

### An Industry Rich in Diversity

**A** look at some of the ways aviation strengthens the healthcare industry, commerce, and safety.

As most pilots know, there is a lot more to general aviation than celebrities sipping champagne on flights to Monaco, or businessmen heading from meeting to meeting – although without a doubt these are vital and valued parts of our industry. The fact is that GA enables many industries to move essential and time-sensitive goods and services in ways that have improved the standards of living for people all over the world. As it happens, the public often knows less about the many uses of GA than it could, resulting in a skewed perception about the value and purpose of our industry.

That's why Avfuel is launching a new series of articles that will focus in on the "workhorses" of general aviation – those businesses often neglected by the news media that nevertheless support enormous industries and make critical contributions to the world, its people and its businesses. If you'd like to tell us about your experience of a unique use of GA, please write to us at [marketing@avfuel.com](mailto:marketing@avfuel.com).

#### ***Air Medical and Organ Transport***

Aero medical transport may be the most significant interface of aviation and healthcare. Its on-demand availability and ability to fly to more locations permits patients and health care workers to connect with hospitals, health care professionals, organs and supplies with lifesaving speed. Avfuel is proud that many of its customers support this industry with their fixed or rotor wing aircraft. One such is Jet Air Inc, of Galesburg, Illinois. Founded in 1969, Jet Air (GBG) is an aviation company that does it all: fueling operations, maintenance, training, aircraft sales, storage, service, charter, air taxi and air ambulance. Today Jet Air has three FBOs: headquarters in Galesburg and full service operations in Iowa City, IA (IOW), and Burlington, IA (BRL).

"If it flies we do something with it," says owner Harrel Timmons. "Prior to the tremendous service provided by UPS and FedEx, Jet Air held the task of getting time-sensitive freight from place to place. Today we conduct only 10% of our business in that field."

Indeed, says Timmons, today over 50% of his flying is to do with moving people, and a great deal of that involves medical transport operations all over the nation. Now, Jet Air specializes in providing non emergency patient transfers, basic and advanced life support flights and organ recipient and procurement transportation.

"GA allows flexibility," explains Timmons. "The airlines service about 500 airports, whereas we can fly anywhere among 14,000 airports, get closer, and move faster."

For more information about Jet Air, Inc, please visit [www.jetairinc.com](http://www.jetairinc.com).

#### ***Fire Suppression***



photo courtesy of Avcenter

Whether sparked by man's interference or the chance combination of seasonal dryness and high winds, wild fires are a continuous problem in the US. Keeping them under control and minimizing property destruction and loss of life requires enormous amounts of tactical planning, equipment and manpower. The core suppressive technique involves dropping fire retardant on the fires – and that means GA. Many Avfuel branded FBOs are involved with fire-suppression in some way.

One such is Avcenter, an FBO with locations in Nampa, and Pocatello, Idaho. Pocatello Regional Airport, where Avcenter's flagship location is located, is host to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Pocatello air attack base, and Avcenter has developed services to support and assist the air attack base in its operations.

"At Avcenter, we run communications for those in flight during an air attack," says Avcenter co-owner John Blakely. "The communications are done from both piston and turbine airplanes, and even single engine air tankers. In this scenario, a small aircraft or lead plane forms up a large tanker and communicates with it. The lead plane then makes a run in front of the tanker to indicate the place for fire retardant to be released."

Avcenter's two locations could not be more aptly located to assist in fire suppression. Where Avcenter Pocatello is close to an air attack base, Avcenter Nampa is nearly next door to Boise International Airport and the resident National Interagency Fire Center – the world headquarters for fire fighting. Avcenter also offers aero medical transport, and specializes in serving rocky mountain locations that are often difficult for other means of transport to access.

### **Cargo and Freight**



photo courtesy of IBC Airways, Inc

Most people don't comprehend the extent to which the successful movement of mail, parcels and cargo drives the nation's economy.

There are many items that must be transported quickly and reliably in a controlled environment: perishables, human remains, precious cargo, ship spares, parts, hazardous materials, medicines, etc.

IBC Airways, Inc of Miami, Florida, is one such company that distinguishes itself with a large fleet of reliable aircraft, cost effective transportation options, and extensive experience in the air cargo business. According to Vice-President Bill Womick, 90% of his business involves transporting goods and papers for companies like UPS, DHL and FedEx. His company particularly handles cargo transport to and from the Caribbean.

"The public doesn't realize that this industry is so huge. IBC Airways, Inc alone does 600 flights a month," said Womick. "Because of where we're located, you can't truck goods to the destinations. We provide the capability to get an overnight express package from Chicago to Grand Cayman and back with a signature in 24 hours."

In addition to aero medical transport, fire suppression and cargo delivery, GA enhances almost every other industry: All over the world jets and helicopters are being applied to the transport of people and supplies to offshore oil rigs, to making the logging industry more efficient and cost effective, to streamlining construction for safety and efficiency, to heightening national security, to managing natural resources and even revising our understanding of cattle ranching. In short, GA supports more workers and industries than can be mentioned here, and in future, Avfuel intends to touch on as many as possible.

*In Our Next Issue: Logging, Border Patrol and Air Ranching. •*