HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR
The airport has seen its fair share of red, white, and blue these last few months. The RNC came to Tampa Bay and the airport hosted Volunteer Ambassadors welcoming visitors at our Information Booth and at Fixed Base Operators (FBO), Sheltair and Signature Flight Support. The airport and FBO's also handled an influx of general and corporate aviation during the RNC week.

Just after Labor Day and the RNC, President Obama arrived late one evening on Air Force One and gave a quick wave to a gathering of local media. Air Force One was stationed on PIE’s airfield for a couple of days visible from the roadway, much to the delight of spectators. Behind the scenes, the airport worked intensively for over a week with the Air Force Advance Team, The Secret Service, and The White House Press Office. Airport staff coordinated meetings with airport tenants and contractors to insure the safe and secure arrival of the President while continuing flight operations for our customers.

The summer also brought two more WWII Veterans Honor Flights (in June and September). The Honor Flights are a great source of pride for the airport, providing an inviting facility for the community to host the Welcome Home Celebrations. The airport, Allegiant, Honor Flight volunteers, and many other organizations come together to create these experiences for our veterans. These events demonstrate the teamwork, not just of airport employees, but of our tenants, community organizations, government agencies, military, private business, and individual volunteers that make our airport such a success. Thank you to all our partners!

More to come....
Noah Lagos

AIR SERVICE NEWS
Allegiant celebrates its 6th anniversary here at PIE in November! With its 24th non-stop destination from Harrisburg, PA starting on November 2nd, the growth at St. Pete-Clearwater International gives our community and visitors more destination choices, year after year. Happy 6th and many more Allegiant!

On the international side, traffic is up 26% in 2012!
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT - The latest on projects at the airport and surrounding airport-owned real estate. For more information, contact Properties Director Bob Humberstone at (727) 453-7820 or bhumber@pinellascounty.org.

USAmieriBank Expands Company Headquarters at Airport Business Center

USAmieriBank acquired an additional building on 3.507 acres from Hallmark Development which adjoins their existing facilities. This additional space will be used for the expansion of its corporate headquarters. USAmieriBank, opened in February 2007, is now one of the fastest-growing banks in Florida with eight branches located in the Tampa Bay area, and an asset base of approximately $800 million.

Stellar Partners Kick-off Renovations of Duty Free Store

Stellar Partners began renovations in September of their existing Duty Free Shop in Gate Area 2-6. In addition to Duty Free Shopping, the new store will offer customers news and souvenir gift items. Completion of the new store is scheduled for November for the busy holiday season.

AIRPORT PROJECTS

Terminal Apron Hardstand Project in Construction Phase

On August 7, 2012, the Airport kicked off a major construction project to enlarge the existing aircraft hardstands servicing Gates 2-6. The project includes demolition of the existing asphalt ramp area and its replacement with concrete. This airside improvement project will increase aircraft and equipment load capabilities on the ramp. Pepper Contracting Services, Inc. was awarded the bid in the amount of $939,082 by Pinellas County for construction. The hardstand construction project will be completed in time for the busy Thanksgiving holiday travel season.

Roadway & Parking Lot Improvement Project

In May 2012, the Airport substantially completed Phase II of the Terminal’s Roadway & Improvements Project that began in the fall of 2011. The construction project consisted of roadway resurfacing, energy efficient parking lot lighting, new directional signage, LED message signs, an expanded parking lot for United Parcel Service (UPS), and the conversion of the West Parking Lot into a Ground Transportation Center. The total project construction cost was approximately $1,480,000. Fifty percent of the project cost was funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Runway 4-22 Rehabilitation Project

The airport re-opened Runway 4-22 in July 2012 after completion of an 11 month construction project, which included runway and taxiway resurfacing. The project also included airfield drainage improvements, runway lighting, and new signage. The design and construction of the completed project totaled $6,912,478. Funding for the project was made possible by Airport Passenger Facility charges and grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).
AIRPORT OPERATIONS & NOISE AFFAIRS UPDATE - For questions about PIE’s Noise Abatement and Mitigation Program, contact the Noise Affairs Office at (727)453-7880 or airportnoise@pinellascounty.org. If you have concerns or complaints about aircraft noise, please contact the Noise Hotline at (727)453-7877 or visit our website at www.fly2pie.com/noise. The website features a flight tracking option, frequently asked questions about aircraft noise, and an automated complaint form for reporting noise incidents to the airport.

Noise Abatement Task Force (NATF) Community, airport, and aviation tenant representatives meet to discuss noise affairs at PIE. All meetings are held quarterly in the Airport Conference Room 234 and are open to the public; minutes are posted on the website. 2012 upcoming meetings: October 24.

The Airport Operations and Airport Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) Divisions are undergoing a variety of changes in staff. For ARFF, the retirements of Lt. Mike McCook & Lt. James Bryant, with over 60 years of dedicated service combined, come side by side with two promotions, Firefighters Mike Van Schoonhoven and Herbert Gunthner to Lieutenant. The airport congratulates McCook and Bryant on many years of outstanding service and protection to our community.

Van Schoonhoven and Gunther underwent a rigorous selection process with Chief Rauscher bringing in interviewers from other fire departments to assist with the evaluations. ARFF was fortunate to have several exceptional candidates eligible for promotion and now is in the process of hiring new Firefighters.

Airport Operations hired a new intern, Tyler Miller, through a competitive application process and funded by a Florida Airports Council grant. Tyler, who will graduate from Purdue University in the spring of 2013, will spend 6 months working as an Airport Operations Supervisor.

Operations staff members Greg Gaulard, Administrative Specialist, and Art Keating, Traffic Assistant, announced their retirements for October. Greg started as an Airport Firefighter 30 years ago and then moved to Operations. Art has been with the airport for 12 years.

Airport Operations Supervisor Matt Weaver will be responsible for the badging/credentials coordination in the Ops Office.

Tampa Bay 2012 Aviation Committee Planning for the Republican National Convention (RNC)

Over 200 transient aircraft arrived into PIE for the 2012 Republican National Convention (RNC) keeping the Fixed Base Operators (FBOs) busy pumping close to 60,000 gallons of Jet-A fuel during the 5-day period. Numerous governors, elected officials, and celebrities attending the RNC chose to fly into PIE.

The airport assisted the Tampa Bay Host Committee in recruiting, training and hosting volunteers to greet visitors during the RNC week. During the summer, 78 volunteers received training at PIE, and then worked over 30 shifts during RNC week at the airports’ Visitor Information Booth and Fixed Based Operators, Sheltair and Signature Flight Support.
PIE Hosts WWII Veterans Honor Flights

The Tampa Bay Honor Flight organization charters flights on Allegiant to fly Veterans and their individual “guardians” for a visit to Washington D.C. Veterans are then greeted to a Welcome Home celebration at the airport.

Mark November 29, 2012 on your calendar for the 49th Tony Jannus Award Dinner Banquet. The year’s winner, Frederico Fleury Curado, will be present to accept the award given annually by the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society for contributions to the aviation industry.

Reception and Dinner Banquet - Thursday, November 29, 2012 6:30 pm, Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club, St. Petersburg, FL. Sponsorships and Tickets available.

The deadline to submit an essay and application for the essay contest, open to middle and high school students, is Friday, October 26, 2012.

For more information, visit www.tonyjannusaward.com or contact (727)821-5155 or info@tonyjannus.org

Next Airport Blood Drive - Tuesday, October 10th 9:00 - 11:30 AM - In front of Terminal!

Photos from June and September Honor Flights