



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

intercom:

Office of Public Affairs
Alaskan Region
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April 1987

87-04

FAA'S FEDERAL EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



The four nominees for FAA's Outstanding Federal Employee of the Year Award in the Anchorage area pose with Frank Cunningham, regional director (center). They are, from left to right, **Don Keil**, deputy director, AAL-2; **Sayoko Mimoto**, engineering technician, AAL-453; Cunningham; **Paul Steucke**, public affairs officer, AAL-5; and **Christine Morgan**, administrative/operations secretary, Anchorage Flight Service Station. Keil, Steucke and Morgan were later selected as Federal Employee of the year in their respective categories from all the federal agencies within the Anchorage area. (See cover story on page 2.)

Cover story

Christine Morgan, Category I (GS-1 through GS-6), serves as the principle office clerical administrative support to the manager, assistant manager and operations office staff at the Anchorage Flight Service Station. She "effectively demonstrates the ability to quickly analyze and promptly responds to requests in a highly professional manner." Morgan's ability to understand instructions implicitly and anticipate the needs of the staff has been "extremely valuable" to the personnel at the flight service station.

Sayoko Mimoto, Category II (GS-7 through GS-12), serves as an engineering technician within the FAA that provides engineering drafting and design for all Airway Facilities sites throughout Alaska. Her "drawings are always accurate, ensuring engineers and technicians have the best possible depiction of electronic equipment or electronic site plans to prevent costly delays in installation and construction." Mimoto also "consistently maintains superior performance at such a high level that supervision of work is in the form of consulting rather than directing."

Paul Steucke, Category III (GS-13 and above) is the public affairs officer for the Alaskan Region. Not only does Steucke represent the agency through the media, but he has also "donated many hours of time, labor and talent as a community leader and as a fine artist to further the social and economic goals of many non-profit organizations in Alaska." Steucke is also serving a second term at the request of the Governor as the federal representative of the Alaska Safety Advisory Council.

Don Keil, Category IV (community services), is the deputy director for the Alaskan Region. His involvement in community affairs includes serving on the board of directors for Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Association, the Spinal Cord Society and the advisory board of the Salvation Army. Keil is considered the "heart and soul" of FAA's Employ the Handicapped Program.

Congratulations to each of you on your selection as FAA's Outstanding Employee of the Year. It is because of people like you that make the Alaskan Region what it is today. Thank you for a job well done.

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If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please call the Editor at 271-5293.

Message to retirees

by: Jean Pershall
AAL-16B

If you have retired since June 6, 1986, and have been drawing an annuity, you can compute your tax exclusion as follows: you need to know 1) how much you paid into your retirement account and how much you have received in annuities; 2) your monthly annuity; and 3) how much your annuity would be reduced by a lump-sum withdrawal. Round answers to the nearest dollar.

1. Take your total retirement contributions and subtract annuities received to date.
2. Divide your annuity reduction by your original annuity.
3. Multiply the answer to step 1 by the answer to step 2.
4. The answer is your tax exclusion.

For example, use the hypothetical person retiring at age 60 with contributions of \$22,000, an annuity of \$1,000 and \$2,000 received thus far in monthly annuities.

1. $22,000 - 2,000 = 20,000$
2. 108 divided by 1,000 = .108
3. $20,000 \times .108 = 2,160$
4. \$2,160 is the tax exclusion

The retiree would owe taxes on the \$17,840 balance ($\$20,000 - 2,160$) of the lump-sum payment.

Q. How long do I have to make up my mind whether or not to elect the lump-sum withdrawal option?

A. People who retired after June 6, 1986, are being notified by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that they must use the option in 30 days or lose it altogether. Employees currently retiring are still being asked to submit a letter requesting more information because

there is no election form prescribed by OPM at this time. Current retirees will be notified by OPM and given 30 days to exercise their option.

Court denies request

A Federal District Court in Anchorage has denied a request by the National Association of Air Traffic Specialists (NAATS) for a preliminary injunction prohibiting periodic drug testing of its members.

