Bon Voyage festivities took place in 31 airports throughout the American Airlines and American Eagle network as the children departed their home cities. For 13 years, this program has made dreams come true for kids around the world.

On Friday October 2, Hailey, a young WishFlight honoree posed with her official Armstrong International send-off party before boarding her plane to Orlando - Photo: Jeffrey Sigmon, NOAB Operations

American Airlines and the Something mAAgic Foundation recently partnered with The Dream Factory Inc. to grant children their fondest wishes with a trip to Orlando, Fla. Thirty-one courageous wish kids participated in the American Airlines 14th Annual WishFlight. WishFlight, Something mAAgic’s annual marquee event, sends children with life-threatening medical conditions, and their families, to Florida for a seven-day retreat at Give Kids The World Village and various Orlando attractions. During their stay at the Give Kids The World Village, each wish family enjoyed accommodations in their own villa and meals onsite at the Gingerbread House Restaurant. The Village, complete with a wheelchair-accessible carousel, an Ice Cream Palace, a movie theatre, and a boundless playground, was designed to delight children of all ages.

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Continental at Work

On Tuesday, June 9, the MSY station handled the break-up of the American Diabetes Association convention. It consisted of 15,000 participants; mostly doctors from around the world. MSY worked with the Continental Revenue Management Department to secure additional seats to accommodate the international customers. With the extra seats, Continental Airlines was able to maintain a 99.2% load factor during the convention break-up on Tuesday. This is another example of how Continental has responded to requests for added capacity for major events since Katrina.

DID YOU KNOW?

Check out this airport information for more detail at www.flymsy.com

Exploring Privatization of Armstrong

In early August 2009, the Aviation Board submitted a preliminary application to the FAA to explore privatization of MSY under a congressional demonstration airport privatization program. Privatization would provide private-sector dollars to invest in the Airport’s facilities. Upon FAA approval of a preliminary application, an airport can begin a bidding process to select a private operator to manage the airport. The final application should be presented to the FAA in the fall of 2010, if the NOAB decides to pursue privatization.

Taxi Service Improved

The New Orleans Aviation Board has implemented new rules regarding the use of credit cards as part of its Taxicab Operating Regulations. Effective January 1, 2010, all taxicabs operating at Armstrong International will accept cash and/or major credit cards. All cabs will be equipped with secure wireless credit card devices capable of printing receipts and must accept all major credit cards. This is the first step in improving the level of taxi service provided to the public.

CIVIL SERVICE CLASSES

Reed Barnes, NOAB Training Coordinator announces that some Civil Service classes are still available. A link on the common drive is available for printing a copy of the current catalog. It is at \srv2\common\2009 Growth & Development Opportunities.pdf. To take a class, fill out the application on P. 7 and turn it into the Training Coordinator, after the proper approval has been given to attend the class.

MSY Embarks on $357 Million Capital Improvement Program

Armstrong International Airport has begun a $357 million modernization on the airport facility. The program will consist of multiple parts from revamp to new construction. Phases of the program range from design to completion, such as the new airport signage. The first project groundbreaking is scheduled for November for a new $10 million firehouse. The total program is expected to create 6,000 jobs. Watch for updates on www.flymsy.com.

New Air Service

AirTran Airways recently celebrated the start of a new non-stop flight to Baltimore-Washington International Airport from New Orleans on Oct. 8.

New Orleans Aviation Board Communications Supervisor Harriet Welch is relinquishing her position as Supervisor. She has decided to focus on a career as a New Orleans Public School teacher, a job she has worked full time for two years. She will continue to work as a Communications Specialist at the airport too. Communications Manager John Lyon expresses his thanks to Harriet for the fine job over the last decade as a Communications Supervisor.

Pictured are some of the World War II Vets honored at MSY by Louisiana Honor Air, an organization of local people whose mission is to provide every WWII Vet, who is physically able to travel, an opportunity to view their WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. Hats off to U.S. Airways for providing the transportation.