



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

intercom:

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November 1987 #87-11

THE TURKEY ISSUE



That says it all

Thrift savings plan

The Thrift Savings Plan Open Season is slated for November 15, 1987, through January 31, 1988. TSP participants covered under FERS may elect to invest a portion of their contributions in the Common Stock Index Investment Fund (C Fund) or Fixed Income Index Investment Fund (F Fund). Elections made during this open season will be made effective January 3, 1988. Employees covered under the CSRS must continue to invest in the Government Securities Investment Fund (G Fund).

Questions concerning the TSP program or Open Season should be directed to Jean Pershall, AAL-16B, at 271-5804.

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

Time to use it or lose it

Employees who have "Use or Lose" annual leave (I only wish I did) must schedule leave by November 20.

Travel voucher backlog

If you haven't heard about it yet, the Financial Management Division had 585 travel vouchers backlogged as of September 30. Personnel turnover was the major reason for the backlog, but all positions are once again filled and steady progress is being made. Efforts are also in progress to automate the travel computation process which will further improve the turnaround time for travel vouchers.

Felt any door handles lately?

As a safety feature, door handles to outside exits are "rough" (striated) on the inside of the handle so that when a person grabs the door handle, the handle to the exit will feel rough. In this way, people can "feel" their way to an outside exit in case of emergency when smoke may impair vision. Door handles which lead to inside rooms are smooth on both sides. Try feeling a door handle, it could save your life.

Polished "Community" apples

Two Fairbanks FAA employees, Pat Wilson and John Maxwell, are co-instructing a basic weather class at Tanana Valley College. Here in Anchorage, Susan House of Anchorage FSS teaches a weather course at the Anchorage Community College (The New U). The courses are designed to be non-technical in nature and cover such things as cloud patterns, weather reports and forecasts, and methods of weather distribution. O.K. So just where did that dark cloud come from on my B-day?

HR Council news

The Alaskan Region HR council meeting was held September 23 and 24 at the regional office and covered the following:

- *The HR council is attempting to establish an FAA blood bank. The council will look into employee interest and begin publicizing to employees.
- *The establishment of a 24-hour child care center is still being researched.
- *The donation of annual and sick leave to others is being looked into.
- *Proposals regarding smoking have been sent to the director. These proposals include sick leave and insurance coverage for employees wishing to stop smoking, and an aggressive educational program.

The next HR council meeting will be held November 16-20 in Anchorage. If you have any topics or issues you would like to have explored, please contact an HR representative.

How's your head(set)?

Any controller who experiences loud headset noise is encouraged to contact the Medical Division, AAL-300, x5431, as soon as possible after the incident and follow up with a hearing test.

Travel tips

By: AAL-34

You are scheduled for a TDY to Seattle, and rather than bother with going through the Government contracted travel agency, you go out to the airport, pick up your ticket, and pay for it with your VISA card. Smart move, right? After all, you can claim it on your travel voucher.

Well, that's not a smart move. Anytime you purchase a ticket for official travel costing in excess of \$100.00 with other than a GTR or your Government Diners Club Card, AAL-34 must seek approval from GSA in Washington, D.C., before you can be reimbursed. There is usually a 90-120 day delay in getting that approval.

Please don't try to circumvent the system. It will only delay your reimbursement. Go through the contract travel agency, use a GTR, or use your Diners Club Card.

Jolly Green Giant Rescues "Rescuers"

So, how did you spend your time off during the Columbus Day holiday? I cleaned my garage, and Delinda Wall, attorney with AAL-7, went out on a search and rescue mission with Marc Stella and Charlie Ricci of the CAP and got more of an experience than she had bargained for.

After successfully locating the airplane they were looking for on the other side of Merrill Pass, they reversed course to return to Anchorage. Just over Chakachamna Lake, they encountered sudden fog and snow which forced them to land the floatplane on the lake to wait out the weather. They built a campfire and waited and waited. By late evening they realized the weather wasn't going to clear so they made a shelter out of tents and tarps while the weather continued to deteriorate. By evening, the wind and the waves on the lake were getting so high that Marc Stella, the pilot, decided to take the floatplane across the lake to the mud flats so the floats wouldn't get damaged by pounding against the rocky shore where they were camped.

