

## Southeast Aerospace Celebrates 20 years at MLB

Aviation manufacturing has flourished airside at MLB. Most people are familiar with the big names such as Embraer and Harris, but Southeast Aerospace (SEA) is fast gaining notoriety in the avionics, instruments and parts industry. Located in 5 hangars and 2 office buildings on the northwest corner of the MLB airfield, SEA provides aircraft parts, repairs and modifications to a growing worldwide customer base. Founded in 1993, John Braddock III and wife, Marianne, moved their avionics and instruments company from South Florida to MLB and the rest, as they say, is history. May 30, 2017 marked SEA's 20th Anniversary at MLB – a day worth celebrating!

The Braddock sons have taken the reins and continue to grow the company. John IV is president, and his brother, Joe, serves as vice president. SEA produces custom parts to exact standards for both fixed wing and rotor aircraft. Roughly fifty percent of SEA's customers are international.

Airport Executive Director Greg Donovan took a tour of SEA's expansive facilities and observed as a 5 Axis Water-Jet machine carved out an instrument panel in record time. "It was impressive how technical parts manufacturing can be and the level of expertise, engineering and precision that was required," said Donovan. "We are all fortunate to have these capabilities onsite at MLB."

John Braddock IV explained the processes and noted that "SEA has developed unique machinery, equipment and processes over the past two decades. We built our success on precision, experience and responsiveness. We meet and exceed our customers' needs." He credits his father with building the platform from which the company grew. "My father made a career in avionics as a technician and executive in the air force and at other companies. He saw the need to set a higher standard of product and service and that led us to the growing business we have today. We



Pictured L to R is Joseph Braddock, John Braddock III, Marianne Braddock and John Braddock IV.

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"Though our father retired from the day-to-day operations four years ago, his example will always be followed," said Joe.

"Get ready for even more growth," advised Greg Donovan. "Once word spreads that these capabilities are available airside at MLB, you're going to get even busier."

[Click here](#) to learn more about SEA: Southeast Aerospace.

## From the left seat

As I sit down to write this column, many thoughts come to mind. Should I write about what it felt like to watch Air Force One land on our airfield for the first time in 30 years? What about the MLB Air Show, which included *two* historic moments: the return of the French Air Force to U.S. skies, and astronaut Dr. Buzz Aldrin returning to the skies in a U.S.A.F. Thunderbird going 700 mph? Or maybe the moment when we broke ground on our air traffic control tower? Or Phase One of our long-anticipated Terminal Transformation? (What

Floridian doesn't appreciate reliable air conditioning via a chiller?)

Then I realized what this column should be about: vision and teamwork. Not one of these major accomplishments would have been possible without visionary leadership (to which I credit the Melbourne Airport Authority board members) and teamwork (all airport employees). Our endeavors are getting the attention of the news media in every corner of the globe. Airlines are taking note of our successes. Tenants are choosing to grow here. International travel is growing exponentially.

But what people are noticing most is the sense of accomplishment we are all feeling as a team. I've asked our staff to come up with a way for Team MLB to celebrate our successes and growing camaraderie. One idea being considered is a Team MLB Family Day – a day to treat your families to behind-the-scenes tours, family pictures on the runway, hot dogs and burgers on the grill, maybe even some paper airplane contests with prizes. Let us know what you think. In the meantime, know I couldn't be prouder of the collective hard work, dedication and commitment to make MLB extraordinary.

Greg Donovan, A.A.E.  
Airport Executive Director





## Birds-eye view

Airport authority member and past chairman Bill Potter perched on the catwalk of the airport's air traffic control tower (ATCT) to capture unique images of the French Air Force's Patrouille de France's maneuvers at the recent MLB Air Show. Potter, an avid photographer, is already looking forward to March 17, 2018 when the U.S.A.F. Thunderbirds return to Orlando Melbourne International Airport.

"The new tower will be nearly double in height," he said. "Our controllers will benefit from a 115-foot elevation. What a view that will be. Can't wait."

MLB's new ATCT is expected to hold an open house to the public in early 2018. No word as yet on the demolition plans for the old



tower. "We're hoping a movie company will be interested," said airport Capital Improvements Director David Perley. "Maybe I'll get a cameo role," he joked.

*The first ATCT panel was raised on May 22, 2017.*

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## Record numbers, yet again

Recently, Melbourne Airport Authority Chairman Jack L. Ryals joined Florida Governor Rick Scott at the Brevard Zoo to announce another year of massive tourism numbers to the Sunshine State.

"It's another record year for our state, community and airport," Ryals said. "With MLB's international and domestic passenger numbers up, it's safe to say our secret of easy travel to Florida's beaches and Central Florida fun is out there."

According to Governor Scott, this is the sixth consecutive year for Florida to hit record tourism numbers, with more than 112.8 million tourists visiting last year.

