

August 2026 – Aerospace Events and Litigation Review

A monthly review of significant events and litigation developments in the aviation and space industries, for the aerospace business and legal communities, our clients, and friends.

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Contents

Aviation, Commercial	1
Aviation, Military	7
Aerospace, Department of Justice & State Action	9
Space	10
Space, Human Spaceflight	12

Aviation, Commercial

August 1 – 13 die in tourist plane crash over Peru’s Nazca Lines: A small tourist plane crashed as it flew over the Nazca Lines archaeological site in southern Peru on Saturday, killing 13 people, authorities in Nazca province said. Peru’s Ministry of Commerce and Tourism said in a statement that the plane was carrying 11 foreign tourists and two crew members. The passengers were Italian, German and Spanish, Peru’s Ministry of Transport and Communications said. Local authorities said the plane crashed in the area of Pueblo Viejo, approximately 4 miles from the city of Nazca and roughly 7 miles from the Nazca Lines site. The small plane belonged to the local Peruvian airline Aerodiana, local authorities said, and had taken off from the Pisco Airport. The Cessna Caravan C-208 aircraft took off from Pisco Airport at 12:10 p.m., the Ministry of Transport and Communications said. The crew reported an emergency to Nasca Airport’s control tower at 1:00 p.m. while the plane was flying over the vicinity of the town of Socos before all radio contact was lost, it said. [NBC]; [Reuters]; [AeroTime].

August 1 – One man dead, two injured after second plane crashes in Blackfoot, Idaho, in single day: NTSB is investigating the Aug. 1 crash of a Cessna 172G airplane near Blackfoot, Idaho. [Aviation Safety Network]. A 27-year-old man is dead after an airplane crash late on Saturday night. Extraordinarily, it was the second airplane crash to occur at the Blackfoot City Airport on a single day. At about 11 p.m., Blackfoot Police Department responded to a plane crash on the north end of the airport, according to a department news release. The aircraft came to rest across Teeple’s Drive, and debris was blocking the roadway. Bingham County Coroner Jimmy Roberts confirmed the death of a 27-year-old man. Police confirm two others were in the aircraft, and were injured. [East Idaho News].

August 2 – WestJet flight attendants go on strike: VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Flight attendants with WestJet, Canada’s second-largest airline, went on strike Sunday in a dispute over pay. The Canadian Union of Public Employees, which represents the 4,400 cabin crew at the airline, announced the strike on its Facebook page. WestJet confirmed the strike and canceled 495

flights Sunday, according to FlightAware, snarling travel plans in Canada in the middle of a three-day weekend. The airline said Sunday that the strike led to travel being canceled for 250,000 travelers. A key issue in the dispute is how flight attendants should be paid for duties performed while still on the ground. The union said some of that work is unpaid, while the company said its staff was indeed compensated, citing pay through a “credit hour” system rather than an hourly rate. [AP].

August 2 – 2 killed when firefighting helicopters collide near Athens as Europe’s wildfire emergency rages: ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Two Greek firefighting helicopters collided in midair on Sunday as they were battling a wind-driven wildfire west of Athens, sending one aircraft crashing to the ground. Two crew members, a Greek and a Danish national, died in the crash. The aircraft were Bell helicopters operating over the Psatha area west of Athens, each with a two-person crew. [AP].

August 3 – FAA Statement on Certification of the Boeing 737 MAX-7: Following almost a decade of extensive review, the FAA has issued an amended type certificate and updated Production Limitation Record for the Boeing 737 MAX-7. The approval reflects years of sustained work to resolve complex technical issues and complete a thorough review of the airplane’s design and supporting safety analyses. Throughout the process, the FAA performed or directly reviewed significant work involving flight controls, system safety assessments, human factors, flightcrew alerting, and other novel, complex, or safety-critical areas, while also requiring testing, design changes, and additional analysis where necessary. Before granting approval, the FAA required the MAX-7 to incorporate key improvements that address requirements in the Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act and NTSB recommendations, including updates to the flight-control software, flightcrew alerting system, and a redesigned engine anti-ice system. These changes provide pilots clearer information and warnings and prevent the engine inlet from overheating and potentially weakening the surrounding structure. FAA safety inspectors will remain on site at Boeing production facilities across the country to closely monitor the manufacturing process, including observing and assessing Boeing’s Safety Management System (SMS) and safety culture. [FAA].

August 4 – Incident Airbus A320-251N VT-EXO: Air India Flight AI2379, an Airbus A320, encountered turbulence, causing injuries to 14 on board. The aircraft landed safely in Delhi. [Aviation Safety Network]; [ANInews.in].

August 4 – FAA awards \$870M for US airport infrastructure projects: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has awarded \$870 million for airport infrastructure projects across the United States, spanning projects such as a new access road at Los Angeles

International Airport (LAX) and terminal repairs at Miami International Airport (MIA). The latest funding package includes 339 grants for airports in 44 states and two US territories, the FAA announced on August 4, 2026. [AeroTime].

August 4 – Accident Cirrus SR22T GTS G7 platinum N625LK: A Cirrus SR22T GTS G7 GTS platinum, N625LK, crashed near Shevlin Park, west of Bend, Oregon. The sole pilot perished and the aircraft was destroyed. ADS-B data indicate that the aircraft took off from Bend at 13:34 local time. The aircraft flew an erratic flight path with many orbits and turns. During the final 2.5 hours of the flight, the aircraft remained flying orbits with a diameter of about 1.3 nm at the same location until it crashed. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 4 – Accident Piper PA-24-250 Comanche N8422P: A Piper PA-24-250 Comanche, N8422P, crashed under unknown circumstances near Bethany, MO. The pilot, who was the sole occupant, was killed. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 4 & 5 – Suspected explosive disrupts Leipzig airport: Leipzig/Halle Airport (LEJ) partially suspended flight operations overnight from August 4 to August 5, 2026, after police responded to reports of an unidentified flying object and a suspicious item found near the airport's south runway, the Leipzig police directorate (Polizeidirektion Leipzig) said in a statement. Police said the flying object was first sighted around 23:40 local time on August 4, prompting several aircraft, including one passenger flight, to divert to other airports. Marabu Airlines flight DI6777, an Airbus A320neo arriving from Palma de Mallorca (PMI), was diverted to Nuremberg Airport (NUE). Officers later found an object near the south runway, which federal police (Bundespolizei) examined using a bomb disposal robot. Flight operations resumed on the north runway at 01:55 on August 5, though the south runway remained closed as investigations continued. [AeroTime]; [AP]. **UPDATE, August 12: DNA links Leipzig drone attack to suspected GRU plot:** German investigators have recovered a DNA trace from the explosive-laden drone found at Leipzig/Halle Airport (LEJ) that matches evidence secured after the July 20, 2024, incendiary attack on the airport's DHL logistics center, German outlets Bild and Die Zeit reported on August 10, 2026. The trace has not been matched to a named individual. According to the reporting, it returned a hit in the European DNA database and is registered in Lithuania, where five men are currently on trial over the parcel campaign that produced the 2024 fire. German authorities have not commented on the reported match. [AeroTime].

August 4 & 5 – Cargo jet diverted after mid-air collision with unidentified object near Leipzig airport: A DHL-operated cargo aircraft collided with an unidentified object near Leipzig airport and diverted for an emergency landing in Hanover, Reuters reported, citing a source familiar with the incident. "We've got plans for cases like this, and we'll try to make sure that the influence on our customers will be as low as possible," DHL Group CEO Tobias Meyer said during the company's Q2 2026 investor call on August 5, 2026. Although authorities have not identified the aircraft publicly, flight-tracking data from Flightradar24 indicate that the damaged aircraft may have been EAT Leipzig Airbus A300 freighter D-AZML, operating flight BCS7JG from Madrid (MAD). German media reported the collision occurred roughly six kilometers from the airport at an altitude of about 400 meters, and that the aircraft sustained minor damage to its nose

section. Police in Lower Saxony classified the incident as a state security offense and have not ruled out sabotage, Bild reported. Authorities in Saxony and Lower Saxony are investigating in parallel, working alongside federal police. [AeroTime].

