

FLIGHT LOG

GERRALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 2006 PROFILE

GRR 2006



12.31.05 | With the arrival of United Flight #664 from Chicago at 11:06 p.m. EST (on time), we closed the book on another year at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR). Here are the highlights. ✈ Commercial airline traffic and freight tonnage both kept up the busy pace that has been building at GRR for the past several years. Just over two million passengers boarded or deplaned at GRR during 2005, near the record set in 2004. Several new nonstop destinations launched during the year. Freight shipped through GRR tipped the scales at over 86.5 million pounds – shattering the old record by nearly 3,500 tons. ✈ In addition, 2005 saw more than 55,000 takeoffs and landings of private or corporate-owned aircraft at GRR, an all-time high. Plus, the Airport’s leading general aviation operators expanded and opened new facilities at GRR during 2005, promising even higher levels of GA activity here in coming years. ✈ Finally, GRR had an excellent year on the ground, completing many terminal, airfield, parking, and roadway projects, which elevate the Airport’s service to a new plane. ✈ As a public enterprise, the Airport is an open book. We encourage you to review GRR’s record for yourself in the pages that follow.



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GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Dear Friends of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport,

The opening 20 pages of this book chronicle events at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR) during 2005 and look ahead to some of what's to come in the future. We hope our "Flight Log" will bring you up to speed on what's happening at the Airport and give you a better sense of how we're working to continuously improve our service to West Michigan. You may even learn a thing or two that will help make your future air travels more efficient and enjoyable.

Just as we have kept an account of changes and achievements at GRR, we invite you to use the blank pages at the back of this log to record the events of your own daily journey.

As for us, we're excited to share GRR's "Flight Log" with you. It's only appropriate that we do. After all, the Airport is a public enterprise, which means everything that goes on here is your business too. We hope you'll find this record to be informative as well as engaging. And we look forward to seeing you at the Airport again soon.

Sincerely,

John Van Laar, Chairman
Kent County Aeronautics Board

James A. Koslosky, A.A.E., Director
Kent County Department of Aeronautics



DESTINATIONS: LAS VEGAS, NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, D.C.

STOPS: ZERO New, nonstop service to some of the nation's hottest travel spots took off from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport throughout 2005. ✈ On 5.2.05, Northwest Airlines commenced daily, nonstop service to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) in Washington, D.C. This morning flight whisks lawmakers, business people, and tourists alike to the nation's capital in just 1 hr:45 min. ✈ American Eagle, the regional affiliate of American Airlines, launched new daily nonstop service to New York LaGuardia Airport (LGA) on 6.9.05. This twice daily service jets passengers to the Big Apple's close-in airport – a short cab ride from Manhattan – in about 2:00 hrs flat. ✈ Finally, on 10.30.05, Northwest Airlines inaugurated new nonstop service to Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS). This 4x/week service departs GRR at 9:00 p.m. local time – allowing travelers to spend the day at home and still arrive in Las Vegas at 10:05 p.m., while the night is young (at least by the standards of America's most famous 24-hour city).

3.05 | BUSIEST MONTH EVER @ GRR The record-setting pace that was established at the Airport in 2004, when more than two million passengers boarded or deplaned at GRR, carried into the first half of 2005 at full power. In fact, the Airport served 199,972 passengers during March – making it the single busiest calendar month ever for us. All of this commercial airline traffic, along with cargo, corporate, private, and military flights, amounted to more than 300 takeoffs and landings per day on average at GRR throughout 2005 – and some very busy workdays for the more than 2,000 people employed here.

3.31.05 - 4.2.05 | PASSENGER APPRECIATION SOARS AT OPENING OF SPRING BREAK The Airport continued its tradition of saluting customers by hosting Passenger Appreciation Days during the first three days of Spring Break – always the busiest week of the year at GRR. Airport staffers once again manned stations throughout the terminal, serving up free refreshments, hosting popular contests including the Paper Airplane Precision Flight Challenge, and sending off thousands of Spring Break travelers with free beach balls and other fun giveaways to enjoy at their destinations.





