TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ALTITUDE

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP: TCIAA'S CEO GODFREY SMITH SAYS GOODBYE

A LEADER WITH HEART & VISION: MR. GODFREY SMITH DEPARTING JANUARY 2025

TCIAA HONORS VETERAN FIRE CHIEF

NEW FIRE HALL AT JAGS MCCARTNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEDICATED TO FIRST FIRE CHIEF OFFICER

HEADLINES

TCIAA TO HONOR FIRST CERTIFIED FIRE CHIEF. READ ABOUT PLANS TO DEDICATE TO MR. BEN JOHNSON ON P. 2

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP: TCIAA'S CEO SAYS GOODBYE **01**
MR. GODFREY SMITH DEPARTING JANUARY 2025

TCIAA HONORS VETERAN FIRE CHIEF **02**
NEW FIRE HALL AT JAGS MCCARTNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEDICATED TO FIRST CERTIFIED FIRE CHIEF OFFICER

A NEW CHAPTER FOR TCIAA'S MET TEAM **03**
THE EVOLUTION OF LAVARNO GARDINER

TCIAA'S LATEST DEVELOPMENTS & ACTIVITIES **04**
UPDATES ON UPGRADES, PROJECTS & TCIAA HAPPENINGS

TCIAA FIRE DEPARTMENT LEVELS UP THEIR SKILLS

In October 2024, members of the TCIAA Fire Services completed an intense DFWIA fire training course. Way to go #teamtciaa!

TCIAA'S CEO MR. GODFREY SMITH SAYS GOODBYE

A LEADER WITH HEART & VISION: MR. GODFREY SMITH DEPARTING JANUARY 2025

"IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE THIS ORGANIZATION"

GODFREY SMITH, TCIAA C.E.O

The Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA) has announced this month that CEO Godfrey Smith will step down in January 2025, bringing to a close a remarkable period of leadership and progress. Known for his open-minded approach and forward-thinking vision, Mr. Smith played a key role in strengthening TCIAA's infrastructure and influencing an environment where innovation and new ideas could flourish.

Colleagues and staff members describe him as a generous leader who always provided professional feedback, giving them the confidence to excel in their roles. His support also transcended the professional realm. Mr. Smith was also deeply compassionate, providing comfort and guidance to employees navigating personal challenges, including cancer survivor Vernamae Bain.

Reflecting on his tenure, Smith shared, "It has been an honor to serve this organization and contribute to the growth of the Turks and Caicos Islands." His time at TCIAA has been marked by significant achievements, from enhancing operations to prioritizing the development of local talent for future leadership through the enlisting of young professionals and providing opportunities for high school and college students through the first ever summer internship programme at TCIAA.

Hon. Arlington Musgrove, Minister of Border Control, commended Smith's work, recognizing the stable and capable organization he will leave behind. As the search for a new CEO begins, Smith and the TCIAA Board are committed to ensuring a seamless transition, continuing the Authority's promising trajectory for years to come.

TCIAA HONORS VETERAN FIRE CHIEF

NEW FIRE HALL AT JAGS MCCARTNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEDICATED TO FIRST FIRE CHIEF OFFICER

The Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA) is honored to announce that the new fire and rescue hall at JAGS McCartney International Airport will be dedicated to the first certified Chief Fire Officer ever, Mr. Benjamin A. Johnson. This meaningful tribute recognizes Mr. Johnson's historic contributions to public safety, aviation, and fire services in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The building, soon to be officially titled "*The Benjamin A. Johnson Fire and Rescue Services Building*", serves as a lasting testament to Johnson's life of service, commitment, and leadership. Expressing her gratitude for this honor, Johnson's daughter, Mrs. Melanie Smith, Founder and CEO of Talent Recruitment Group TCI, remarked

"On behalf of my siblings and I, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Directors of TCIAA for this deeply meaningful recognition of our father's legacy. We are incredibly moved by this gesture, which stands as a testament to his lifelong dedication to the fire and rescue services and the aviation industry in the Turks and Caicos Islands."

Celebrating his 81st birthday in September, Benjamin Johnson has led a life defined by dedication and growth. Starting as a messenger in 1957. His career evolved through roles in maritime and airport security before joining Civil Aviation in Turks and Caicos in 1980. This pivotal move set him on a groundbreaking path in fire safety and emergency services.

Johnson's commitment took him to training programs across the Caribbean and the UK, where he established himself as a leader in airport fire and rescue services. He served as Chief Fire Officer until 1998, later working with Ramada Hotel as Security Manager until 2004. Outside of his professional achievements, he is a beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

PROGRESS ON THE NEW FIRE HALL PROJECT

TCIAA Consultant Project Manager Kathy Walkin expressed excitement about this long-anticipated project, saying, "The firemen have been waiting for some time now for this project to come to fruition. We are finally happy to say that the vision has come to life."

The Benjamin A. Johnson Fire and Rescue Services Building will be officially named during a groundbreaking ceremony following the selection of a contractor. The tender process, which closes on January 8th, 2025, includes the project's architectural plans, available on the TCIAA website.

This new facility is a powerful blend of tradition and progress, honoring Chief Johnson's legacy and advancing airport safety.

