

Special Report

“Welcome Aboard IHL Air”

Which IHL Board Members are Using the USM Plane

As stated in recent USMNEWS.net reports, records regarding USM’s Beechcraft airplane have been obtained by USMNEWS.net via a Mississippi Open Records request. Those records have already resulted in a number of new reports and editorials. This *Special Report* examines use of the USM plane by various IHL board members, including the IHL commissioner, Hank Bounds. To begin, Table 1 below lists the IHL board members, including Bounds, along with information both on the number of trips taken on the plane and a brief description of each trip taken.

Table 1 – *Welcome aboard IHL Air*

Name	# Total Trips	# Trips with Spouse	Trip Descriptions
Blakeslee, Ed	6	0	Trip to West Point (3-Sept-09) Trip to West Point (4-Sept-09) Trip to Greenwood via Madison (12-Sept-09) Trip to Cleveland (18-Dec-09) Trip to Oxford (9-Apr-10) Trip to Cleveland (15- & 16-June-10)
Bounds, Hank	2	0	Trip to Greenwood via Madison (12-Sept-09) Trip to Gulfport (29-Sept-09)
Davidson, Stacy	0	0	
Neeley, Bettye	0	0	
Owens, Bob	0	0	
Patterson, Aubrey	0	0	
Perry, Alan	1	0	Trip to Greenwood via Madison (12-Sept-09)
Pickering, Christine	2	2	Trip to West Point (3-Sept-09) Trip to West Point (4-Sept-09)
Robinson, Robin	6	0	Trip to Columbus/Golden Triangle (2-Sept-09) Trip to West Point (4-Sept-09) Trip to Greenwood via Madison (12-Sept-09) Trip to Cleveland (18-Dec-09) Trip to Oxford (9-Apr-10) Trip to Cleveland (15- & 16-June-10)
Ross, Scott	0	0	
Rouse, Doug	6	2	Trip to Columbus/Golden Triangle (2-Sept-09) Trip to West Point (4-Sept-09) Trip to Greenwood via Madison (12-Sept-09) Trip to Greenville, NC (28-Nov-09) Trip to Cleveland (18-Dec-09) Trip to Cleveland (15- & 16-June-10)
Smith, C.D.	2	0	Trip to Oxford (9-Apr-10) Trip to Cleveland (15- & 16-June-10)
Whitten, Amy	0	0	

The data in Table 1 certainly are intriguing. Supporters of the state’s other seven public institutions might now question the independence of a few IHL board members, including Ed Blakeslee, Robin Robinson, and Doug Rouse. These three board members have each made at least six trips aboard the USM plane. Behind these is Christy Pickering, who has made two trips, both including her husband.

Finally, the presence on two flights of IHL commissioner Hank Bounds should also cause some concern among supporters of the state's seven other public institutions.