In a 73-page decision, Judge James Fitzgerald ruled that FAA's substance abuse testing program does not violate the Fourth Amendment's guarantee of protection against unreasonable search and seizures because public safety considerations outweigh the intrusion upon the petitioners' legitimate expectation of privacy resulting from the taking of an unobserved urine specimen and testing the specimen for drugs." He also dismissed arguments that the program violated the self-incrimination clause of the Fifth Amendment.

NAATS, which represents FAA's Flight Service Station specialists, was seeking the preliminary injunction to prevent periodic and random testing until the Court had ruled on its challenge to the FAA Drug Program and DOT proposed program, as well as the President's Executive Order on the subject. Judge Fitzgerald's March 27 decision does not completely resolve the lawsuit, but will allow FAA to continue with its present program.

Medical notes - good health

by: Pat Sanders
AAL-300

Nothing in life is as precious or can give you as much pleasure as good health. Yet, few qualities can be as inexpensively attained or universally available.

Wellness, which is a combination of physical fitness and sound mental health, is your birthright. But chances are good that over the years you may have squandered much of it by neglecting to follow good health practices.

Lifestyle is a popular word these days. And while it is often carelessly used, for our purposes lifestyle is simply the way you live, the things you do that affect your health. Yet, most of us have spent a great deal of our lives with habits that can damage or destroy our physical well-being and mental health.

A lifestyle that encompasses sound health and outstanding physical and mental fitness costs little to maintain, it can not be stolen from you or taxed, it is enjoyable almost from the first moment you accept and start practicing it, and it is well within your grasp.

A healthy lifestyle not only will add to the length of your life (your life span), but also will improve the quality of life, the richness and simple joy of being alive. Living longer, and living fit, allows you thousands more hours of vibrant and active living, a wider range of activity, and the opportunity for greater accomplishment.

Living better can also mean greater physical comfort, ease and enjoyment in carrying out your daily tasks. It will allow you to experience life with added strength, vitality, creativity and pleasure.

If you are generally healthy, you should integrate three basic factors into your life in order to enjoy better health. These are proper nutrition, regular exercise, and efficient stress management. The manner and consistency with which you perform this integration procedure will ultimately dictate the quality of your lifestyle.

No one will force you to adopt any of the health and fitness practices; you must make the decision to do this for yourself. You need not have the ironwilled determination of a professional athlete; you can proceed at your own pace and enjoy the positive changes in your health and fitness lifestyle.

Above all, achieving good health and fitness should be an enjoyable process. You can do as much or as little as you like toward making the changes in your life, as long as you enjoy the process. You can proceed as slowly or as quickly as you find comfortable and enjoyable. And remember that even small positive changes in your lifestyle can increase the length and improve the quality of your life.

An unhealthful lifestyle can be directly responsible for many of our health problems (obesity; stress; physical inactivity; hypertension; abuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco; dietary excesses; diabetes; depression; insomnia; stroke; heart attack; frequent flu and colds; and general unhappiness).

Given that many of these physical and mental ills and conditions are often the result of maintaining an unhealthful lifestyle, it is essential to realize that most of them are preventable, either totally or to a great degree, simply by making intelligent and health-

... continued ...

promoting modifications to your current lifestyle.

These modifications are not painful, complicated processes of giving up your present lifestyle to accept a radical, somewhat lonely new one. They mean eating nourishing and health-promoting food, exercising regularly, and responding effectively and easily to changes and stressful situations.

So does it not make sense to decide to adopt a new health and fitness lifestyle?

How much do you think you can improve? Can you cut down or give up smoking? Eat fewer sweets and fats? Exercise some every day? Avoid stressful quarrels at home and hassles at work?

\$84,000 penalty

USAir has agreed to an \$84,000 civil penalty settlement for deficiencies uncovered during FAA's recent in-depth inspection of the carrier. It had been cited for improper maintenance procedures and faulty recordkeeping.

In addition, USAir agreed to pay another \$666,000 for non-compliance with an Airworthiness Directive discovered before the in-depth inspection began. The directive required visual inspection of the forward galley service door of DC-9 aircraft for cracks.