Delinda and Charlie stayed and kept the fire going through the constant rain that had replaced the snow and by morning, which was as dreary and wet as the day before, Delinda decided to activate the distress signal on the hand-held radio to try and talk to one of the many airplanes she heard flying above the cloud cover. She was lucky enough to make contact with a MAC transport almost immediately and relayed their position and need for assistance along with the information that she and Charlie Ricci were not sure of the condition or whereabouts of Marc

Stella and the airplane. When the ceilings improved a few hours later, CAP crews were able to locate Delinda, Charlie, and Marc, who had made it to the other side of the lake. Since the lake was still too rough for floats and the floats had taken on some water, a "Jolly Green Giant" from the 71st Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Elmendorf was dispatched to pick them up. After Delinda and Charlie were picked up, the crew remarked that they smelled like smoked salmon from all the time spent by the campfire. Lucky for them... better smoked salmon than "cooked goose." And oh, Delinda, next holiday I was planning on cleaning up under my stairs. Interested?

happy thanksgiving



Medical Notes - Hearing conservation

By: Pat Sanders, AAL-300

As our world becomes more mechanized, the problem of noise pollution increases. Noise (unwanted sound) bombards us daily. It also bombards the tiny hair cells inside our ears. Loud and prolonged noise can damage or permanently destroy these hair cells and cause hearing loss. The damage may be gradual, painless and invisible, but permanent and real.

Hearing conservation programs in various work settings help us become aware of noise hazards and also helps us to protect ourselves from hearing loss. Education of the workforce includes the proper use of equipment, headsets, and ear protection. Those instructions for the proper use of equipment are there for a reason; hearing loss is a serious disability. Aviation Medical (AAL-300) administers hearing tests for those employees who are at risk because of exposure to high noise levels during their work day. On occasion, an employee may be exposed to a loud piercing noise which may result in a temporary loss of hearing. If this type of accident occurs, the employee should come to Aviation Medical within 24 hours of the accident for an evaluation. Another test will be scheduled about 6 weeks later to assess any permanent hearing loss. In most cases, however, hearing that is lost from this type of accident will return within 2 hours.

A hearing test is also a part of the retention physical for air traffic controllers and agency pilots. The results of these tests are compared with previous audiograms (hearing tests) to determine if hearing loss has occurred.

For some people, a job will depend upon the ability to hear well and to distinguish between a wide variety of frequencies.

The protection of your hearing isn't the sole responsibility of your employer. Your health, and the quality of your life in later years, will depend upon how well you protect yourself today. Protect yourself from home noises such as lawn mowers, appliances (saws, drills, mixers), loud music, the noise of power boats, snowmobiles and the like. Your hearing needs to last you a lifetime. Take care, and that's sound advice.

Oh where are you Amelia?

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the disappearance of famed aviator Amelia Earhart. In 1937, Amelia's plane, a twin-engine Lockheed Electra, vanished in the South Pacific where it is alleged that she might have been on a spy mission for the U.S. Government. Dubbed the "Lady Lindy" Amelia's altitude record was 14,000 feet at a time when there was no pressurization. Ham operators were the last to hear from Amelia Earhart as she repeated "SOS KHAQQ, SOS KHAQQ." Her disappearance has fostered much speculation and still remains a mystery today.

technical talk

Uh Oh. The jargon implant for the "Technical Talk" editor worked too well and the editor was wooed by a REALLY BIG publishing house and is now rubbing elbows with the likes of Jackie Collins (elbows?), James Mitchener, and Gore Vidal. So, back by popular demand is...

THE BOOK REVIEW

by: Redd Over

"Party Dips" by Ava Caudo

"Never be Late" by Willie Makeit

"The Pessimist's Reply" by Bette Doesnot

"Ups and Downs" by Ellie Vator

"Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Pond Scum" by Tad Pole

"The Emerald Isle" by Scot Land

"The Fitness Book" by Jim Nasium

"This Gift is Free" by Bonnie Fied

"Stuffed Animals" by Ted E. Bear

"More Idiot Book Titles" by I. B. Sorry

*Editors Note: My thanks to R. Hodge for the input. Anyone else out there have a few good book titles to contribute?

Civil air club bash

The Civil Air Club held its annual End-of-the-summer Bash on Friday, September 11, 1987. The club raffled off a woman's gold nugget watch, a man's gold nugget watch, and two Paul Steucke prints. The winners of the raffle were: Roy Hoyt, AT Manager, Homer FSS; Jerry Jones, ATCS/C, Anchorage ARTCC, David Epstein, AAL-463; and Derrill Bergt, Anchorage Tower.

The money collected from the raffle goes to support the Aviation Technology Scholarship awarded to a University of Alaska college student enrolled in the 1987 fall semester. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of aviation technology potential and academic achievement.

FAA/NAATS reach accord

After only eight days of negotiations, FAA and the National Association of Air Traffic Specialists reached tentative accord on a new collective bargaining agreement that covers all FSS specialists. The ratification vote is expected sometime at the end of November. If approved, the agreement will become effective January 1, 1988, for a 3-year period.

Ski fest '88

If you're one of those people who get excited when the termination dust appears, then you'll be real happy to know the Denver Center Ski Fest '88 is going to be held at Steamboat Springs, Colorado, February 22-27, 1988. Registration forms and prices are available from the Denver Center Ski Club. The ski club will mail registration packets to all who attended last year. If you would like to get on the mailing list with other FAA'ers, send your name and address to: Denver Ski Club, ATTN: Dan Mawhorter, 2211 17th Ave., Longmont, Colorado 80501.

