

## Great Southwest Aviation impacting Roswell community

Roswell, N.M. – Great Southwest Aviation, full service aviation facility located at the Roswell International Air Center, is quietly making a large impact on the Roswell community. Their business plan ranges from a Fixed Based Operator (FBO), flight training, hangar storage, aircraft management/maintenance/aircraft sales to managing American Eagle Airlines operations and Government fueling contracts.

The current clients that have been performing testing and utilizing GSA's facilities are Boeing,



Gulfstream, Cessna and the U.S. Air Force. These clients heavily impact the local economy whether it's through the rental car agencies, hotels, restaurants or retail shops. Larry Jessen, President/CEO of Great Southwest Aviation stated,

"There are three main reasons why the Roswell International Air Center is attracting these customers: 1. the longest runway, 3-21, is 13,000 ft. long with a width of 150 ft. 2. Taxiways are 174 ft. wide and are stressed to hold up to a million pounds and 3. The airport is tower controlled with controlled airspace and fire protection on the field. You have all the benefits of a larger airport like the Sunport and Dallas/Ft. Worth, without the congestion!"

These clients range from a group of 20 to 132 support personnel. Boeing is currently the largest client with 132 engineers, support personnel and test pilots. Over the next three weeks, Boeing will be testing the new Boeing 747-8, which is one of four aircrafts, for field proficiency and braking tests. Gulfstream, a division of General Dynamics, currently has 60 engineers and support personnel in Roswell over a two month period. Cessna is currently testing the Cessna Sovereign with 25 engineers and test pilots over a two week period. The Sovereign is a midsize business jet with superior fuel efficiency and unprecedented comfort. The United States Air Force will train the KC-135 Stratotanker over the weekend. The two crews of ten personnel will be practicing air-to-air refueling with the primary air fuel transfer method through the tanker aircraft's flying boom.



Based on a conservative average per diem per day for personnel to cover lodging, meals and car rentals (does not take into account personal expenditures such as shopping or entertainment), the direct economic impact to Roswell is

estimated around \$35,550.00 a day. Over the time spans above, the direct impact of each client will range from \$6,000 to \$549,000 to Roswell and Chaves County!