



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Friday, March 16 has stories on AMTRAK and Aviation Security..

First, a story on AMTRAK with a statement by Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar.

"In a report to Congress today, Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar recommended continuing federal support of AMTRAK's efforts to improve intercity rail passenger service. The report calls for some modification of the AMTRAK route structure and a federal grant of \$93 million for the 1974 Fiscal Year to offset anticipated operating losses. Secretary Brinegar commented:

"President Nixon demonstrated his strong support for revitalized intercity rail passenger service by sponsoring the National Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970 -- the genesis of AMTRAK. In its early months of operation, AMTRAK has made encouraging gains toward reaching the President's goal, and we think further progress can be made.

"One of the most important of the gains is increased ridership. For example, in a recent 7 month period, there was an 11 percent gain over the corresponding period of the prior year. Revenues for the current year are estimated to be up by about \$30 million, and with the major car improvement program and other changes now underway, we expect additional gains in later years."

Next, a story on a special graduation.

"The first class of an explosive detection training course -- 6 law enforcement officers and their dogs -- graduated today at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. The course is designed to enhance security at the nation's airports and is jointly sponsored by the Departments of Transportation and Justice and the Air Force. We talked with the Chief of the Explosives Detection Dog Course, at Lackland, about the course.

"This course takes place after the man goes through a basic twelve week handlers course and the dog is already a trained patrol dog. Now, in the explosives detection course, during this nine weeks of training, we are training

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handlers for the Department of Transportation and also military dog handlers to utilize a dog in the detection of explosive odors. At any international airport throughout the country, or any Federal building, say in an area around these large cities, or any Air Force base, these dogs can be utilized on bomb threats to cut down the amount of time to detect explosives or to find out whether the threat is true or just a crank call."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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