



**HANCOCK**  
MISSISSIPPI  
PORT • AIR • SPACE

The Hancock County Port & Harbor Commission  
invites applications for

# Airport Director

Stennis International Airport (KHS)  
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

*Executive Search Services Provided by ADK Consulting & Executive Search*



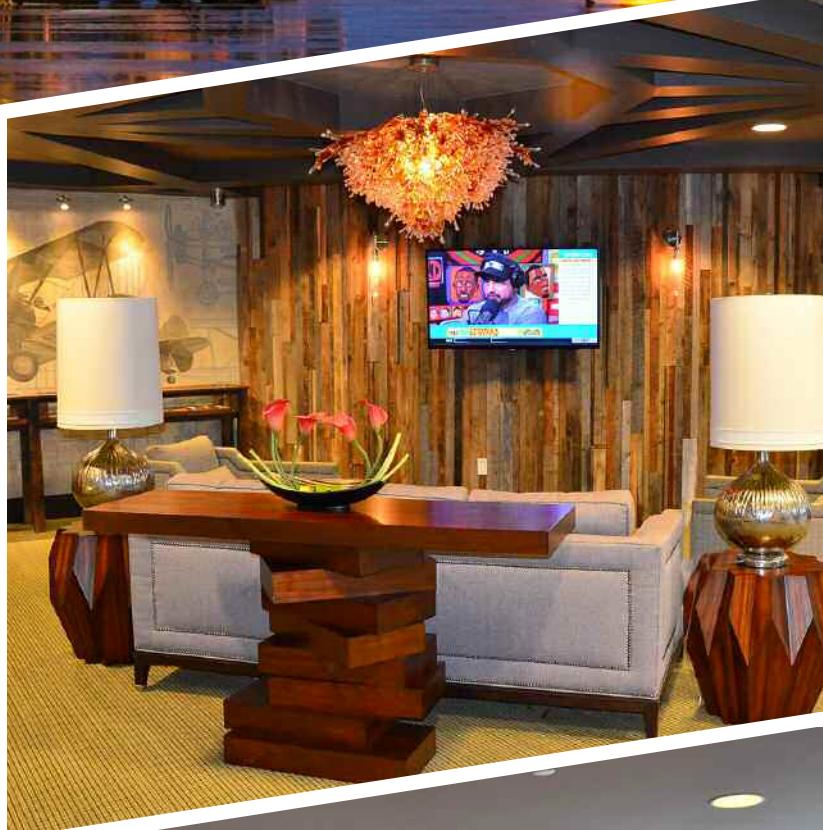
## The Airport

Owned and Operated by the Hancock County  
Port & Harbor Commission

**Stennis International Airport** – KHSA is classified as a general aviation airport in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). We are an FAA 14 CFR Part 139 airport, with a U.S. Department of Defense Joint Use Agreement and operators under National Aerospace Standard 3306.

KHSA is in Kiln, Mississippi eight miles northwest of the central business district of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

KHSA's operational annualization is a mix of general aviation and military traffic, ranging from Cessna 172s to Antonov AN-124s. For 2018 there were 38,046 operations. In the last three years, Stennis International has participated in major and minor military exercises in the region to include Southern Strike, Emerald Warrior, MARSOC Raven, Naval Special Warfare Trident, and readiness exercises for deploying units. KHSA has 8,500 foot grooved and lighted runway located within federal (NASA) noise and vibration buffer zone and has a contract (RVA) air traffic control tower. KHSA is adjacent to the R-4403 airspace providing rocket engine testing, untethered autonomous space vehicles, and air-to-ground live-fire training for special operations force (SOF) units.





## The Airport *(continued...)*

KHSA employs a combination of full-time employees and contract labor. The airport staff includes the airport director, operations manager, and an airport/port shared maintenance staff. All employees are non-union. The total number of active and contractor staff at Stennis International Airport is currently more than 30.

