

State and Local

FAA plans money-saving effort, will relocate Easterwood station

By Doug Driskell
Staff Writer

In an effort to save money, the flight service station at Easterwood Airport will be relocated to the Montgomery County Airport near Conroe Feb. 28, a Federal Aviation Administration official said.

The relocation — part of a long-term modernization plan initiated by the FAA — will save money and provide better service to pilots in College Station and around Texas, Bob Johnson, manager of the FAA flight service station at Easterwood, said.

Some pilots have other opinions on the relocation. Mike Villarreal, a pilot and flight instructor for Executive Aircraft Services of Texas at Easterwood, said when the service moves it will take more time to file a flight plan.

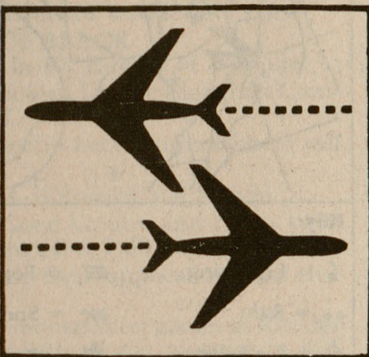
Johnson says, "Everybody wants the federal government to operate as economically as possible. After this consolidation, flight service operators will be at three locations in Texas — Fort Worth, San Angelo, and Montgomery County."

Johnson said flight services provides in-flight and emergency orientation to all aircraft personnel.

"All these services can be completed by remote control — via radio," he said. "Therefore, it doesn't matter where the operator is working from as long as the antennas are in the same place."

"When we move, all of our radio equipment and antennas will remain on the field at Easterwood. The person in charge of radio operations won't be working at Easterwood. He will be at the Montgomery County Airport."

All pilots should register a flight plan with the flight service center before departing, he said. They also should ask for weather briefings for the areas in which they will be flying.



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

Weather briefings are given over the telephone, face-to-face or by radio, Johnson said. The new automated system will eliminate the face-to-face briefings at Easterwood.

"The one problem pilots have with the automated system is the elimination of face-to-face briefings," Johnson said. "They like to come in and look at the radar and weather charts for themselves. Now they will have to picture this information in their heads."

A weather briefing given face-to-face takes two to three times as long as the same briefing given on the telephone, Johnson said. The automated system will take less time for each report, he said.

When the weather is good in College Station pilots usually don't ask for weather briefings and Johnson said that leaves the flight service operators with little to do except fill out weather charts.

But at the same time weather is good in College Station, it could be stormy in Galveston and there could be a backlog of pilots wanting information. The new system will allow operators to provide service to the whole state instead of just one area.

No jobs will be lost as a result of the automated system, Johnson said.

All of the employees will either have a job in Montgomery County or may apply to work at any of the other systems.

Villarreal said, "But part of the advantage of having a flight service in College Station is that it enables us to give them a flight plan. They can put it into the system in 15 to 20 minutes. If we have to call up Montgomery County it can take an extra 20 minutes."

Johnson also agrees that it will take more time. He said on a bad day the pilots may have to wait up to 10 minutes.

Kevin Manning, a pilot for Executive Aircraft Services, said it has been a great luxury for pilots to have the flight service station at Easterwood, and that it has spoiled them.

Manning said that now pilots are going to have to plan ahead like everyone else.

To answer some of the questions pilots may have with the new system, there will be a series of meetings sponsored by the flight service station, Johnson said.

These meetings will be at the Aggie Flying Club hangar, he said. One series of meetings will start Oct. 27 and the other series will begin Nov. 24.

Faculty Senator says senior finals changes up to Student Senate

By Drew Leder
Staff Writer

Dr. Don Russel, a representative of the Faculty Senate, told the Student Senate Wednesday that there is to be a change in the senior finals schedule, the Student Senate will have to initiate it.

"As far as we're concerned, it can be changed," he said.

Many senators expressed dissatisfaction over the days scheduled for finals and the Senate is researching the issue.

The senior finals policy will be tested this semester, and sets the days for finals on Friday of dead week, Saturday, the following Monday and Tuesday.

The Senate was also briefed on committee and Student Government activities.

Tom Black, academic affairs chairman, told the Senate that 264 new faculty members at Texas A&M will be invited to attend yell rallies throughout the year so they can get a better understanding of the students and traditions at A&M.

"They don't understand us and they don't understand our traditions," Black said of the new faculty members.

Black said he will meet Tuesday with the Dean of Liberal Arts, Daniel Fallon, to discuss the possibility of including a fine arts program in that college.

Brian Banner, vice-president for administration in the Student Senate, said the Student Government will open a special events telephone line for students to call to get information on campus activities.

Banner also informed the Senate that two committees, a drug and alcohol committee and a women's issues committee, both consisting of faculty members and students, are being formed.

Following the Senate meeting, the speaker of the Senate and committee chairmen heard appeals from three students who had been removed from the Senate earlier this week after missing two meetings. All three were reinstated after explaining why they had missed the meetings.

A&M medical school grads excel on certification exam

By Jenny Hynes
Reporter

Nobody's perfect, but in its first seven graduating classes, the Texas A&M University College of Medicine has maintained a nearly perfect record for its students who pass the physician's certification exam, an A&M medical school dean said.

"There's never been a school that's had a 100 percent pass rate," said Dr. William E. Ward, associate dean of student affairs for the College of Medicine.

"There have been failures at all the other medical schools in Texas," he said.

While none of the actual scores is made public, only two A&M medical school students out of 235 graduates since 1981 have failed any portion of the exam, he said. No one has failed the entire exam.

"That's a great record," Ward said. The standardized exam, which Texas medical school graduates must pass for medical certification, is called the Federated Licensing Exam, or FLEX.

This exam is divided into three parts: basic sciences, clinical sciences and jurisprudence (medicine and the law).

Betty Williams, registrar at the Baylor College of Medicine, said, "This is the uni-

form licensing exam administered in all states of the nation at the same time."

Ty Newton, coordinator for student affairs at the A&M College of Medicine, said the certification exam is administered about two weeks after medical school graduation every year.

"Between 1,100 and 1,200 students take the exam each year, since there are that many slots in the state's medical schools," he said.

Ward believes A&M medical school graduates have an outstanding record because of the small class sizes.

"We control our number of admissions," Ward said. "We accept just 48 students per class and have between 29 and 44 graduating each year. It's almost individualized attention."

"The University of Texas system schools have around 200 students in each class."

"I think the smaller classes (at A&M) give a more in-depth education, the same as in undergraduate classes."

A&M's medical school is the newest in Texas.

It also has the advantage of being on the campus of a major high-technology university, Ward said.

Besides A&M's College of Medicine, there are six other medical schools in Texas.

The University of Texas system claims four medical schools: the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, the UT Health Science Center at Houston, the UT Medical Branch at Galveston and Southwestern Medical School.

Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center complete the list of medical schools in Texas.

Graduates from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine also must take the exam for certification.

1988 Aggieland

Student organizations

Recognized student organizations that want to appear in the 1988

Aggieland must complete and turn in an organization contract in 230 Reed McDonald by Friday, Sept. 25.

Contracts should be in your boxes in the Student Finance Office. If you have not received a contract, you may pick one up in 230 Reed McDonald.

Class pictures

Freshmen and sophomores can have class pictures taken on the following days:

Last name A-F	Sept. 21-25
Last name G-L	Sept. 28-Oct. 2
Last name M-R	Oct. 5-9
Last name S-Z	Oct. 12-16

Photos can be taken from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at

AR Photography II
707 Texas Ave., Suite 120B
(across from the polo field)

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