



November 24, 2009

## Lansing airport services station closing

*Melissa Domsic*  
*Lansing State Journal*

Lansing's flight service station will close in February 2010, costing 25 workers their jobs.

The station at Capital Region International Airport is operated by Lockheed Martin Corp. A bulk of the employees affected are members of the International Machinists and Aerospace Workers union.

Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed Martin leases the station from the Capital Region Airport Authority, which oversees the airport, for \$120,000 a year.

General aviation pilots file their flight plans with the station and employees provide services such as pre-flight weather briefings and safety advisories. General aviation does not include military or scheduled airline flights.

"Lansing flight service is critical to the aviation community as it provides years of experience dealing with the complex Great Lakes weather patterns and flight planning," said Jim Curlin, a 12-year employee at the station.

Global aerospace, security and technology company Lockheed Martin in 2005 won a 10-year, \$1.7 billion contract to manage the flight service system for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Lockheed is closing seven of its 13 stations nationwide. The closures affect 160 employees, spokeswoman Jan Gottfredsen said.

Lockheed will work with employees to find other openings within the company but they will not be transferred to other stations. Laid-off workers will be offered severance packages, she said.

There were 58 flight service stations when Lockheed took over in 2005.

"There's been a general decline in general aviation traffic," Gottfredsen said. "This will enable us to meet the performance level with fewer facilities."

For more on this story, read Wednesday's Lansing State Journal.