WHEELS DOWN, PARKING CAPACITY UP Along with increased outbound passenger activity at GRR comes more parked cars, since the majority of fliers leave a vehicle at the Airport during their trip. The Express Shuttle Lot, first opened in 2002, has become an increasingly popular service thanks to its reduced parking rate and swift shuttle rides to and from the terminal. To keep up with demand, 1,000 additional spots are being added to the Express Shuttle Lot during 2006, bringing the total number of parking spaces there to 2,750.

3.1.05 | AIRPORT PARKING GARAGE DESIGN CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF The Kent County Aeronautics Board voted to move forward with the detailed design phase for a planned parking ramp and accompanying capital improvements at GRR. Support for a covered parking ramp began building in 1995 and has increased in momentum over the past two years, as evidenced by the project's endorsement in the Airport's latest Master Plan, completed in 2004. Conservative estimates call for the Airport needing to add 4,200 parking spaces by 2023. Preliminary designs for this crucial project call for a 4,900-space multi-level parking ramp, a terminal roadway canopy, a vehicle entrance plaza, escalator/elevator lobbies, and pedestrian sky bridges. The detailed design is due to be completed and submitted to the Aeronautics Board by the end of 2006 for final approval.

1.3.06 | NEW AIR PORTER SHUTTLE CONNECTS GRR TO DOWNTOWN HOTELS Grand Rapids visitors were greeted by a convenient new Airport shuttle service at the start of 2006. The Air Porter shuttle, operated by The Rapid, runs from 7:00 a.m. till 9:30 p.m. daily, making stops twice each hour at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, the Days Inn Downtown, the Marriott Courtyard Downtown, and curbside in front of the Airport terminal. (The shuttle will also stop at the new JW Marriott Hotel downtown once it's open.) Each 15-passenger shuttle bus is wheelchair accessible and comfortably air conditioned or heated, with premium seating. Tickets cost \$15 one way or \$25 roundtrip and may be purchased on board with cash or credit cards, or at the hotels. For more information, visit www.grandrapidsairporter.com.



IMPROVED "HOLDING PATTERN" FOR PASSENGER PICK UP Starting in the fall of 2006, drivers coming to GRR to pick up incoming passengers will be able to take advantage of the Airport's new Cell Phone Lot, located just inside the Airport entrance on the south side of Oostema Blvd. Current security procedures prevent motorists from idling in front of the passenger terminal. That has meant most people coming to pick up arriving passengers have had to pay for short-term parking or else circle the Airport. But with the opening of the Cell Phone Lot, drivers will be able to wait there until their arriving passengers call from the terminal saying they are ready to be picked up at the curbside.





7.14.05 | NEW GROUND APPROACH OPENS TO GRR The long-awaited extension of 36th Street from Kraft Avenue to Thornapple River Drive officially opened to motorists last summer. Among the benefits of this \$9.5 million, four-lane extension is improved access to the Air Cargo and Trade Center on the Airport's east side. ✈️ Upon completion of a new, \$30 million interchange with I-96 scheduled to open in 10.06, the extended 36th Street will also provide a convenient alternative to the more heavily traveled 28th Street for traffic going to the Airport passenger terminal. It's estimated that between 6,000 and 8,000 of the 20,000 vehicles per day driving along this stretch of 36th Street will be headed to the Airport.



