Background: King County International Airport/Boeing Field (KBFI) has experienced several wrong surface/runway alignments, wrong runway landings, and aircraft flying through the parallel final then turning back to the correct final. As expected, for each documented event, there are numerous saved undocumented events that are noticed and corrected by air traffic controllers and pilots.

Wrong runway landings/alignments present a significant risk to safety. An aircraft landing on the wrong runway could collide with an aircraft or vehicle that has been cleared onto that runway. Aircraft on final to the wrong runway risk colliding with another aircraft on final for that runway.

One factor may be the airport's closely spaced parallel runways with offset thresholds at both ends. Nationally, this configuration seems to contribute to wrong runway landings because pilots see the nearer threshold and focus on that runway, regardless of which runway they are cleared to land on.

For example, at BFI parallel runways are spaced 375 feet apart, centerline to centerline. A pilot turning final to Runway 32R will likely see the approach end of Runway 32L first because it is approximately 4,527 feet closer and more apparent than the threshold of Runway 32R. A pilot turning final to Runway 14L will likely see the approach end of Runway 14R first because it is approximately 1,522 feet closer and more apparent than the threshold of Runway 14L.

To prevent landing or lining up on the wrong runway, pilots should:

- Familiarize yourself with the airport layout and information prior to your flight including this video on BFI at https://www.faa.gov/go/BFI
- Actively listen to ATC instructions and clearances to ensure runway assignment is understood.
- Read back instructions and clearances, including the runway number and left or right as appropriate.
- Visually identify both runway thresholds. This may help counter the fixation many pilots have on the first runway seen.
- **Ask ATC if you have any doubt about the runway you are cleared to land on or whether you are lined up on the correct runway.**

Distance: 4527.5 Feet
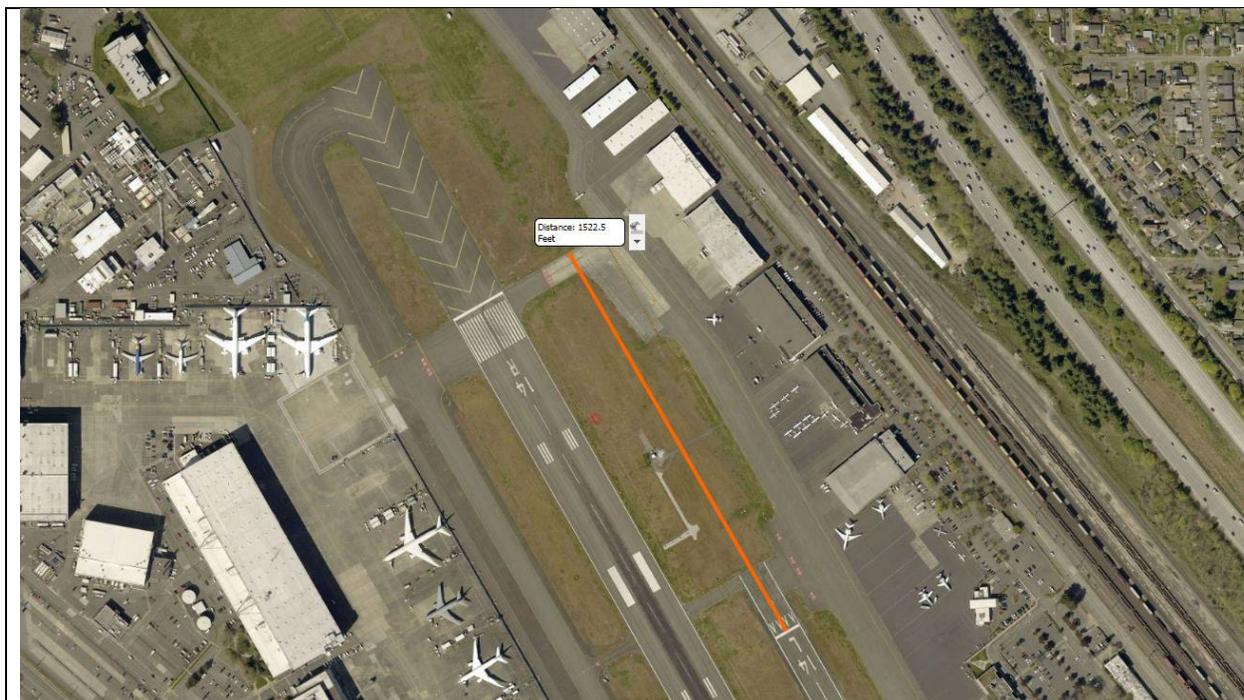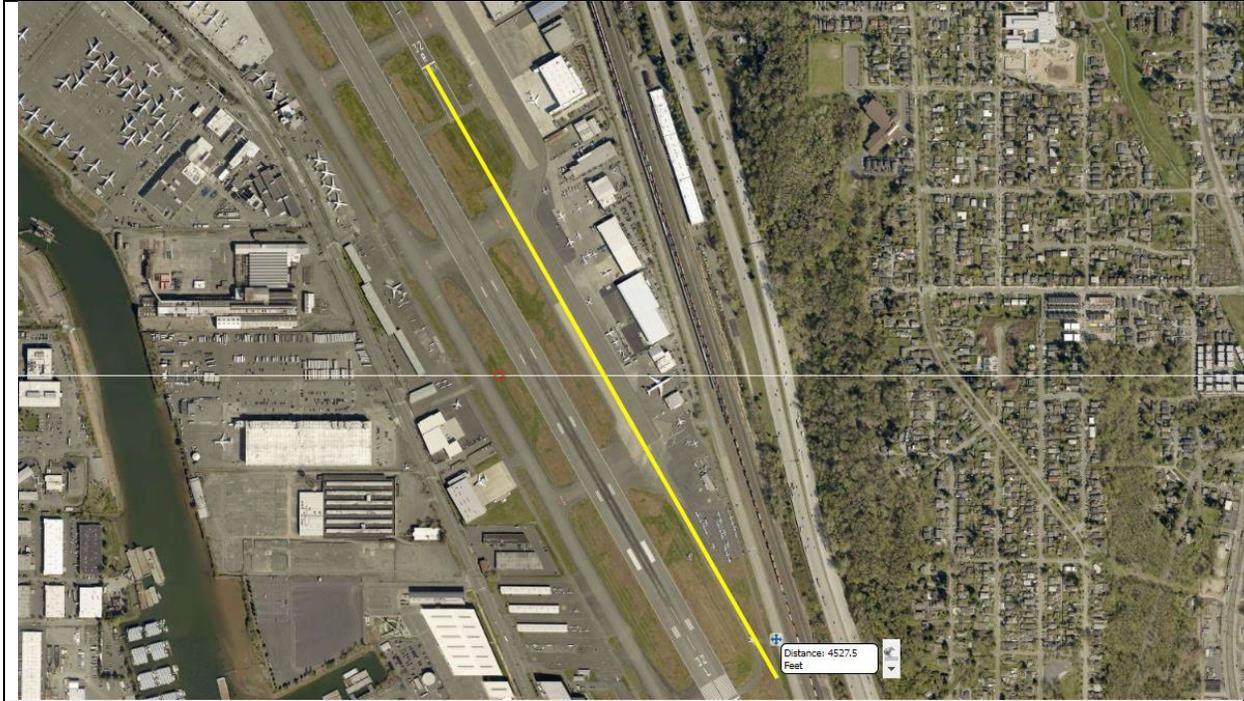
Takashi Nelson, BFI Air Traffic Manager