

# Media release

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## Recruits ready – aviation fire fighters complete elite training

Seventeen highly trained aviation rescue fire fighters have completed an elite 11-week training course at Airservices Learning Academy at Melbourne Airport, preparing them to respond to any incident on or around the airport within a matter of minutes.

Graduating at a ceremony held today, the recruits completed theoretical and practical training including fighting simulated aircraft and structural fires, aviation rescue techniques and dealing with the hazards of highly flammable aviation fuels.

Airservices Acting General Manager Learning Academy, Stuart Hansford, congratulated the graduates on successfully completing the demanding course.

“Our new recruits have developed their skills and abilities as part of a demanding 11-week training course using our state-of-the-art fire training ground and I wish them well for their future careers at Airservices,” Mr Hansford said.

Aviation Fire Fighter Jake Bruce was presented with the Silver Axe Award for the most outstanding recruit of the course, and will now join the ARFF service at Alice Springs.

The other recruits will be based at stations in Adelaide, Ballina, Brisbane, Darwin, Gladstone, Melbourne, Rockhampton and Sunshine Coast. At their new stations, the recruits will offer a rapid response for aviation operations as well as first aid services for medical emergencies.

Airservices Executive General Manager Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting, Michelle Bennetts, said that Airservices has one of the largest, most highly trained, professional aviation rescue fire fighting services in the world.

“The fire fighters will join highly trained teams which provide a vital layer of safety for all users of the airport. The aviation rescue fire fighting service enhances the airport's capability to safely service future growth beyond current annual traffic levels,” Ms Bennetts said.

To meet increased demand and regulatory requirements at growing airports, new aviation fire stations have recently been officially opened at Gladstone Airport, Queensland and Newman Airport, Western Australia. New fire stations at Ballina and Coffs Harbour, New South Wales, are due to be officially opened in coming months.

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**Images of the graduation are available for download at <http://newsroom.airservicesaustralia.com> (registration required).**