



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MERIDIAN NAMES EMIL IANNONE COO

Teterboro, NJ, July 29, 2019 – Meridian, the award-winning private aviation company, is pleased to announce that Emil Iannone has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Meridian Air Charter. He will be responsible for managing and streamlining the charter business, including charter operations, charter sales, aircraft management and marketing. Mr. Iannone has served as Director of Operations since 2013, when he returned to Meridian after 13 years in the financial industry. Mr. Iannone is based at the company's headquarters at Teterboro Airport in Teterboro, NJ.

The organizational restructuring comes as part of the company's overall growth strategy, and is designed to allow Dennis O'Connell, President of Meridian Air Charter, more time to focus on other critical aspects of the charter business. These include owner relations, aircraft maintenance, and accounting. Together, Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Iannone will be responsible for the strategic direction of the charter organization.

"I am very excited for this opportunity," says Iannone. "I'm honored to be working side-by-side with Dennis to help ensure our charter operations meet the needs of a rapidly changing marketplace and continuing to grow our charter and aircraft management operations. I look forward to contributing to Meridian's ongoing success."

Mr. Iannone started flying in the mid-1980s at Teterboro Airport before attending American Flyers Academy. After graduating and earning his CFI, he returned to Meridian as an instructor pilot, moving up the ranks to Chief Pilot. In 1994, he was promoted to Director of Operations, overseeing the daily operations of Million Air Charter, when the company was part of the franchise. Iannone also spent some time during his early career flying for a private flight department. He is type rated in Gulfstream, Learjet and Cessna Citation aircraft.

In 2000, Mr. Iannone was offered the opportunity to take his talents and expertise to a New York City investment banking firm. As Senior Vice President, he oversaw the daily operations of several key areas of the company, including security, purchasing, and ground transportation. His managerial skills translated well from aviation to this environment and he spent a successful tenure there. In 2013, the allure of aviation brought him back to Meridian, when he rejoined the company as Director of Operations.

“We are very pleased to have Emil managing the day-to-day operations of Meridian Air Charter,” adds Ken Forester, CEO. “He has the operational experience and people skills to help navigate the challenges of the ever-changing charter landscape. Having operations, sales and marketing under his leadership will help us to compete more effectively in today’s marketplace. Emil’s new position will also allow Dennis greater bandwidth to focus on the other key areas of the operation. Together, they will be a powerful team in moving the business forward.”

About Meridian

Meridian is an award-winning, private aviation company with locations at Teterboro Airport (TEB) near New York City, and Hayward Executive Airport (HWD) near San Francisco. Meridian owns and operates businesses that include FBOs, Private Air Charter, Aircraft Management, and Aircraft Maintenance. We also have charter sales offices located at Van Nuys Airport (VNY) and Sonoma County Airport (STS) in California, and Opa-Locka Executive Airport (OPF) in Miami, FL.

Meridian Teterboro has earned numerous industry awards and accolades for its exceptional service: 2019 AIN FBO Survey - Top 5% FBO in the Americas and #1 FBO in Northeast; 2019 *Professional Pilot* PRASE Survey - Top 13 Best FBOs in US, Top 6 Best Independent FBOs in US, and Best CSRs (Betsy Wines and Victor Seda); 2018 Pilots’ Choice Awards - #1 US FBO in Northeast. Meridian was voted #1 FBO at Teterboro Airport in all three surveys.

Meridian Air Charter has one of the best safety standards in the industry. In addition to our own Safety Management System (SMS), we regularly undergo

rigorous third-party audits conducted by the industry's leading vendor and international industry auditing associations. Meridian is one of only 140 operators worldwide to hold the ARG/US Platinum rating, the highest level awarded. We are also IS-BAO Stage 2 Certified and IATA TCO Approved. We maintain the Wyvern Wingman Certification, which only 103 operators currently hold worldwide.

For more information, please visit our website at www.meridian.aero or call us in Teterboro, NJ, at 201-288-5040, or in Hayward, CA, at 510-674-2500.

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