



On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010, RGBB member Rick Armstrong, Assistant Chief Fire Officer at King Khaled International Airport (KKIA) kindly arranged a fire fighting demonstration, at their Fire Rescue training service ground, to show the capabilities of a recently arrived addition to the fleet of fire fighting vehicles, an Oshkosh Foam Tender Model T-3000. The RGBB would like to thank Rick and his colleagues for arranging this event on their day off, the RGBB members and their families who attended appreciated their hospitality.

King Khalid International Airport (KKIA) was the world's largest airport in respect of area until King Fahd International Airport (KFIA) took this title. KKIA requires 3 Category 9 stations to achieve the required response times to qualify for its Category 9 rating and is on route with the purchase of additional tenders to attain a Category 10 rating which would allow the new Airbus A 380 to use the airport. The A 380 is currently the only commercial aircraft to have fire resistant panels in its fuselage. As aircraft fire fighters have a 3 minute response time to reach an aircraft to cover the fuselage in foam, the use of fire resistant panels in the fuselage is a distinct advantage. A category 10

rating requires the ability to reach an aircraft with 32,000 litres of water and foam with a disbursement rate of 11,000 litres per minute.

The new Oshkosh can achieve a speed of 80 kph in 39 seconds or less and has a maximum speed of 105 kph. It has a water tank capacity of 11,356 litres, the capacity for foam being 1,590 litres. It has a roof turret throw of 80 metres. The fire department at KKIA has a range of other foam tenders, snorkels (the vehicle with the large bending arm), pumps, rescue vehicles, command vehicles and ambulances.

The demonstration involved burning 500 litres of a very combustible mixture of gasoline and diesel fuel, which was then promptly extinguished by the fire engines. Even allowing for the mid morning heat of a Riyadh day, the heat generated by the ignited fuel was intense, even standing at a safe viewing distance. During the demonstration there was time for children both old and young to play at being firemen!!

There was a chance for the children to use a fire hose, not at operating pressure and also use the range of horns and sirens which bring out the child in most of us. All attendees had a most enjoyable morning and the warmth of the fire put was matched by the warmth of the reception given by Rick and his staff, to whom thanks once again is given.

**Bill Nicholson**

