



News Release

Virgin Islands Port Authority
Office of the Executive Director
Public Relations Department
P.O. Box 301707
St. Thomas, VI 00803-1707

Tel: (340) 774-1629
Tel: (340) 714-6640 / 714-6639
Fax: (340) 714-1492 / 774-0025
E-mail: info@viport.com
Internet: www.viport.com

For Immediate Release
October 6, 2015

Contact: Monifa Marrero Brathwaite
Public Information Officer

King Airport Receives New State-of-the-Art Fire Truck (Revised)

The Virgin Islands Port Authority has received a new Global Striker 4x4 aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) apparatus for use at the Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas, announced acting VIPA Executive Director David Mapp.

The apparatus includes a 1,500-gallon water and a 200 gallon aqueous film-forming foam fire suppression system, which is essential for extinguishing fuel fires. New features exclusive to this new truck include a digital, computerized operating system that can be operated by one fire fighter, and a penetrating snozzle that can pierce the walls of a plane and extinguish fires in a concentrated area of the aircraft.

The new apparatus replaces Oshkosh Engine 5 at the King Airport – an apparatus that is about 15 years old and in poor condition, said Mapp. CEKA now has three firefighting apparatuses and meets the Federal Aviation Administration’s requirements regarding adequate capacity to transport fire extinguishing agents (water, foam and dry chemicals), he said. Mapp added that all 18 of the King Airport’s firefighting crew are currently being trained to operate the

(more)

new truck by a certified field service technician from Oshkosh Corporation, the company that built the truck.

The ARFF apparatus cost **\$923,421** and was paid for via an FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant. VIPA paid 10 percent of the total cost, as per the grant requirements. Oshkosh Corporation was the successful bidder on a request for proposal to provide a commercially-produced diesel engine apparatus for CEKA, which is classified as an Index C airport by the FAA. According to the FAA regulations under 14CFT Part 139, airports must own and maintain a specific size of ARFF apparatus according to their respective index.

###