Tongass aircraft pilots association hold meeting

On October 12, the Association held its second meeting, presented their by-laws, and elected officers for the forthcoming year. Herman Ludwigson was elected President and Allan Zink was elected Vice President. A member of each Air Taxi was elected as a member of the Board of Directors. Harold Arab volunteered as an FSS representative for the Board. The Association committee will be working on departure and arrival routes in the control zone. The meeting had 22 persons in attendance, and seemed very productive. Noise abatement, traffic patterns, boat traffic, airport traffic, and keeping aircraft lights on while in the control zone were discussed.

When you feel the earth move...

And you know its not love, here are a few safety tips to help you through the emergency.

1. If you are inside, stand underneath a doorway, or get under a table or desk. Stay away from glass windows.
2. If you are outside, find an open area away from buildings, trees, and powerlines.
3. If you are driving, stop the car away from overpasses and underpasses and stay in the car.
4. At home, know where and how to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
5. Keep a portable, battery operated radio available to listen for emergency instructions.
6. Keep a First Aid kit and flashlight readily available.
7. Maintain enough dried and canned food as well as bottled water to sustain you and your family for 1 week.

Office automation systems to be standardized

The FAA has taken a major step in its program to implement office automation agencywide. This is one of Administrator McArtor's major goals. Requests for Proposals have been issued to approximately 1,500 companies for a contract that will supply FAA and the rest of the DOT with the microcomputer hardware and software, as well as the training and maintenance services. This standardization could affect some 26,000 workstations in FAA alone. Current equipment includes over 50 different brands of microcomputers, many of which are incompatible with each other. Each office will continue to pay for its own equipment, but use of a single contractor will assure uniformity in procurements. The contract is expected to be awarded in August 1988.

California prohibits passengers from lighting up

California has enacted legislation prohibiting airline passengers from smoking on flights within the state. It is the first state to take this action and the legislation is likely to be tested in the courts because of potential conflict with Federal statutes. If tested and upheld, the law will take effect on New Year's Day. This may be a good time for a New Year's resolution--either to quit smoking, or resolve to spend a good deal of time in court.

Paul Steucke featured in magazine

According to the D.C. FAA "Intercom", and our own informed sources, our very own Public Affairs Officer, Paul Steucke, was featured in the September/October issue of "Midwest Art" as one of Alaska's leading artists. The article states that "Steucke's representations of Alaska's people and its scenery have attracted a loyal following of art collectors throughout Alaska as well as in the rest of the United States."

Engen has new job

Former Administrator Donald Engen was recently named president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's Air Safety Foundation. Engen was named president at the organization's recent convention in Las Vegas.

Sorry, no long weekend

This year, Veteran's Day is being celebrated on Wednesday, November 11, so Federal employees will not be able to look forward to a long weekend. (Rats!, who did this? Reagan? Cops, lost my head there for a minute.) This year's Veteran's Day is being celebrated on the original date (Armistice Day) which marked the end of World War I.

The Quill Users Guide

By: Pauline Staffy
AAL-61

I know. Since the last time you read this column, you've been as anxious as long-tailed cats in a room full of rockers waiting for this next edition on "cliches" and where they came from. I promised to give it to you "straight from the horse's mouth," so let's start with that one.

Apparently, the surest way to judge the age of the horse is to look into its mouth. The first permanent teeth do not appear until age two and one-half; the second pair appears about a year later; and, the last pair appears somewhere between its fourth and fifth year. This was especially important to those people who used horses for transportation and labor as well as those who made their money at the race track. One didn't want to be "taken" in either situation. (Sort of like turning the miles back on a used car.) In any case, no matter what the owner said the horse's age was, one could always find the truth "straight from the horse's mouth." This honesty in horse trading also brought about the saying which shows the other side of the coin..."never look a gift horse in the mouth." In other words, if someone gives you something for free, don't look to criticize or prove the giver dishonest.

Horses seem to have a special place with many cliches and that is probably due to their great role in transportation, labor, war, food production, sport, and general value to our predecessors. Some other familiar cliches are: "Don't bother to lock the barn after the horse is out," (this is one of Ann Landers favorite expressions in regard to teen sexuality), "you can't beat a dead horse," (you would expend too much energy for no purpose), and

"don't put the cart before the horse" (things in their proper sequence will help to move you along).

There are probably just as many cliches in use today for "cars" because of their relative importance in today's society. Think of the terms we have to describe our cars and think of the terms that have originated from the automobile: "laying rubber", "doing doughnuts", and "going full bore with 4 on the floor." Remember the CB radio craze? Yipes! Talk about cliches.

