

DOT Today

January 1993
Volume II, No. 4
U.S. Department of Transportation



Moving America Together

1992 The Year In Review



September-
FHWA and the
Department of
Labor announce
Women in
Highway
Construction
program



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Secretary Card

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Carol Fenton

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Combined Federal
Campaign Results



August-
Hurricane
Andrew
Hundreds of DOT
employees from
every operating
administration
around the country
volunteer and are
sent to help with
FEMA and other
assistance efforts



May-
DOT 25th
Anniversary
Ceremony.
Special logo
and theme,
"The Future
Starts Here"



February
Child Passenger
Safety Week

November
Coast Guard
removes last
foghorn from
Alcatraz Island in
San Francisco Bay,
replacing it with an
electronic beacon



January
First intermodal
group of new man-
agers experiences
"Power of Vision"
course at FAA Center
for Management
Development

August-
Secretary Card
appointed by
President Bush to
coordinate the
Presidential
Response Task
Force after
Hurricane Andrew



April
Nearly 3.9 million
truck and bus
operators meet the
April 1 deadline
requiring a
Commercial
Drivers License

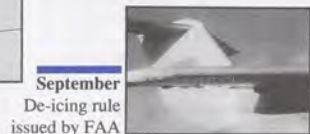
Federico Peña Is Transportation Secretary Designate

Federico Peña, 45, former mayor of Denver, has been designated by President-elect Clinton to head the Department of Transportation.

Peña, who has been leading the transition team on transportation, is an attorney and chief executive officer of Peña Investment Advisers, an asset-management firm. Clinton said Peña is "exactly the kind of energetic manager who can face the task to rebuild our nation's infrastructure and get the job done."

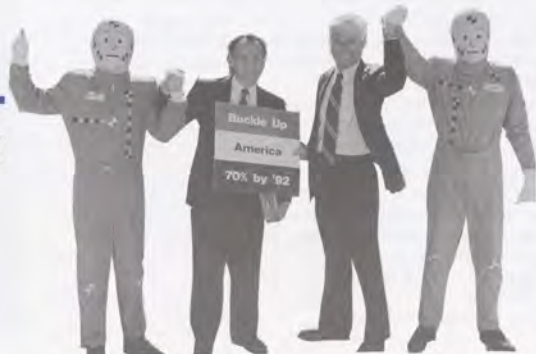
As Denver mayor from 1982-1991, he was involved in many projects to improve that city's infrastructure, including construction of Denver International Airport, the world's largest, scheduled to be completed in 1993. He also initiated and passed two major infrastructure bond issues, including a \$241 million issue in 1989 for bridges, viaducts, buildings and roads. Peña served two terms in the Colorado House of Representatives and was elected House Minority Leader in 1981.

Peña, a native of Texas, received both his bachelors degree in government and his law degree from the University of Texas, Austin. He is married to Ellen Hart Peña and they have two children.



September
De-icing rule
issued by FAA

May
Buckle Up
America Week



A Message from Secretary Andrew H. Card

This spectacular department faced many challenges in 1992 in its daily operations and in several crisis situations. You, the dedicated men and women of DOT made our transportation environment safer, advanced intermodalism, put forth innovative projects, and pulled together to get the job done. You made doing the impossible almost routine. I am appreciative and proud.

Last year we found ourselves at an important juncture in the department's 25-year history — when we were tasked with implementing the landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), the most comprehensive surface transportation bill since the 1956 legislation establishing this country's Interstate Highway System. We are meeting that challenge with skill and imagination.

