Everybody needs a lift every now and then

CITATION SPECIAL OLYMPICS AIRLIFT / NOVEMBER 2013

SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES
TRENTON, N.J.

VISIT AND REGISTER:
airlift.cessna.com



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2014 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES

BE A
PART OF
SOMETHING
GREAT
JUNE 14 & JUNE 21, 2014



Priority handling

Pilots and athletes have FAA support throughout Airlift



"Having flown to that area of the country enough to know it's congested on a regular day, I thought 'It's going to be challenging to add [175] Citations to the mix,'" he said.

Fortunately, the committee has the experience of six previous Airlifts on its side. They also have the Federal Aviation Administration.

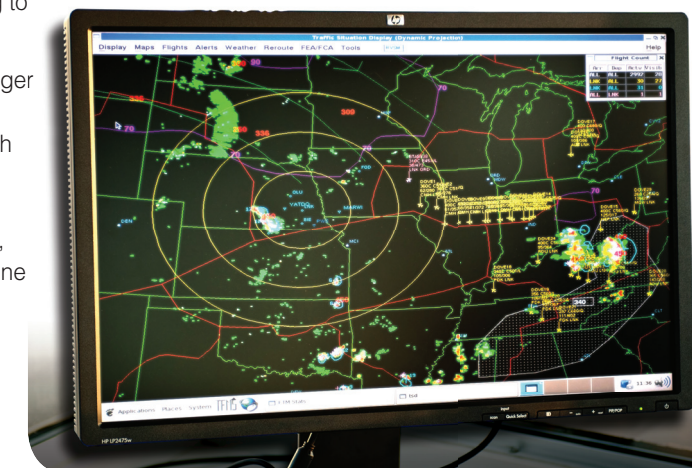
"Without the FAA, we simply cannot do the Citation Special Olympics Airlift," Mike said. "We have a large group of people from so many organizations who come together to make the Airlift happen, and at the core of that team are our FAA partners."

Mike and coworker Shannon Peterson, a Cessna demo pilot, are coordinating the company's flight operations portion of CSOA planning. Both pilots have been involved in previous Airlifts.

"The FAA is the backbone of planning and executing the Airlift," Shannon said. "From the first meeting we had with the FAA, their enthusiasm for this event has been amazing. That just really blew me away."

The northeast corridor is one of the busiest airways in the U.S. So when the announcement came that the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games were going to be held in New Jersey, at least one Citation Special Olympics Airlift committee member said to himself: "Oh, boy, this is going to be interesting."

That was Mike Graham, manager of safety for Cessna's Flight Operations organization, which encompasses production flight test, engineering flight test, marketing demonstration, transportation and single-engine piston customer training.



Pilots praise the ease of participating in the Airlift, and 2014 will be no different. The goal of the Citation Special Olympics Airlift is to enlist 175 Citation owners to transport 1,000 athletes and coaches from around the U.S. to Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN) in Trenton, N.J., on June 14, 2014, and to return on June 21, 2014, to take them home.

Once the site of the games was announced, Cessna reached out to the FAA to determine the best airports in the area to get the athletes as close as possible to the Games site and to handle the influx of airplanes, baggage and people safely.

A small group scouted the area to find a local airport authority that would support the Airlift's needs. Once TTN was selected, the logistics team expanded to include local FAA, air traffic control, Ronson Aviation – a division of Ross Aviation, representatives from airport administration and others.

Many details go into making the Airlift run smoothly. At the top of the list is priority handling from the FAA. Precise flight planning leads to safe, organized ramp flow.

Six months before the Airlift, the FAA will train all traffic controllers on giving priority handling to aircraft with a Dove call number – identifying the Citation as an Airlift jet.

"We provide our Airlift pilots with routing, times and clearances, and Citations will have priority above all other flights including commercial airlines on arrival and departure days," Mike said. "In the congested northeast corridor, general aviation aircraft are usually the ones getting held to make way for the airlines. These two Airlift days are our chance to have priority handling in and out of the northeast. Having the support of the FAA ensures everything goes smoothly for the pilots and the passengers."



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
airlift.cessna.com



Everybody needs a lift every now and then





2014 Special Olympics USA Games by the numbers

- 16 Olympic-style team and individual sports
- 1,000 coaches
- 3,500 athletes will compete from all 50 states and the District of Columbia
- 10,000 volunteers
- 70,000 family, friends and spectators
- 29% of the athletes will arrive on a Citation if we reach our goal

WE NEED YOU!

2014 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES
JUNE 14 and JUNE 21, 2014

- 175 Citation owners
- Transport 1,000 athletes
- Trenton Mercer Airport (TTN)
Ronson Aviation in Trenton,
New Jersey



Get to know Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN)

Putting on an event the size of the Citation Special Olympics Airlift requires completely transforming an airport's ramp for arrival and departure days. That's why buy-in from the local airport administration is as important as having modern services and infrastructure and being in a location that gets the athletes as close as possible to the Special Olympics USA Games.

Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN) ticked the boxes on all of the above.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the airport and Mercer County as a whole. Special Olympics is an internationally known organization dedicated to helping athletes meet their fullest potential on the field of competition and in life. Being part of this effort is a calling of the highest order, and we readily accept the challenge," said Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes.

TTN has been an important part of the Greater Central Jersey Region for more than 80 years. It is a commercial airport with a business aviation focus. Located midway between New York and Philadelphia on the I-95 corridor, the airport averages approximately 100,000 take-offs and landings each year.

Trenton-Mercer Airport is a major economic engine for the area and a transportation hub for commercial, corporate, private and government aviation users.

The airport is home to full-service, 24-hour flight service operation Ronson Aviation, a division of Ross Aviation. It also is home to Frontier Airlines' Regional Headquarters and the aviation division headquarters of a number of Fortune 500 companies. The New Jersey State Police, the New Jersey Army National Guard and two flight schools are also located at TTN.

The main runway is 6,006 feet, and there is also a sizable crosswind runway that is 4,800 feet. TTN has a number of modern navigational aids and an FAA Contract Air Traffic Control Tower.

The airport's administration is fully involved with CSOA planning efforts, as is Ronson Aviation, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office (on-airport law enforcement), Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Station 34 (rescue, firefighting and paramedic services) and other Mercer County agencies.



Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes with Special Olympics athletes and former Discover Flying Challenge pilot Lawrence Howard.

Luhr Bros. registers for seventh CSOA



Luhr Bros. Inc. started its flight department in 1977. In 1985, the company purchased a new Citation SII, and, two years later, it flew in the first organized Citation Special Olympics Airlift.

"Arnold Palmer asked the owner of our company to participate in the Airlift, and once he checked with us pilots, he agreed to help out," said Mike Lobstein, a pilot for the company at the time and today's chief pilot approaching 15,000 flight hours.

Luhr Bros. Inc. hasn't missed an Airlift since and is donating its Citation, crew and fuel for the 2014 event to transport athletes to Trenton, N.J., in June. "The company has never hesitated to join in," Mike said.

Started in 1938 when Alois and Eugene Luhr dug the basement for a local high school, Luhr Bros. Inc. remains family-owned and is now a large contractor working extensively with the Army Corps of Engineers as primary contractors and subcontractors. The company is headquartered in Columbia, Ill., with a marine division and quarry in Missouri and stone material yards in Louisiana. All locations are directly on the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

Luhr Bros. Inc. specializes in marine-type construction with most of its work in water or near water – for example, repairing a jetty

in the Gulf of Mexico near the Brownsville, Texas, ship channel.

Mike said the company flies the Citation about 250 hours a year taking the company's owners and management team to investigate potential job sites, bid on jobs and visit existing sites. Many are in remote areas not accessed easily by larger aircraft.

The company has flown delegations from Sioux Falls, S.D.; Jefferson City, Mo.; Bloomington, Ill.; and Des Moines, Iowa, in the Citation SII. Since purchasing a 2002 Citation Encore, Luhr Bros. Inc. has flown as many as five athletes and two coaches from departure points in Columbus, Ohio, and Bloomington.

"There were some growing pains in the early years of the Airlifts – getting in was fine but there weren't enough fuel trucks or air traffic was a problem a few times," Mike said. "The Airlift is a flawless operation now."

Mike encourages any owners or pilots considering registering their aircraft to make the commitment today. "It's very easy. It gets better every time," he said. "Air Traffic Control does a great job. They work with Cessna to understand what our needs are. The whole group of organizers and volunteers does a great job of making a pretty busy day not feel hectic at all."

Planning a safe and rewarding experience for all

Pulling off an event with the scope of the Citation Special Olympics Airlift is all about the partnerships – having the right people involved from the beginning and ensuring every partner's focus is on safety.

This issue of the *Airlift Insider* highlights several of those partnerships. You can read about our close work with the FAA, learn more about our host airport Trenton-Mercer Airport and hear from a long-time Citation operator who has participated in every Airlift.

Above all else, safety is paramount. Our goal is to make CSOA a safe and rewarding experience for all participants – athletes, coaches, volunteers and flight crews. We've been able to do that with six Airlifts, and we're already hard at work on another incident-free event in 2014.

Throughout the planning process, the CSOA team reviews the Airlift from several different viewpoints. For example, as we are working on the layout of the ramp, we are constantly focused on safety. We want to transport everyone and get everything where it needs to be in the most efficient way possible while minimizing the time that aircraft, vehicles and people use the same space.

It's a collaborative effort and we're grateful for all of our partnerships, including those with our Citation owners and operators. If you haven't already registered your Citation for the 2014 Citation Special Olympics Airlift, I encourage you to take a few minutes now to register at airlift.cessna.com.



Rhonda Fullerton

Director,
Citation Special
Olympics Airlift



#CSOA14