August 5 – Piper barely misses highway sign in emergency landing: A flight instructor flying with a student on his first lesson avoided disaster by guiding their Piper PA-28 beneath an overhead highway sign and between moving vehicles during an emergency landing on Interstate 10 in Florida. Dashcam video recorded by truck driver Eric Jordan shows the aircraft descending toward the eastbound lanes near Pensacola on August 3, 2026. The FAA said the pilot of the Piper made the emergency landing at around 10:55 local time. Two people were aboard, and no injuries were reported. The agency is investigating. The aircraft was a 1974 Piper PA-28-151 Cherokee Warrior, registration N41622, according to FAA registration records. The single-engine aircraft is used by Pensacola Air Flight School. Flight instructor Emily Shelton, 21, was flying with the student. She informed air traffic controllers that the aircraft's engine oil pressure was falling into the red and that fumes from burning oil were entering the cockpit. [AeroTime].

August 6 – Texas husband, wife killed in plane crash near Bogalusa Airport: A husband and wife died after a small plane crashed in a wooded area near the Bogalusa Airport on Thursday morning, Washington Parish officials confirmed. The victims were identified as 68-year-old William "Bill" and Tommie Day of Seguin, Texas. The Beech H35 airplane crashed around 10:48 a.m. off airport property, officials said. [WWLTV.com]; [Aviation Safety Network].

August 7 – Glider Fatality in Bertram: NTSB is investigating the crash of a PZL-Bielsko B1-PW-5 glider [Politechnika Warszawska PW-5 Smyk] in Bertram, Texas; fatality of pilot is reported. [NTSB-X]; [Aviation Safety Network].

August 7 – MAG demands pilots/cabin crew given mandatory drug screening: All 1,260 Malaysia Airlines pilots are to undergo mandatory drug screening as the airline launches a response to news that a second officer had been arrested in Indonesia on alleged drug smuggling charges. On August 6, 2026, parent-company Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) declared that as an "immediate step," it had begun the first phase of mandatory drug screening for all pilots across its airlines, starting with Malaysia Airlines. In a strongly worded statement, the company said that "in addition, the Group will implement mandatory drug screening for all active pilots, complementing its existing random testing program". "The program will subsequently be expanded to active cabin crew," it added. MAG stated that it will "conduct stricter screening" set to go "beyond industry practice". [AeroTime].

August 7 – Oregon pilot deliberately crashes Cirrus in Oregon: Authorities in Oregon have announced that a pilot has deliberately crashed a Cirrus SR22T in a remote wooded area after spending more than five hours circling west of the city of Bend. Steven Nicholas Charlton, 48, took off from Bend Municipal Airport at about 13:30 local time on August 4, 2026, according to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. Charlton had been indicted earlier that day on five felony counts of first-degree invasion of personal privacy, as shown by Deschutes County court records. The aircraft remained airborne for just over five hours before crashing at 18:46. Charlton was the only

person aboard and died in the crash. No one else was injured, and authorities reported no damage to property on the ground. “Detectives with the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office have determined that the pilot of a Cirrus SR22T aircraft intentionally brought the plane down,” the agency said. Law enforcement tried to contact Charlton while the aircraft circled over the heavily forested area, but reportedly he told sheriff’s office he wanted to speak only with members of his family. The unusual flight prompted a large response, involving the sheriff’s office, federal law enforcement, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Bend Fire & Rescue, the Central Oregon Emergency Response Team and the Central Oregon Irrigation District. The FBI also contacted the Air Force base at Klamath Falls as a precaution, the sheriff’s office has said. Authorities have not shared details of what response, if any, the military had prepared. The charges involved allegations that he recorded two people while they were nude and had a reasonable expectation of privacy. The aircraft was a 2025 Cirrus SR22T, registration N625LK. FAA records show it was registered to So Fly Aviation LLC of Eugene, Oregon, with its airworthiness certificate issued in March 2025. The sheriff’s office noted the Cirrus struck the ground at high speed and did not catch fire, as it presumably had run out of fuel. [AeroTime]; [NTSB Data].

August 8 – Officials say helicopter pilots who crashed while fighting Utah wildfire are dead: Two helicopter pilots who crashed while they were fighting a wildfire in Utah are dead, officials confirmed Saturday. The pilots were killed when their Sikorsky Skycrane helicopter went down Friday morning, according to the Sevier County Sheriff. The helicopter was among those fighting a fire in the Fishlake National Forest. The crash ignited a new fire that spread to connect with the existing blaze, which has now scorched nearly 174 square miles (nearly 451 square kilometers). Officials did not identify the pilots but said they were employed by Helicopter Transport Services, which was contracted by the U.S. Forest Service. Initially officials said they were unable to reach the crash site because of the fire. Then, on Saturday, crews were able to enter the area and confirmed the deaths, according to the Sevier County sheriff and coroner. [AP]; [Hype Aero].

August 8 – Emergency return: 200 passengers evacuate Delta flight in Atlanta: A Boeing 757 operating as Delta Flight 2204 departed Atlanta for Orlando on Saturday carrying 199 customers and six crew members. Shortly after takeoff, the flight crew declared an emergency and navigated the plane back to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport due to reports of fumes in the cockpit, according to a Delta spokesperson. First responders met the aircraft on an airport taxiway, where travelers and crew members evacuated the jet using emergency slides. Ground crews then transported everyone by bus back to the main terminal, according to airline officials. [FOX 5 Atlanta]; [Hype Aero]; [AeroTime]; [The Aviation Herald].

August 8 – Accident Robinson R44 Raven PP-MFS: A Robinson R44 Raven crashed during a sightseeing flight into a wooded hillside of the Vista Chinesa area, near Alto da Boa Vista, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and burst into flames. All four occupants perished and the helicopter was destroyed. [Aviation Safety Network]; [NTSB Data].

August 8 – Accident Ultralight: An ultralight plane crashed under unknown circumstances near Dunningen, Germany. The pilot died in the crash. It was reported that the pilot attempted to deploy the

aircraft’s emergency parachute, but the attempt failed. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 8 – Accident Cessna 150F CS-DIP: An aircraft departed from Portimão airfield, in the Algarve, Portugal, for a Banner Towing aerial work, which is very common in the Algarve in summer. Sources state that the aircraft departed normally, performed a pattern and, when the aircraft picked up the banner, started to roll to the left and impacted the ground with nose down attitude near the runway. A fatality is reported. [Aviation Safety Network]; [NTSB Data].

August 9 – Accident Dyn'Aéro MCR4S F-PGRJ: A Dyn'Aéro MCR4S crashed near Uetersen-Heist Airfield, Germany. The pilot died in the crash. ADS-B data indicate that the flight departed Reinsdorf Airfield (EDOD) at 11:26 local time. It landed at Uetersen Airfield (EDHE) at 12:45. The aircraft refueled and then took off again from runway 09 at 12:57. The aircraft lost engine power immediately after takeoff and tried to turn back to the runway, the speed dropped and the aircraft commenced a spin and crashed in a wooded area. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 9 – Accident Avid Mark IV N77FB: An experimental Avid Mark IV, kit built by Fritz M. Bachem, crashed under unknown circumstances between Overton and Arp, Texas. The sole pilot and owner was killed. The purpose of the flight was for the pilot and his friend to fly a memorial service. [Aviation Safety Network]; [NTSB-X].

August 10 – Boeing 737 Max Door Plug Suits Get Special Discovery Judge: A Washington state court appointed retired King County Superior Court Judge Bruce W. Hilyer to oversee discovery matters in more than a dozen lawsuits related to the January 2024 blowout of a Boeing 737 Max 9 jet door plug that allegedly left passengers with physical and emotional injuries. [Law360].

August 12 – 2 killed in small plane crash near Payson, officials say: Two people were killed after a plane crashed and caught fire west of Payson, Arizona, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The FAA listed one flight crew member and one passenger killed in the crash on Aug. 10. The Glasair Sportsman 2+2 was destroyed, and the agency reported a postcrash fire, according to an incident notification released Aug. 12. At about 3 p.m. on Aug. 11, the occupants of the plane were identified as Brad Lawrence, 75, and Carter Buckner, 19, both residents of Payson, according to the Gila County Sheriff’s Office. Hundreds of people expressed their condolences on Facebook, according to the Gila County Sheriff’s Office. [MSN-Arizona Republic]; [NTSB-data].

August 12 – FlightAware sues Kalshi over flight cancellation bets: Flight-tracking company FlightAware has sued prediction-market operator Kalshi, accusing the service of using its data and trademark without permission to settle wagers on US flight cancellations. The lawsuit, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleges Kalshi used FlightAware data in prediction markets that allow users to wager money on how many flights will be canceled in a given period of time. FlightAware is seeking a temporary restraining order and permanent injunction to stop Kalshi from using its data and brand in connection with the markets. [AeroTime].