Beware of forms

Employees on official travel are cautioned not to use any of the official-looking tax exempt forms for hotel/motel taxes that are being circulated. Use of anything other than legal forms that are approved

for use in particular jurisdictions can be construed as tax evasion. The FAA Travel Manual points out that employees on official travel should seek exemption from occupancy taxes whenever possible thus resulting in a lower cost of lodging to the government. The Federal Hotel/Motel Discount Directory lists locations which grant occupancy tax exemptions and required steps to claim the exemption.

If you are traveling to a location not listed in the directory, the lodging establishment should be contacted first to determine if there is a legal exemption from the tax and what is required to claim it.

Transfer of control

Going...Gone...Almost Gone. That is the story of the two FAA run Washington, D.C., area airports following the signing of a lease on March 2 that will transfer their control to a regional airport authority.

Under the terms of the 50-year lease, the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority will pay the federal government \$3 million for National and Dulles during the first year with subsequent payments adjusted for inflation.

The close to 700 employees have until May 26 to decide whether to transition to the new regional authority that will begin running the airports on June 7. Most of the FAA employees are expected to make the switch with an estimated 15 percent or more electing retirement.

Earl Scott (left in the following three pictures), manager, McGrath FSS, presented Letters of Commendation to three air traffic control specialists at McGrath FSS for their work during the Iditarod. Those receiving letters were **Craig Jackson**, **Mark Kytonen** and **Dennis Sheehan**.



John D. Harbison (left), air traffic control specialist Northway FSS, receives a Letter of Commendation from **Ron Glonek**, manager.



Edgar Billiet (right), manager, Anchorage Airway Facilities International, presents a Letter of Commendation to **James Houston**, electronics technician, from the manager of the Anchorage Tower.



Jackson



Kytonen



Sheehan



Penny Sheaffer (center), Anchorage FSS, and **Elwood Hussey** (right), AAL-34, each received \$25 in cash from **Jerry Wylie** (left), president, Civilair Club, for the baking contest the club held to kick off the year's membership drive. Penny's dessert won for best tasting and Elwood's dessert won for best decorated. **Tom Westall**, AAL-200; **Don Keil**, AAL-2; and **Bob Lewis**, AAL-30, were the judges.

Further study needed

Airline travelers who consider cigarettes essential survival gear have been given a temporary lease on life by the Department of Transportation.

In a February 27 report to the Congress, DOT said "further study" is required before it can determine whether a no-smoking rule for domestic airline flights is necessary to protect passengers and crewmembers. Last August, a special committee of the National Academy of Sciences, working under a DOT/FAA contract, recommended a smoking ban on all domestic flights "to reduce potential health hazards to cabin crew associated with environmental tobacco smoke (ETS)," among other reasons.

However, in its report, DOT said the ETS issue needs to be investigated further in the light of new research. Technological solutions, such as modifications to aircraft ventilation systems, also should be studied.

News on drug program

During the first month of FAA's drug testing program, approximately 1,000 urinalyses were conducted with only three positive results, two of which were from job applicants.

These findings were reported in a March 18 memo to FAA employees by Associate Administrator Charles E. "Gene" Weithoner who said the agency hopes to expand the program to include testing for barbiturates, methaqualone, methadone, and benzodiazepines in the near future. Drugs currently on the test list are amphetamines, opiates, marijuana, cocaine and phencyclidine (PCP).

Weithoner also noted that new research into the effects of eating domestic poppy seeds on urine samples have shown that consumption of even small amounts can produce positive readings for morphine. Consequently, he added, FAA will take no action "regarding any employee based solely on a positive result for morphine."

If the reading is positive, he continued, "the regional flight surgeon's review would include a discussion with the employee to find possible reasons."

Status on FAA's CMD

Construction for the new FAA Center for Management Development (CMD) at Palm Coast, Florida, now is well along and classes are scheduled to begin this fall. The FCMD is the successor to the present FAA Management Training School (MTS) in Lawton, Oklahoma.

The exterior walls for the three main campus buildings are just about completed. Two of these are dormitories, which will provide each student with a private room. The third and largest building will house classrooms, administrative and instructors offices, and some recreational facilities.

