



U.S. Department
of Transportation

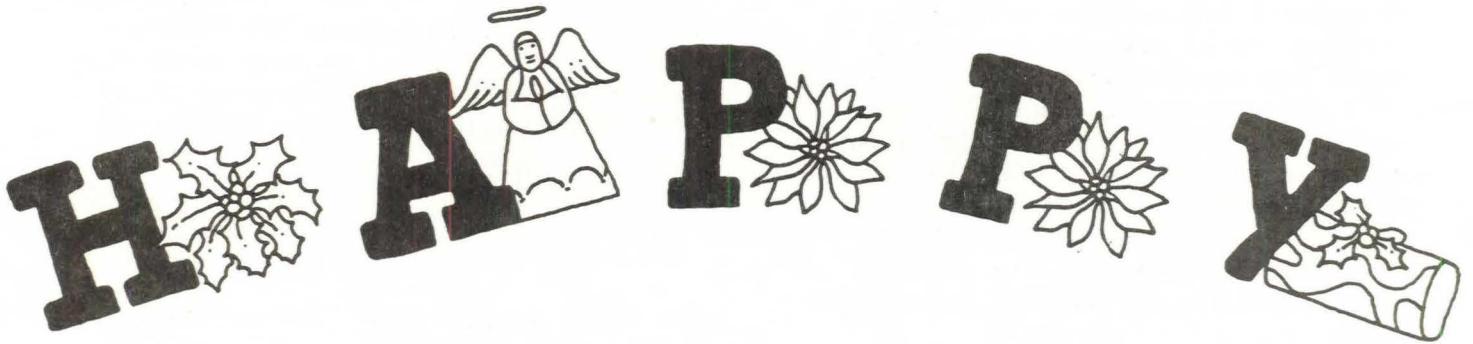
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

intercom:

Office of Public Affairs
Alaskan Region
701 C Street, Box 14
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
(907) 271-5296

December 1986

86-19



TO ALL EMPLOYEES:

Much was accomplished in FY-86 by you, the FAA Alaskan Region team, even with the trimming of expenditures and the cutting of staff in some areas.

I am extremely proud to be a member of this winning team, and I want to thank each and every one of you for a job well done.

My family and I wish you a happy holiday season and hope the new year will be full of love and peace for you and your family.

Franklin L. Cunningham
Director



Happy holidays

From all the staff associated with your Employee Assistance Program (EAP), we wish you a very merry holiday season. We also offer a reminder that EAP services are available to help you any time you need it - seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

For general information about program services, or if you wish to make a counseling appointment, simply call FAA's EAP contractor, Human Affairs of Alaska, 562-0794. There is no charge to you or to members of your family for EAP services. Trained counselors are always available. Do not let a little problem become a big problem. Reach out and truly make this a happy holiday season!

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INTERCOM is published for the employees of the Alaskan Region by the Public Affairs Office. Articles and photographs are welcomed.

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



Employee Assistance Program

Around the region

Dolores Coates, Susan House and Cynthia Brenton, ATCSs, Anchorage FSS, recently received a thank you letter from Chris Daugherty, program manager, Anchorage Community College, for their participation at a workshop on air traffic control at a non-traditional career day.

* * * * *

The Coast Guard cutter "Polar Star" recently presented Barrow FSS and Airway Facilities crews with a plaque to express their appreciation for the "extra service" the personnel from the facilities provided. Congratulations.

* * * * *

Congratulations to James Yakal, Cold Bay FSS manager, who was elected to a council seat for the City of Cold Bay. (He is also vice-mayor.)