August 12 – COMAC C919 completes first international commercial flight, entering service between Beijing and Ulaanbaatar: An Air China C919 flew from Beijing to Ulaanbaatar on Aug. 12, marking the Chinese narrowbody’s first scheduled commercial

operation outside China. The milestone advances COMAC's effort to establish the C919 as a competitor to the Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 in global passenger aviation. [Hype/Aviation].

August 12 – Norwegian Air Affiliates Seek Boeing Exec Depo In 737 Case: Norwegian Air subsidiaries that claim Boeing duped them into a 737 Max deal by overstating the jets' safety urged a Washington federal judge Tuesday to order the deposition of a former Boeing executive, contending he has unique insight into information shared with top corporate leaders during the aircraft's development. [Law360].

August 13 – Heart Aerospace completes first flight of X1 battery-electric demonstrator: Heart Aerospace has announced that it has completed the successful first flight of its X1 full scale hybrid-electric demonstrator. The aircraft took off from Plattsburgh International Airport (PBG) in upstate New York, for an initial flight that lasted 27 minutes. During the flight, it reached an altitude of 1,100 feet (335 meters). While the X1 prototype is entirely powered by a battery-electric system, which delivered more than one megawatt of power during its initial flight, it serves as a test bank for the ES-30 airliner, which will also feature a thermal engine for extended range and payload. [AeroTime]; [Hype/Aviation].

August 13 – WestJet agrees to US\$3.2M settlement in harassment lawsuit: WestJet has agreed to pay CA\$4.5 million (US\$3.2 million) to settle a decade-long class action lawsuit brought by thousands of female flight attendants over workplace harassment, with a British Columbia Supreme Court judge approving the settlement on August 10, 2026. The lawsuit was originally filed in 2016 by former flight attendant Mandalena Lewis, who alleged she was sexually assaulted by a pilot during a 2010 layover in Hawaii and that WestJet failed to properly investigate after she reported the incident. According to case details published by JFK Law LLP, the class action was formally certified by the British Columbia Court of Appeal in April 2022, following years of legal challenges from WestJet seeking to have the case dismissed or moved to a different forum. [AeroTime].

August 13 – Mount Etna Closure Puts Pressure on Sicily's Airport Network: Airport operator SAC said air traffic at Catania will remain suspended until 4 p.m. local time Thursday, Aug. 13, after aviation authorities extended restrictions on the affected sector of airspace over eastern Sicily. Passengers have been advised to check flight status directly with their airlines. The closure extends several days of disruptions caused by renewed activity at Mount Etna, Europe's highest and most active volcano. Catania, Sicily's primary air gateway and Italy's fifth-busiest airport by passenger traffic, according to Reuters, has experienced repeated cancellations, diversions and operating restrictions as volcanic activity and shifting winds have affected the region. The prolonged disruption is creating operational and passenger management challenges across Sicily's airport network. [AviationPros].

August 13 – US court awards \$29 million in damages to family of Boeing plane crash victim: A Chicago jury awarded \$29 million in damages to the family of an Irish-born United Nations employee who died in a 2019 Boeing 737 MAX crash, a US court spokesman said Wednesday. The civil suit was brought against Boeing by Naoise Connolly Ryan, widow of Michael "Mick" Ryan, an engineer with the UN World Food Programme who was one of the victims in the

Ethiopian Airlines crash that killed all 157 people on board. Ryan had worked during the Ebola crisis in Liberia and with Rohingya refugees. A UN memorial page to Ryan, who was 39 at the time of the crash, also recognized his work Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Ethiopia. The case is one of the final remaining civil suits pending against Boeing following the pair of deadly MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019 that together claimed 346 lives. [LeMonde].

August 14 – NTSB: Ryanair 737 engine had five suspected bird strikes: Bird remains and feathers were found inside the damaged engine of a Ryanair Boeing 737-800 that was involved in a July 2026 uncontained engine failure over Greece that left a passenger partially pulled through a shattered window, according to a preliminary report from the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The same engine had been involved in four other suspected bird strikes during the previous 12 months, with bird remains found after two of those earlier incidents, the NTSB noted. According to investigators, a fan blade in the aircraft's right engine fractured shortly after takeoff from Thessaloniki on July 10, 2026, sending engine debris into the fuselage and horizontal stabilizer. One fragment struck and broke a passenger window in Row 11, causing a rapid loss of cabin pressure. [AeroTime]; [NTSB, Accident Number: DCA26FA274]; [Hype/Aviation].

August 14 – Accident Piper PA-28-161 Warrior II: A Piper PA-28-181 Warrior II, enroute to Caernarfon Airport (EGCK), Wales, crashed near Trawsfynydd. Multi agency search was started at 1200 BST after aircraft had not landed at Caernarfon Airport. Both Occupants Perished and the aircraft was destroyed. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 14 – Accident Eurocopter AS 350B2 Ecureuil D-HEWU: A Eurocopter AS 350B2 Ecureuil crashed and caught fire in a forest near Sehmatl in the Ore Mountains whilst carrying out lime-spreading work. The pilot perished and the helicopter was destroyed by fire. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 14 – Two American Airlines 737s Shared a Callsign Near Phoenix, Creating a Dangerous ATC Mix-Up: Two American Airlines Boeing 737s operating near Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport used the same flight number while on the same ATC frequency. One crew accepted instructions intended for the other, forcing a controller to intervene and maintain separation as an arriving flight and departure converged. [Hype/Aviation]; [The Aviation Herald].

August 17 – Accident JMB VL-3: An ultralight plane crashed under unknown circumstances in Champrond-en-Gâtine (Eure-et-Loir). Both occupants died in the crash. The ultralight plane was completely destroyed by fire. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 17 – US Rep. Kathy Castor Urges Tampa International Not To Privatize Security: Tampa International Airport is forgetting the "lessons learned" from the Sept. 11 attacks in announcing plans to turn security over to private companies, U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor wrote in a letter to airport officials this week. The airport has opted into a new Transportation Security Administration Gold+ program in July. That program makes a private contractor responsible for providing and maintaining security equipment. It also makes all security workers private employees. The Transportation Security Administration has not yet announced a contractor for Tampa International. All screenings

would still follow the administration's federal standards. "This proposal arrives as we approach the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks — a painful reminder of what happens when airport security is left to private firms with high turnover and inconsistent training," Castor, D-Tampa, wrote in her letter. Before the Sept. 11 attacks, airlines hired private companies to run security. That's different from Gold+, under which the Transportation Security Administration would choose the private company to manage screenings and the workforce. Some, mostly smaller, airports already have turned to private security under a different federal program. Twenty of 430 commercial airports nationwide have made the switch. The difference now is that Gold+ also puts screening equipment under the purview of private contractors, not just staffing. [AviationPros].

August 17 – Accident Bell 206 JetRanger: A Bell 206 JetRanger crashed for unknown reasons when approaching Sifnos Heliport, Sifnos, Greece. The pilot and two British passengers perished and the helicopter was destroyed. Bellavia Aviation Services operates with three Bell JetRanger helicopters: SX-HCZ, SX-HGM and SX-HLL. [Aviation Safety Network]; [Hype/Aviation]; [AeroTime].

August 18 – Knight v. NTSB, No. 25-1158 (D.C. Cir. 2026): A pilot was selected for a random drug test at work and tested positive for amphetamine, a prohibited substance under federal aviation regulations. He was immediately grounded by his employer but later reinstated after completing a return-to-duty process. The pilot explained that he had inadvertently ingested his son's prescription medication, Vyvanse, mistaking it for his own, due to a stressful family medical emergency and similar-looking pill bottles. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) initiated proceedings to revoke his pilot and medical certificates, as such a violation typically warrants revocation. The case was first heard by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), who found that the pilot had violated the regulations but reduced the sanction from revocation to a 90-day suspension, citing mitigating circumstances. Both parties appealed. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) reviewed the case de novo, concluded the pilot had proven his accidental-ingestion defense by a preponderance of the evidence, and upheld the 90-day suspension. The NTSB found aggravating factors as well, including the pilot's failure to report the ingestion before performing safety-sensitive duties. The pilot then sought attorney's fees and expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), arguing that he was the prevailing party. An ALJ granted his application, but the NTSB reversed, concluding that although the pilot prevailed in obtaining a reduced sanction, the FAA's position in seeking revocation was substantially justified. On review, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit held that the NTSB's decision was supported by substantial evidence. The court denied the petition for review, holding that the FAA's actions throughout the proceedings had a reasonable basis in law and fact. [Justia].