We also renewed friendships in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the department. Early in the summer, a rail work stoppage threatened to shut down vital industries around the country. Another crisis came in August, when Hurricane Andrew devastated south Florida and damaged areas of coastal Louisiana, leaving thousands of people without shelter, food, water or hope — many of them part of our DOT family from the FAA and Coast Guard. The president called on me to lead the disaster relief effort, and the whole DOT team went to work. Hundreds of you volun-

teered to work at FEMA centers in Ohio, Texas and Florida, taking phone calls and making sure assistance was getting to those in need. Others went to Florida to man disaster assistance centers. Shortly after Hurricane Andrew came Hurricane Iniki in Hawaii and Typhoon Omar in Guam. Again, DOT answered the call for help. Because of you, we were able to accelerate relief efforts and help the disaster victims.

On the high seas, the men and women of the Coast Guard not only saved thousands of lives, but participated in rescue and rebuilding efforts in all three disasters, and put forth a herculean effort in recovering Haitian migrants from the Windward Pass area.

At the same time, we worked to expand international aviation competition through "open skies," and developed legislation to revitalize our maritime industry. We also proposed legislation on trucking deregulation, which would save the country billions of dollars and improve the efficiency of that industry.

Together we broke some of the log jams to get state highway funds allocated and put people around the country back to work more quickly; drafted rules to improve passenger safety on the highways, on the rails and mass transit, and made sure projects such as IVHS and high speed rail

were researched and funded. We now have comprehensive de-icing procedures in place for aircraft, and we're working every day to improve safety and airport security.

Safety continued to be a top priority. We recently announced a broad range of actions that would require alcohol testing programs for nearly 7,000,000 truck drivers, transit and train operators, airline pilots and other transportation workers. In addition, drug abuse testing programs would be extended to millions of intrastate drivers holding commercial drivers licenses. A number of nationwide efforts to increase the use of safety belts and child safety seats, reduce alcohol and drug related crashes, keep unsafe vehicles off the road, and improve highway/rail grade crossings, continue to make all areas of transportation safer. Our efforts this year have helped the nation's highway death toll reach a 30-year low. But, there is still much to do.

As a new administration begins and a new secretary takes the reins of DOT, I know that you, the talented DOT staff will continue to build a bright transportation future for this country. I have been honored to serve with you as the 11th Secretary of Transportation. I am very proud to have been on your team.

FAAers Brighten Holidays for Less Fortunate Children

For the fifth consecutive year, FAAers have helped hundreds of Washington area children have a happier holiday.

Working with the Salvation Army, more than 250 employees volunteered to dress dolls and fill stockings to be distributed to children who otherwise might not have any gifts. Bobbie Smith, of the Aircraft Certification Service, began the volunteer effort in 1987, when she and a few co-workers dressed up 30 dolls for area children. This year, more than 300 dolls and 250 stockings were put together. Once the volunteers finished them, they were shipped to the salvation Army for distribution. But not before they were displayed in the FAA cafeteria, where a Salvation Army representative praised the group for their generosity. A large bride doll, outfitted by Gail Johnson, Office of Human Resource Management, was raffled at the event, and the proceeds went to the Salvation Army to buy more children's gifts.



Bobbie Smith and a Salvation Army worker show off some of the dolls donated by FAAers

December 21, 1992
Dear Secretary Card:

A year ago, the Department initiated a new approach to cultivating its leaders — the DOT Fellows Program. As you know, the program, which was developed and is managed in conjunction with the Council for Excellence in Government, is designed to enhance the managerial and leadership skills of top performing mid-level employees within the department. Your personal visit with us in June demonstrated your commitment to the Fellows concept, and so, as the inaugural class, we would like to share our experiences with you. We see last year as the beginning of a unique opportunity to focus a team of twenty-five individuals from a single department of government on transportation issues. The DOT Fellows Program is an excellent mechanism to increase communication and understanding of intermodalism throughout the department. In addition, through interaction with industry and corporate leaders, and other government agencies, we have increased our ability to build more effective relationships and to improve our organizations. It has been an honor to have participated in the department's first group of Fellows. As a result of this program, we pledge ourselves to meet the challenge of bringing the various modes closer together and working toward our common goal of providing a world-class transportation system.