The airport has an operational budget of \$2M and a capital budget of \$11M in fiscal year 2018-2019. We recently completed major projects such as: an apron expansion of our north and main apron area, runway reconstruction by full length mill and overlay, roof replacement of two hangars and one warehouse, upgrades to the air traffic safety equipment, construction of a fuel truck parking area with repair to the delivery driveway, replacement of Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) and installation of all runway/taxiway signage with LED lighting. Projects that are slated to begin in the future are the construction of the 25,000 SF and an 11,000 SF Corporate Hangar, as well as design and construction of an assault landing strip with connecting taxiway for C-130 aircraft, full length taxiway rehabilitation and the licensing with the FAA for a commercial Spaceport License is underway.

KHSA has two sites that underwent Mississippi Power's Project Ready Certification. These sites have undergone the due diligence of wetland delineation, geotechnical investigation, threatened and endangered species investigation and boundary surveys. The Hancock Port and Harbor Commission (HCPHC) purchased 1,180 acres bordering the western edge of KHSA and an additional 1,200 acres on the eastern edge of adjacent land along I-10 that was just acquired. A non-FAA funded master plan/urban plan is underway with the new director being able to weigh into this planning process. KHSA is also involved with nearby NASA Stennis Space Center, Infinity Science Center, as well as drop zones and other training capabilities.

KHSA staff are working with Pearl River Community College (PRCC) on the development of a Part 141 flight and airframe/powerplant school. The schools will be located at the PRCC Aerospace Academy which will be constructed in the KKHSAs airpark.

[Click here](#) to see a captivating video about the Hancock County Port & Harbor Commission.



# Hancock County

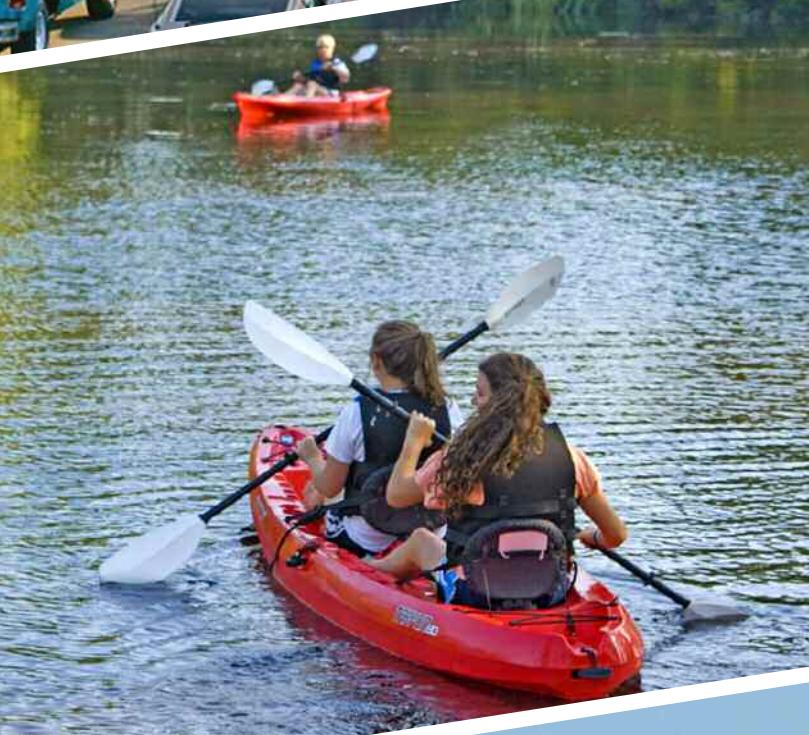
## The Community

**Located midway between New Orleans and Biloxi, Hancock County** is a smart place to live, raise a family and retire.

People from throughout the world are discovering the charming city of Bay St. Louis, enjoying the wide-open pristine beaches of Waveland, relaxing in the planned resort living of Diamondhead and savoring the solitude of the Kiln countryside. No matter where they land, they all seek one thing in common—a place that is calling them home.

Recently, our cities have been named as the smartest and the coolest places to live. We have always been known for our hospitality and today the state is calling Hancock County one of the fastest growing counties in Mississippi.

