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Rickenbacker International Airport's New ATC Tower

The Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK) is a cargo, civil, and military public airport located about 10 miles south of downtown Columbus, Ohio. In addition to being a logistical hub for freight, the airport is an important military airbase built shortly after the December 7, 1941, Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor.



The original air traffic control tower

By the end of 1942, the airport facility was known as the Lockbourne Army Airfield and was providing basic pilot training and military support. Later, Lockbourne was given the new name of Lockbourne Air Force Base (AFB), and in 1951, construction began on the original air traffic control (ATC) tower. The ATC tower at Rickenbacker has been a solid workplace for the airport's air traffic controllers as they have guided busy air traffic for the last 60 years. The old tower was even featured in the 1997 Harrison Ford movie named Air Force One.

The Lockbourne AFB was renamed the Rickenbacker AFB to honor Eddie Rickenbacker, who was a native of Columbus, OH. Rickenbacker was an ace

fighter pilot during World War I and earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic bravery during the war. The new name also ushered in a renewed era of growth for the airport, and in the last decade, Rickenbacker management decided a new tower should be constructed. The newly constructed tower became fully operational on April 23, 2016.



The new control cab is installed

The control cab's floor in the new tower rises 99 feet and provides a panoramic view for the Dynamic Science, Inc., (DSI) air traffic controllers as they direct air traffic. DSI would like to thank Tim Layne, the Site Manager, and Doug Wilson, ANG/ATCALS Program Manager, for their functional expertise and tireless efforts during the entire process. In addition, DSI extends special recognition to the vigilant air traffic controllers at Rickenbacker for keeping the air space safe and accident-free throughout the transition to the new tower.

Today, units of the U.S. Air National Guard, Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, and the Navy/Marine Reserve still maintain an active presence at the civil-military public airport. Since 2012, Allegiant Air has been providing passenger service at Rickenbacker and continues to

expand its low cost service. Amazon plans to build a one-million square-foot fulfillment center nearby and will add even more traffic volume for the airport. Throughout all the new developments at Rickenbacker, DSI's dedicated air traffic controllers will continue their work of ensuring safe air traffic at the airport.





New control tower (above) and control room (left)