ARCHITECTURAL RENDERS OF J.A.G.S. MCCARTNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FIRE & RESCUE HALL

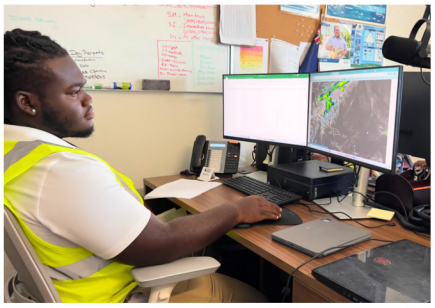
TCIAA'S MET TEAM TURNS TO A NEW CHAPTER

THE EVOLUTION OF METEOROLOGICAL ASSISTANT, LAVARNO GARDINER

Since our last update on Lavarno Gardiner's return to TCIAA following his completion of the Entry Level Meteorological Technician (ELMT) course in Barbados, his contributions to the MET Department have been nothing short of transformative. We recently caught up with Lavarno to learn more about his journey since rejoining the team as a Meteorological Assistant and how his training has impacted his role and our overall service to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Reflecting on his training, Lavarno shared that his time in Barbados provided him with a strong foundation for his current responsibilities. With his new skills, Lavarno's role has evolved from that of a trainee to an official MET Assistant, where he now plays an integral role in real-time weather observation, preparing daily forecasts, and enhancing the accuracy of weather reports critical to airport operations and safety.

Lavarno's journey has not only expanded his expertise but also brought a fresh perspective to the TCIAA. "The training taught me to stay vigilant, especially as weather can change from a fair day to bad weather in an instant," he notes. With this awareness, Lavarno is well-prepared to contribute to TCIAA's ongoing mission for innovation and improved techniques to help keep the skies safe.



SUPPORTING THE TEAM WITH EXPERTISE AND ENTHUSIASM

Dr. Holly Hamilton, Director TCIAA's Meteorology Department shared her enthusiasm on Lavarno's growth. She said "It has been wonderful to see him return home with newly acquired skills that will support our team and enhance our service to the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority and the Turks and Caicos Islands at large. The Meteorology Department is growing steadily, and we are proud to have young, bright Turks and Caicos Islanders like Lavarno, who bring great potential and enthusiasm to our field. We look forward to the valuable contributions he will make as we continue to strengthen our team."

For Lavarno, the journey has only just begun. He is eager to continue applying his skills and knowledge to serve the community, emphasizing the importance of vigilance and accuracy in his role. TCIAA is proud to see Lavarno thrive as part of our team.

TCIAA's MET Department manages The Turks and Caicos Islands National Weather Service. Be sure to follow @tcinws on social media for the latest updates on weather forecasts in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

TCIAA CORPORATE AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES ACI CERTIFICATE COURSE

Ms. Nikeva Ariza, Corporate Affairs and Communications Manager at the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority, has completed a specialized certification in Airport Communications and Public Relations through Airports Council International (ACI) in Montreal, Canada. This program offered valuable insights and frameworks for effective, professional engagement in diverse communications and PR scenarios within the airport sector.

TCIAA'S LATEST DEVELOPMENTS & ACTIVITIES

UPDATES ON UPGRADES, PROJECTS & TCIAA HAPPENINGS

NEW PROGRESSIVE HURRICANE SCREEN SHUTTERS

NBIS, SOUTH CAICOS

The Norman B. Saunders International Airport recently received an upgrade with the installation of new screen doors, giving the terminal area a fresh and modern look. More than just a facelift, these screen doors enhance passenger comfort in The Big South's tropical climate by improving airflow to maintain a cool, inviting atmosphere inside the terminal. They also add an extra layer of protection from insects and the elements during incumbent storms as well as dust storms. With this update, TCIAA continues to focus on making the passenger experience smoother and more enjoyable across all its airports.

TCIAA FINANCE TEAM ACHIEVES ACI FINANCE DIPLOMA MILESTONE

FINANCE, TCIAA ADMIN

TCIAA is proud of Mrs. Dadre Seymour, Finance Manager, and Mia Harvey, Financial Analyst, on their completion of the Airport Finance Diploma in just five months. Typically designed as a three-year program, their early completion highlights their commitment & professionalism in the industry. Both now plan to pursue the Airport Management Professional Accreditation Programme (AMPAP) within the next one to two years.

CELEBRATING COLLEAUGES ON DEPARMENT DAYS

HHIA, PROVIDENCIALES

This month we celebrated our Projects Department during a beachfront lunch. October was also an inspiring month for TCIAA of department celebrations. The Terminal team had a delightful dinner that included TCIAA CEO, Mr. Godfrey Smith. Our Air Traffic Control (ATC) team was next, enjoying a beach bash complete with games, great food, and a sense of camaraderie.

UPCOMING HR EVENTS FOR THE 2024 HOLIDAY SEASON

TCIAA ALL STAFF

The HR department is excited to host this year's holiday parties across all TCIAA locations! Mark your calendars! Be sure to contact HR for more details.

- **December 7th:** TCIAA Admin & HHIAA Staff
- **December 13th:** NBSIA Staff
- **December 17th:** J.A.G.S. McCartney International Airport Staff

OUR EDITOR

EASHER PARKER - TCIAA MEDIA OFFICER
EASHERPARKER@TCIAIRPORTS.TC // @easherparker

To our valued Readers,

Thank you for embarking on this exciting journey with us through the inaugural issue of Altitude. Your support and engagement fuel our passion as we strive to connect with the community, share our stories, and inspire. Stay tuned for more updates as we ascend to new heights!

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