

# BUSINESS PARTNER BRIEF

## OCTOBER 2024



### Director's Message



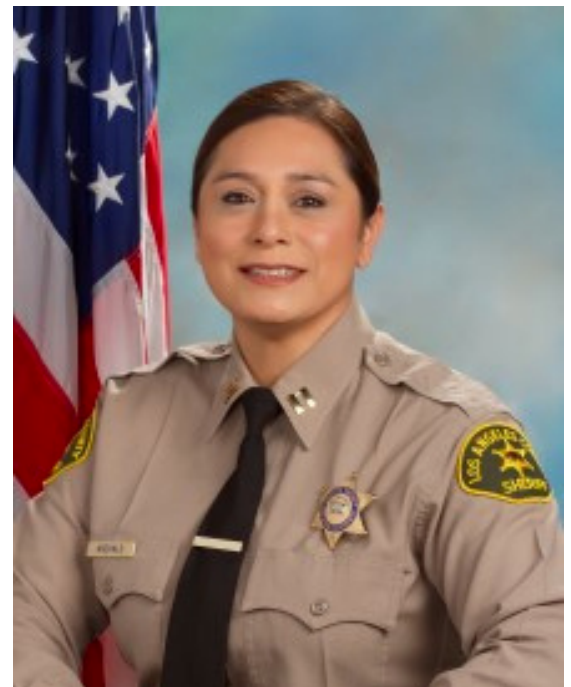
Greetings! One of the busiest summer seasons on record flew by, and we're gearing up for an even more exciting holiday season ahead. There's a lot to look forward at LGB, including our upcoming Festival of Flight, as well as other news, updates and photos in this edition of our Business Partner Brief. — Cynthia Guidry

### Business Partner Spotlight: Captain Blanca R. Arevalo, LA Sheriff's Department

We're pleased to shine this month's Business Partner Spotlight on Aero Bureau Captain Blanca R. Arevalo with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The Aero Bureau's operations are based at Long Beach Airport, where she's proudly served as the unit commander for the past two years.

**Q: Tell us about your professional background and role with the Aero Bureau.**

A: I was born and raised by my mother in Los Angeles, and she worked in a mailroom during the day and cleaned houses in the evening to provide my brother and me with a private education. After high school, I received a scholarship to Occidental College where I earned a bachelor's degree in sociology. After joining the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department in 1999 at the age of 25, I continued my education at California State University, Long Beach where I earned a master's in emergency management.



I became interested in law enforcement at a young age as a result of my environment. I saw the negative effects of gangs and drug dealers. That experience as a young child solidified my resolve to ensure no other child endured the same experience I did, driving me to become a peace officer. As a deputy sheriff and a sergeant, I spent the majority of my time working at Long Beach Superior Court and the Carson Sheriff's Station. I additionally spent some time at Twin Towers Correctional Facility as a sergeant. I was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 2018 and worked at stations in Norwalk and Cerritos. In 2022, I was promoted to captain and selected to become the unit commander of Aero Bureau.

**Q: Can you talk about the Aero Bureau operation at LGB?**

A: The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department patrols more than 4,000 square miles of territory and provides law enforcement services to unincorporated areas of the county and various contract cities. We provide services to more than three million residents and have integrated the latest law enforcement support resources, tactics, and technologies. One of those resources is air support, which is provided by the Aero Bureau.

Aero Bureau missions focus on aerial ground patrol unit support, reconnaissance, and surveillance. Today, approximately 85% of Aero Bureau's 10,000 annual flight hours are flown in support of patrol operations, which include pursuit management, suspect searches, ground unit coordination in response to high-risk calls, and missing persons. Additionally, we conduct prisoner transportation, aerial photography, and crime scene containment. Further, our Air Rescue 5 program rescues dozens of lost, stranded, or injured hikers each year, as well as countless accident victims, utilizing on-board paramedics that provide advanced life support while in the air. Air Rescue 5 personnel also provide rapid response to active shooter incidents and swift water rescues.

Our headquarters is located at Long Beach Airport. Aero Bureau is staffed with 89 full-time employees, consisting of 47 sworn members and 42 civilians. Sworn personnel consist of 26 pilots, 13 tactical flight deputies and six sergeants, one lieutenant and myself. I additionally manage one chief of helicopter maintenance, two senior mechanics, two helicopter inspectors, 15 helicopter mechanics, one senior electronic communication technician (avionics), three electronic communication technicians, three warehouse workers who are responsible for all helicopter parts' inventory, two law enforcement technicians (one which is solely responsible for onsite and offsite fuel tanks and trucks throughout the county), two procurement assistants responsible for ordering parts and maintenance services, a timekeeper, nine armed security officers and a secretary.