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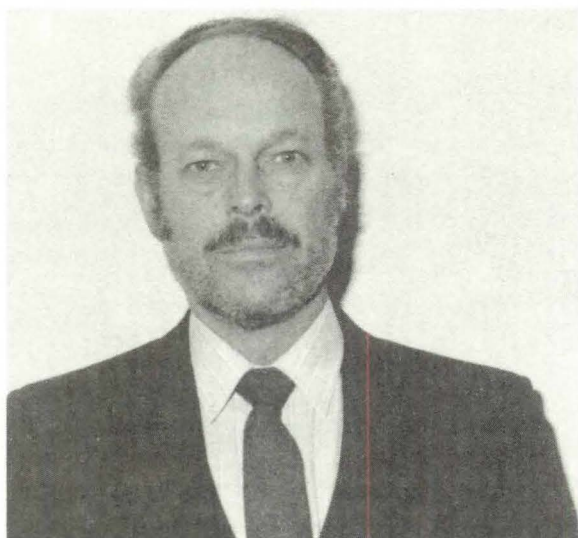
Also, congratulations to Daniel Truesdell, manager, Dillingham FSS, on his appointment as the Dillingham Aerospace Education and Public Affairs Officer.

* * * * *

On November 23, 1986, the Anchorage Air Traffic Control Tower was upgraded from a Level-III terminal facility to a Level-IV terminal facility. A Level-IV terminal is one that has a density factor of at least 60 instrument operations per hour but less than 100 instrument operations per hour. Congratulations to the folks at the tower for a job well done.

* * * * *

Here they are -



Jerry Wylie was recently selected as the new air traffic manager of the Anchorage air traffic control tower.

Born and raised in Eaton, Colorado, Wylie began his FAA career in 1958 at the San Jose, California, control tower.

During his FAA career he has worked as a controller and/or supervisor in San Jose and Monterey, California; Cheyenne, Wyoming; at Moffett Field Naval Air Station and Oakland Bay TRACON, both in California.

He came to Alaska in April 1979 when he was transferred to the regional office in Anchorage. From then until October 1983 Wylie was a procedures and airspace specialist and an operations specialist.

From October 1983 until he was selected to his present position, he was the assistant air traffic manager at the Anchorage Air Traffic Control Tower.

Wylie has an associate's degree in Aviation Science from Anchorage Community College.

He and his wife, Barbara, reside in Anchorage.



James (Jim) Derry became the new manager of the Civil Aviation Security Division, AAL-700, effective November 1986.

Born and raised in Woodsboro, Maryland, Derry began his federal career with the National Park Service in March 1965.

He served in the U.S. Army from September 1966 to March 1980 as an intelligence officer in several foreign countries.

It was in March 1980 when he began his FAA career in Alaska as a civil aviation security inspector. A year later Derry was selected as a hazardous materials coordinator in AAL-700. This is the position he held until his recent selection as manager.

Derry obtained his bachelor of science degree from Penn State University in 1966, and his master's in counseling psychology from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, in 1976.

Derry, his wife Charlene, who is temporarily assigned to the Flight Standards Division, and his daughter reside in Eagle River.

Congratulations!

Oops!

The article "3% pay raise" on page 3 in the November issue of Intercom stands corrected. It will be GS and GM employees who will receive the 3 percent pay raise in 1987. Wage grade, wage leaders and wage supervisors will receive no increase in the Alaskan Region.

Spouse Equity Act

from: AAL-16

PL 98-615, the Civil Service Spouse Equity Act, affects you if you dissolved a marriage on or after May 7, 1985. Both CSRS and FERS covered employees and retirees are affected by the Public Law.

Major provisions of PL 98-615 are:

- permits employees to elect survivor annuities for former spouses at and after retirement if the marriage was dissolved on or after May 7, 1985;
- requires the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to comply with a qualifying court order or decree, which provides a survivor annuity for a former spouse if you retired or divorced on or after May 7, 1985;
- requires the written consent of an employee's current spouse before the employee can elect an annuity without survivor benefits;
- requires that an employee notify their current spouse and former spouses when applying for a refund of retirement contributions;
- bars payment of a refund of retirement contributions if a qualifying court order or decree provides for annuity payments to a former spouse;

- changes to 55 the age at which survivor annuitants can remarry without losing benefits;

- allows married employees in good health to elect an "insurable interest" survivor annuity in addition to survivor annuity provided for a current or former spouse;

- provides Federal Employee Health Benefits coverage to certain former spouses of employees and annuitants.

