MARYLAND DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION

For Immediate Release: October 8, 2003

GOVERNOR EHRLICH TO AWARD AVIATION GRANT
TO HAVRE DE GRACE SEAPLANE BASE

Facility Lands $280K in Funds, Public Dock Repaired

BWI AIRPORT, MD (October 8, 2003) - Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. has approved Havre de Grace Seaplane Base to receive $281,160 in grant money from the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA). Funds will be used for repairs to the public access dock and the addition of a new floating dock. The State-administered grants were initially slated for dock improvement projects. The heavily used public access dock and other structures suffered significant damage from Hurricane Isabel in September.

"The Havre de Grace Seaplane base is a unique asset to our regional airport infrastructure, enabling pilots easy access to and from the Chesapeake Bay," said Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich. "The improvement grants are essential in providing a safe and reliable facility for the citizens of Harford County, and creating greater economic opportunities for the State of Maryland."

The State grant to be awarded is part of the MAA Maryland Aid to Private Airport's Project (MAPA). The aviation grants will provide for a floating dock with an anchoring system, electrical service to the dock, installation of dock utilities, and improvements to the public parking area.

MAPA, created by the State of Maryland, provides assistance of up to 90 percent of an airport improvement project to privately owned airports not eligible for federal funding.

The publicly-used Seaplane Base is located at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, on the Susquehanna River. Pilots land aircraft on the water then taxi to the loading dock. The floating airport includes a docking and storage facility for aircraft, similar to a land-based terminal. Havre de Grace Seaplane Base has been in operation for 25 years, and is a popular venue in the local community.

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