

# -Otsego County- Gaylord Regional Airport



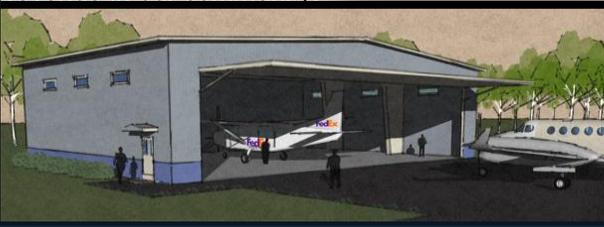
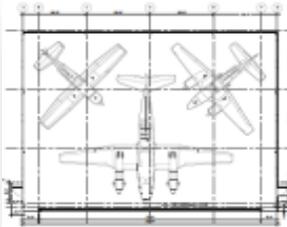
Our airborne fire fighter aircraft departed the airport today 21 July after spending almost a four month long deployment to Gaylord. The six aircraft and crews with different mission capacity's expressed to our team their appreciation for the great service, accommodations and hospitality the airport team and Otsego County provided during their long stay. At right are two of the Fire Boss aircraft practicing grass water drops at GLR.



As many of our local airport residents are aware the three vehicle entry gates to the airport aircraft ramp were disabled late last year in a lightning storm. It has taken a little more time than usual to get things fixed with the COVID-19 crisis but we are moving ahead with not just fixing the outdated electronics (parts no longer made) but installing new components and new security access codes.



Our long anticipated and much needed multi use aircraft hangar is moving forward and hopes to be completed in 2020. With the completion of this project consisting of FAA, MDOT and 5% County funds we will have hangar space for multiple visiting aircraft at one time. Since we have snow in Gaylord seven months a year, much of our winter business can depend on our ability to place the aircraft under cover or the business may decide to go elsewhere for fuel. The hangar translates into fuel sales at our airport & revenue in our community.



Sadly In July our airport family lost our longtime good friend and mentor John "Mike" Hyde. Mike was a former Navy Seabee, a longtime Gaylord resident and among many things served for numerous years as an Otsego County Commissioner. I first met Mike when he was sitting on my Gaylord Regional Airport manager interview board in 2008. He was tough at first but we both spoke the same military language. Get it done! Can Do! Mission First! The longer I knew Mike the more I saw through his tough exterior and got to know a man who had so much pride and love for his community and the people around him. Mike loved his kids and grandkids and talked of them often. I didn't think it was any secret he had a special place for our airport and a desire to see it prosper and do well. Mike was always ready to support our County's aviation hub whenever needed and I was always ready to tell him how much better the Air Force was over the Navy! The last time we were together Mike was at our airport veteran's coffee late last year where he received the Quilt of Valor from a local veteran's organization. He was pretty happy to be back in the town he loved and be at the airport he helped to build. We miss you Mike and this is for you sailor!



-The Watch-  
For Many Years this sailor stood the watch

While some of us were in bed at night

This sailor stood the watch

While some of us were in school

This sailor stood the watch

Yes even before some of us were born

This sailor stood the watch

In years when our country saw world tension and war on the horizon

This sailor had the watch

In times when family needed his guidance and help, a hand to hold

But he still stood the watch

He stood the watch so our families could sleep safely knowing

That a sailor stood the watch

Sailor the watch stands relived

Relived by those you have lead, guided and loved

Rest easy sailor

We have the Watch!



Veterans Coffee will return to the airport at a date still to be determined. Please Be Safe!

Part of the airport many never see is our 8 miles of perimeter fence kept free of debris for emergency response.