There's a reason. We have it all: low crime rate, solid education, great weather, a variety of things to do, and a stable economy with NASA Stennis Space Center and other industrial assets like Port Bienville Industrial Park and Stennis International Airport and Airpark providing residents with solid, high paying jobs. Today, these assets are home to more than 70 partner industries and resident agencies in the fields of space and environmental technologies, national defense and defense technology firms, oceanographic, marine research, polymer and related chemical companies, cargo-oriented businesses and Mississippi's first brewery. This year, we will even open our first small craft distillery in the Kiln.



## The Community (*continued...*)

It doesn't stop there. The reason these industries want to invest here and live here is simple: quality living. Any weekend you can find something to do from shopping in our local shops and art galleries to dining in our home-grown seafood restaurants. With New Orleans only 45 miles to the west, it is not too far to go to enjoy the other unique amenities in the Big Easy.

### **Stennis Space Center**

One look at the beauty, hospitality, and affordability of Hancock County and you won't need a rocket scientist to tell you this is a smart place to live. While you cannot live at Stennis Space Center, with more than 5,000 people busy working there, it's an economic engine that fuels the communities that surround it to attract them to live in Hancock County. Known as America's largest rocket propulsion test facility for the past 50 years, Stennis is also home to 40 government and private sector agencies and companies, including the NASA Shared Services Center, and has had a large Navy presence there for the past 40 years. The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, Special Boat Team Twenty-Two and the Naval Research Lab are located there as are numerous universities and private sector companies like Aerojet Rocketdyne, Relativity, Space X, Rolls-Royce, Syncom Space Services (S3), and Lockheed Martin. The 125,000-acre acoustical buffer zone surrounding the Center is a national treasure featuring 30 miles of scenic roadways throughout NASA's By-ways to Space.

### **Bay St. Louis**

Authentic character, historic buildings, and friendly folks are just a few reasons why Southern Living Magazine named Bay St. Louis one of their 50 Best Places in the South. Budget Travel Magazine called the Bay one of the Coolest Small Towns in America and Coastal Living says the Bay is one of the Top Ten Small Beach Towns in the Country.

### **Diamondhead**

Mississippi's newest city has been receiving accolades across the country as the Smartest City in Mississippi, the Best Place to Live and one of the Top 10 Livable Cities in the state for its amenities, quality of life, low crime, access to quality employment and education and affordable housing. What started out as a master-planned community for retirees has grown into a residential city where housing is in high demand by young couples and families.

### **Waveland**

Whether you are looking for a primary residence or a weekend home, Waveland is the destination. In fact, Realtor.com listed it among America's Top Under the (*continued...*)

## The Community (*continued...*)

With a population of fewer than 7,000, this small Gulf-front town takes pride in its people and traditions. It's the only city on the Gulf Coast which prohibits commercial buildings on its beachfront. If you are looking for a family friendly community Waveland is like coming home.

### Kiln

Known to locals as "The Kil," this place is home to lush, rolling countryside, farms and ranches, and large homes on its kilns used to dry green lumber. One of the favorite spots for locals is Hancock County's McLeod Park. With the Jourdan River passing through its 328 acres, the county managed park offers more than 100 RV campsites with more on the drawing board. Moss hung live oaks and large group pavilions provide welcome shade while the new splash pad and basketball court, boat and kayak ramps offer access to the River, for all the fun you can have in and out of the water. Kiln is also home to Stennis International Airport & Airpark, where visitors can find Mississippi's oldest craft brewery, Lazy Magnolia Brewing Company. Stop in for a tour and tasting and you'll will become a fan.

### Clermont Harbor

Small towns are rarely this small. Clermont Harbor runs seven blocks wide along the coast and about five blocks inland, yet it is home to one of the largest employers in Hancock County, the Silver Slipper Casino Hotel. This 24/7 gaming facility touts 120 new guest rooms with nine penthouse suites, beachfront views, and award-winning cuisine. Clermont Harbor is located between Buccaneer State Park and Bayou Cadet (pronounced Caddy).

### Lakeshore-Ansley

A mini-paradise for fishing and hunting enthusiasts, the Lakeshore-Ansley community provides easy access to fresh and salt waterways. There are marinas at Bayou Cadet (pronounced Caddy), local fishing camps for boat launching, and scenery that's great for a leisurely cruise. Forested lands and the Stennis Space Center buffer zone surround the area, so hunters target white-tailed deer, turkey, quail, and other game in relative isolation.