Another construction project of interest to future CMD students got underway on February 26 with a groundbreaking ceremony for a new bridge that will link Palm Coast with the barrier island that fronts on the Atlantic Ocean. Until its scheduled completion in the spring of 1988, students will be able to ride a launch across the Inland Waterway to get to the ocean.

Engen speaks out

Administrator Donald Engen recently told a Texas law symposium that he is concerned about efforts by some local jurisdiction to seek criminal sanctions in accident cases and pledged that "FAA will vigorously resist any attempt by a local official to prosecute a controller offering a public safety service."

The Administrator cited, in particular, an October 1986 lightplane accident near La Crescenta, California. Requests for ATC testimony and data from the Los Angeles County Attorney clearly indicated he was contemplating possible criminal prosecution of controllers.

Engen noted that FAA's position subsequently was conveyed to the county attorney in a letter from the agency's chief counsel. It said, in part: "I believe that air traffic controllers and other federal employees are shielded from state and local criminal prosecution for actions performed within the course and scope of their federally-authorized and mandated duties..."

Engen promised that FAA "will continue to hold strongly to those precepts which provide for safety and air commerce."

GSA on calls home

Contrary to what you may have read in other FAA publications, there has been no change in the GSA rules to allow reimbursement of federal employees for telephone calls home when on official travel.

GSA is exploring the issue and expects to issue new rules in the near future. GSA presently allows reimbursement only for business-related calls, which includes calls to reserve lodging.

Changes in schedules

The nation's airlines have agreed to approximately 350 changes in flight schedules at five of the nation's major airports in an effort to reduce delays in the National Airspace System this summer.

The carriers met March 16-19 in Washington, D.C., under FAA leadership, to discuss scheduling adjustments that would provide a more even distribution of flights during peak periods. Deputy Chief Counsel Ed Faberman and Air Traffic Operations Director Jack Ryan ran the meeting for FAA.

As a result of the five-day session, 203 flights were shifted at Atlanta's Hartsfield, 121 at Chicago O'Hare (including 75 agreed to before the meeting), 13 each at Philadelphia and Newark and one at Dallas/Ft. Worth.

New requirements

The FAA has adopted new requirements for cockpit voice recorders (CVRs) on commuter airplanes.

At the same time Administrator Engen announced that FAA has initiated a rulemaking project that, for the first time, would require flight data recorders (FDR) on these aircraft and further expand the CVR requirements. This would bring commuters in line with the requirements for large carriers.

The new commuter CVR rule affects newly-manufactured jet and turboprop commuter aircraft that carry six or more passengers and are required to have two pilots. As part of the same rulemaking, FAA also mandated the installation of more sophisticated and reliable digital flight data recorders on approximately 2,000 older jet aircraft. Operators have two years to comply.



Employees at the Bethel AF Sector Field Officer (SFO) were recent recipients of an award to acknowledge exemplary performance for the period of July through December 1986. Employees Diane Horton, Frank Charles, Richard Totten, Jimmy Boyd, Charles Hill, Jaun Solis, Charles Smith, Elias Venes, Delfin Catunao, Fred Jack, James Huteson, Joseph Chikoyak, Robert Atkins, Alexander Oscar and Jimmie Tennant received Letters of Recognition. Acting manager Jimmy Boyd (left) accepted a commemorative plaque presented by Dave Morse, manager, Airway Facilities Division, for the SFO's achievements.



Mike Sherwin, director, Management Systems Division, HQs, recently presented the "Office of Management Systems Director's Service Award" or "Skunkworks" awards, to (from left to right), Naomi Christensen, Stan Hill, Bert Bellumoni, Chuck Moody and Jim Hughes for being innovators and doers with the "EGATS," "SAM" and "TRIMATE" systems. Not only are these people innovators when it comes to creating new systems, but check out the names of the systems. Congratulations to each of you.

