



For Immediate Release

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New Airport Rescue and Firefighting Chief for the Cleveland Airport System is Sworn In Officials unveils new ARFF Heavy Aircraft Rescue truck, new ARFF Fire Medics

Cleveland, July 24, 2009 – With family, friends and coworkers, along with Mayor Frank Jackson and airport officials in attendance, Roosevelt Davis, Jr. was sworn in today as the new Airport Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Chief for the Cleveland Airport System (CAS).

“It is with great pleasure to honor a professional whose dedication to public service is unparalleled,” said Airport Director Ricky Smith. “Roosevelt Davis understands the vision of where we need to take the airports and he is prepared to do that and more. He is without a doubt the right person for the job and to lead this highly skilled team of professionals focused on the safety of our traveling public.”

The Cleveland Airport System conducted a nationwide search for the ARFF Chief position which had been vacant for several months. The former Acting ARFF Chief retired in December 2008.

Acting Chief Davis began his career at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) in April 1999 after serving 21 years in the U.S. Marine Corp in aircraft rescue and firefighting. Since taking on the Acting Chief role, Davis has improved communication among employees and is currently implementing an automated direct communications system for patient care and tracking through the use of laptop computers in vehicles.

“This is a proud moment for me and my family, and it’s a great honor to be named ARFF Chief for the Cleveland Airport System,” said Davis. “I’m looking forward to serving not only the CAS community but the City of Cleveland.”

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Davis has 30 years experience in the ARFF profession beginning with his military career in the U.S Marine Corps. While a U.S. Marine, Davis was a Manager in operations for the Department of Defense in Iwakuni, Japan then came to CLE as a firefighter.

Davis has received numerous awards including the EMS Star of Life Award in 2007 for his lifesaving efforts after a Cleveland Police Officer was wounded during the April 27, 2007 shooting at CLE. Also in 2007, he received the MetroHealth Medical Center's 2007 Chris Holt Award and in 2008 received the Al Koran Firefighter of the Year Award for Heroism.

Mayor Jackson along with airport officials welcomed five new Fire Medics to the team. The new medics were appointed in November 2008 and rounded out the more than 60 paramedics who are also trained to specially fight aircraft fires and aircraft crashes.

Officials also unveiled the new ARFF Heavy Aircraft Rescue truck, which is designed to serve as a quick response vehicle to aircraft crash situations or structural incidents and is equipped with heavy rescue equipment including the 'jaws of life,' extrication equipment and specialized tools used in critical incidents. This specific truck will be a first of its type at CLE.

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Cleveland Airport System is operated by the City of Cleveland's Department of Port Control, which includes Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) and Burke Lakefront Airport (BKL). CLE is Ohio's premier air service gateway offering more than 250 daily departures to 80 nonstop destinations including 7 international markets. BKL is situated in downtown Cleveland, and is a fully certified FAR Part 139 airport.