If you wish more information please contact Jean Pershall, employee relations specialist, AAL-16, at 271-5804.

Opposition to rehire

A significant majority of the FAA controllers and facility managers polled recently by the General Accounting Office (GAO) oppose any move to rehire controllers who were fired for engaging in an illegal strike against the government in August 1981.

The new GAO report showed that 61 percent of the controllers and 85 percent of the facility managers included in the survey responded negatively to the question of rehiring the fired strikers. Most cited the adverse impact on morale that would result from such a move. They also noted that there is no fair way to selectively rehire the strikers.

Of those who favored bringing back the strikers, three out of four would impose conditions on their rehiring. These conditions related to previous experience levels, job ratings, facility placement, back pay, seniority and probationary periods.

More than 3,000 questionnaires were mailed to controllers and facility managers with 83 percent responding.

People and awards

** SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS **

Rosetta Francis-Robinson, EEO specialist, AAL-9

Brad Nelson, air traffic control specialist (ATCS), Juneau FSS

Richard Strassel, ATCS, Ketchikan FSS

Tony Moulton, ATCS, Anchorage FSS

Roger McDonald, ATCS, Ketchikan FSS

** LETTERS OF COMMENDATION **

Karl Elwood, training specialist, Anchorage FSS

Phillip Rhode, ATCS, Anchorage FSS

** 3-YEAR SERVICE PIN **

Victoria Dukes-Mane, developmental electronics technician, North Alaska Airway Facilities Sector

** LETTERS OF APPRECIATION **

Shelva Deibler, Ron Gledhill, Dorothy Blackwell and Helen Brady, voucher examiners, AAL-33

Edda Hahn, Barbara Ackerman and Joann Nash, accounting technicians, AAL-33

Gary Paterna, plans/programs specialist, Anchorage FSS

Karl Elwood, training specialist, Anchorage FSS

** ON-THE-SPOT-AWARDS **

Ruth Hart, ATCS, Ketchikan FSS

Margaret Brown, Mary Pippin, Dolores Coates, Jackie Tomlinson and Phillip Rhode, ATCSs, Anchorage FSS

** RETIREMENTS **

Thomas Logan, maintenance mechanic, Anchorage Sector Field Office

George Muoio, maintenance mechanic, Kenai Sector Field Office Unit

** TRANSFERS/PROMOTIONS **

Linda Wilson, former secretary, AAL-610a, moved to California

Sandy Fanslau, former manager, AAL-33, transferred to the Southwest Region

Carol Overton, new secretary, Fairbanks ATCT

Les Kleider, supervisory electronics technician, transferred from Cold Bay FSS to Anchorage

Wayne Taylor, maintenance mechanic, transferred from Kotzebue FSS to Fairbanks Airway Facilities Sector

Valerie Honeman, new staffing assistant in PMIS, AAL-14

Jeanette Crosson, new receptionist in the Staffing Branch, AAL-14

Robert Butler, ATCS, selected as area supervisor, Fairbanks FSS

Charles Niemann, ATCS, and Larry Butler, automation specialist, Anchorage Center, selected as area supervisors at the Center

Bill Carson, new supervisory electronics technician, Cold Bay Sector Field Office Unit

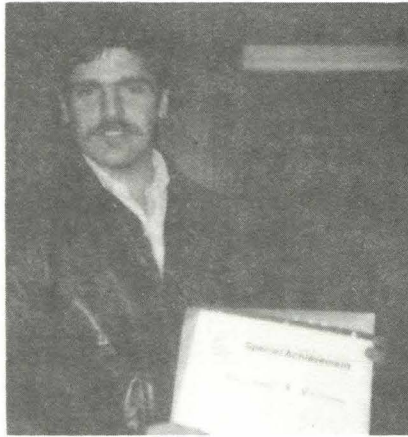
** BIRTHS **

Randall Kline, ATCS, Bethel ATCT, and his wife are proud parents of an 8 lb 8 oz baby girl, Lindsey, born on October 17