August 19 – NTSB Releases Docket Info on Philadelphia Learjet Medevac Accident: The NTSB has opened the docket on the crash of a medevac Learjet 55 on Jan. 31, 2025, in Philadelphia. Eight people died as a result of the accident, including six on board the airplane and two people on the ground (one died in April 2025 as a result of injuries suffered in the accident). The Learjet took off from Northeast Philadelphia Airport (KPNE) at 18:06 local time, heading to

Missouri's Springfield-Branson National Airport (KSGF). After takeoff, the Learjet climbed into an overcast layer of clouds at 400 feet agl, according to the NTSB, at 2,300 fpm and 191 knots calibrated airspeed. The rate of climb decreased, and it began to descend from 1,650 feet msl at 18:06:56. The last ADS-B data point was recorded at 18:07:03, and at that point the Learjet was descending at 10,000 fpm, with the calibrated airspeed continuing to increase, "reaching 300 knots at the end of the ADS-B data," the NTSB reported. [AIN]; [NTSB].

August 19 – Flight crew face highest radiation cancer risk: study: A new study has found that flight attendants and pilots face the highest risk of dying from radiation-related cancers among more than 500 occupations studied in the United States, surpassing even workers who handle radioactive materials directly. The findings were published August 17, 2026, in JAMA Internal Medicine. The research, led by Dr. Vishal Patel of Harvard Medical School, analyzed more than 12 million US death certificates from 2020 to 2024 using the National Vital Statistics System, drawing on data from nearly 13 million decedents across 503 occupations, including roughly 14,000 pilots and 7,000 flight attendants. Researchers examined deaths from cancers linked to radiation exposure, including leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and cancers of the skin, breast, thyroid, prostate, and central nervous system, while excluding lung cancer to avoid confounding the results with smoking-related risk. [AeroTime].

August 19 – Seven killed in EC130 helicopter crash in Kenya: Five Americans were among seven people killed when a tourist helicopter crashed in a remote area of northern Kenya on August 19, 2026. The Eurocopter EC130 B4, registered 5Y-GYM, was carrying six passengers and one pilot when it crashed near Kirish, close to Mount Ololokwe in Samburu County. The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) said the accident occurred at approximately 09:13 local time while the helicopter was flying from Loisaba Conservancy to the Ewaso Nyiro area. The aircraft was operated by Lady Lori Helicopters and was carrying guests of luxury safari company &Beyond. "We can confirm that on the morning of August 19, an aircraft registered as 5Y-GYM, carrying &Beyond guests, crashed near Kirish, close to Mt. Ololokwe in Samburu County, Kenya," the company said in a statement. The US State Department confirmed that five US citizens were among those killed. The EC130 B4 is a seven-seat, single-engine helicopter developed by Eurocopter, now part of Airbus Helicopters. The type is widely used for sightseeing and charter flights because of its large cabin, low external noise and unobstructed views. [AeroTime]; [AIN]; [Aviation Safety Network].

August 19 – Small plane crashes into state police helicopter near runway in Pennsylvania: A small plane [Cessna 150] collided with a Pennsylvania State Police helicopter [Bell 407] hovering several feet off the ground during a routine training exercise at a small airport. The pilot was killed, but the troopers suffered only minor injuries. [CBS]; [Hype/Aviation]; [Aviation Safety Network, &]; [AVweb].

August 20 – Pilot dies after plane crashes into harbor in Bristol, Maine: Maine officials say a plane crash off the coast of Bristol has left the pilot dead and the lone passenger of the aircraft injured. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office said that at 1 p.m. Thursday, the county's 911 center received calls reporting a plane crash near Fort William Henry in Bristol. Crews from the Bristol Fire and Rescue Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and Lincoln

County Ambulance were dispatched to the scene. First responders found a small, single-engine airplane lying upside down in Pemaquid Harbor in about 4 feet of water. Video captured by a Maine's Total Coverage photographer showed that the wreckage was close to shore. [WMTW8]; [WGAN]; [Aviation Safety Network].

August 20 – Incident Beechcraft 200 Super King Air C-GEDV: A Beechcraft 200 Super King Air made an emergency landing on Foothills Boulevard, north of Prince George, British Columbia, and subsequently collided with two vehicles. The accident resulted in the separation of the No.1 propeller and severe damage to the left wing. One occupant of a vehicle perished and the eight occupants of the aircraft were unharmed and the aircraft received substantial damage. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 20 – Charter plane crash kills 8 near remote radar site in western Alaska: A charter aircraft carrying eight people crashed at a remote radar site in western Alaska on Thursday, killing all on board, the U.S. military said. The crash happened near Cape Newenham Long Range Radar Site Airport, approximately 450 miles (725 kilometers) west of Anchorage, Alaska. "This is a devastating loss for our military family and the communities we serve," U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Davis, commander of Alaskan Command, the Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region and Eleventh Air Force, said in a statement. The radar site is managed by the Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center. It's part of a network of remote radar sites that tracks aircraft operating in Alaska's airspace and along its borders, the statement from Alaskan Command said. The statement did not provide details on the specific work the individuals were doing. It referred to the plane involved as a "civilian-contracted aircraft." [AP]; [Aviation Safety Network]; [AVweb].

August 21 – 11th Circuit vacates DOT order dissolving Delta–Aeromexico joint venture: The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Department of Transportation's order stripping Delta Air Lines and Aeromexico of antitrust immunity was "arbitrary and capricious." The decision preserves the carriers' transborder joint operations and overturns the department's effort to dismantle the partnership. [Hype/Aviation]; [Reuters].

August 21 – Accident Diamond HK-36TC-100 Super Dimona D-KWZE:

A Diamond HK-36TC-100 Super Dimona crashed in inclement weather in a mountainous and wooded area at the Paklenica National Park, Croatia, 60 km NE of Zadar. Both occupants perished and the motorglider was destroyed. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 22 – Accident Schleicher ASW 24 D-3624: A Schleicher ASW 24 crashed in the vicinity of Rieti Airfield (QRT/LIQN), Rieti, Lazio, Italy, during a sports competition. The pilot perished and the glider received substantial damage. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 23 – Laptop catches fire on American Airlines flight: At least four people suffered burns after a laptop battery caught fire onboard an American Airlines flight, several media outlets reported. The incident happened on American Airlines flight 2398 between Atlanta (ATL) and Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) on August 21, 2026. At least one of the passengers required medical attention after the aircraft landed in Texas, although the burns did not require hospitalization. The pilots reported to air traffic control (ATC) that smoke had been detected at the back of the cabin and cabin crew managed to put out the

fire. Upon landing without further incident, the aircraft, an Airbus A321, was able to taxi to its assigned gate, where medical staff were waiting to take care of the affected passengers. [AeroTime].

August 24 – Mid-air collision Accident JMB VL-3-RG Evolution D-MGMD: Two light aircraft collided mid-air near Langenlois, Krems, Austria. Both pilots died in the crash. Initial reports state one aircraft was departing LOAG, while the other was returning to LOAG following a glider tow flight. ADS-B data indicates a JMB VL-3, D-MGMD departed LOAG about the reported accident time, with the final datapoint being registered 1,1 km NNW of the airfield. Second aircraft involved was an Aerospool WT-9 Dynamic registration OE-7127. [Aviation Safety Network & ASN].

August 24 – WestJet Flight Attendants Ratify New Collective Agreement: WestJet flight attendants ratified a new collective agreement following a strike that grounded hundreds of flights in Canada earlier this month. The Canadian Union of Public Employees, which represents about 4,400 flight attendants, said Monday about 90% voted in favor of ratifying the new agreement. [WSJ].

August 24 – Accident Airbus A350-941 F-HREY: French Bee flight BF5761 from Montréal to Paris-Orly, operated by a A350-900, F-HREY, was involved in an accident involving a pushback tug. The driver of the tug was critically injured and died later at a hospital. The circumstances are currently unknown. [AviationSafetyNetwork].

August 25 – Third drone, explosives found near Leipzig Airport: German authorities found a third drone and more explosives at an additional location near Leipzig/Halle Airport (LEJ) over a week after two other UAVs were involved in incidents around the area, according to latest media reports. According to NDR, WDR and Süddeutsche Zeitung, on August 14, 2026, a previously unknown drone was discovered in a field in Kabelsketal, to the west of Leipzig/Halle Airport. [AeroTime].

August 25 – Unidentified odor forces SWISS Boeing 777 diversion: A SWISS Boeing 777-300ER flying from Chicago to Zurich diverted to the Azores on August 25, 2026, after what the airline described as a "pungent odor" spread through the economy-class cabin, leaving several people feeling ill. SWISS Flight LX9 was about midway across the Atlantic when the crew opted to divert to Lajes Airport on Terceira Island, according to a statement from SWISS. [AeroTime].