LOCAL CHARITIES RIDE UPDRAFT OF GENEROSITY AT GRR The Airport and its tenants again contributed their facilities and energies to a number of charitable campaigns throughout 2005. ✈️ On 8.19.05, the American Cancer Society roped in more than \$250,000 at its third annual Cattle Barron's Ball. The event was held in the Alticor, Inc. corporate hangar. Over 600 guests enjoyed live music, a silent auction, and wild rides on a mechanical bull, while paying tribute to cancer survivors and helping raise money for cancer research. ✈️ Challenge Air held its eighth annual Fly Day at the Airport on 9.10.05, hosted by Northern Air. This popular event is designed to inspire mentally, physically, or emotionally challenged people, as well as seriously ill youngsters, by giving them the opportunity to fly in small aircraft, including ones piloted by wheelchair aviators. Nearly 180 participants and their family members were treated to plane rides by 13 volunteer pilots throughout the day. The event was sponsored by Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. ✈️ On 9.17.05, Wings of Mercy held its second annual CareAffaire at Northern Air. Participants dined on a pancake breakfast before donating \$25-\$300 for a ride in an aircraft ranging from a small propeller plane to an open cockpit biplane to a corporate jet. The event raised just over \$30,000 for individuals needing air transportation to out-of-town facilities for medical treatment. ✈️ From 11.16.05 - 12.18.05, Airport passengers and employees brought more than their luggage and lunches to GRR, as we again participated in the Toys for Tots Campaign. Hundreds of toys were collected at the Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Station to be distributed to the area's needy children at Christmas. ✈️ Finally, GRR continues its partnership with Michigan Community Blood Centers, hosting blood drives at the Airport twice each year. More than 40 pints of blood were donated during the two 2005 drives, bringing the total given at these events to more than 600 pints.





GENERAL AVIATION ON SOLID GROUND @ GRR Corporate and private aircraft operations, known as general aviation (or GA for short), continue to gain in both popularity and importance at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. The more than 55,000 takeoffs and landings by GA aircraft at GRR during 2005 made up nearly half of our total for the year. Today, there are 130 GA aircraft based at GRR, including the fleets for many West Michigan corporations, as well as numerous, individually owned private aircraft. As the premier airport for West Michigan, GRR works hard to provide excellent facilities and support services for both GA and commercial airline operations. This commitment was demonstrated most recently with the completion of reconstructed GA ramps. This \$6 million project now allows the Airport to accommodate bigger and heavier GA aircraft weighing up to 170,000 pounds – double the weight limit of GRR’s previous ramps.

11.30.05 | NORTHERN AIR SPREADS WINGS, EXPANDS FACILITIES

GRR’s largest fixed base operator – Northern Air, along with sister companies Northern Jet Management and The Company Jet – opened a new, heated jet hangar at the Airport directly adjacent to its other facilities here. The new aircraft maintenance and storage hangar will house up to nine corporate jets and can accommodate state-of-the-art “high tail” jets. Northern Air and the Kent County Department of Aeronautics celebrated the hangar’s opening, along with the opening of the Airport’s newly reconstructed GA ramps, at a joint ribbon-cutting ceremony. U.S. Representative Vern Ehlers spoke at the event, saying, “As a member of the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I spend much of my time advocating for general and business aviation, so I am happy to see this expansion of Northern Jet at my home airport.”



GRR SPRUCES UP ITS PLACE IN CYBERSPACE Look for the Airport’s new and improved website to go live in spring 2006. The new site is being redesigned to be easier to navigate, more streamlined, and just plain better looking. With simply a click or two, visitors will be able to access all the information provided on GRR’s website – from real-time flight status information to Airport parking options and rates to the latest news about events happening at the Airport and around West Michigan. Make your connections with us online at www.flygrandrapids.org.



AIRPORT TERMINAL GOES WILD FOR WI-FI The surf is up at GRR since the Airport began offering free wireless Internet access throughout the passenger terminal in 12.05. Airport visitors can now surf the net on their Wi-Fi enabled laptops, PDAs, or cell phones over a high-speed broadband wireless network. This public service is offered completely free of charge and does not require surfers to install or use any proprietary software.