NOTE: Beginning with the pay period that ends on April 25, 1987, a new statement of earnings and leave (SEL) will be produced. Employees should receive the first SEL on or about the May 5 payday. The SEL is designed in a "free flow" format that allows flexibility and provides detailed data on adjustments and entitlements, including the Thrift Savings Plan.

People and awards

** LETTERS OF COMMENDATION **

Michael Caskey, air traffic control specialist (ATCS), Kotzebue FSS

Craig Morrow, ATCS, Kotzebue FSS

Dwight Kramer, ATCS, Kotzebue FSS

Rosetta Francis-Robinson, EEO specialist, AAL-9

** LETTERS OF APPRECIATION **

Joe Wilson, ATCS, Kotzebue FSS

Roger Dube, ATCS, Kotzebue FSS

** ON-THE-SPOT-AWARD **

Jim Burton, duty officer, AAL-6

** 30-YEAR SERVICE PIN **

Marion "Moose" Moore, electronics technician, Kenai SFO

** 25-YEAR SERVICE PIN **

Gilbert G. Vanborg, boiler plant equipment manager, Anchorage SFO

** 15-YEAR SERVICE PIN **

Robert Mackey, area supervisor, Fairbanks ATCT

Robin M. Craviotto, ATCS, Kenai FSS

** 3-YEAR SERVICE PIN **

Flora Robinson, ATCS, Northway FSS

** RETIREMENT **

Donald Otto, ATCS, Homer FSS, after 29 years with the federal government

Lois Shute, secretary, AAL-400a, after 24 plus years with the federal government

** TRANSFERS/PROMOTIONS **

Tony Johnson, former air traffic manager, Kotzebue FSS, transferred to Oakland AFSS as area supervisor

Clifford Mujamoto, ATCS, Iliamna FSS

Ann Roberts, former cashier, AAL-34, now accounting analyst, AAL-33

Fred Jack, new manager, Nome SFO

Stephen Hubbert, ATCS, transferred from Oklahoma to McGrath FSS

Dolores Coates, ATCS, selected as employee participation group (EPG) coordinator, AAL-17

Ruth Craig, new secretary, AAL-462

Thomas Wicker, maintenance mechanic trainee, South Alaska Sector

Don Vallish, new electronics technician, South Alaska Sector

Robert G. Wedemeier, new manager, Organizational Effectiveness Branch, AAL-17

Terry Alexander, planning specialist, AAL-519

** BIRTHS **

Donna (Poskey) Holbrook, ATCS, Merrill ATCT, and her husband, are proud parents of an 8 pound, 3 oz baby boy, Shane, born on March 8

Janet and Ted Wild (Fairbanks FSS), are proud parents of a 9 pound 2 oz son, Douglas Edward, born on March 5

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**** DEATHS ****

Al Abrams, FAA retiree, electronics technician, McGrath FSS, passed away on March 12 in Grants Pass, Oregon; he is survived by his wife, Millie

Brandon "Brandy" Wentworth, retired electronics engineer with FAA in Anchorage, passed away on March 9 in Southwest Harbor, Maine



Around the region

Congratulations to **Hal Hoversten**, son of **Mel and Claudia (AAL-30B) Hoversten**, who recently received the 1987 Citizenship Award for Mears Junior High. Hal was selected by the Mears' faculty as the student who exemplified qualities of honor, service, courage, leadership and patriotism. The bronze medal is presented annually by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

A note to those sending mail to the Anchorage Flight Service Station (not Merrill FSS) - the correct routing symbol is **ANC FSS**. The Anchorage FSS is located at Merrill Field, but that is all they have in common.

The **Sitka Flight Service Station** recorded the highest activity count for a February on record this year. The flight services count was 8,011, which is about 1,800 higher than last year's February total.

Congratulations to **Mike Cronk**, son of **Lyle Cronk**, Northway FSS, on his being named Alaska's Player-of-the-Year Award in high school basketball. Mike averaged 37 points and 23 rebounds a game this season for the 24-3 Northway team as a 6-foot-3 center.

