



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

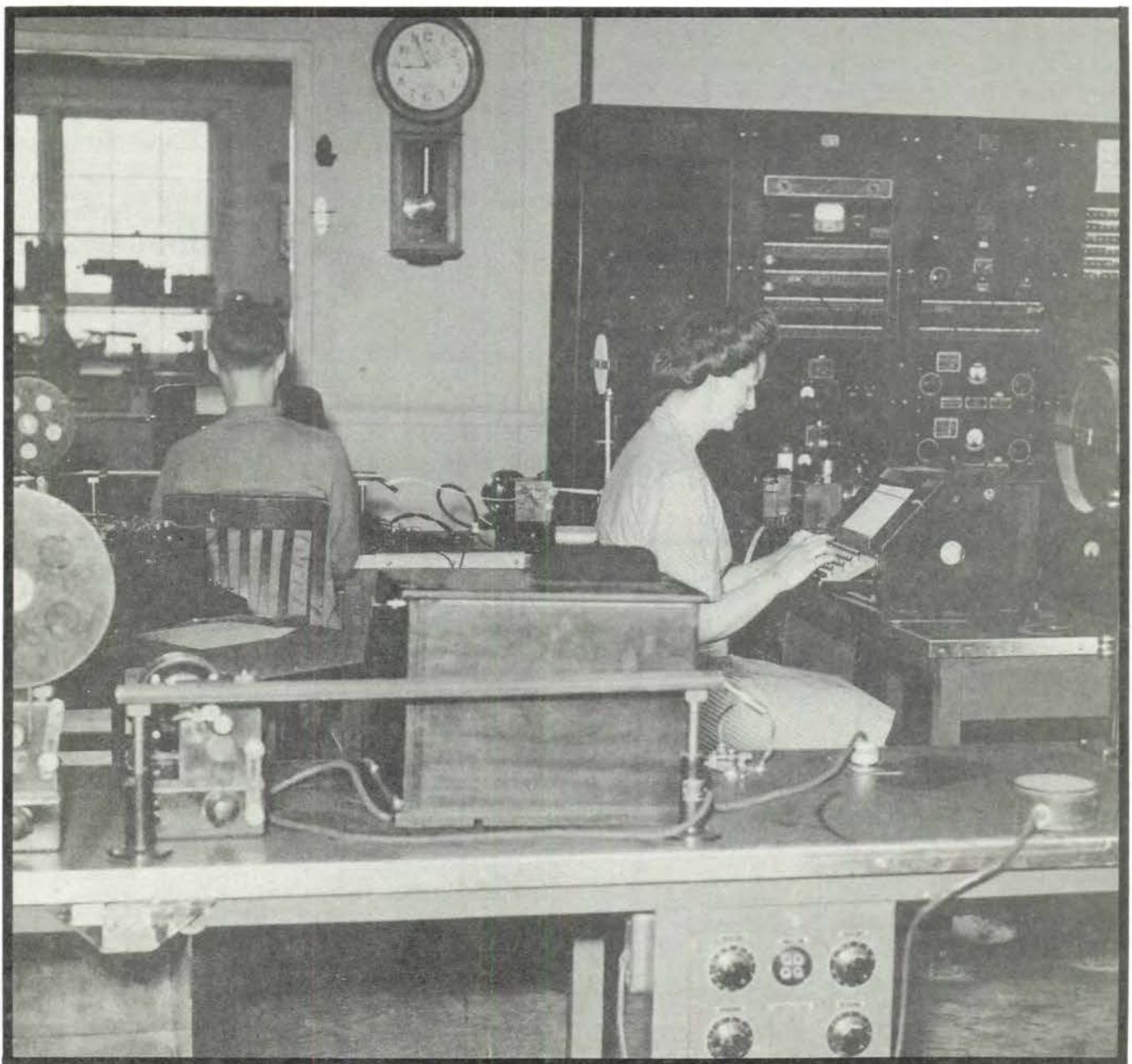
intercom:

Office of Public Affairs
Alaskan Region
701 C Street, Box 14
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
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June 1986

86-12

50 Years of Air Traffic Control Excellence



Cover story

The cover photo was taken in 1948. It is a picture of the interior view of the air traffic control room as it used to be in Fairbanks, Alaska. The editor would love to identify the people in the photo, but she was not around in 1948.

* * *

No one has ever compiled a history of the air traffic control system in Alaska. But the Air Traffic Division was able to obtain some information about CAA/FAA history from a book titled, "Air Traffic Management Field Division History of Facilities and Services."

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

The book infers the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA)/Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began in Alaska on January 1, 1940, when the CAA assumed control from the Territory of Alaska Aeronautical and Communications Commission facilities in Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Juneau and Nome. It appears the development of Alaska's aviation system through the CAA was quite active through 1943, with continued development through 1954.

* * *

Although the system did not begin until 1940 in Alaska, Newark, Cleveland and Chicago were the three existing en route centers on July 6, 1936, the official start of the air traffic control system in the nation.

And that is what the celebration is all about - 50 years of air traffic control excellence and maintenance of the air traffic system.

Commenting on the anniversary, Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Hanford Dole said "The men and women who operate and maintain the air traffic control system in the United States are true professionals in every sense of the word. They perform an extremely vital service for the nation with too little thanks or recognition. This golden anniversary is a good opportunity for all of us to show our appreciation."

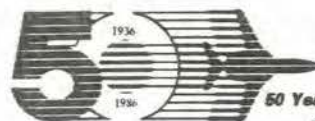
Donald D. Engen, FAA administrator, also praised the agency's air traffic control specialists and maintenance technicians, noting that "their record of achievement speaks for itself."

* * *

Facilities throughout Alaska are planning a variety of events during the summer to celebrate the 50th:

- JUNE 29: Bethel Tower and FSS; open house
- JULY 4: Kenai Tower and FSS; open house in conjunction with CAP airshow

- Anchorage area facilities:
JULY 7-11: Anchorage ATCT; open house during administrative hours
- JULY 12: Anchorage Center; open house and reception
- JULY 13: South Anchorage, Abbott-O-Rabbit Park; picnic and softball tournament
- JULY 11-14: Juneau Tower and FSS; open house in conjunction with Snowbirds visit
- LATE JULY: Kotzebue FSS; open house
- AUGUST 9: Merrill Field (tower, FSS, AF, community college); FSS open house, aviation art and antique photo exhibit at ACC Aviation Complex
- SEPTEMBER 1: Bettles FSS; seafood cookout and remote controlled aircraft flying demonstration
- END OF FISHING SEASON: Cordova FSS; open house



50 Years of Air Traffic Control Excellence
— A Standard for the World —

Intercom status

As stated in the May 23 issue of Intercom, Director Frank Cunningham has directed the Public Affairs Office to reduce the printing of Intercom from twice a month to once a month. Cunningham said, "I regret reducing the frequency of issuing the Intercom but find that we must reduce our costs, even if it means reducing or eliminating activities which we still consider very important to the agency."

This reduction means 12 pages a month as opposed to 24 pages; therefore, some pictures and articles will have to be eliminated.

Pictures dealing with the following activities will continue to be printed:

- Special Achievement Awards
- Letters of Commendation
- Special awards
- Special programs

Although pictures will not be used for the following activities, please let AAL-5 know who is receiving recognition as the names of the people will continue to appear in Intercom (as shown on the next page); just without the picture.

- Letters of Appreciation
- On-the-spot awards
- Transfers
- Retirements
- Service pins

If you have any questions or comments regarding the above information, please feel free to call the editor at 271-5293, or the Director at 271-5645.

New retirement bill

President Ronald Reagan signed the new Civil Service Retirement Bill (H.R. 2672) into law on June 6, 1986.

Just a reminder to FAA employees - employees hired after December 31, 1983, contributed to both the Social Security System and Interm Civil Service Retirement System since their date of hire. As of May 1, 1986, the new Civil Service Retirement System law had not been passed. At this time these employees could have had the full Social Security (7.15%) plus full Civil Service Retirement (7%) withheld from their pay. But FAA did not make these deductions; therefore, FAA employees should not expect reimbursements as will employees from other agencies.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please call Jean Pershall, AAL-14D, 271-5816.

Awards

** LETTERS OF APPRECIATION: **

Joe Lauron, air traffic control specialist, Big Delta FSS

Flora Robinson, predevelopmental air traffic control specialist, Anchorage FSS

Thomas Meismer, air traffic controller, Juneau ATCT

** ON-THE SPOT AWARDS: **

Rosetta Francis-Robinson, EEO specialist, AAL-9

Jack Maywood, maintenance mechanic, NAS Sector Field Office

John McNatt, maintenance mechanic, Juneau Sector Field Office

William Hedrick, maintenance mechanic, NAS Sector Field Office

** LETTER OF COMMENDATION: **

Rick Willey, AAL-452, (no picture available) received a Letter of Commendation for his efforts in restoring the Cold Bay VOR to service

** 25-YEAR SERVICE PINS: **

Fred Greene, maintenance mechanic, Nome Sector Field Office

Frank Zschiegner, supervisor, ZAN AF

** 15-YEAR SERVICE PINS: **

David Campbell, air traffic control specialist, Anchorage FSS

Glenn Baker, air traffic control specialist, Anchorage FSS

Clark Marks, communications technician-in-depth, Anchorage ARTCC AF Sector

** 3-YEAR SERVICE PINS: **

Ed Faulk, air traffic control specialist, Anchorage ATCT

Be Wenzel, staff assistant, South Alaska Airway Facilities Sector

Randy Kline, air traffic control specialist, Bethel ATCT

** RETIREMENT: **

E. I. Williams, manager, AAL-4, retired after 40 years of federal service

Henry Dodd, AAL-510, retired after 40 plus years of federal service

** TRANSFERS: **

John Colelli, Jr., air traffic control specialist, Fairbanks FSS, Barrow/Deadhorse relief crew, transferred to Williamsport, Pennsylvania FSS

Ron Cowles transferred from Miami, Florida as sector manager for the Miami Center to Anchorage as the branch manager of the Establishment Branch, AAL-450

June Hardin, secretary, Merrill Tower, transferred to the Anchorage ARTCC when her job at the tower was abolished

Julia Lord, secretary, AAL-1, transferred to Brussels, Belgium as secretary to the manager, Air Traffic Staff, AEU-500

Ernie Mack, maintenance mechanic in the Environmental Unit at SA AFS, transferred to Cold Bay

Mike Rudd, air traffic control specialist, transferred to Bettles FSS from the Houghton FSS, Calumet, Michigan

Congratulations!



The four FAA candidates for the Federal Executive Association Employee of the Year were from left to right: Jack Twiggs, AAL-460, Category IV, community services; Nancy Tinney, ZAN AF, Category II, grades 7-11; Fay Lauver, AAL-421, Category III, grades 12 and up; and Mariann Halstead, AAL-14A, Category I, grades 1-6. Director Frank Cunningham extends his congratulations to the FAA candidates.



Irene Gross (left), area supervisor, Fairbanks FSS, receives a Special Achievement Award from assistant air traffic manager Tim Rahmn for her excellent performance during the past year.



Lowell North (left), area supervisor, Fairbanks FSS, receives a Letter of Commendation from assistant air traffic manager Tim Rahmn for his additional effort during a recent Operation Rain Check session.



James Woody (left), air traffic control specialist, Anchorage ATCT, was recently presented a Letter of Commendation for his performance as an instructor by area supervisor Harry Fluharty.



Helen Allen, certified professional secretary, was the guest speaker at the cake and coffee recognizing the secretaries and clerk typists in the Alaskan Region. She is the president of the Billikin Chapter of Professional Secretaries International and secretary to the executive director for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Medical notes - smell the roses

by: Mary Grindrod
AAL-300

By now I hope all of us are experiencing some of the smells of spring. We begin to smell the scent of flowers and fresh mowed grass. Smell is one of the senses that gives us pleasure, yet one we seldom think about.

I remember a long time ago I went to the Worlds Fair when it was in Montreal. There was a room with many different odors. One would move from area to area to get a whiff of the smells. I can still remember the orange, grape and lemon smells from that exhibit. Remembering the smells brought back the weather conditions that day and the shape and the layout of the room.

You may have never thought that when you are trying to remember something, your sense of smell will be beneficial to you. We remember what we smell for a longer time than what we see or hear. Being able to remember a scent brings back to mind how something looked, sounded, felt and tasted. The smell helps to trigger the emotions we originally felt.

Research is being done on using the sense of smell in maintaining well-being. Aromatherapy is used to help people relieve stress. Two groups of people were asked a lot of questions about anger, questions that would usually upset them. It was found that the group who was exposed to a floral and apple fragrance had slower breathing and more relaxed muscles. Their blood pressure and heart rate were lower than for the group asked the same questions, but not exposed to the pleasant odors.

Research also shows that the sense of smell is one of the first systems to operate in newborns.

Babies react positively to pleasant odors, and negatively to unpleasant ones. In one study done on subjects age 5 to 99 it was found that the skill of identifying odors peaks between age 20 and 40, tapers off from 40 to 70 and declines sharply after age 80. The smell receptors in our noses grow less sensitive and shrink as we grow older.

Consumer market surveys show that brand-name products with unique odors sell better than those without a distinct odor. We remember the smell, and therefore the product.

Realtors will tell you to have pleasant odors in the house when you are expecting a prospective buyer. Most of us would probably agree that smell plays an important role in sexual relations.

Our sense of smell sends odor messages directly to the brain. Humans can perceive more than 5,000 distinct odors, and our sense of smell is 10,000 times more sensitive than that of taste.

But like taste, smell is a chemical sense. When you sniff a rose, or anything else, the odor molecules trigger special olfactory receptor cells in the nasal cavity. These nerve cells have an immediate link to the brain. Within a split second, your cerebral cortex knows what you are smelling.

Nobody knows for sure how the brain distinguishes one smell from another. Scientists generally believe that the first olfactory nerve has receptor sites that absorb odor molecules and fire off nerve impulses for immediate interpretation. The big question is do we have a different receptor for different odors. If the olfactory code can be figured out we can eventually design odors to produce specific effects.

Go out and smell the roses and let your sense of smell work for you in a positive way.

News in brief

FAA Chief Counsel E. Tazewell "Ted" Ellett has urged Congressional approval of proposed legislation to strengthen criminal sanctions for falsifying aviation records and increase the maximum civil penalty for violations of the Federal Aviation Regulations. Increasing the maximum civil penalty per violation from \$1,000 to \$10,000 also is necessary, Ellett said, to keep operators from accepting a \$1,000 fine as a less costly alternative to cancelling a flight filled with passengers. "A potential penalty of \$10,000 drastically changes the economics of such an ill-founded decision," he noted.

* * *

A judge in the United States District Court in Washington, D.C. has dismissed damage suits against FAA and the Department of Defense by families of passengers killed when a Korean Airlines 747, Flight 007, was shot down by a Soviet fighter in September 1983. An FAA statement released after the ruling said, "It has always been the contention of the FAA that our air traffic controllers at the Anchorage ARTCC had no knowledge of KAL 007's departure from its flight course and that they had no means of ascertaining that the flight had strayed from its assigned course."

* * *

The FAA expects to begin routine drug testing of agency controllers, pilots and others with safety-related jobs by the end of the year. Associate Administrator for Human Resource Management Charles "Gene" Weithoner told Congress on May 7 that the testing would take place during the employees' annual medical examinations.

* * *

The FAA has made significant progress in standardizing its aviation inspection and surveillance programs, Administrator Donald Engen told a Congressional aviation panel on May 22.

"My sense is that FAA has grown too 'decentralized' over the years," Engen said. "We have been and will continue issuing stronger policy guidance and directives from headquarters to better assure a national program rather than a number of regional ones."

* * *

Employee survey time

Have you filled out your 1986 Employee Survey yet? If not, please take the time to answer the questions now and return it as soon as possible.

Buy tickets now

Get your tickets NOW from your Civilair Club representative for the FAA picnic! Join the fun on Saturday, June 28, starting at noon, at the Mat-Su Resort.



Bonnie Herrington (right), secretary, AAL-420, receives a Special Achievement Award for an outstanding performance from Peggy Smith, manager, Program Support Branch.



Patrick Minsch (right) receives a Special Achievement Award for outstanding performance from Harold Arab, area supervisor, Ketchikan FSS.



Susan House, air traffic control specialist, Anchorage FSS, recently received a Special Achievement Award from her supervisor, John Wilber, for her outstanding performance this past year.



John Amor (left), quality assurance and training specialist, Anchorage ATCT, was recently presented a Letter of Commendation by Jerry Wylie, assistant air traffic manager, for his work with Operation Sunbreak. The letter was from Charlie Muhs, manager, Anchorage FSS.



Sally Smith (right), manager, Word Processing Branch, receives a Letter of Commendation on behalf of the branch from AAL-700. Dick Brindley, manager, AAL-60, presented the letter.



Air traffic manager Ron Barnes (left), Merrill Tower, presents air traffic control specialist George Hosford a Letter of Commendation from air traffic manager Charlie Muhs, Anchorage FSS, for his participation in Operation Sunbreak.



Tonya Shankle (left), secretary, FSDO-61, receives a Special Achievement Award from Al Crook, manager, for her outstanding work while the other clerical position was vacant.



Dave Johnston (left), area supervisor, Barrow FSS, receives a Special Achievement Award from assistant air traffic manager Tim Rahmn, Fairbanks FSS, for outstanding performance.



William Winger (left), AAL-452, receives a Letter of Commendation from Herbert Gray, manager, Cold Bay Sector Field Office Unit, for his efforts in restoring the Cold Bay VOR. Bob Bransky, assistant manager technical support, SA AFS, presents the letter.



Jimmy Ford (right) supervisor, South Unit, Anchorage Sector Field Office, presents James Broyles, electronics technician, with a Special Achievement Award based on an outstanding performance.



Dwight Meeks (left), assistant sector manager, South Alaska Sector, presents Joe Cassel with a Letter of Commendation based on performance of duties as acting manager, Kenai Field Office.



Jim Yakal (right), manager, Cold Bay FSS, presents a Letter of Commendation to Jeffry Wheeler, air traffic control specialist, for a job well done while acting manager at the FSS.

Recipe corner

from: Ruby Brindley

BROWNIES

- Sift together 2 cups flour and 2 cups sugar
- Bring to boil 1/2 cup oleo, 1 cup water, 1/2 cup shortening and 3 tablespoons cocoa
- Pour over dry ingredients; mix well
- Add 2 eggs, 1/2 cup buttermilk (if no buttermilk use 2 tablespoons vinegar and enough sweet milk to make 1/2 cup), 1 teaspoon soda and 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Bake at 350 in greased and floured 9 1/2 x 13 1/2 inch cookie sheet for 35 to 40 minutes
- While baking bring to boil 1/2 cup oleo, 3 tablespoons cocoa and 6 tablespoons milk
- Add 1 package powdered (1 lb box) sugar, 3/4 cup chopped nuts and 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Spread over warm brownies

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to limited space, this will be the last "Recipe corner" to appear in the Alaskan Region Intercom.

Some get back pay

Some FAAers may be eligible for back pay under a recent decision by FAA's Office of Personnel and Technical Training. Affected are employees who were asked to decide between a temporary promotion or per diem, or those denied per diem while on temporary promotion. Claim forms and additional information are available from servicing human resource management offices. Claims should be filed with the General Accounting Office (GAO) citing the specific circumstances of each situation. GAO's address is 441 G Street, NW, GGD Claims Group, Room 5047, Washington, D.C. 20548.



Shirts/mugs on sale

To raise money for various activities at the Anchorage FSS, including the proposed ATC day on July 6, a picnic and softball tournament on July 13, and an open house during the Merrill Field airshow on August 9, the Professional Women Controllers are selling tee shirts and mugs with the 50th anniversary logo of air traffic control (the logo is above). If you are interested in buying any of these items contact Dolores Coates, Anchorage FSS, 263-6509; Steve Palmer, ZAN-AT, 269-1103; or Terry Alexander, AAL-535, 271-5898.

Essay winners are ...

The Alaskan Region winners in the 1986 Aviation Awareness Contest, "Aviation in My Community," were George Ellege, a tenth grader at West Anchorage High School for grades 10 - 12; Tony Johnson, a ninth grader at West Anchorage High School for grades 7 - 9; and Teresa Nolan, fourth grader at Northwood Elementary School for grades 4 - 6. Prizes for the regional winners include trophies, a VIP tour of Anchorage International Airport and an introductory flying lesson.

The national winners of the FAA's 1986 Aviation Awareness Contest were Alan Blount, Palisade, Colorado, for senior high schools; Brooks Thomas, Stillwater, Oklahoma, for junior high schools; and David Hershey, Omaha, Nebraska, for elementary schools.



Doyle Shaw (right), air traffic controller, Juneau ATCT, receives a Special Achievement Award based on job performance from air traffic manager J.T. Stubbs.



Tim Rahmn (left), assistant air traffic manager, Fairbanks FSS, receives a Special Achievement Award from Al Bailey, air traffic manager, for superior performance.



James Browning (right), AAL-452, receives a Letter of Commendation from Bob Bransky, assistant manager technical support, SA AFS for his outstanding efforts and performance in the installation and cut-over of equipment associated with the Johnstone Earth Station.



Ed Billiet (left), manager, International Sector Field Office, presents Lloyd Mathews, electronics technician, with a Special Achievement Award for Sustained Superior Performance.

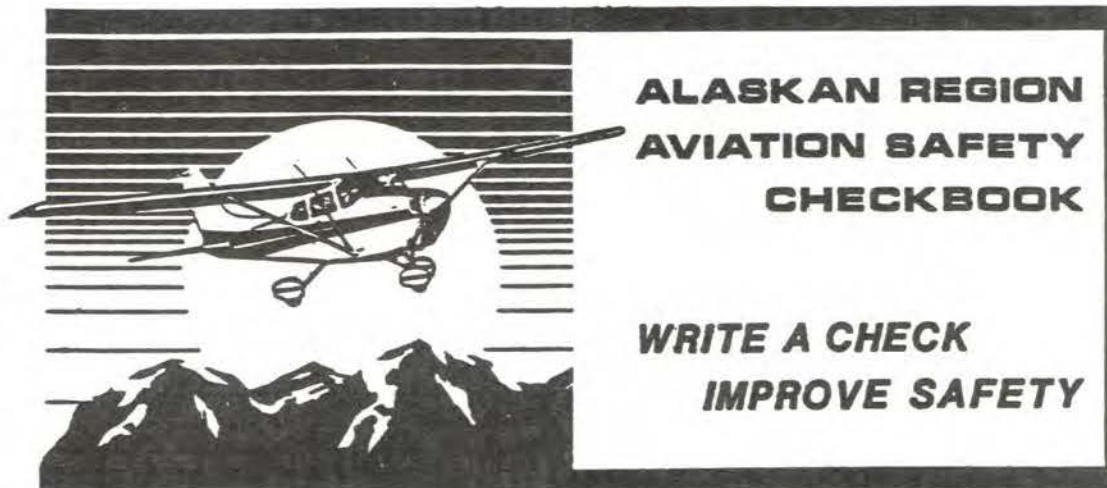


Tim Sierer (left), maintenance mechanic, Fairbanks FMSU, receives a Special Achievement Award for Sustained Superior Performance from sector manager Ray Marley.



Mark Kelliher (right) was presented a Letter of Commendation for his detail as the manager of the Kenai Sector Field Office Unit from Dennis Warth, sector manager, Anchorage AFS.

COMING SOON!



The Alaskan Region will be sending each FAA employee in the region a copy of the new "Aviation Safety Checkbook."

Any employee who becomes aware of an unsafe event or condition is encouraged to report the matter as soon as possible by mailing a "safety check" to AAL-1.

When the condition requires immediate or prompt action, a telephone report to the Regional Operations Center (ROC), (907) 272-8812, should be made. A "check" should also be sent in as soon as possible after the phone call is made.

Details regarding this "checkbook" are in Order AL 8740.3. Copies of this order have been distributed throughout the region.