HUMANITARIAN AID FLIES OUT, VETERINARY AID IN AT GRR The Airport and several of its major tenants took part in crucial missions during 2004/05, assisting both human and animal victims of two natural disasters that struck opposite sides of the globe. ✈️ Just days after a cataclysmic tsunami devastated the coast of Southeast Asia on 12.26.04, the first of many portable medical clinics – each one equipped to provide basic medical services for a town of 50,000 – were loaded onto FedEx planes at GRR, bound for Banda Ache, one of the region’s hardest hit cities. The equipment and flights were donated by FedEx and International Aid of Spring Lake, MI, a nonprofit Christian relief and development agency that responds to disasters around the world. The overall value of services donated in this effort by the FedEx Grand Rapids hub exceeded \$1 million. ✈️ Some nine months later, on 9.22.05, a 737 loaded with evacuees of Hurricane Katrina taxied onto the ramp at Northern Air. On board were 145 dogs and cats left homeless and without



caregivers in the hurricane’s wake. The pets were rescued by the Humane Society of Kent County at the request of an anonymous donor who gave \$30,000 to cover the mission’s expenses. Upon arrival from Baton Rouge, LA, the animals were made available for adoption through the Humane Society. ✈️ Several other GRR tenants sprang into action to relieve the human suffering wreaked by Hurricane Katrina. Altacor donated the use of its corporate fleet to airlift relief workers and supplies to the Gulf Coast. Dick DeVos, former president of the company, loaned his personal helicopter to the effort, where it logged more than 50 flight hours. Aero Med provided helicopter maintenance supplies and medications to the cause. Northern Jet Management provided deeply discounted flights aboard several of its GRR-based aircraft for relief workers. Finally, Wings of Mercy provided numerous medical relief flights to the stricken area.





EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILL PREPARES GRR FOR WORST-CASE SCENARIO

In 5.05, the Airport took part in its FAA-mandated Tri-Annual Full-Scale Airport Emergency Plan Exercise. Working with the FAA, the Transportation Security Administration, and 14 area mutual aid providers – including law enforcement agencies, fire departments, ambulance services, and hospitals – the Airport staged the takeover of a commercial airliner on a taxiway at GRR by terrorists who release a chemical agent onboard the plane. These live exercises enable the Airport and its mutual aid partners to practice the response procedures outlined in our emergency plan in a controlled, yet realistic, setting. Additionally, the drill allows representatives from the different mutual aid partners to meet and develop a rapport before having to work together under the stress and commotion of an actual emergency. There has never been a major accident or terrorist incident at GRR in its 42-year history. But if there ever is, the Airport and its partners stand ready to respond.

1.25.05 | GRR TURNS PROVING GROUND FOR EMBRAER Ideal winter weather conditions and excellent cooperation from our Air Traffic Control Tower and Northern Air staffers made GRR the pick for a major de-icing certification test by Brazilian aerospace giant Embraer – the world’s largest manufacturer of regional jets. For the certification, an Embraer E190 prototype jet was brought to Grand Rapids to test the effects of Type IV de-icing fluid (propylene glycol) on the aircraft’s takeoff performance. New aircraft models must pass these tests before being certified to verify that their handling is not hindered by the use of these de-icing fluids. Embraer previously selected GRR to perform similar testing on its E170 regional jet in 2002, and the company said it’s likely to return with new jets in the future thanks to our dependably chilly winter air and equally warm hospitality.



WARTHOGS & STRATOTANKERS FLOCK TO GRR The Airport’s long runways and exceptionally accommodating Air Traffic Control Tower make GRR a popular training and support site for two nearby military air wings. KC-135 Stratotankers – from Selfridge AFB in Mount Clemens, MI, and Wisconsin ANG Base in Milwaukee – frequently drop in to practice foul-weather, instrument landings. These hulking mid-air refueling tankers need runways at least 7,000 ft. long to safely land, a requirement easily exceeded by two of GRR’s runways. KC-135 pilots, who typically make several “touch-and-go” landings during a training run, praise our controllers to the sky for their cooperativeness and skill at vectoring in the aircraft. ✈️ A-10 Thunderbolts from the 100th Fighter Wing in Battle Creek also make frequent (but very brief) stops at GRR. These tank-busting “Warthogs” don’t need such lengthy runways, but they sure like controllers who are long on patience when they’re practicing their touch-and-gos. GRR’s intersecting N/S and E/W runways make it an excellent training ground, whichever way the wind blows. And our ideal distance from Battle Creek – fairly close yet far enough away that the weather can be fair here when it’s lousy there – makes landing at GRR the primary Plan B when A-10s temporarily can’t touch down in Battle Creek.