Sincerely,
The 1991-1992 Fellows

Calling All Writers

I know you're out there, and so are those stories — especially more from the regions and field offices!

The deadline for submitting material for the February issue is January 21. When submitting articles, please furnish typed copy, preferably 8-1/2 x 11, and include your name, address and phone number. Photos (black and white or color prints) or slides are encouraged. Your photos will only be returned if you request it. Questions? Call Sue Challis, 202-366-5578.

Whoops...

Question #7 on the recent DOT Today Reader Survey has been getting a lot of attention from those responding. Only two options were offered for work location — regional office or headquarters. As many of you have pointed out, there's more to DOT than those two locations. Thousands of people work in field offices — some in sectors and other offices. Thanks for bringing that to our attention, and thank you for sending in your surveys.

Speaking of the survey, we are tabulating responses now. Results and many of the written comments will be published in the February issue.

RE&D Public Meeting A First

by Mary Ann Phillips

The FAA's Rotorcraft Directorate is doing its best to keep the public involved in public safety. Evidence: a unique meeting held November 4-5, in Fort Worth, Texas. More than 130 representatives from manufacturing, the military, academia and other institutions from around the world gathered to advance research, engineering and development (RE&D) ideas within the rotorcraft industry, in hopes of proposing new projects for FAA's Fiscal Year 1996 RE&D budget.

"Something new and exciting is beginning to happen in the way the FAA identifies and manages RE&D activities," said James D. Erickson, manager, Rotorcraft Directorate. "The environment has changed from one where the FAA acted in a fairly constrained manner in deciding where our dollars would be spent, to an environment stressing partnership—both within the agency and with industry."

The meeting was the first of its kind since the FAA revised its RE&D management process. While getting ideas from users in the field is a standard in many disciplines, such as maintenance and logistics, stimulating new development within the research area with recommendations from private industry is a fairly new concept. Both international and domestic members of the rotorcraft community gathered to exchange ideas.

"A public meeting seemed to be a good way to begin to address our newly acquired responsibilities in the

RE&D area," said Eric D. Bries, Manager, Rotorcraft Standards staff, whose team coordinated the meeting. The six months of planning and organization were "masterminded" by Mike Mathias, aerospace engineer, with the assistance of Linda Williams, secretary, Rotorcraft Standards staff. The gathering was organized into two general session meetings and five smaller specialized meetings, which concentrated on brainstorming new RE&D proposals in the areas of structures, noise, electrical and mechanical systems, quality assurance and flight test/standards.

Each group was led by an FAA engineer, who acted as a facilitator only, being careful not to interject the FAA's "party line" into the discussion. "We wanted a totally free exchange of ideas from the industry, so we had to ensure that the FAA was there only to facilitate the discussions—not dominate them," said Mathias.

Group members submitted more than 125 proposals from their organizations. The groups discussed and prioritized each proposal. Although most were typically aeronautical, some of the ideas were fairly new applications to aircraft, such as air bag protection for pilots and passengers. Another involved researching a substitute for the fire extinguisher agent, Halon, currently in use on rotorcraft, as well as in other forms of transportation. Another proposal suggested noise regulations and flight profiles be established for powered lift tilt wing rotorcraft.

The final list of proposals, together with those from the Flight Standards Directorate, will eventually go to FAA headquarters in Washington, D.C., to be evaluated and to compete against proposals from other FAA regions.

According to Erickson, "Recent congressional legislation has removed restrictions our service had on only sponsoring RE&D projects that directly relate to rulemaking. We hope to identify projects that will enhance aviation, aid the rotorcraft industry, and help move the country and the industry forward on a broad range of fronts."



