

From the Columbus Business First:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/columbus/news/2012/08/14/whitestone-group-to-provide-security.html>

Whitestone Group to provide security at FAA facilities along East Coast

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A fast-growing private security firm in Columbus has landed a \$104 million contract to provide armed guards for the Federal Aviation Administration along the East Coast.

Whitestone Group Inc. will provide about 368 guards at 34 FAA sites, including towers, air traffic control facilities and other venues, CEO John Clark said. Those guards are all professional security officers, which Clark said requires about 60 hours of training.

Whitestone's employees are a mix of military veterans, former law enforcement officers and college-educated professionals, Clark said.

The \$104 million contract is the largest Whitestone has with the FAA, he said. The company helped the FAA develop a national training standard for the private armed security companies with which it contracts, ultimately landing the new contract for the entire East Coast.

The contract goes into effect Oct. 1, Clark said.

Whitestone will provide security at individual FAA facilities like air traffic control towers, not whole airports, Clark said. On Sunday, a man climbed undetected onto the tarmac at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York after he was stranded on a jet ski in a neighboring bay.

Whitestone has been one of Central Ohio's fastest growing companies over the past few years, landing on Columbus Business First's Fast 50 list the last two years.

Clark said the company, which started in 2000, has doubled its revenue every year for the last five years. He credits good management and employees for the growth. Clark works with COO Pamela Gentile to drum up new business, including the company's new FAA contract.

"Our creed is to protect this nation and its greatest asset – its people," he said.

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