



YEAGER AIRPORT

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PRESS RELEASE

HOME BASE PROGRAM HAS HUGE YEAR AT YEAGER AIRPORT

The Yeager Airport Home Base Program brought sixty-one military units to Yeager Airport in 2020, generating an estimated 2.1-million-dollar impact in Kanawha County. The average each unit spent while in Charleston, not including fuel sales, was nearly 7,000 dollars.

“This reinforces the importance of diversifying your income,” said Yeager Airport Director and CEO Nick Keller. “On the commercial side of CRW, 2020 was a tough year, but the military training made up for some of our losses.”

The Home Base Program, officially announced in July of 2020, is a partnership between the West Virginia National Guard, Yeager Airport, and Kanawha County Commission to increase military training in West Virginia.

Marshall University Center for Business and Economic Research used gross fuel sales revenue, hotel rates, and per diems given to each military member to come up with the two-million-dollar figure.

The average length of stay for each unit was four days, and the average per diem for each military member is 50 dollars per day. The largest unit to come through CRW was the United States Navy. They had three separate units, each with 100 sailors, in Charleston for two weeks.

“In June alone, there were only 8 days we didn’t have a military aircraft at Capital Jet Center,” said Military Operations Coordinator Ali Kiman. “The Home Base Program is a great resource to reach out to the military with and easily show units what CRW is capable of doing.”

These numbers do not include recreational activities military members do while training in West Virginia. On their off days, military members went white water rafting, rented ATVs, went fishing, and many other activities around the state.

“CRW’s goal is to be the biggest economic driver in West Virginia,” Keller stressed. “Being creative in the ways the airport generates revenue is how we are going to achieve that goal. I’m excited for the future of Yeager Airport.”

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