Rosetta Francis-Robinson, EEO specialist, AAL-9, and husband, Robby, are proud parents of a 7 lb 4 oz baby boy, Cedric, born November 23



Kathleen Pinette (left), electronics technician, Anchorage Sector Field Office, receives a Special Achievement Award for sustained superior performance from Ben Hutson, manager, Anchorage SFO.



Christopher Collinson, ATCS, Merrill Tower, recently received a Special Service Award for developing and presenting the first "Operation Sunbreak" in the Anchorage area.



Karen Steen (left), electronics technician, receives a Special Achievement Award for sustained superior performance from Ben Hutson, manager, Anchorage SFO.



David Epstein (right), the 1986 Civilair Club President, presents 2nd-year ACC student Brian Hubley with a check for \$250, representing the club's aviation technology scholarship. The award was funded by a raffle conducted during the course of the year. Congratulations, Brian.



Vi Harbuck (left), lead voucher examiner, and Jean Yount (right), lead accounting technician, receive Letters of Commendation from Sandra Fanslau, former manager, AAL-33, for their outstanding performance and professionalism demonstrated during the recent FY-86 year-end closeout.

Thanks for sharing

by: Michael Landon, AAL-55
1986 CFC Coordinator

The 1986 Combined Federal Campaign officially ended November 25. Through the generous contributions of 268 FAA employees, this year's campaign raised \$29,689.75 to help others who are less fortunate. Thanks to you we exceeded our dollar goal of \$25,000 and met our goal of 30 percent employee participation.

I would especially like to acknowledge the contributions of Ruben Jackson, co-coordinator, and the many keyworkers who gave so much of their time and energy to make this a successful campaign.

KEYWORKERS

Jeanne Hodge, AAL-1 thru -9; Marge Tideman, AAL-10; Jane Ryan, AAL-31; Mayra Joy, AAL-34; Mark McLamarrah, AAL-33; Linda Wilson, AAL-600; Bob Yerkes, AAL-450; Pete Beckner, AAL-200; Vicki Suboski, AAL-50; Dick Kauffman, Ketchikan FSS; Richard Totten, Bethel SFO, ATCT; Doyle Brunner, AAL-60; Dave Bartholomew, AAL-460; Harry Brown, ZAN AT; Ron Crumbaker, FSDO-63; Merna Mobley, SA AFS; Gary Near, Merrill ATCT; Rick Griffith, Nome SFO; R. "Spike" Arnold, Nome SFO; Earl Erickson, Kenai FSS; Wil Smith, Anchorage FSS; Wayne Bates, AAL-500; Kristin Turnbaugh, Bethel FSS; Ron Mickle, AAL-700; Richard Maki, AAL-450; Jean Yount, AAL-33; Gene Matthews, AAL-422; Gayle Kapansky, AAL-421; Linda Peterson, AAL-300; Cheryl Wieskamp, Anchorage ATCT; Harvey Gray, ZAN AF; George Mills, Juneau FSS; Judy Hickey, FSDO-62; Leah Berg, Fairbanks ATCT.

Thanks again for continuing the proud tradition of helping others in this very worthwhile activity.



Holiday party

FAA HOLIDAY PARTY
sponsored by CIVILAIR CLUB

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1986
8 p.m. until ? - CLARION HOTEL
Midnight breakfast buffet - no host bar
\$20 per person

ALL TICKETS HAVE BEEN SOLD - NO REFUNDS
Black tie optional

Airports gets high praise from DOT/PF

The following excerpt is from a letter written by R. J. Knapp, commissioner, State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF).

