

Media release

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Next generation of aviation fire fighters enter service

Airservices this week will welcome 23 new aviation rescue fire fighters into service at stations in Brisbane, Darwin, Launceston, Mackay, Perth, Rockhampton and Sydney.

It follows their graduation from Airservices Learning Academy in Melbourne on Friday 6 December.

They will join more than 790 fire fighters at the nation's busiest airports as part of Airservices Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) service, including 24 aviation fire fighters who graduated a fortnight ago on 22 November.

Aviation Fire Fighter Guy Bolton from Queensland was presented with the Silver Axe Award for the most outstanding recruit of the course, and will now join the ARFF service at Brisbane Airport.

Airservices Executive General Manager ARFF, Michelle Bennetts, said Airservices had one of the largest, most highly trained, professional aviation rescue and fire-fighting services in the world.

"Our fire fighters have the expertise to provide Australian airports and airline passengers with first-rate rescue and fire fighting services," Ms Bennetts said.

"Our aviation fire fighters are experts in their field and provide a vital, first response capability in the unlikely event of an aircraft incident."

Airservices General Manager Learning Academy, Linda Spurr, congratulated the graduates on successfully completing the demanding training course.

"This is the fourth group of fire fighting trainees to graduate with nationally recognised qualifications in aviation fire fighting in the last 12 months," Ms Spurr said. "They are also among 300 fire fighters to have trained at our hot fire training facility in Melbourne in the last year."

The recruits completed a physically and mentally demanding 11-week training course at Airservices Learning Academy in Melbourne.

Theoretical and practical training undertaken included fighting simulated aircraft and structural fires, aviation rescue techniques and dealing with the hazards of highly flammable aviation fuels.

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