At our facility here at LGB, we have 15 Airbus AS350 B2 patrol helicopters, two Airbus 332L1 Super Puma rescue helicopters, two Cessna 210 airplanes and a Beechcraft King Air B200. We are currently in the process of purchasing one more Airbus 332L1 Super Puma rescue helicopter to complement our fleet because we lost one in March of 2022 during a rescue operation. We have underground Jet A fuel tanks on the premises as well as fuel trucks. Aero Bureau occupies approximately 310,000 square feet of property at LGB.

**Q: What do you enjoy most about working at LGB?**

A: What I enjoy most about working at LGB are the nearby tenants and operators. Everyone we encounter always goes out of their way to assist us if issues arise. Events such as coffee with tower control personnel allow us to network and get valuable insight. Additionally, Long Beach is ideally centralized for our operation. We can reach many parts of Los Angeles County within a short period of time. The accessibility of freeways is very important as many staff members come from surrounding counties. Local businesses, especially the eating establishments, are also a plus when we have long days.

**Q: Do you have any hobbies or other parts about your personal life that you'd like to share?**

A: In my free time, which is rare, I enjoy spending time with my family. I am married to a sergeant who also works for the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and I am the stepmother to four adult children. I also enjoy spending time with three nieces, a brother, and my mother. We frequently visit Colorado, where my in-laws reside.

## Festival of Flight This Month!

Our biggest event of the year is coming in for a landing! Mark your calendar to attend the Festival of Flight on Saturday, October 19. The free community event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the airfield will feature static aircraft displays and aviation-themed exhibitors. Entertainment includes performances by the Satin Dollz, DJ Dennis and AbSOULute. Long Beach Airport is grateful to the Port of Long Beach for sponsoring the static aircraft. This year's lineup of aircraft is expected to include a KC-46 Pegasus, the Flabob Express DC-3, a Lockheed L-1011 and the Condor Squadron (aircraft displays subject to change). For more details visit [www.lgb.org/lbfof](http://www.lgb.org/lbfof).



**October 19, 2024 | 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.**

**Join us for the Festival of Flight, a FREE celebration**  
featuring food trucks, static aircraft and live entertainment.

*We encourage you to rideshare, use public transportation or park in the free overflow parking lot. Shuttle service available to and from the Festival of Flight.*

*No pets, coolers or large bags allowed. All bags subject to search.*

*For more information:  
[lgb.org/lbfof](http://lgb.org/lbfof) | [lgbarpt@longbeach.gov](mailto:lgbarpt@longbeach.gov)  
562-570-2678 or scan the QR code*



**Onsite Event Parking**

Event Site  
**LGB Airfield**  
Taxiway E  
3590 E. Wardlow Road  
Long Beach, CA 90807

**Shuttle Parking Site**  
3880 Kilroy Airport Way  
Long Beach, CA 90806



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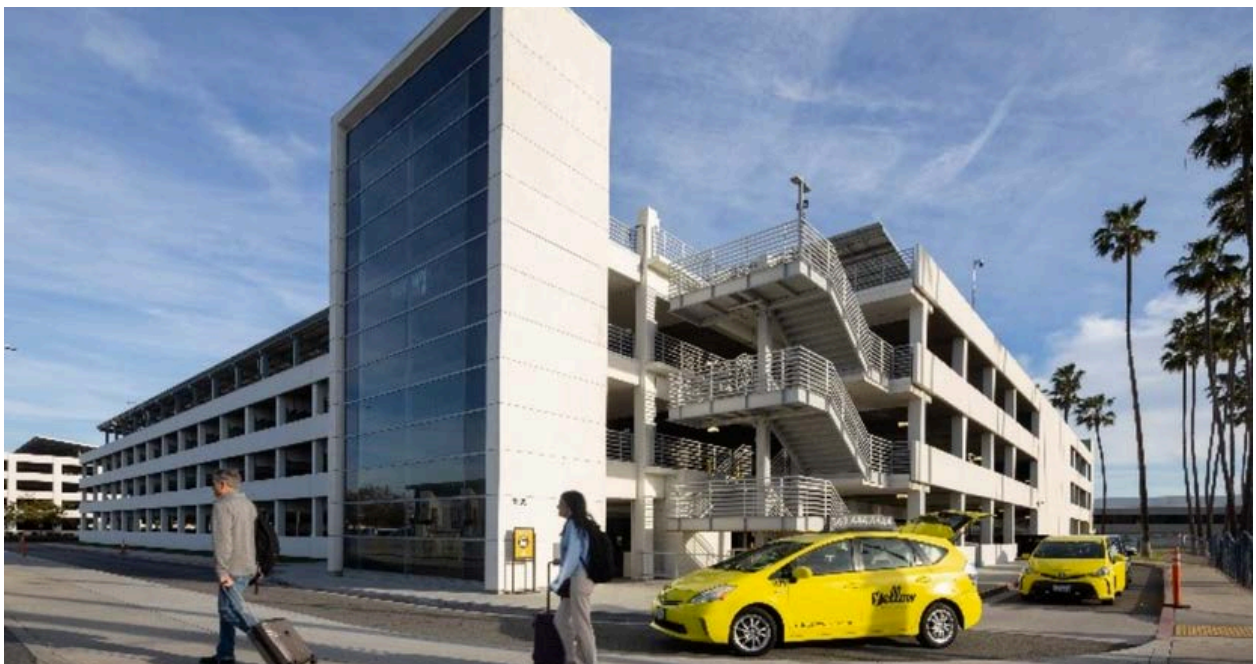
## Record Summer Passenger Traffic