There have been a few changes in the Air Traffic Division lately - the two evaluation specialist positions (AAL-514 and -515) have been removed from the AAL-510 branch. **Bobby Lamkin's** new routing symbol is **AAL-507** and **Dave Brown's** is **AAL-508**. The telephone numbers are the same. Also, the title of the Plans, Programs and Evaluation Branch, AAL-510, has been changed to the **Plans, Programs and Resources Branch**.

The letters **ATCT** are not what they might seem. Many of us use the term thinking it stands for air traffic control tower. But in reality it is **airport traffic control tower**. Learn something new everyday.

The Civil Rights Office recently announced the selection of three new Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) counselors - congratulations to **Fred Ninger**, Anchorage Air Route Traffic Control Center; **Patsy Norsworthy**, AAL-421; and **Linda Peterson**, AAL-300.

EAP

Employee Assistance Program

At your service. The Agency's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is there to help you when you need it. The program is intended for those who have problems which are temporarily out of control. An EAP counselor can provide objective assistance in getting the "situation" under control.

Our EAP contractor, Human Affairs of Alaska (HAA), has counselors available who will work with employees/dependents to assess the situation. They help clarify the **PERCEIVED** problem(s), determine the **PRIMARY** problem(s), and finally, target **RESOLUTIONS**, things that can "be done."

FAA pays for HAA/EAP services; however, if long-term or specialized assistance is required, the employee/dependent may be charged by the referral resource. The HAA counselor will work with you, your insurance company (if medical), and the referral resource to determine costs prior to use of referral services.

Human Affairs of Alaska is located at 341 West Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, at (907) 562-0794. HAA counselors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. HAA contracts with numerous agencies and private companies, so please identify yourself as FAA when using the service.

EAP EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION BRIEFINGS have been scheduled in the Anchorage commuting area as follows:

April 23 - 1:30 p.m. ZAN AT/AF
 April 24 - 1:30 p.m. ZAN AT/AF
 April 25 - 1:30 p.m. ZAN AT/AF
 April 26 - 1:30 p.m. ZAN AT/AF
 April 27 - 8:30 a.m. FSDO-63
 May 1 - 8:30 a.m. R.O. Bid Room

Employees not assigned to ZAN or FSDO-63, and who wish to attend one of their scheduled briefings, please contact Roslynne Reed, EAP coordinator, AAL-16, 271-5367. The briefing scheduled on May 1, regional office, is open to any employee and/or dependents.

One-time option

by: Jean Pershall
 AAL-16B

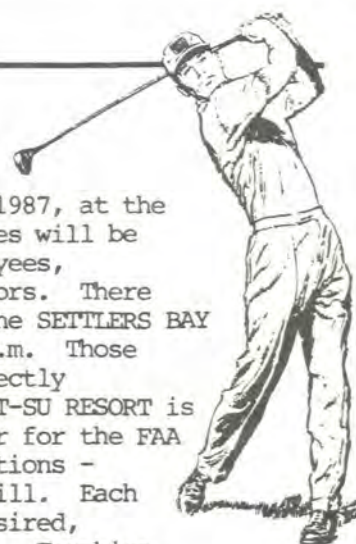
Under revised regulations, effective February 23, 1987, when you become eligible for Medicare at age 65 you may change health coverage under the Federal Employees' Health Benefits Program (FEHB) to any option in any FEHB plan. This is a one-time option. Subsequent changes must be made during regularly scheduled "open seasons" for active and retired federal workers.

There is no limit for making this one time change. Medicare eligibles are allowed to change FEHB enrollment at the time they discover that their current FEHB coverage no longer suits their needs.

Flying Tiger pays

The Flying Tiger Line has paid FAA \$190,000 in full settlement of an enforcement action resulting from the recent Special National Inspection of Air Carriers. Violations uncovered by FAA inspectors consisted of incorrect training, maintenance and flight duty time record keeping as well as operating aircraft prior to approval of maintenance.