### Pearlington

At the western edge of Hancock County, adjacent to the Pearl River at the border of Mississippi and Louisiana, sits Pearlington and its roughly 1,300 residents. Explorers making their way down the Pearl River to the Gulf of Mexico founded the town. Hidden away among the live oak trees and stately pines are homes and riverside fishing camps.





## The Position

**The Airport Director** reports to The Port and Harbor Commission Chief Operations Officer and plans, directs, and coordinates activities concerned with construction, maintenance, and operation of airport and spaceport facilities in accordance with governmental agency or commission policies and regulations by performing the following duties personally or through subordinate supervisors.

The ideal candidate to lead Stennis International Airport will have a passion for aviation and be curious about the next generation of space travel and rocketry. Intellectually curious and on top of the most current trends, the candidate will be a leading voice in the community for aviation and aerospace.

Stennis International Airport is in a unique position. The airport has been completely refurbished with a beautiful new terminal, aviation equipment and runways. In the Stennis Airpark, we have a brand-new aerospace campus being developed that will showcase a new flight and A&P school. The next Airport Director must be able to mobilize this unique educational environment and related industries to motivate careers in aviation, aerospace and related occupations. We seek a mentor, a coach and a vocal leader who desires to encounter our youth and transitioning workforce and help offer the unique and rewarding careers pathways that this collection of aerospace assets can offer.

This position is a launchpad for someone who is a visionary with an entrepreneurial spirit and who will have the support of a leadership team that values rational and thoughtful risk taking. The demands of the job will be high because the right candidate will be self-aware and know when they are delivering results and when they are not. Integrity, communication and being publicly accountable are foundational.

Our team has a long and successful track record of FAA compliance and grant success and the ideal candidate must have this too. This role is best for a candidate who is not passive, but who is enthusiastic and ready to become involved in all aspects of the organization.

## The Position (*continued...*)

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities include the following:** (other duties may be assigned):

- Consults with commission members, state and federal governmental officials, military, CEO, COO, colleagues, and representatives of airlines to plan such matters as design and development of airport facilities; formulation of operating rules, regulations, and procedures; and aircraft landing, taxiing, and take-off patterns for various types of aircraft.
- Negotiates with representatives of companies, utility companies, or individuals for acquisition of property for development of airport, lease of airport buildings and facilities, or use of rights-of-way over private property.
- Formulates procedures for use in event of aircraft accidents, fires, or other emergencies.
- Develops and assists with budget preparation.
- Inspects or reviews inspection reports of airport facilities such as runways, buildings, beacons and lighting, and automotive or construction equipment to determine repairs, replacement, or improvements required.
- Coordinates activities of personnel involved in repair and maintenance of airport facilities, buildings, and equipment to minimize interruption of airport operations and improve efficiency.
- Directs personnel in investigating violations of aerial or ground traffic regulations, reviews investigation reports, and initiates actions to be taken against violators.
- Directs studies on noise abatement resulting from complaints of excessive noise from low flying aircraft or other operations.
- Reviews reports of expenditures, proposals for improvements to facilities, and estimated increase in volume of traffic in order to prepare budget estimates for upcoming fiscal year.
- Represents the airport at airport-related meetings; assists the Economic Development department in attracting new business to the airport.
- Represents airport before civic or other organizational groups, courts, boards, and commissions.
- Develops and implements a strategic plan for the spaceport to become fully compliant and operational.
- Coordinates with local colleges and universities in order to attract talent to the airport and spaceport.

For a full job description, [click here](#).





## Position Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree from four-year college or university; or five to seven years' related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience with spaceports, Accredited Airport Executive (AAE) or Certified Member (CM) status with the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), and FAA private pilot licensed is preferred.

## Salary & Compensation

The salary range for this position is \$90,000 to \$100,000 depending on experience and includes an attractive range of benefits.

## How to Apply:

To apply online, please [click here](#).

**Filing Deadline:** Open until filled

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