August 25 – Accident Air Tractor AT-502B C-GGHS: An Air Tractor AT-502B crashed under unknown circumstances in a field about 15 nautical miles northeast of Rosetown, Saskatoon, when approaching Rosetown Aiport (CJX4). The pilot perished and the aircraft received substantial damage. [AviationSafetyNetwork].

August 26 – South Korean police seek indictments of seven transport officials over Jeju Air crash cover-up allegations: Police have referred seven South Korean transport ministry officials to prosecutors over alleged efforts to conceal that a localizer was unfit before the 2024 Jeju Air crash. The accident killed 179 of the 181 people aboard, making the officials' potential accountability a central safety and oversight issue. [Hype/Aviation].

August 26 – Accident Tecnam P2002-JF OE-CLJ: A Tecnam P2002-JF crashed under unknown circumstances into Lake Atter, Steinbach area, Upper Austria. It is reported this was a training flight with two German nationals onboard, a 25-year old flight instructor and 20-year old student. By the end of the mishap day, the wreck had been

located approximately 160 meters below the lake surface. Remote camera imagery revealed the two occupants still being strapped in their seats. Especially the front section of the airplane received heavy damage. A specialised firm will be tasked with salvaging the wreck and its occupants in an appropriate way, which is planned for Saturday 29 August 2026, weather depending. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 26 – Wirestrike Accident Magni M16: In the area of the Campliccioli reservoir, Italy, at an altitude of 1,400 meters in the upper Antrona Valley, a helicopter struck cable-car lines above the reservoir, burst into flames, and crashed to the ground. The two people on board died. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 26 – Accident Piper PA-24-260 Comanche: A Piper PA-24-260 Comanche clipped some trees and crashed into the waters of Seldovia Slougon approach to Seldovia Airport (SOV/PASO), Seldovia, Alaska. The aircraft was submerged in 15 feet of water. The bodies of the four occupants were recovered by State Troopers at low tide. [Aviation Safety Network]; [Flying].

August 27 – Accident Tecnam P2006T VT-NBV: A Tecnam P2006T twin-engine training aircraft, VT-NBV crashed approximately 5 NM from Kanpur Civil Airport, near Ganga Barrage, India. The aircraft was on a training flight in the Local Flying Area of Kanpur Civil Airport. There were two persons on board, a trainee pilot and an instructor. Both sustained fatal injuries in the accident. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 27 – Manchester and Stansted owner claims hackers demanded ransom: The owner of Manchester Airport (MAN) and London Stansted Airport (STN) has claimed that hackers demanded a ransom during yesterday's "cyber security incident". On August 27, 2026, Manchester Airports Group (MAG) warned that hackers had accessed a "quantity of customer data" related to car park, lounge and fast track bookings and in-airport WIFI sign-ups. Across Manchester Airport, Stansted Airport and MAG's other site at East Midlands Airport (EMA), the details of around 8.7 million individuals were accessed. According to the BBC, a MAG representative said hackers had demanded a ransom fee for the return of the data, but this was refused by the airport group. They also told the BBC that the identity of hackers was known, and the relevant authorities had been informed. [AeroTime]; [BBC].

August 29 – Loss of control Accident Direct Fly Alto: A Direct Fly Alto crashed under unknown circumstances shortly after takeoff from runway 13 at Všeň Airfield, Czechia. The pilot died in the crash. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 30 – Accident Lake LA-4-200 Buccaneer N6185V: A Lake LA-4-200 Buccaneer, N6185V, experienced engine issues and crashed near Enfield, New York. The pilot perished and the passenger died in the hospital later from his injuries and the aircraft was written off. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 31 – Stolen Cessna nears nuclear plant; Hungary scrambles Gripens: Hungarian Air Force Saab JAS 39 Gripen fighters were scrambled on the morning of August 29, 2026, after a man took off without authorization from the Kalocsa airfield in a Cessna 172 and flew toward the Paks nuclear power plant. The aircraft came down in a sunflower field before the fighters reached it. The Hungarian Ministry of Defense published a statement by Defense Minister Romulusz Ruszin-Szendi at 10:02 local time on August 29,

2026, saying military radars detected the aircraft immediately and the quick reaction alert pair launched. Minutes later, the Cessna made a forced landing near Gerjen, in Tolna County. The Gripens located the damaged aircraft and stayed overhead until a rescue helicopter and ground units arrived. Ruszin-Szendi said no one was injured. [AeroTime].

August 31 – Accident Mooney M20C Mark 21 N2783W: A Mooney M20C Mark 21, N2783W, crashed under unknown circumstances in an orchard near Hood River, Oregon. Both occupants perished and the aircraft received substantial damage. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 31 – Accident Paramotor: A paramotor crashed shortly after takeoff under unknown circumstances in Saint-Clément, Cantal. The pilot died in the crash. [Aviation Safety Network].

Aviation, Military

August 1 – General warns he lacks sufficient forces to protect Israel amid Iran war: The top U.S. general in Europe privately warned the Pentagon this week that he lacks sufficient naval forces to continue protecting Israel from incoming ballistic missiles, officials said, illustrating how the ongoing Iran war has imposed constraints on the military. Gen. Alexis Grynkewich, the head of U.S. European Command, sent written notification to senior Pentagon officials saying that without another Navy destroyer he will be forced to choose defense of the United States "homeland" over that of Israel, said the officials, who like some others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the correspondence. [Washington Post].

August 4 – FAA Investigates Marine One Safety Incident in Washington: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating a safety incident involving a Marine One helicopter carrying US President Donald Trump. According to The Wall Street Journal, the August 4, 2026, incident centers around whether the White House helicopter was sufficiently separated from nearby aircraft at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). [AeroTime]; [WSJ].

August 4 – Military GPS Jamming Under Scrutiny In Fatal New Mexico Medevac Accident: [The AVweb reports that the IBT reports that "newly reported" details] suggest that a military GPS jamming exercise may have contributed to the May accident of a Beechcraft King Air in New Mexico that killed four people. The accident remains under investigation, and no official probable cause has been determined. [AVweb.com]. On June 19, the AVweb reports that the NTSB released its preliminary report regarding a May 14 air ambulance accident near Lincoln, New Mexico. The Beech C90, operated by Generations Jets to pick up a patient for transport, was destroyed after impacting terrain during a Part 135 flight from Roswell to Ruidoso. Both pilots and two flight nurses were killed. [AVweb.com]. The NTSB preliminary report provides that "GPS jamming activities that encompassed the area around the accident flight were being conducted by the United States military during the time of the flight." [NTSB].

August 10 – Judge Certifies Military Class In Delta Pilots' Leave Suit: Delta pilots who alleged that the airline failed to pay them for short-term military absences secured class certification in Georgia federal court, with a judge finding the core question of whether the

airline's uniform leave policy violates federal military leave law can be resolved using common evidence. [Law360].

August 10 – Embassy reports US military aircraft incident near Yemen: The United States (US) Embassy in Djibouti has reported an incident involving a US military aircraft in the vicinity of Chabelley Airfield. Chabelley Airfield is the US Air Force's largest remotely piloted aircraft base in Africa and is known to operate MQ-9 Reaper drones. Online reports suggest the incident may have involved an MQ-9 Reaper crashing in the area. Unverified footage purporting to show the crash site has also circulated online. The US Embassy in Djibouti, which is located close to Yemen, said that "initial reports indicate that there have been no casualties or property damage". The public was advised to avoid the area and the Embassy confirmed that "US personnel are coordinating closely with Djiboutian authorities to respond to the incident". [AeroTime].

August 11 – Ukraine MiG-29 fighter catches fire during missile launch: A Ukrainian Air Force MiG-29 was destroyed on the evening of August 10, 2026, after the fighter caught fire while launching an air-to-air missile over Odesa Oblast, southern Ukraine. In a statement published on its Telegram channel, the Ukrainian Air Force said the pilot had been flying a mission to destroy Russian aerial targets over the region when the aircraft was lost. According to preliminary data, a "non-standard situation" occurred during the launch of an air-to-air missile, causing the aircraft to catch fire and the pilot to lose control. The pilot attempted to save the aircraft before ejecting, the service said. He was recovered and evacuated to a medical facility. [AeroTime].

August 12 – Turkish Air Force F-16 crashes near Yalova: A Turkish Air Force F-16 fighter crashed during a training flight in the northwestern province of Yalova on August 12, 2026, with the pilot ejecting and surviving, the Turkish Ministry of National Defense said. In a statement published on the Turkish social platform NSosyal, the ministry said a Turkish F-16 assigned to a squadron of the 1st Main Jet Base at Eskişehir was involved in an accident at Yalova during a training flight and that the pilot ejected safely. It added that the cause would be established after a detailed investigation. [AeroTime]; [Hype/Defense].

August 12 – Mystery drones breach Australian F-35 base: Multiple unidentified drones repeatedly entered restricted airspace around one of Australia's most sensitive military air bases recently, raising questions about how well the country can protect its F-35 fighters and other high-value aircraft from small unmanned aircraft. The drones were reported over RAAF Base Williamtown and neighboring Newcastle Airport in New South Wales between July 11 and 13, 2026, according to Australian media reports. Australia's Department of Defence has acknowledged the incidents, while Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy said the broad reporting about the number of drones and the days they appeared was accurate. [AeroTime].

August 13 – Two killed in US Army AH-64E Apache crash in Texas: Two US Army crew members were killed when an AH-64E Apache attack helicopter crashed in a field near Salado, Texas, on August 12, 2026. The accident also started a grass fire that burned more than 150 acres and forced evacuations south of Fort Hood. The Bell County Sheriff's Office said it began receiving 911 calls at approximately

13:34 local time reporting a helicopter down about half a mile west of the 16400 block of Kuykendall Road, south of Salado. Cliff Coleman, public information officer for the sheriff's office, told reporters at the scene that deputies found both the wreckage and a fire already burning out of control. The two people on board were pronounced dead at 14:30. [AeroTime]; [Aviation Safety Network]; [TheHill].

August 13 – Kratos pauses XQ-58 Valkyrie flights after Utah crash: Kratos has temporarily suspended flight testing of its XQ-58 Valkyrie after one of the uncrewed aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff from a runway at the US Army's Dugway Proving Ground in Utah. The mishap occurred on August 4, 2026, during a company-funded research and development flight. Kratos said the aircraft was flying in a "test configuration" as part of work to add new capabilities to the Valkyrie. No one was injured. A Dugway spokesperson said the drone went down at about 08:00 local time shortly after takeoff. The aircraft was not being operated by the US military, and the crash caused no damage to any buildings at the installation. Kratos has not disclosed what caused the crash or exactly which version of the Valkyrie was involved. [AeroTime].

August 18 – HH-60Ws Rescue Navy Helicopter Crew in California Mountains: Search and rescue Airmen from Nellis Air Base, Nev., flew more than 200 miles in two HH-60W Jolly Green IIs last week to rescue five of their Navy helicopter crew counterparts who were forced to land in mountainous terrain near Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Calif. Members of the 88th Test and Evaluation Squadron and the 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Nellis had to work quickly after being notified at 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 10 that the Navy MH-60S Seahawk had to conduct a hard landing in mountainous terrain during a high-altitude training flight near China Lake, according to an Air Force press release. [Air & Space Forces Magazine]; [AeroTime].

August 22 – US Navy reveals a new air-to-air missile apparently named "Malice": The U.S. Navy has publicly disclosed the "AIM-424 Malice," a next-generation long-range air-to-air missile now undergoing testing and evaluation. With a reported engagement range exceeding 250 nautical miles (463 kilometers), Malice would substantially extend the reach of carrier-based fighter aviation. [Hype/Defense].

August 24 – Accident Saab JAS 39C Gripen 31: One of the Hungarian Air Forces' Gripens, flying out of Kecskemét Air Base (LHKE), crashed during an emergency landing at Szolnok Air Base (LHSN) due to an aircraft malfunction following routine training. It is confirmed that the aircraft was carrying live ordnance at the time of the incident. The 51 year old pilot is confirmed to have ejected, but he was seriously injured upon the landing and will need surgery. Based on the press conference held by the Minister of Defense, the description of the aviation incident is as follows: The pair of aircraft on standby were conducting their daily training flight in accordance with standard procedures when the onboard computer of the fighter jet in question indicated a malfunction, after which the pilot issued an emergency signal. All onboard instruments and electronics failed, resulting in an emergency landing in Szolnok Air Base. The pilot successfully landed the aircraft, accompanied by his wingman, but after landing, he began a maneuver that forced him to eject; the aircraft skidded off the runway,

and a fire broke out. The aircraft was equipped with firearms. [Aviation Safety Network]; [AeroTime].

August 25 – US Air Force C-17 carried CIA director on secret Moscow trip: A United States Air Force (USAF) Boeing C-17A Globemaster III was tracked flying from Riga International Airport (RIX) in Latvia to Moscow Vnukovo International Airport (VKO) on the morning of August 25, 2026, according to data published by flight tracking service Flightradar24. The aircraft used the callsign RCH4555 and carried the serial 07-7181. Flightradar24 data showed it leaving Riga at approximately 08:50 Moscow time, with the track ending at Vnukovo at approximately 10:04. The service listed no further movement for the airframe after that point. Flightradar24 records for the same airframe show it arrived in Riga on August 23, 2026. Its departure point was listed as Camp Springs, Maryland, the location of Joint Base Andrews (ADW), which handles US government and senior-official air transport. [AeroTime]; [Hype/Defense].

August 25 – 160th SOAR MH-60 Black Hawk crashes during Colorado training flight; all four crew members escape injury: An MH-60 Black Hawk operated by the U.S. Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment crashed in a wooded area near Colorado's Front Range, north of Golden Gate Canyon State Park, during a training flight. All four soldiers aboard escaped without injury. [Hype/Defense].

August 27 – Accident Antonov An-28: An Antonov An-28 plane was reportedly shot down by a drone from the FARDC (Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo) in an area controlled by anti-government forces, resulting in the deaths of 4 people. The aircraft is said to have come down in the highlands of the Fizi territory, in South Kivu. Photos, purportedly from the wreckage of the aircraft, suggest it was an An-28 that was previously seen operating in the area, controlled by the Rwanda-backed AFC/M23 armed group. [Aviation Safety Network].

August 28 – U.S. Army High-Energy Laser Downs Three Suspected Cartel-Linked Drones at Southern Border: Joint Task Force–Southern Border used the Army's Multipurpose High Energy Laser system over two days this week to engage three hostile uncrewed aerial systems near the U.S.-Mexico border. The operation was conducted in support of U.S. Customs and Border Protection under U.S. Northern Command. [Hype/Defense].

August 30 – Russia uses imported Jet A-1 amid fuel shortages: Russia has imported around 70,000 tons of Jet A-1 aviation fuel from South Korea and Egypt, with Ukraine's Defense Intelligence (DIU) saying the move follows a decline in domestic jet-fuel production after repeated attacks on Russian oil refineries. [AeroTime].

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Aerospace, Department of Justice & State Action

August 4 – Aery Aviation Fights Against FAA's \$15.7 Million Proposed Civil Penalty: Aircraft services group Aery Aviation has

challenged the process through which the FAA seeks to impose a large civil penalty for alleged violations on flights from five to six years ago. In a statement, the company has maintained that the agency does not have jurisdiction in the matter and also claims the FAA's charges include significant factual inaccuracies. On Dec. 21, 2025, the FAA filed a notice of proposed civil penalty against Aery for flights the agency alleges were conducted with unairworthy aircraft. The proposed penalty of \$15,744,352.50, among the highest ever for a non-airline operator, covers 431 flights between July 2021 and April 2022. [Aviation International News].

August 7 – New FAA directive requires checks on 471 Boeing 737 MAXs: The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued a new airworthiness directive (AD) requiring inspection of 471 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft to check for cracks. On August 8, 2026, the FAA announced that the order had been "prompted by reports of cracks in the bear strap" located at the "forward upper corner of the forward galley door cutout". The directive requires "inspection of the fuselage skin for existing repairs and applicable on-condition actions". The US aviation regulator described the products as being in an "unsafe condition". The 471 US-registered aircraft include Boeing 737 MAX 8, MAX 9 and high density 737-8200 aircraft, according to the FAA document. The decision to issue an airworthiness directive follows on from a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), published on November 25, 2025, that highlighted the problem. [AeroTime].

August 12 – Flight attendant caught posing as pilot for free flights: A former Toronto flight attendant has pleaded guilty to wire fraud in the United States after prosecutors said he used a fake pilot identification badge to obtain hundreds of free flights over nearly five years. Dallas Pokornik, 34, of Toronto, pleaded guilty in federal court in Honolulu, Hawaii, to one count of wire fraud, according to the US Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii. According to court documents cited by prosecutors, Pokornik, a former flight attendant for a Canadian airline, used a fictitious employee identification card to pose as a commercial pilot and obtain free flights on three US-based airlines between January 2020 and October 28, 2024. [AeroTime].