1987 GOLF TOURNAMENT



The 1987 Golf Tournament is scheduled for FRIDAY, June 26, 1987, at the SETTLERS BAY GOLF COURSE - 10:00 a.m. SHOTGUN START! Entries will be limited to 90 golfers. Tournament is open to ALL FAA employees, dependents, retirees, and their guests and tournament sponsors. There will be a Banquet immediately following the tournament at the SETTLERS BAY LODGE, No Host Bar at 4:30 p.m., and Steak Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Those desiring golf carts must make their own arrangements by directly contacting the SETTLERS BAY GOLF COURSE - 376-5466. The MAT-SU RESORT is offering a special room rate for those desiring to stay over for the FAA picnic the next day. Contact the MAT-SU RESORT for reservations - 376-3229. Golfers will be flighted according to level of skill. Each entrant must provide handicap or average golf score. If desired, foursomes will be grouped according to individual(s) wishes. Trophies will be awarded to men's and ladies' low gross and low net for each flight. Many other prizes and gifts will be awarded. We anticipate a large turnout. SIGN UP EARLY! Be on time! Have fun and we will make this tournament great!

The FAA PICNIC will be at the MAT-SU RESORT, SATURDAY, June 27, 1987.

DETACH AND MAIL

CHARLIE MUHS
TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN

FAA GOLF TOURNAMENT

RICK ERICSON
CO-CHAIRMAN

1. NAME _____ HNDCP/AVG _____
2. NAME _____ HNDCP/AVG _____
3. NAME _____ HNDCP/AVG _____
4. NAME _____ HNDCP/AVG _____

ENTRY AND GREEN FEE

\$40.00 per Golfer _____ x \$40.00 = \$ _____

BANQUET RESERVATIONS

\$12.00 per Guest _____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

PLEASE SEND NO CASH! Make checks payable to Charles W. Muhs, then mail to:
2016 East Fifth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2998. Phone 263-6528.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 12, 1987

ENTRIES BY PHONE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE.

New phone guidelines

The General Services Administration (GSA) has proposed new telephone guidelines for government agencies that would allow some limited personal use of federal long distance lines within the local commuting area.

GSA said the proposed telephone use policy recognizes that employees on the job sometimes need to contact their homes or take care of personal business and that, with supervisory approval, it is in the best interest of the government for them to do so. Examples of the kinds of calls that would be allowed under the new policy are:

- a brief daily call to locations within the local commuting area to check on minor children or an employee's spouse;
- brief calls within the local commuting area to physicians or local government agencies; and
- calls to advise a family member or baby sitter of the need to work unscheduled overtime.

The new policy was published March 26 with a 60-day comment period.

20 year anniversary

The Department of Transportation began full operations 20 years ago this month, on April 1, 1967. Legislation creating DOT was signed into law by President Johnson on October 1, 1966, and Alan S. Boyd was sworn in as the first Secretary of Transportation on January 16, 1967. FAA got to keep its initials but the second "A" was changed to reflect the switch from independent to modal status.

Retirement system

by: Jean Pershall
AAL-16B

Civil Service employees may include military service as a means of increasing their civil service annuity. The annuity amount is based on length of service and high three average salary.

Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) employees: For employees under the CSRS, Catch 62 is a recomputation of their annuity at age 62. When they become eligible for Social Security benefits, the Civil Service Annuity is recomputed and the credit for post-1956 military service is removed. The removal of the credit for post-1956 military service causes their annuity to be reduced. To avoid this reduction, CSRS employees may make a deposit of 7 percent of basic military pay to the retirement fund prior to retirement.

Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) employees: FERS employees must make a deposit of 3 percent of their basic military pay for post-1956 military service to have the military time included for eligibility to retire. If the 3 percent deposit is not completed prior to retirement, the post-1956 military time can not be used when computing the initial annuity.

For FERS employees (employees hired on or after January 1, 1984, with less than five years of previous civilian service) the deposit is penalty free if completed on January 1, 1989, or within two years from their date of hire if hired after January 1, 1987.

For additional information or forms please contact Jean Pershall, employee relations specialist, AAL-16B, 271-5804.

