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## OREGON INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW PLANS FOR SUMMER 2007 EVENT AT HILLSBORO AIRPORT

After listening to community members and a wide variety of stakeholders, and extensive consideration, the Oregon International Airshow (OIA) outlined plans today for an event in summer 2007 at Hillsboro Airport.

The proposal, which includes safety changes to the event, was supported by the City of Hillsboro and the Port of Portland. This coming summer's airshow will be the 20<sup>th</sup> in the event's history.

"We are grateful for the support and permission from the City and Port as the airshow couldn't exist without their approval or without the strong support we've received from the community," said Judy Willey, OIA president.

As a result of a tragic accident associated with the 2006 show, parties involved in presenting and supporting the airshow have spent four months extensively examining and evaluating the event.

The OIA has announced changes to improve the safety of the 2007 airshow for both performers and spectators. Key changes planned include:

- Show organizers will be extremely selective on participants permitted to do a fly-by maneuver during the show; of those granted permission, pilots will be instructed to depart the airport to the north, circle out in a large tear-drop pattern and return to the airport from the north; thereby minimizing overflights of residential areas;
- At the mandatory performer briefings prior to the start of the show each day, pilots will be provided with instructions as to optimal flight paths and safe locations should they find themselves in trouble; and,

- Static display and performer aircraft pilots will be provided with detailed arrival and departure procedures for their participation in the show with the intent to minimize overflight of neighborhoods.

“These safety enhancements came as a result of an internal review of Airshow procedures, feedback from the Port, the City, the FAA, the International Council of Air Shows, performers and the community,” Willey said.

The air show generates significant dollars for charity and supports local businesses. All performers and airshow guests stay in Washington County hotels and many visit local restaurants, golf courses and health clubs during the week they are in Hillsboro. In addition to the economic benefits, to date, the airshow has donated more than \$834,000 to community projects from airshow funds raised.

“The airshow has made significant economic and philanthropic contributions to our community. It has become a signature event for Hillsboro,” said City of Hillsboro Mayor Tom Hughes. “The OIA and the Port have taken significant, additional steps to make the event safer.”

The Port, which owns and operates Hillsboro Airport, issues a permit to the OIA for use of the airport facility during an airshow.

“During numerous public meetings and forums we heard concerns and reservations about the airshow, but we also heard how important the event is to families, businesses and local nonprofits,” said Port Aviation Director Mary Maxwell. “We all care about aviation safety and believe the airshow has proposed important changes. We are inviting the group back next year to host the event at Hillsboro Airport.”

In addition to the Port staff on hand who help manage the facility during the show, the Port plans to station one of their specialty Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting units (a truck and three firefighters) and the Port’s mobile command vehicle (accompanied by a Port Police Lieutenant) at the Hillsboro Airport for the duration of the event.

Hillsboro Airport has over 200,000 operations annually and is the state’s second busiest airport. Owned and operated by the Port, Hillsboro Airport offers opportunities for business and recreational flying, flight training, medical response, and aircraft maintenance, fueling and storage. The facility supports jet, propeller aircraft, and helicopter operations.

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