



## Cutter Aviation

In 1928 William P. "Bill" Cutter became chief pilot for the new and first Albuquerque Airport and established Cutter Flying Service offering air charters to remote regions of the southwest. The business was moved to the West Mesa Airport, a second airport to serve Albuquerque, in the mid 1930's and more services were offered including aircraft maintenance and a flight school. In 1938 a contract with Phillips 66 was established to provide aircraft fueling. The following year Bill Cutter teamed up with fellow pilot Clark Carr and the two took over the operation of the West Mesa Airport renaming the businesses to Cutter-Carr Flying Service. The airport had been operated by Transcontinental and Western Air (TWA) but the airline moved to the new Albuquerque Municipal Airport, a third airport to serve the city. In 1947, Clark Carr separated from the business and began his own airline, Carco, providing scheduled service between the Albuquerque Municipal Airport and Los Alamos, New Mexico. Bill Cutter then relocated the fixed base operation, or FBO, to the Municipal Airport where a large hanger was constructed but kept a smaller operation running at the West Mesa Airport. A contract with Beechcraft was also established in 1947 providing sales of Beech aircraft. The FBO was later renamed to Cutter Aviation. As business declined at the West Mesa Airport, Cutter ended its services there in 1962 and the airport later closed in 1967. In 1959 the business expanded to the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport in which Bill P. Cutter's oldest son, Bill R. was assigned to manage. Bill P. passed away in the early 1960's and his second son, Sid, took over the Albuquerque operation. A large air taxi service with several dedicated aircraft was also being run by this time. In the early 1970's, Sid Cutter devoted his attention to hot air ballooning and began the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in 1972. Sid then left Cutter at which time Bill R. took control over running the entire business in both Albuquerque and Phoenix. The Albuquerque Municipal Airport later became the International Airport and planning began in the early 1980's for a major expansion requiring the space where Cutter was located. Cutter's operation was then moved to a newly constructed facility on the south side of the airport by the mid-1980's. The business has since expanded to several other airports from California to Texas. In the 1990's, Bill R.'s son Will, a third family generation, took control of the business and Cutter continues to be a thriving operation at the Albuquerque International Sunport as the airport is known as today. Services are provided to all types of general aviation, military, and charter flights including those on large wide-body airliners. Cutter also has a small fleet of its own aircraft.



William P. Cutter, founder of Cutter Aviation.



Cutter-Carr Flying Service at Albuquerque's West Mesa Airport 1940's through 1960's





Cutter Aviation facility at the Albuquerque Sunport, 1947 through the mid 1980's.



Cutter Air Taxi aircraft at the Albuquerque Sunport facility during the 1960's.



Current Cutter Aviation terminal at the Albuquerque Sunport.



Aerial view of the Cutter Aviation facility at the Albuquerque Sunport.