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Hello and welcome to the on-line home of San Antonio's dynamic aerospace industry! As 2010 Chairman of the Greater San Antonio Chamber's Aerospace Committee it is my true pleasure and privilege to speak on behalf of the tens of thousands of people employed in and by this industry in our City as we begin our second century as leaders in aviation and aerospace.

Military flight began in San Antonio on March 2, 1910 when then Lt. Benjamin Foulois piloted a Wright Flyer III from the Ft. Sam Houston parade grounds. Within a few short years then Major Benjamin Foulois, recognizing that military aviation had outgrown the Army post, selected some land south of downtown for the South San Antonio Aviation Camp. This camp grew into Kelly Air Force Base – one of the world's premier air logistics centers. Over the years, Major General Benjamin Foulois and the Air Force continued to rely on San Antonio to train, operate, and maintain the nation's growing fleet. When budgetary realities forced the military to close Kelly, our community and our industry rose to the challenge of keeping this facility open to our military. Today many of the industry's leading companies operate some of the world's most efficient aviation facilities at Port San Antonio providing unparalleled support to our military at some of the lowest costs to our nation's taxpayers.

Of course, San Antonio's aerospace industry reaches far beyond our commitment to our military. Our City is home to the global leader in designing and fabricating interiors and modifications for wide-body head of state and VIP aircraft. Commercial aviation manufacturing, maintenance, repair, operations, and education are on proud display at San Antonio International Airport, Port San Antonio, and Stinson Field. On any given day wide-body commercial and private aircraft from around the world can be seen in our City. Meanwhile our research sector takes on the next frontier with their spacecraft already exploring the furthest reaches of our solar system.

Our future skies are bright and clear thanks to our unequalled facilities and workforce. With three major airports open to operations and our position in a community and state that are wide open for business there is simply no other community that provides better infrastructure and support to aerospace. Even more exciting, our schools and industry have partnered to create the Alamo Area Aerospace Academies where highly motivated students can combine their studies with internships with leading companies and leave school well on their way to full FAA certification.

Whether you are already part of our vital aerospace community or just joining us on our journey into our new century, I encourage you to look through our site and learn more about the opportunities that exist here in San Antonio. And please never hesitate to contact us – we are always eager to showcase our industry!

Thank you for taking the time to visit with us. We look forward to working with you well into our third century!

Jim Perschbach
2010 Chairman
Aerospace Committee
The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce