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Shannon Airport celebrates 70 years since its first flight

Petula Martyn

IT is 70 years since the first plane landed at Shannon and the airport commemorated the historical event with a re-enactment yesterday.

On May 18, 1939, an Irish Air Corps Anson aircraft made the flight from Baldonnel to Rineanna, landing at 14.20 hours.

The Air Corps assisted Shannon Airport in commemorating the event by landing their CASA aircraft at the exact same time of day, on Monday.

"This is a very special day for Shannon and we are delighted that the Air Corps were able to participate in this commemorative event," said

Martin Moroney, Shannon Airport Director. "To this day we continue to have a close working relationship with the Air Corps and we are pleased to see that continue."

The airport is unique in its location and its place in the history of world aviation. The site was originally chosen for its geographical position as the transatlantic gateway between Europe and America.

Mr Moroney said the airport has evolved in 70 years into much more than a key transit facility. Shannon continues to develop US travel opportunities, he said, citing the development of the new Full US Customs and Border Protection Pre-Clearance Facility which will be opened later this summer.



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