2005 AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recognized the Kent County Department of Aeronautics for its annual financial report by awarding it a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This was the 11th consecutive year the Department has received this commendation.
- The local office of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) awarded its TSA Friendship Award to the Law Enforcement staff at GRR. The award is presented to agencies or organizations that play a significant role in assisting the TSA in its mission of securing the nation's air transportation system.
- The Airport was awarded a Gold Service Industry Advertising Award for its 2005 Airport Profile — last year's edition of the report you are now reading. The competition received more than 1,500 entries from all 50 states and four foreign countries.
- The Airport's Airfield Maintenance staff placed first in the annual Snow Plow Rodeo sponsored by the City of Wyoming and the American Public Works Association. This marks the fourth-straight year that GRR staffers have won top prize in the event.

THE MISSION OF THE KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICS is to provide safe, efficient, environmentally sensitive, and economically self-sustaining air transportation facilities that are responsive to regional needs.

AIRPORT MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

THE KENT COUNTY AERONAUTICS BOARD is a six-member body appointed by the Kent County Board of Commissioners with responsibility for setting policy and providing general oversight of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. The Aeronautics Board is made up of three Kent County Commissioners and three citizen members, each serving staggered three-year terms. The Aeronautics Board maintains two standing committees: Aeronautical, Facilities and Marketing; and Finance, Administration and Public Relations.

THE AIRPORT IS MANAGED AND OPERATED by the Aeronautics Director, Deputy Director, a four-person management team heading the Airport's four primary functional areas, and a 120-member Department of Aeronautics staff.

AERONAUTICS BOARD

- John Van Laar
Chairman
- Thomas G. O'Hare
Vice Chairman
- Dean A. Agee*
- Joseph D. Jones
- Daniel M. Koorndyk*
- Richard R. Vander Molen*

* County Commissioner

AERONAUTICS DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE STAFF

- James A. Koslosky, A.A.E.
Aeronautics Director
- Phillip E. Johnson, A.A.E.
Deputy Aeronautics Director
- Brian Picardat, A.A.E.
Finance and Administration Director
- Robert W. Benstein, A.A.E.
Public Safety and Operations Director
- Thomas R. Ecklund, P.E.
Facilities Director
- Bruce L. Schedlbauer, APR
Marketing and Communications Manager



THE GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS A FINANCIALLY SELF-SUPPORTING PUBLIC ENTERPRISE receiving no general tax revenues for day-to-day operations or ongoing capital development. Airport operations and improvements actually generate net revenue, rather than consume valuable tax dollars.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2005*	2004	2003
OPERATING REVENUE			
Airline Payments	\$9,702,981	\$10,262,050	\$11,381,927
General Aviation	1,393,718	1,409,199	1,365,239
Concessions	780,477	765,055	596,532
Air Cargo	2,521,443	2,310,711	2,222,150
Ground Transportation	10,839,974	9,652,477	8,913,937
Other	841,560	480,897	595,358
Total Operating Revenue	\$26,080,153	\$24,880,389	\$25,075,143
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Personnel Costs	\$7,578,929	\$7,018,478	\$6,507,669
Supplies	759,351	523,467	612,039
Contractual	7,521,188	6,046,897	6,082,009
Depreciation	9,956,762	9,716,002	9,647,394
Total Operating Expenses	\$25,816,230	\$23,304,853	\$22,849,111
Net Income From Operations	\$263,923	\$1,575,536	\$2,226,032

* Unaudited figures. A comprehensive Annual Financial Report including audited figures for 2005 will be available from the Kent County Department of Aeronautics as of June 2006.

The rest of the journal is to record your adventures.

