

QUESTION: **WHOSE PLANE IS THIS?**

**Here we go again. Why doesn't the IHL pay for N777AQ?
IHL members use it more than anyone else.**

To Natchez, MS

We now have the pilot's log, which USM legal counsel provided only after we noted USM's original response to our Mississippi Open Records Act request was incomplete. We can now report that on September 14, 2009, a USM Pilot Trip Log represents that airplane N777AQ flew to "Natchez" and on September 28, 2009 back to "Hattiesburg, MS". The pilot's log—two pilots, by the way: Messrs Kitler and Price—reports the passengers are Dr. Saunders, Doug Rouse—IHL member, Robin Robinson—IHL member, Ed Blakeslee—IHL member, Kristy Pickering—IHL member, Joe Morgan, Lee Gore, and Chad Driskell. Unlike other flights, Saunders' spouse, the IHL members' spouses, and Morgan's spouse did not make this trip. As evidence that the MORA request is still incomplete, no Interdepartmental Invoice was provided to usmnews.net. Furthermore, **no purpose** was stated for the trip but the passengers included four (4) IHL members. However, USM students, faculty and taxpayers pay for the plane, not the IHL. You might wonder what other "payments" President Saunders may have "generously" provided to the IHL members on this trip. Hotel rooms? Transportation to and from the airport? Meals? Entertainment (alcoholic beverages)?

King Air N777AQ Trip Log

Date(s) Destination(s) Passenger Name(s)
9-29-09 Gulfport M. Saunders, C Driskell, Hank Bounds
Ldgs 1 Cycles 1 Pilots Hand/Price Bus. ☒ Trng ☐ Maintenance ☐
Hobbs Mtr In 1662.5 Out 1667.8 = 0.3 hrs total

Date	Destination(s)	Passenger Names
9.29.09	Hatfieldburg	M. Saunders, C. Driskell, Hank Bonds
Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Hand/Price</u> Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trng <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1667.8</u>	Out <u>1668.1</u> = <u>0.3</u> hrs total

Date	Destination(s)	Passenger Names
19-14-09	Natchez	M. Saunders, Robin Robinson, Kristy Pickering, Doug Baise Ed Blacklee, Joe Morgan, Lee Gore, Chad Driskell
Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Kitter, Price</u> Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trng <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1668.8</u>	Out <u>1668.1</u> = <u>0.7</u> hrs total

King Air N777AQ Trip Log

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Destination(s)</u>	<u>Passenger Name(s)</u>
10-15-09	Hattiesburg, ms	M. Saunders, Robin Robinson, Kristy Pickering, Doug Rouse, Ed Bakerslee, Joe Morgan, Lee Gore, Chad Driskell
Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Kittler, Price</u> Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trng <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1669.3</u> Out <u>1668.8</u> = <u>0.5</u> hrs total	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination(s)</u>	<u>Passenger Names</u>
10-16-09	Starkville, MS	M. Saunders, Robin Robinson, Doug Rouse, Ed Bakerslee
Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Cunningham/Price</u> Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trng <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1676.2</u> Out <u>1673</u> = <u>0.7</u> hrs total	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination(s)</u>	<u>Passenger Names</u>
10-16-09	Hattiesburg, ms	M. Saunders, Robin Robinson, Doug Rouse, Ed Bakerslee
Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Cunningham/Price</u> Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trng <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1670.7</u> Out <u>1670.0</u> = <u>0.7</u> hrs total	

The number of flight hours reported for the flight to Natchez was 1.2. Therefore, the cost to students, faculty, and taxpayers was $1.2 \times \$6,187.67 = \$7,425.20$. (Remember, usmnews.net's computation of cost does not include or amortize the \$907,053.85 balloon payment due on the 60th month. If that amount is included, the cost is substantially higher than \$6,187.67 per flight hour.)

Just what does **\$7,425.20** mean to President Saunders? What does **\$7,425.20** mean to a student? A faculty member?

IHL members fly airplane N777AQ more than anyone else. Why should USM pay for it? This and other reports provide evidence that IHL members and their spouses should pay for the plane. Is Saunders a fool at the hands of IHL members? If so, USM students, faculty and taxpayers pay the price for her foolishness.

Context

If you are a new reader of this series, catch up by reviewing [A Brief History of Saunders' "Lease" of airplane N777AQ During a Recession, Part 1](#). That report provides background information concerning the actual costs for the first 17 months of an airplane N777AQ leased by President Saunders for

a 60-month period. For example, USM documents report total actual cost of **\$591,231.71** during the first 17 months of airplane N777AQ operations.

Interdepartmental Invoices for 30 flights were provided in an initial response from USM to a MORA request concerning the airplane President Saunders leases and pays for with Mississippi taxpayer and student dollars. Although the MORA request was for all records related to the plane, USM's response was incomplete. When legal counsel followed up concerning the inadequate response, the University produced more documents. usmnews.net reporters are currently reviewing the additional documents and there are reasons to believe the response was again incomplete.

WHO'S MONITORING THESE "PUBLIC SERVANTS"?

The incomplete response to our MORA request, as exemplified above, signals irresponsible accountability and questionable use of taxpayer, student, and faculty resources.

Is anyone holding USM and IHL administrators accountable? IHL members blessed the lease/purchase of the plane. Why not? IHL members are enjoying the use of the plane **at no cost**. So, do not expect the IHL to do its oversight responsibility and hold President Saunders accountable for this extravagant expenditure of USM student and faculty resources. **And, she's giving it away at the same time she's terminating USM academic programs and faculty.** Unless USM faculty and students take charge of their destiny, President Saunders will continue to implement her own vision of their destiny.

Stay tuned to usmnews.net for cost analyses of the remaining flights aboard President Saunders' plane.