August 13 – FCC Told Foreign Drone Ban Could Hinder Public Safety Work: A nonprofit that donates drones to public safety agencies and science programs has urged the Federal Communications Commission to reconsider a potential ban on foreign-made military-grade drones. [Law360].

August 19 – Chinese man jailed after filming US B-2 bomber base: A Chinese national has been sentenced to six months in federal custody for photographing Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, the only operational home of the US Air Force B-2 Spirit bomber fleet, in a prosecution built on an executive order signed in 1950. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) said on August 13, 2026, that Qilin Wu, 35, received the sentence after returning to the installation perimeter a day after security personnel warned him not to photograph it. Nineteen B-2s remain of the 21 built, all of them flown from Whiteman by the 509th and 131st Bomb Wings. In June 2025, the type flew Operation Midnight Hammer, delivering 14 Massive Ordnance Penetrators against Iranian nuclear sites. The B-21 Raider is not due to begin replacing it until 2027. According to a criminal complaint announced by the US Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri on January 7, 2026, members of the 509th Security Forces

Squadron responded to a report of a suspicious minivan near the Whiteman perimeter on December 2, 2025. Wu, driving a vehicle with Massachusetts plates, said he had come to observe the B-2 Spirit. Patrolmen told him that photography and video recording of the installation were not permitted. [AeroTime]; [DOJ].

August 20 – HEICO Exec Arrested, Accused Of \$1.8M Insider Trading Ploy: A senior HEICO Corp. executive was arrested Thursday and charged with securities fraud for what Manhattan federal prosecutors say were multiple instances of insider trading in the stock of the publicly traded aerospace and technology company. [Law360].

August 20 – Delta Air Lines, Inc. v. U.S. Department of Transportation, 25-13546 (11th Cir. 2026): Delta Air Lines, Inc. and Aerovías de México, S.A. de C.V. sought approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for a joint venture to provide integrated airline services between the United States and Mexico. DOT approved the joint venture in 2016, granting both approval and antitrust immunity after finding that it would increase competition and public benefits in the U.S.–Mexico aviation market. As part of the approval, DOT required the petitioners to divest certain take-off and landing slots at Mexico City’s airport and imposed a five-year limit on antitrust immunity, citing concerns about slot allocation practices at that airport. After the initial approval, the petitioners operated under these conditions and, in 2022, sought renewal of the joint venture’s approval and immunity. However, DOT issued show-cause orders in 2024, and subsequently a final order in 2025, terminating both the approval and antitrust immunity. The DOT’s decision was based primarily on changes to slot allocation and restrictions on all-cargo carriers by the Mexican government at Mexico City’s airport, which DOT concluded had undermined competition and the public interest. The petitioners challenged this final order in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, arguing that DOT’s decision was arbitrary and capricious. The Eleventh Circuit agreed with the petitioners. It found that DOT had departed from its uniform practice of conducting comprehensive market analyses, instead focusing narrowly on a single airport without adequate explanation. The court also determined that DOT had imposed a requirement for open skies agreement implementation on the petitioners that it had not imposed in similar cases involving other countries. The court held that DOT’s final order was arbitrary and capricious, and vacated the order. [Justia].

August 25 – Lockerbie bombing trial delayed over newly found evidence: The trial of Abu Agila Mohammad Kheir Al-Marimi for his involvement in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing has been postponed days before it was set to begin due to “newly discovered evidence”. Jury selection was scheduled to start on August 26, 2026, in Washington DC however new evidence from the US government was presented to lawyers in the last few days that warranted further examination. On August 24, 2026, US District Judge Dabney Friedrich ordered that the trial be postponed without giving any further details about the nature of the evidence. Lawyers representing Al-Marimi said that “constitutional and ethical obligations require the defense to investigate this development”. Judge Dabney Friedrich said a hearing will be held on September 1, 2026, to discuss the status of the case. [AeroTime].

August 28 – Former Aeroflot employee guilty in parts smuggling case: A former Aeroflot employee has been convicted in the United States for helping illegally obtain and ship more than \$900,000 worth of aircraft parts from U.S. suppliers to Russia and the Russian state-owned airline. A federal jury in Florida found the defendant guilty on all 12 counts following a trial in the Southern District of Florida on August 28, 2026. The charges included conspiracy to violate the Export Control Reform Act, illegal export of controlled items, smuggling, providing false export information, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. The case dates back to an indictment filed in April 2025. Prosecutors said the former Aeroflot employee worked with another Russian national to obtain aircraft components from U.S. suppliers after Washington introduced tighter export restrictions on Russia following its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. [AeroTime]; [DOJ].

Space

August 3 – Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium: Agenda: the LSIC announces the 2026 LSIC Fall Meeting to take place at the Georgia Institute of Technology, in Atlanta, Georgia, on Wednesday, October 14 and Thursday, October 15, 2026. Registration is due for U.S. Citizens on October 9. Abstracts are due September 4.

August 3 – University of Warwick Astronomers Detect Tiny, Undocumented and Dangerous Geosynchronous Orbit Debris: University of Warwick astronomers have detected some of the faintest GEO debris ever observed - fragments as small as 5cm - re-examining archival data from the Isaac Newton Telescope in La Palma. [SpaceWatch.GLOBAL].

August 3 – Ball Aerospace Says Ex-Employees Stole Trade Secrets: Two former engineers at Colorado-based Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. stole the company's trade secrets and other confidential information upon leaving the company and creating a patent for a startup competitor, Ball alleged in Colorado state court. [Law360]. **August 20 – Aerospace Co. Ends 'Copycat' Trade Secrets Suit:** A Colorado state judge has dismissed a suit by an aerospace and defense manufacturer accusing its former business consultants of using confidential information to create a "copycat" rival. [Law360].

August 3 – SpaceX is set to acquire 130,000 acres of marshland in southern Louisiana: SpaceX and the state of Louisiana are close to finalizing a deal for the launch company to acquire about 130,000 acres along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico. There have been persistent rumors about such an agreement for months, but now The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate reports that Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry is expected to announce the agreement later this month. The deal would give SpaceX control of an 18-mile stretch of marshland southwest of Lafayette. The site, known as Pecan Island, became available as part of a legal settlement that resolves dozens of lawsuits that blame ExxonMobil for pollution and coastal land loss, the newspaper reports. No Louisiana officials publicly commented on the deal. Nor did SpaceX. In May, however, the company said in response to rumors about the Louisiana site on X, “It’s no secret that we intend to launch Starship a lot, targeting thousands of flights per year. That cadence will require the ability to launch from many different locations, so we are constantly exploring to find viable

sites to expand Starship operations in the future, both domestically and internationally.” [Ars Technica]; [AviationWeek]; [SpaceNews].

August 5 – NASA, SpaceX studying how to prevent future upper stage lunar collisions: Early Wednesday morning (Eastern US time), a discarded Falcon 9 upper stage that’s been in space since its January 2025 launch crash landed into the moon near Einstein Crater. Typically, upper stages are destroyed upon reentry, but because this particular one launched two lunar landers (Firefly’s Blue Ghost and ispace’s Hakuto-R Mission 2, aka Resilience), it traveled farther and was still orbiting as a piece of space junk that then got pulled into an unintentional crash course. Because the moon is unpopulated, the crash won’t have much impact (beyond its own crater). But crash landings of this sort could become a serious threat to any future operations on the moon, especially for human crews that might someday stay there. To that end, SpaceX said that it’s working with NASA on ways to prevent future crash landings down the road. [SpaceNews]; [SpaceWatch.Global].

August 7 – Blue Origin Traces Cause of New Glenn’s Explosion, as the Company Targets a Return-to-Flight this Year: Blue Origin has traced New Glenn’s May static-fire explosion to a main oxygen valve on one of the BE-4 engines, confirmed by hardware recovery and hotfire testing, with return-to-flight targeted this year. [SpaceWatch.GLOBAL]; [Aviation Week]; [SpaceNews].

August 10 – Chinese rocket carrying satellite explodes seconds after launch: A Chinese rocket set to launch a satellite into orbit blew-up seconds after liftoff Monday, marking the relatively rare failure for a rocket considered a workhorse of Beijing’s space program. The Long March 7A rocket erupted into a massive fireball just 85 seconds after blasting off from the Wenchang Space Launch Site on the island of Hainan on Monday night, video showed. Unlike other successful launches, the incident appears to have been downplayed on China’s state media with scant mention of the explosion. State news agency Xinhua confirmed the failure three hours after the launch, saying “the rocket experienced an anomaly during flight.” The cause is under investigation, it added, without providing further information. On Chinese social media, video of the launch was mainly limited to state-affiliated content, while videos posted by users appeared to be removed or deprioritized from searches on popular platforms Xiaohongshu and Douyin. [CNN]; [SpaceNews]; [Space.com].

August 10 – Boeing Must Face Depositions In Moon Exploration IP Row: A Washington federal magistrate judge has partly granted a Colorado aerospace company’s bid for more depositions in an intellectual property suit against Boeing over technology used in NASA’s moon program, while rejecting broader requests for financial information and documents. [Law360]. **August 18 – Boeing Is Pressed For Financial Records In NASA IP Row:** Wilson Aerospace LLC asked a Washington federal judge to compel the Boeing Co. Inc. to turn over financial materials and other documents that have information relevant to their dispute over technology used in NASA’s moon program. [Law360].

August 12 – 9th Circ. Enforces \$2B Devas Satellite Award: The Ninth Circuit on Wednesday enforced an over \$2 billion arbitral award issued to a satellite communications company, ruling for the first time that the legal concept that a dispute might be better heard elsewhere

does not apply in cases seeking to enforce international arbitral awards. [Law360].

August 18 – China’s Landspace recovers booster with second orbital launch of Zhuque-3 rocket: Landspace successfully landed the first stage of its Zhuque-3 rocket Tuesday following the second launch of the rocket from the Gobi Desert. [SpaceNews]; [HypeSpace]; [SpaceWatchGlobal]; [AeroTime].

August 20 – NASA Commits \$10.5 Million to Aerospace Workforce Pipeline: NASA is putting \$10.5 million behind an effort to funnel more students into the aerospace industry, awarding grants to seven organizations tasked with building state-level pathways for advanced technical training. The funding comes through NASA’s Aerospace Skilled Technical Workforce Hubs initiative, known as NASA State Hubs. Recipients are Antelope Valley Community College District in Lancaster, California; Georgia Tech Research; Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; Southern Utah University; Space Florida; Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, Colorado; and Texas Space Commission. Each hub will spend the next three years connecting employers, community colleges, and high school career-training programs around a shared set of skills. The goal is to grow the ranks of welders, electricians, machinists, and other workers with advanced science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills. [AIN].

August 20 – Invited media briefly detained at California Space Force base: Five news reporters and two members of the military who were invited to an event at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California were briefly detained at gunpoint by security officers who thought they were gate crashers, according to local news reports. The incident happened Monday ahead of an invitation-only groundbreaking for a new training facility for missile operators at the federal airfield near Santa Barbara, California. Reporters from Noozhawk and KEYT were among those detained, and both outlets published articles detailing the detainment. In a statement to Noozhawk, a Space Launch Delta 30 Public Affairs spokesperson called the incident a breakdown in communication. “Vandenberg Space Force Base is experiencing an increased number of unauthorized entry attempts,” the statement said. “Every potential unauthorized presence must be treated as a legitimate threat until proven otherwise. While we recognize this may have been unsettling, the security of the base and its personnel is our priority.” [AP].

August 21 – Taiwan’s First Domestic Rocket Test Ends in Mid-flight Termination as the Island Pursues Launch Independence: Taiwan’s first flight test of a domestically developed satellite launch vehicle, conducted by the National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology, ended in flight termination shortly after liftoff. The flight was terminated using a pre-planned self-destruct mechanism after the vehicle deviated from its intended trajectory. [SpaceWatchGlobal].

August 21 – White House sets 2030 target for U.S. to support more than 1,000 annual launches and reentries: The White House is seeking to increase the number of launches into space to 1,000 a year by 2030 and to find a way to send humans to Mars, it said this week in an update to the National Space Transportation Policy. The new goal would dramatically increase the number of space launches and reentries the U.S. conducts. In fiscal year 2025, the Federal

Aviation Administration authorized 204 commercial space operations. The plan also directs NASA to explore commercial avenues for robots to access the surface of Mars and architecture capable of getting humans to Mars and returning them to Earth. [Washington Post]; [Hype/Space]; [Ars Technica]; [SpaceWatchGlobal]; [The White House].

August 26 – SpaceX Unveils \$100 Billion Starbase Louisiana Complex to Scale Up Starship Launches: SpaceX has announced plans to construct a new Starship processing and launch complex in Louisiana designed to support thousands of launches annually. Located in Vermilion Parish, the proposed Starbase Louisiana is expected to begin construction by the end of 2027, with SpaceX targeting the first launch from the site as soon as 2029. [SpaceWatchGlobal].

August 26 – Boeing Beats Bid For More Depos In Moon Mission IP Suit: A Colorado aerospace company cannot conduct additional depositions in its lawsuit accusing The Boeing Co. of stealing patented technology for a NASA moon exploration program, a Washington federal magistrate judge ruled. [Law360].

August 26 – 9th Circ. Panel Won't Revisit Boeing's \$72M Trade Secret Loss: A Ninth Circuit panel has rejected Boeing's bid for a panel rehearing of its August 2025 decision reinstating a \$72 million jury verdict for electric jet startup Zunum Aero Inc. in a trade secret dispute, spurning the aerospace giant's fresh argument that the case belongs in the Federal Circuit because of the patent counterclaims involved. [Law360].

August 28 – U.S. President signs executive order to establish U.S. Space Academy for military, NASA and commercial workforce: The U.S. President signed an executive order directing the creation—or further study—of a U.S. Space Academy modeled on institutions serving the Air Force and Coast Guard. The proposed school would train personnel for the Space Force, NASA and the expanding civilian spaceflight industry. [Hype/Space]; [NASA]; [The White House].

August 31 – NASA Launches Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope to Map the Universe at Unprecedented Scale: NASA launched the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope on 30 August on a Falcon Heavy from Kennedy, beginning a three-month journey to L2, from where its wide-field infrared surveys will map the Universe at unprecedented scale. [SpaceWatchGlobal].

Space, Human Spaceflight

August 7 – Axiom Space Appoints Dr. Renato Krpoun as Chief of International Operations for New Swiss Subsidiary: Axiom

Space has appointed Dr. Renato Krpoun to lead its new Swiss subsidiary in Lucerne as Chief of International Operations for EMEA. [SpaceWatchGlobal].

August 7 – 'One more step': NASA astronauts conduct 6.5-hour spacewalk to prep ISS for solar array upgrade: Two NASA astronauts installed the seventh and final set of mounting hardware for new sets of solar arrays during a successful 6.5-hour spacewalk outside of the International Space Station. Jessica Meir and Anil Menon on Thursday (Aug. 6), assembled the modification kit for one of the space station's eight power channels, which will allow for the future addition of a new ISS Roll-Out Solar Array (iROSA). Since 2021, astronauts on prior spacewalks have deployed six of the iROSA assemblies, leaving now just two awaiting delivery to the station later this year. [Space.com].

August 18 – ESA Astronaut Sophie Adenot Makes History as First Frenchwoman to Perform A Spacewalk: ESA astronaut Sophie Adenot has become the first Frenchwoman to perform a spacewalk, venturing outside the International Space Station yesterday, 18 August, with NASA astronaut Anil Menon to repair a crucial piece of equipment. [SpaceWatchGlobal]; [Space.com]; [HypeSpace].

August 27 – Adenot and Menon Complete Second Spacewalk to Restore ISS Communications Antenna: NASA astronaut Anil Menon and ESA astronaut Sophie Adenot completed a follow-up spacewalk on 25 August, successfully installing a replacement for the failed Space-to-Ground Antenna 2 (SGANT-2) after delays during their initial 18 August EVA. [SpaceWatchGlobal].

August 28 – Artemis II Crew Receives Congressional Space Medal of Honor for Historic Lunar Flyby: The U.S. President presented NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch, along with Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen, the Congressional Space Medal of Honor at Johnson Space Center. The award recognizes the crew's successful Artemis II mission, including its crewed flight around the moon earlier this year. [Hype/Space].

August 31 – Türkiye Joins Artemis Accords as 71st Signatory: Türkiye has become the 71st signatory to the Artemis Accords, signed at NASA headquarters on 31 August, as the country advances its own lunar ambitions. [SpaceWatchGlobal].

Wisdom, Justice, Moderation

Est scientia virtus et cognitum potestasque.