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

"The recently completed Airport Improvement Program for federal fiscal year 1986 provided grant funds for 31 airports in Alaska. Twenty-four were for state sponsored projects. I understand that a great measure of the success was due to the dedication and hard work of the Airports Division of the Alaskan FAA Region.

The outstanding effort by the Airports Division staff has created a spirit of harmonious cooperation that enabled projects to be developed in a thorough and expedient manner. Your staff's helpful attitude and willingness to work around some of the project development problems we encountered were crucial to DOT/PF's ability to get \$31 million State sponsored AIP projects under grant last year.

Please extend my personal thanks and appreciation to your Airports Division staff for their fine work."

Sincerely,

R. J. Knapp
Commissioner

8 **Medical notes - holiday cheer**

by: Pat Sanders
AAL-300

At this season's holiday parties, social drinkers are having sobering second thoughts about that cup of cheer.

Citizens groups and legislators are hot on the trail of drunk drivers. Medical researchers are finding again and again that heavy drinking is linked to a bundle of deadly woes, including liver disease and strokes.

Government studies show that, per capita, alcohol consumption has been falling steadily since 1981. But the statistics and warnings raise as many questions as they answer.

The big worry on the minds of most people remains - is moderate drinking safe? After all, two-thirds of adult Americans drink, yet fewer than 10 percent develop drinking problems. Despite any rule to avoid alcohol's danger, the boundary between health and trouble is not the same for everyone. For some people the upper limit of safety is zero - once they start they can not stop. Experts agree that it is best not to drink at a time when your mind must be crystal clear.

Pregnant women should be especially prudent. While an occasional drink does not seem dangerous, obstetricians generally caution that abstinence is the safest policy. Fetal alcohol syndrome, a combination of physical defects, mental retardation and growth impairment, can result from alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

How much alcohol your body can tolerate without heart and liver damage depends on a number of factors, including your weight and what you are drinking. But you may not be able to drink anywhere near your physical limit without becoming intoxicated and possibly causing a car crash.

The best indicator for safe drinking is the amount of alcohol in your blood at any time, called your blood alcohol level (BAL). At a BAL of .05 many people begin to experience all the positive sensations of drinking - relaxation, euphoria, well-being - without feeling unpleasantly drunk. Most people reach this pleasure level after one or two drinks. If your BAL rises above that mark, you start feeling worse rather than better. You gradually lose control of speech, balance and emotions.

Despite these guidelines there is no hard and fast rule of how much alcohol it takes to raise your particular BAL into the trouble zone. It can depend on any number of things. Ultimately, you are the best judge of how much alcohol, if any, you can handle.

"It does not matter whether or not three drinks are dangerous," said psychologist Baum-Baicker. "I know my body, and I know that it is too much for me. You have to be honest and set limits that make sense for you."

More and more drinkers seem to be doing exactly that. We are becoming more mature in understanding what is a proper amount of alcohol. We are beginning to treat alcohol as something we like to use and we do not want or need to abuse it.

The folks in AAL-300 wish you a healthy, happy and safe holiday season.

Why people travel the airways

A new Gallup poll on airline travel shows that more people now fly for pleasure and other personal reasons than for business. The breakout was 54 percent for pleasure and 46 percent for business. The survey also shows 72 percent of all adult Americans have flown on an airplane sometime during their lives and 31 percent during the past year.



Team effort between FAA and NOAA

The FAA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have agreed on a program to equip more than 700 of the nation's airports with Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS). FAA will fund the equipment and NOAA will buy, install and maintain it.

AWOS collects weather data from various ground sensors and transmits this data directly to pilots using computer-generated voice messages. This data includes wind direction and speed, sky condition and ceiling, temperature, dew point, visibility and altimeter setting.

Administrator Donald Engen said FAA has a planned requirement for 537 AWOS and a potential need for an additional 201. He noted that non-towered small airports will get this equipment first with all installations completed by mid-1992.

Currently, FAA has a contract with Amex Systems of Compton, California, for approximately 200 AWOS. The agency plans to continue this contract while it is developing the formal Memorandum of Agreement with NOAA defining the total program.



Election of officers

Election of new officers for the Civilair Club for 1987 is completed. The new officers are:

President:	JERRY WYLIE, ANC TWR
Vice-President:	VICKI SUBOSKI, AAL-58B
Secretary:	CHRIS MORGAN, ANC FSS
Treasurer:	CAROL POLLITT, AAL-420

No legal holiday

FAAers and other federal employees will not be celebrating Constitution Day next September 17 with a day off. After the Senate approved it as a legal holiday, the House turned thumbs down because of the costs involved. Estimates of those costs ranged up to \$1 billion.

Are you an FAAer and a Ninety- Nine

The Western-Pacific Region Public Affairs Officer is putting together a story about women in the FAA who are also members of the Ninety-Nines, the international organization of women pilots. The story will be submitted both to the The 99 News and also to FAA World for consideration.

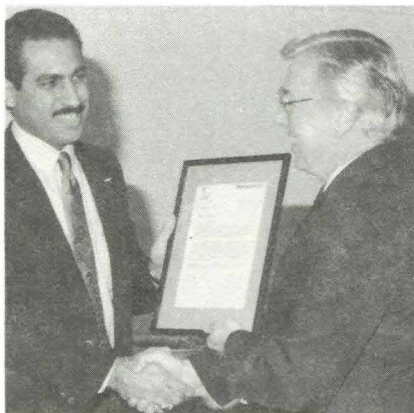
If you are an FAAer who is also a 99, please send the following information to Barbara Abels, AWP-5, before January 31:

1. Name, title, office and phone number
2. 99 chapter you belong to
3. A brief paragraph about yourself - how long a pilot, how long with the FAA, why did you come to FAA, why a 99. What advice would you give other women about choosing aviation as a career? And any personal anecdotes you can add.
4. A photo of yourself, preferably on the job or alongside your favorite aircraft.

That's all! Just send the information to Barbara Abels, AWP-5, and she will do the rest. If you have any questions you may contact Barbara at 213-297-1431.



John McIntyre (left), technician-in-depth, South Alaska Airway Facilities Sector, receives a Special Achievement Award for sustained superior performance from Monte Larsh, supervisory electronics technician.



Jim Washington (left), manager, Logistics Division, AAL-50, receives an award from Director Frank Cunningham. The Alaskan Region Logistics Division was the FY-86 award winner for making the most significant contribution to the National Logistics Program in developing an automated procurement program to meet the regional needs and then enhanced it into the System for Acquisition Management (SAM) to meet the needs of all regions.



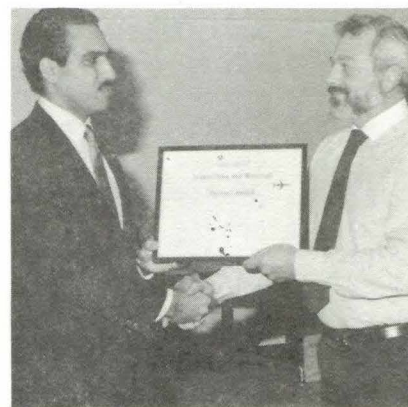
Jimmie Tvrdy (right), test equipment operations frequency management specialist, AAL-464, receives a Special Achievement Award for sustained superior performance from Leon Chesler, manager, AAL-464.



Dee Washburn (center), supervisory contract specialist, AAL-55A, and Dave Morse (right), manager, AAL-400, receive a service award for superior performance from Jim Washington, manager, AAL-50, on behalf of AAL-55 and AAL-400 respectively for their joint efforts in exceeding the FY-86 Minority Business Enterprise Program goal.



Laura Plamondon (left), ATCS, Nome FSS, receives a Special Achievement Award for sustained superior performance from Herb Hinman, air traffic manager.



Stan Hill (right), computer programmer analyst, AAL-51, receives a service award for his outstanding leadership in the technical design and development of the enhancement to the System for Acquisition Management (SAM). Jim Washington, manager, AAL-50, presented the award.

HRC has new reps

by: Jim Titus, AAL-518
Chairperson

The Headquarters Human Relations Committee has several new representatives due to terms ending for several people. The new Human Relations Committee is comprised of Ivy Moore, member at large and secretary; Grace Pumphrey, AAL-10; Dottie Muhs, AAL-60; Paul Tutko, AAL-30; Phyllis Taylor, AAL-50; Mel Leskinen, AAL-400; Linda Peterson, AAL-1 to -9 and AAL-300; Jackie Fuerst, AAL-700; and Jim Titus, AAL-500, chairperson.

We all owe a debt to the outgoing representatives for their extracurricular efforts on our behalf. While it is not commonly known, the Human Relations Committee spends a great deal of time and effort trying to balance the conflicting desires of employees.

Your HRC sincerely hopes you will use it as a valuable communications resource.

FAA Notice 1110.86 dated July 30, 1982, defines the objective of HRC as a means to provide a local forum for two-way communication among employees, supervisors and managers on personnel policies and working conditions. While the primary focus is intended to address local situations and conditions, it is recognized that national policies can be influenced by these local initiatives. Therefore, HRC's, on request, may provide their views, comments and recommendations on national personnel policies and procedures as part of the normal coordination process. These will be evaluated together with those received from all other FAA organizations.

For those of you in the Anchorage Federal Building, there is an HRC suggestion box on the bulletin board near the east elevators on the third floor.

Thank you for your continuing support and input.



Recruiters meet to discuss strategies

Despite the tight FY-87 budget, FAA plans to hire approximately 2,900 controllers, 300 aviation safety inspectors, and between 300-500 electronic technicians by the end of next September.

To assure the agency gets the best possible candidates, FAA recruiting experts met in Washington December 2-5 to discuss strategies with Administrator Engen; Norbert Owens, deputy associate administrator for Air Traffic, AAT-2; Irene Barnett, director of Program and Regulations Management Office, APR-1; and Ed Kelly of the Program Engineering and Maintenance Service, APM-100, among others.

Edward Curran, director of Personnel and Technical Training, said the recruiters will have to "pull out all the stops to meet the projected quotas." He noted recruiters must make at least 100 contacts to bring one person into FAA. The other 99 fall by the wayside. They become unavailable, lose interest, get other jobs, or just do not show up for interviews."

DO'S and DON'TS

This is just a reminder to all government motor vehicle operators that the U.S. Government National Credit Card is your responsibility. Here are some do's and don'ts to follow.

DO use it for

- only the vehicle shown on the credit card;
- gasoline or diesel fuel;
- lubricating services;
- ethylene glycol antifreeze;
- oil and air filter elements and servicing;
- battery charging;
- tire and tube repairs;
- washing and cleaning;
- emergency replacement of spark plugs, fan belts, generator belts, windshield wiper arms and blades, lamps, etc.;
- and other minor emergency repairs, purchases, and services if an open market charge can not be obtained.

DON'T use it for

- any purchase other than for the vehicle for which the credit card was issued;
- waxes and polishes;
- storage and parking;
- tires and tubes;
- batteries;
- routine repairs;
- personal use;
- and purchasing from non-contract oil companies.

Also remember to:

1. Request authorization from the motor pool for purchases exceeding \$50, excluding gasoline and diesel fuel.
2. Submit all tissue copies of sales receipts to the Motor Fleet Manager, AAL-52B1.
3. Ensure that all data required is on the sales receipt at time of purchase.
4. Contact Harold Brown, Motor Fleet manager, at 271-5390, if you have further questions.