



The Voice of Aviation Business

FBOs Above & Beyond

NATA's "FBOs: Above and Beyond" initiative highlights the extraordinary services provided by our Fixed Base Operator (FBO) members. The association's goal is to provide a well-rounded perspective on the FBO industry, directly from those with first-hand experience.



In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, we at GTU Jet were approached by the PALS / Sky Hope Network about helping to facilitate an airlift of supplies to those devastated by the hurricane in ravaged East Texas. The goal was to help bridge the crucial gap between the disaster and the time that it takes for the Red Cross and National Guard to deploy aid. Naturally, we were ready to do whatever we could to help.

This video provides an overview of the operation: [Hurricane Harvey: Private Jet Missions](#). GTU Jet is the FBO featured in this video.

At least 57 aircraft participating in the airlift, 14% of which were from Georgetown Airport. They ranged in size and included a Dassault Falcon 900, several Cessna Citations and Beech King Airls to small Cessna 172s and homebuilt aircraft. We flew a minimum of 124 missions directly into the disaster area delivering much-needed supplies to areas including Corpus Christi, Houston/Beaumont and Lake Charles, Louisiana. Aircraft came in from all over the nation accounting for a total of 253 aircraft movements in support of the airlift.

Supplies were funneled through faith-based organizations throughout Central Texas including the Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN) then sorted at Celebration Church here in Georgetown and delivered to the airport.

We delivered the critical support necessary immediately after the hurricane. For example, an urgent call came in from Beaumont that there were two dehydrated babies that were waiting to be evacuated. They said it was an urgent situation and they desperately needed help for these infants. Within 30 minutes after the call, a plane loaded with formula, infant water, and other baby supplies took off and one hour later, the plane was landing and providing aid to the infants in Beaumont. This is a great example of what General Aviation (GA) can do. Fast and nimble, the GA community came together to respond more quickly than large national organizations can do immediately after a disaster like this. We could land on small airstrips in areas that were inaccessible by vehicle to get aid to the hardest hit areas.

Whether FBO competitors like GTU Jet and AeroJet, or competitive brokers like Charlie Bravo Aviation and jetAVIVA, we all pitched in to help in the effort. It was gratifying to see the entire aviation community and communities throughout Central Texas come together to help during the



disaster. Whether it was the local community donating goods, organizations like ADRN and Celebration Church providing logistics, local businesses like United Rentals donating equipment, area



restaurants feeding volunteers and providing food to feed those in the disaster area, volunteers managing the flow of supplies and helping to load the airplanes, the pilots donating their aircraft and skills, we all played a role. – submitted by Brad Lamb, GTU Jet

Read other stories and share your FBO experience(s) at www.nata.aero/aboveandbeyond.