More than 130 FAA, industry and academic representatives attended the FAA Rotorcraft Directorate public meeting. Maria Garcia (center) and Kathy Jones (right) of the Rotorcraft Standards staff, register John Zuk, Ph.D., Chief, Civil Technology Office, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

U.S. and Ukraine Sign First Maritime Agreement

On December 3, Secretary Card and Ukraine Vice Prime Minister Vasyly Yevtukhov signed the first-ever maritime agreement between the two nations. The three-year agreement provides each country's merchant ships with liberalized access to the other's

ports (after giving 24 hours' advance notice), except for those ports limited for security reasons. U.S. vessels, for example, will be permitted to enter Odessa, Yalta and 15 other ports along the Black Sea. Ukrainian vessels must apply seven days in advance to enter U.S. ports where military facilities are located. Each country is also permitted to establish business offices, to own maritime facilities and equipment and to have access to terminal facilities in the other country. The selection of ships to carry commercial cargo will be based solely on commercial considerations. There are no cargo-sharing requirements in the agreement, but representatives of the two countries plan to meet periodically and assess the cargo forecasts and carriage levels.



Lance Strotzer

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This is your publication, and we value your input.

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The deadline for the February 1993 issue is January 21.



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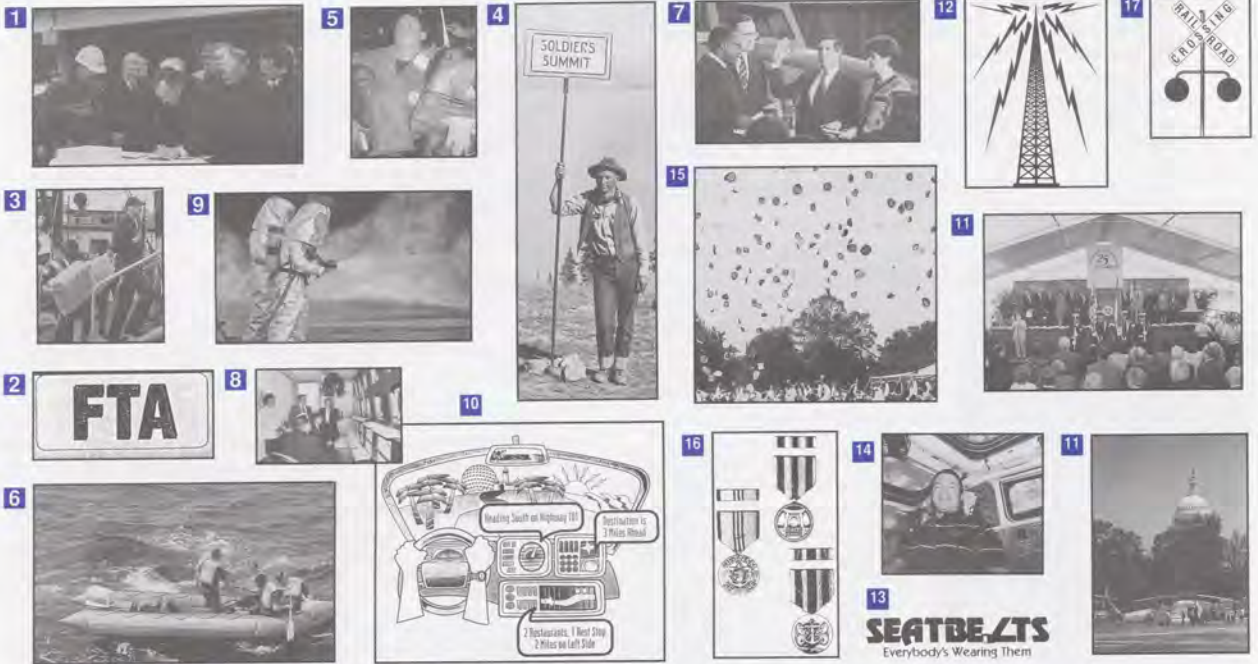
Who's the O'Hare in O'Hare airport?

