

Killeen Regional Airport celebrates completion of second hangar

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The Killeen Regional Airport held a celebration commemorating the grand opening of its second permanent hangar Wednesday.

At 2 p.m., more than 100 people gathered for remarks and a ribbon-cutting for Corporate Hangar II. The new structure includes an approximately 9,200-square-foot space dedicated to aircraft plus an additional 4,000-square-foot spot for offices. It will be occupied by CSI Aviation, an Albuquerque, New Mexico-based company.

The company provides passenger transportation, charter, air cargo and medical flight services. William T. Collins, its president and chief operating officer, highlighted the company's medical services on Wednesday.

He pointed to what appeared to be a normal airplane to his left. "It responds to the 911 calls; it gets them to higher-level care," he said, elaborating that while the hope is that nobody in the audience would have a medical emergency requiring CSI Aviation assistance, either they or somebody they know likely will.

Collins highlighted the numerous staff members who were in attendance for the ceremony and will staff the building. Those included dispatchers, mechanics, pilots and numerous medical personnel.

“We have the best of it right here,” he said. “We’re providing service 24/7, 365 days a year.”

CSI Aviation has a fleet of King Airs, which are twin-turboprop aircraft, providing medical services to the Killeen area and across the globe.

Those aircraft, one of which was in the hangar on Wednesday, can transfer patients from one hospital to another, provide organ transplant flights and other health care services.

“We are blessed ... to have this kind of capability right here in this community,” Collins said.

A lease agreement for the hangar between CSI Aviation and the city of Killeen was approved by the Killeen City Council in January; that lease will last for more than six years.

This is the second hangar leased by CSI Aviation at the Killeen Regional Airport. It signed an agreement and moved into the first corporate hangar at the airport in 2022.

Speaking about that expansion, Mayor Debbie Nash-King said, “The opening of a second hangar ... is about expanding opportunity.” She explained that it would help the regional economy and commended those who worked on the project for their hard work and dedication.

The two-story hangar was built by NASCO Construction, an Idaho-based contractor. That company worked in collaboration with the city of Killeen’s aviation staff to complete the project, which took about a year to finish.

Mike Wilson, Killeen’s executive director of aviation, estimated that the hangar cost around \$6 million to complete. Of that, approximately \$4.5 million was paid for through a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The new hangar is expected to generate slightly more than \$100,000 in rent revenue every year.

“This is more than just a building,” Wilson said. “I can’t wait to see what comes next.”