It was a record-breaking summer at Long Beach Airport, and August's commercial passenger traffic played its part with 345,398 total travelers, representing an 11.4% increase over the same month the previous year. From June 1 to August 31, 2024 was the best summer travel season LGB has ever experienced with more than 1.1 million passengers coming through—up 14% over last summer and up 4% over the previous record summer in 2018. The impressive growth we're seeing underscores the trust travelers place in LGB as the gateway of choice in and out of Southern California, and we're outpacing industrywide projections and staying on track for our busiest fiscal year ever!

	AUG 2024	AUG 2023	% Change	AUG 2022	% Change	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	% Change	YTD 2022	% Change
<b>Passenger Traffic</b>										
Enplanements	172,831	156,023	10.8%	147,873	16.9%	1,396,961	1,200,490	16.4%	1,070,888	30.4%
Deplanements	172,567	153,891	12.1%	145,899	18.3%	1,399,688	1,196,228	17.0%	1,060,068	32.0%
<b>Total Passenger Traffic</b>	<b>345,398</b>	<b>309,914</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>293,772</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	<b>2,796,649</b>	<b>2,396,718</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>2,130,956</b>	<b>31.2%</b>
<b>Total Air Cargo (Tons)</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>-16.5%</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>7,942</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>	<b>9,017</b>	<b>-16.1%</b>

## Parking Structure Improvements Underway

In our ongoing effort to maintain the highest standards of parking operations at LGB, we are upgrading the existing equipment. Work started in Structure A in September and is now complete. Structure B's improvements will be underway through October 9. These upgrades will primarily impact entry and exit points, though at least one lane will remain open at all times. During the installation, the existing system will be temporarily non-operational. Therefore, attendants will be stationed at the entry and exit points to assist travelers with their fees and validate employee parking through their existing access cards. Please be aware that wait times may be slightly longer, particularly when exiting the parking structures. However, this upgrade is a valuable and modern technology investment that will enhance the overall efficiency and convenience of parking at LGB.



## LA Tech Week Includes Ampaire

Our business partners at Ampaire, a global leader in hybrid electric aircraft systems, are hosting a special on-campus event as part of 2024 LA Tech Week designed to bring together new space executives, early-stage and growth-stage hardtech startup founders and top business and engineering talent to explore how companies at different stages are tackling talent acquisition and retention. Long Beach Airport is proud to be one of the sponsors of the October 14 event hosted by Starburt and Ampaire in partnership with VAST, Auriga Space, Long Beach Accelerator, Rebel Space Technologies, Odys Aviation, Sunset Ventures, JetZero and Emerging LA, with support from the City of Long Beach. The ticketed event is open to the public with registration open now.

## Terminal Roadway Improvements Update

The Terminal Roadway Improvements Project to improve vehicular and passenger flow continues to progress. You may have spotted the palm trees that were placed and the enhanced landscape in front of our administrative offices at 4401 E. Donald Douglas Drive. Construction activities will continue weekdays, between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. For helpful travel tips, construction impacts and an overview of the project and its benefits visit [www.lgbroadimprovements.com](http://www.lgbroadimprovements.com).





## Seen at the Scene

Our LGB Live! summer concert season wrapped up last month. Twenty unique musical performances delighted travelers!



## Caltrans Inspection: "Excellent"

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Aeronautics recently conducted a state permit compliance inspection at Long Beach Airport. The safety assessment was conducted by Patrick Quinlan, Aviation Safety Officer for Caltrans, who found LGB's "infrastructure to be in excellent condition with no safety or permit compliance discrepancies."

## FAA Funds Electric Vehicles, Solar Trees

Long Beach Airport is honored to be a recipient of grant funding from the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) and Infrastructure Pilot Program for the acquisition of six electric airside operations vehicles—replacing gas-powered vehicles—and two solar-tree chargers. The \$680,851 grant was authorized by the Long Beach City Council last month with an additional \$72,803 to be funded through Airport revenue. The grant aligns with the Long Beach Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the ultimate goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2045, and with the Airport's strategic goals and objectives.

## History Highlight: Hispanic Heritage

For Hispanic Heritage Month, we'd like to highlight John Montijo, an experienced flight instructor for the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War I. Montijo moved to Long Beach and became one of the earliest licensed Hispanic pilots in the United States! He even provided flight instruction to Amelia Earhart! Read more about John in LGB's [centennial report](#).



Cynthia Guidry  
Airport Director