These cliches and word origins are both fun and fascinating. Most of it is light, entertaining reading, which can give you a better understanding of our language and result in your ability to use English more effectively. What could be more fun? Throwing the baby out with the bath water? Nope. Trust me, a little delving into word and phrase origins will "make your day."



NEWS IN BRIEF

OUCH! Gail McWethy of Kenai FSS broke her left arm while off duty. Michael Caskey of Kotzebue FSS stabbed himself in the leg while dressing out a caribou. Michael Tarr of Sitka FSS spent several days in the hospital getting treated for an arm infection. Mike Tallman of Anchorage ARTOC was seriously injured in an automobile accident September 5 and is expected to spend many months recovering. Mike is still in Providence Hospital undergoing extensive physical therapy and hopes to return to work in a couple of months. Rick Girard from the Anchorage FIFO is back to work now after undergoing surgery for a collapsed lung.

COLD BAY: On October 5th, a women's support group was formed in Cold Bay. They plan on putting together a pamphlet to give to each family that moves into Cold Bay. Included in the pamphlet will be a map, information on the hours of the store, restaurant, library, clinic, and anything else thought to be of interest to anyone new.

A PA18 on floats was reported stolen from Shannons Pond last month. Within minutes, the Dillingham police advised the Dillingham FSS. The aircraft was tracked to Clarks Point and then observed headed east. The aircraft returned to Clarks Point a few minutes later and landed in the water near the docking facility. The residents of Clarks Point apprehended the pilot and turned him over to the Alaska State Troopers.

ATLANTA IS BUSIEST AIRPORT:

Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia, is now the busiest airport in the world. Hartsfield finished fiscal year 1987 with more operations than the long-time leader, Chicago O'Hare. Figures show that Atlanta finished with a total of 801,122 operations with O'Hare trailing with 795,804 operations.

FAA OFFERS GRACE PERIOD: Pilots who failed to report required information on drunk driving or other traffic convictions on their medical certificate applications will have a chance to set their records straight. From now until January 1, the agency will not take any enforcement on the basis of falsification, for any falsification of a record of traffic conviction disclosed by the voluntarily supplied information.

CLASS DANCE: Cressida (Frederick) Stapley, daughter of Sandra and Donald Frederick (AAL-58) recently returned to school from a 6-week tour in Europe with Brigham Young University's American Folk Dance Troupe. Cressida, a senior majoring in Special Education, danced in major festivals, concerts, and parades in France, Germany, and Luxembourg.

stork

report



Ivy Moore, AAL-5, became a grandmother to Hunter Cameron Moore on September 14. Hunter entered the world at a healthy 9 lbs 8 ounces.

Les Habig of Bethel ATCT and his wife welcomed their 8 lb 8 oz baby boy on September 17.

Helen "Marquis" Couey became the grandmother of Marquis Matthew Couey who weighed in at 6 lbs 11 ounces on September 17.

Greg Deveraux, ATCS, Kotzebue and his wife had a baby boy around the last of September.

Brad Nelson, ATCS, Juneau, and his wife Laura Lee welcomed their son Jesse Robert on October 7. Jesse weighed in at 7 lbs 7 ounces.

NEW EMPLOYEES, TRANSFERS/PROMOTIONS, RESIGNMENTS, ETC: Since so many people get left out of this section due to sketchy information gleaned from several sources, I thought I would try something new. To all new employees: **Welcome Aboard!** To everyone who got transferred: **Good Luck!** To anyone who got promoted: **Congratulations!** To anyone who retired: **Enjoy your well earned rest.** And, to those of you who resigned thinking there's something better: **Na na na na na!** There. That ought to score a few points with the boss.

GOVERNOR'S SAFETY AWARD

Chris Collinson, ATCS, Anchorage FSS was awarded the 8th Annual Governor's Safety Education Award. The award was presented at a banquet held on October 27. Chris was recognized for his efforts in developing the region's Operation Sunbreak program which will now become a national program.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ACTIVITIES AWARD

This year's annual award was presented to the Alaskan Region's Management Systems Division headed by Richard Brindley. The award recognizes high levels of performance in program accomplishment, communications, employee development, external relations, and professionalism.

*** SERVICE PINS ***

Thomas G. Konklin, Anchorage ARTCC, 35 years
 Bev Sinnott-Maynard, ATCS, Bethel, 3 years
 Herb Rollins, Area Supervisor, Anchorage ATCT, 25 years
 James Mann, ET, Kenai SFO, 25 years

** LETTER OF COMMENDATION **

Julius Wery, ATCS, Dillingham FSS
 Steven Groeneveld, Dillingham FSS
 Marsha J. Brown, ATCS/STN, Cold Bay FSS

VETERANS DAY



***To all of the men
and women who served***

Thank you!