Regional H. R. News and notes

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by: Linda Lang
Juneau Tower

The Alaskan Region Human Relations Council met March 18 - 19, 1987, at the Anchorage Tower. Attending were Becky Moore, chairperson; Bob McMolin, Northern Area Umbrella Committee; Georgia Terry, Western Area Umbrella Committee; Paul Tutko, Regional Office Umbrella Committee; Linda Lang, Southeastern Area Umbrella Committee; Tim Wilson, Anchorage ARTCC Umbrella Committee; Dr. Bob Mitchell, consultant; Bob Wedemeier, Organizational Effectiveness Branch manager; Dolores Coates, employee participation group coordinator; and Kat Vallish, Human Resource Assistant. Joel Hinkleman, AAL-460, facilitated.

Don Dorr, AAL-420, and Bill Schmidtman, AAL-15, provided a briefing on Differential Pay for those employees that encounter less than standard government quarters, engage in some types of hazardous work or whose work occurs during inclement weather while at remote sites within the region. A form for employees and supervisors, developed by AAL-422, helps in determining specific problems and assists in providing a clearer definition for this type of pay. These forms are available at all field offices and on the AF Administrative Tinet.

Other speakers included Dave Brubaker, AAL-17; Jean Pershall, AAL-16; and Dave Morse, AAL-400.

The council continues to work on vehicle weight limits for PCS moves to bush locations, helping employees become more aware of availability of Civil Service Retirement briefings, compensation/recognition for controller in charge duties, and in providing any assistance we can concerning the FAA drug policy.

The smoking issue continues to be a

problem for many facilities. Each federal agency has now been directed to develop their own policies. Hopefully, these will be out soon.

New business includes problems with the use of the Diner's Club credit card. Apparently there are many businesses within Alaska that will not accept the card. There is also concern that the employee will be held responsible for payment if a lag should occur between the billing from the credit card company and the reimbursement from the FAA.

Another concern discussed was the effect that the newly proposed air traffic controller union, NATCA, may have on the course of the human relations effort. At the director's briefing with Frank Cunningham, support for the HR program at negotiation time with the union was requested with the hope that air traffic controllers' involvement in human relations will be an item the FAA will try to retain.

A special thanks to Jerry Wylie, manager, Anchorage Tower, for his hospitality, and to Becky Moore for her time and efforts in organizing the meeting. The council also expresses its appreciation to all the managers for their support of the HR program and especially to Bob Nelson, manager, King Salmon tower, and J.T. Stubbs, manager, Juneau tower, who worked shifts to provide the opportunity for their representatives to attend this meeting. This was the last meeting of the HR council with Dr. Bob Mitchell before he leaves the Alaskan Region. The council today is an outgrowth of his help, encouragement, and strong belief in the human relations movement. He will be sorely missed. Thanks, Dr. Bob!

The next meeting is scheduled for May 27 - 28, 1987 at Anchorage ARTCC.

1987 CIVIL AIR CLUB

HALIBUT CHARTERS

The CIVIL AIR CLUB has made arrangements with DEEP SEA CHARTERS to provide three halibut fishing trips aboard the 52 foot vessel "CHAR DAN". Reservations will be on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS. The charters leave promptly at 7 a.m. from the Deep Sea office on the Homer Spit and return by 4 p.m. - Check in time is 6 a.m. The charter includes fishing equipment, fish cleaning, coffee, and sweet rolls. Each person provides their own overnight accommodations, clothing, rain gear, lunch, and medication (highly recommended) to handle motion sickness. Alcohol is permitted in very limited quantities. The Charters are open to all Civil Air Club members, their families, and guests. We do not recommend children under the age of 12 due to the long day at sea.

Return this reservation form with PAYMENT IN FULL to: Charles W. Muhs, Anchorage FSS, 2016 E. Fifth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2998. Sorry, no phone reservations. Make checks payable to CIVIL AIR CLUB.

Members Name _____ Phone No. _____

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

WEDNESDAY June 24, 1987 _____ Spaces @ \$65 per person = \$ _____

FRIDAY, July 10, 1987 _____ Spaces @ \$65 per person = \$ _____

SATURDAY July 25, 1987 _____ Spaces @ \$75 per person = \$ _____

ALTERNATE DATE _____

For further information call
Charlie Muhs @ 263-6528