*Pictured right is MAA Chairman Jack L. Ryals with Governor Rick Scott at the Brevard Zoo.*

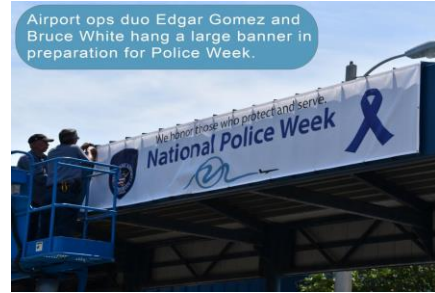


# We honor those who protect and serve

When airport Police Chief Renee' Purden came to work the other day, she drove around twice to read the new banner overhead. Fellow department directors had commissioned the sign to honor her and her officers.

"Airport police forces are highly specialized," said Lori Booker, airport communications director. "We wanted our officers to know that we appreciate them, their unique training and especially the sense of safety they bring to our campus."

The Melbourne Airport Police Department is growing under Chief Purden. Recent promotions include Officer States to sergeant and Sergeant Dobson to lieutenant.



## Menzies joins Team MLB

Worldwide airport operations company Menzies assumed above and below-wing responsibilities at MLB, bringing with it a boost in equipment, personnel and opportunities for MLB-based employees. "You can immediately see the difference," said Amanda Moyer, MLB's liaison to Menzies. "From the brand new Lektro electric push truck to a 400 hz combo ground power unit, the systems and the training, it's a whole new level of airfield ops professionalism." Menzies also opens up a world of opportunities to employees who work at MLB.

"We operate at airports around the globe," said Menzies Vice President Paul

Walton. "This is a fantastic transition for us." He pointed out that the large company provides opportunities for its highly trained employees to transfer or get promoted in

regions they may never thought possible before. "MLB has a lot of potential," said Walton. "This airport will grow with us," he predicted.



*Justin Weiss pictured above is one of many ground service employees who easily transitioned to Menzies.*

## You're in Florida now

"Passengers love our new uniforms," said Caleb Dean. "They say that they know they are truly in Florida when they see us." The group of curb assistants, formerly known as "red shirts" or "pass-enger service assistants" received new, updated uniforms to reflect their higher training and broadened responsibilities.

"We're now known as Airport Concierge," said Caleb. "When

we saw the new look we were a little skeptical," he admitted. "But these shirts are really comfort-able and definitely reflect our airport's coastal casual attitude. Now we're all big fans of the new look."

Check out the new uniforms and let us know what you think.

*Pictured right is MLB Airport Concierge Caleb Dean.*



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## Time to brush up on your second language



*Porter Airlines flight crews consider MLB as one of their favorite destinations to fly into.*

The day after Porter Airlines completed its second season, MLB immediately began construction to update the 40,000 square foot customs facility, also known as an FIS (Federal Inspection Station).

"When we're done, we'll be the most technologically-advanced point of entry to the United States," said Airport Director Greg Donovan. "These

improvements will send a clear message to international airlines that MLB is serious about serving their unique needs," said Donovan, who just returned from another headquarters visit at the invitation of a world-renown airline overseas.

"It takes three years or more to land an airline of this caliber," he said. "And I'm very optimistic."

## RUNway FUNway

Ever run on a runway? Mark your calendars because on April 19th next year you can join thousands of runners and walkers at the FLORIDA TODAY Corporate 5K, which recently announced moving its event to one of the airport's three runways. "It's flat," said running aficionado Cliff Graham, airport director of operations and maintenance. "No way you can argue with that benefit," he laughed. How long is a 5K? According to Graham, it's just over 3 miles.





# Apex = Crown, Summit, Pinnacle

When President Gary Hall sat down months ago to rename Baer Air, many names came to mind. But one stood above the rest. "We are now the Apex when it comes to servicing our pilots, corporations, aircraft and passengers," said Hall.

Apex Executive Jet is in a growth spurt, adding a total of 52,500 sq. ft. of hangar and office space to serve its growing business. And more's on the way, hinted Hall.

*"MLB is the place to be if you want to grow an aviation service company."*  
- Gary Hall



Apex was home of the F-35 Heritage Team and U.S.A.F. Thunderbirds during the 2017 MLB Air Show.

## Oh, Canada!



More than a thousand seats of airplane capacity shared an apron recently at MLB's AeroMod International hangar. An Air Canada Boeing 777, a 747 and an Airbus A319 were in for service last week, according to AeroMod President Gary Girard.



## Join in on the #FlyMLB Conversation ...

### On Instagram



"Of all the flying I have done this season, I've never flown into Melbourne. I must say it's a much prettier view. ♥"  
#mynewairportofchoice

### On Facebook

"The Orlando Melbourne Int'l Airport is a great asset to our community. Congratulations on your growth!"  
#MelbourneFlorida  
#BrevardFlorida



### On Twitter



@Athos5PAF, Patrouille de France Jet Team

