

NEWS RELEASE

August 28, 2013

The West Houston Airport announced today that it was terminating its thirty year support of the Thunderbird Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. The Squadron which has long been occupying Airport donated property has been under scrutiny because of its lack of stewardship over its use and upkeep of the hangar and offices. After meeting with leadership, Airport officials announced that the Squadron would be leaving next month due to the Airport's inability to obtain assurances from members that its facilities would be kept up to Airport standards. The Airport recently had renovated a restroom in the hangar which CAP participants utilize. Airport management discussed photos taken after the CAP meeting showing the new facilities in deplorable condition. CAP leaders denied responsibility and stated they would not clean up after anybody.

The West Houston Airport has been donating the use of its facilities including hangar space for CAP aircraft and several thousand square feet of storage space and providing aviation fuel at its cost for years. General Avionics, a major tenant in the same hangar as the CAP, said "they've worn out their welcome." Airport Management indicated that the CAP's mission is a good one, but that current leadership was not accepting responsibilities which go along with the use of donated property and that reflects a poor role model for the young cadets. "The free use of donated properties comes with the understanding that the properties will be left in as good condition as received or better and this is just not happening and leadership will not take on any responsibility for it," said Airport Management.

West Houston Airport turned fifty years old last year and is supportive of numerous groups and organizations which use its facilities. For more information or to view how West Houston Airport supports the community, go to www.westhoustonairport.com.