

An Industry Rich in Diversity

A series that takes a look at some of the ways aviation enhances the way we live.

Avfuel has launched 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.

National Security / Border Patrol

San Diego Jet Center in San Diego California is categorized as one of Avfuel’s “general aviation workhorses” because it supports National Security and Public Safety in the form of U.S. Customs and U.S. Border Patrol.



Photo courtesy of Chris Cooper, San Diego Jet Center

Day and night the local fleet of eleven helicopters patrols the San Diego / Tijuana border to prevent unauthorized crossing of people and illegal substances, and to be vigilant for injured would be immigrants. Indeed, they help prevent many crossing-related deaths every year.

San Diego Jet Center has a government contract to fuel the U.S. Border Patrol’s fleet, helping to support aviation operations in addition to its serving of the business aviation community.



Photo courtesy of Chris Cooper, San Diego Jet Center

If you’d like to tell us about your experience of a unique use of GA, please write to us at marketing@avfuel.com.

For more Avfuel articles on Aviation Workhorses, including fire suppression, cargo transport and aero medical transport, see the Spring 2009 AVTRIP Newsletter available online now at www.avfuel.com in the Avfuel News & Media section.



Avcenter, an FBO in Pocatello, Idaho, assists with fire suppression

Did you know?

According to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, the Mexico/Tijuana border is the most frequently crossed international border in the world.

More About San Diego Jet Center

The ideal arrival and departure point for those bound to and from Mexico or Hawaii. Located just 15 freeway miles from downtown San Diego, San Diego Jet Center is a full-service FBO that caters to a diverse body of travelers – particularly those requiring convenient customs service. With competitive prices, long runways, generous hangar space and a large, recently-renovated FBO, San Diego Jet Center provides comprehensive aircraft and customer services without the congestion characteristic of other regional airports.



Photo courtesy of Chris Cooper, San Diego Jet Center

“Because we are located adjacent to the U.S. Customs blue box, we can stand by and do quick turns right there so they don’t have to move the aircraft multiple times,” says General Manager Tom Ricotta. “We’re like the pit in the Indie 500! Aircraft get all the services there fast, including catering and anything else they need.”



Photo courtesy of Chris Cooper, San Diego Jet Center

Future developments to the airport include a brand new lighting system (due in summer 2009), new security fencing and runway repaving.

“We are a flexible company because we are family-owned. When a customer has special needs that might be out of the ordinary, we can make the call because we are hands on here everyday,” adds Ricotta. •

Did you know?

Jet fuel and turbine engines are used in many non-aviation applications:

- *The pumps that drive the Alaskan pipelines are modified jet engines.*
- *The snow blowers for northern railroads are often powered by jet fuel.*
- *Fire suppression in mine fires often relies on an enormous jet engine.*

The jet engine drives an enormous, powerful fan that helps displace oxygen in the mine and therefore starve the fire.