

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.  
SWEARING IN OF FAA ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL THOMAS C. RICHARDS  
JULY 17, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

It is my privilege to welcome Tom Richards, and his wife, Meredyth to the DOT family. Let me say at the outset, Tom, you are taking over the helm of one of the most outstanding agencies in the federal government. Here at the Federal Aviation Administration, we have a highly motivated team of dedicated individuals. And I know they will benefit from your leadership as you will from their experience.

Before he accepted this appointment, I knew Tom best for his work as a member of the Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism. President Bush appointed Tom to that commission, which -- as many of you remember -- grew out of the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

I was involved with the commission when I was Deputy Chief of Staff at the White House. And I know that Tom and the other commission members worked tirelessly to investigate many aspects of terrorism and to develop a report which led to changes in aviation security. The commission's report was the foundation for changes which have strengthened the aviation industry's programs to fight terrorism.



So Tom comes to the FAA with an abundance of knowledge and sensitivity on one of our most important issues -- aviation security.

I wanted you to know that bit of background because it's easy for Tom's military experience to overshadow all his other accomplishments.

He rose through the ranks from an enlisted man to four star general, which is quite an accomplishment in and of itself. He is the recipient of many decorations.

But Tom's four stars were earned as much for his achievements at high levels of management as they were for his performance in battle.

For over 20 years he held challenging senior management positions -- as Commandant of Cadets at the Air Force Academy, head of the Keesler Technical Training Center, and head of the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base.

He is an old pro when it comes to budgeting, planning and policy formulation. If a decoration existed for bravery in bureaucratic battles, I'm sure Tom Richards would be wearing it.



At this time the FAA is undergoing a dramatic transformation as its air traffic control modernization programs become an actuality. There's a new sense of urgency about education and training to maintain the skills and high quality of our workforce. Tom -- perhaps more than anyone else -- understands this problem and knows what must be done.

And now, it is my pleasure to administer the oath of office to the 12th Administrator of the FAA, Thomas C. Richards.

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