

Media release

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Next generation of aviation fire fighters enter service

Airservices welcomed a further 24 aviation rescue fire fighters into service on Friday 11 April at a graduation ceremony held at the Airservices Learning Academy at Melbourne Airport.

The graduating recruits join more than 800 fire fighters at the nation's busiest airports as part of Airservices Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) service.

Aviation Fire Fighter Daniel Spring from Coffs Harbour 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.

Airservices Executive General Manager ARFF, Michelle Bennetts said the new recruits will work at stations in Alice Springs, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Hobart, Launceston, Mackay, Perth, Rockhampton and Sydney.

"Airservices has one of the largest, most highly trained, professional aviation rescue fire-fighting services in the world," Ms Bennetts said.

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

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.

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

"The new recruits have tested and demonstrated their skills and abilities through our state-of-the-art fire training ground," Ms Spurr said.

"Over the last seven years we have trained and developed nearly 350 new fire fighters and are continuing to witness the significant benefits of the 'true to life' hot fire training facility in Melbourne, which we opened a year ago."

For media inquiries contact Airservices Media on (02) 6257 2828 or by emailing media@airservicesaustralia.com

Get the latest news and updates via our Twitter account: @AirservicesNews.

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