The original name for the busy Chicago airport was Old Orchard Field (its abbreviated designation was ORD in airport circles). After World War II, Col. Robert R. McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, led a successful campaign to have the facility renamed for Edward H. "Butch" O'Hare, who had single-handedly downed six Japanese bombers.

In one of World War II's most celebrated feats, only three months after Pearl Harbor, O'Hare was the only fighter pilot in the air when nine Japanese twin-engine bombers suddenly approached the USS Lexington off the Gilbert Islands in the Pacific. O'Hare dived and hit one of the planes, and evading the others, regained altitude and swooped down again—and again, until he had shot down five of the bombers and crippled a sixth. By then, other fighters from the Lexington were in the air and shot down two more.

O'Hare was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and promoted to lieutenant commander by President Roosevelt. He disappeared in 1943, while in the midst of an attack by Japanese torpedo planes in the South Pacific. No trace of him was ever found.





1992 The Year

Landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) goes into effect reshaping surface transportation programs, creating new flexibility between highway and transit programs, and providing \$21 billion in the first year for highway, transit and related investments, safety programs, and research. **1**

January

- Andrew H. Card Jr. nominated as Secretary of Transportation
- Transit Benefit Program goes into effect to encourage employees to use mass transit
- FAA begins construction of first permanent Terminal Doppler Radar
- Since September, Coast Guard has recovered 7,500 Haitians from the Windward Pass area
- UMTA formally renamed Federal Transit Administration (by ISTEA)
- NHTSA seeks comments on possible rule to reduce rollover casualties
- FHWA wins the Presidential Award for Design Excellence for five projects
- Coast Guard seizes 4.5 tons of cocaine — third largest maritime seizure in history
- First National Technology Initiative (NTI) conference at RSPA's Volpe Center in Cambridge, Mass.
- First intermodal group of new managers attends "Power of Vision" course at FAA Center for Management Development
- Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachments team up with allies to enforce United Nations economic embargoes against Iraq
- Savannah, Ga. airport becomes the first approved to charge \$3 passenger facility charge (PFC)
- President Bush imposes 90-day regulatory review moratorium

February

- Card confirmed as 11th Secretary of Transportation
- 50th Anniversary, opening of the Alaska Highway
- Coast Guard temporarily halts repatriation of Haitian migrants at request of Haitian government
- Child Passenger Safety Week
- RSPA opens hazmat field office in Ontario, Calif.
- Office of Commercial Space Transportation exhibits at Singapore Airshow
- Crewmen from CG Cutter Kiska free humpback whale and its calf from tangled fishing lines off coast of Hawaii

NHTSA announces incentive grants for states enacting safety belt and motorcycle helmet laws.

March

- Card sworn in as 11th Secretary of Transportation at National Air and Space Museum
- FAA completes installation of Meteorologist Weather Processors at all FAA enroute centers
- ADIC (Anti-Drug Information Center) database becomes operational at the Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma City
- Coast Guard tightens enforcement of safety regulations regarding upgrading firefighting and lifesaving equipment on fishing vessels
- FAA dedicates new air traffic control training building in Oklahoma City
- TravTek kickoff in Orlando, Fla. First commercial use of IVHS "smart cars"
- FTA establishes federal advisory committees to help implement new laws and programs such as the Americans with Disabilities Act.

April

- DOT's 25th anniversary
- Card testifies before Congress on trucking deregulation
- OCST meets with European officials to discuss trade issues relating to space launches; meetings follow during the year with Chinese and Russians
- RSPA opens hazmat field office in Newark, N.J.
- FTA establishes Business Transportation Council
- DOT completes regulatory review of 682 regulations
- President extends regulatory review moratorium
- Nearly 3.9 million truck and bus operators meet the April 1 deadline requiring a Commercial Drivers License
- Coast Guard units rescue 3,667 Haitian migrants during the month, forcing U.S. officials to open a "tent city" at U.S. Navy Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- FHWA Administrator Larson signs memorandum of understanding with Environmental Protection Agency

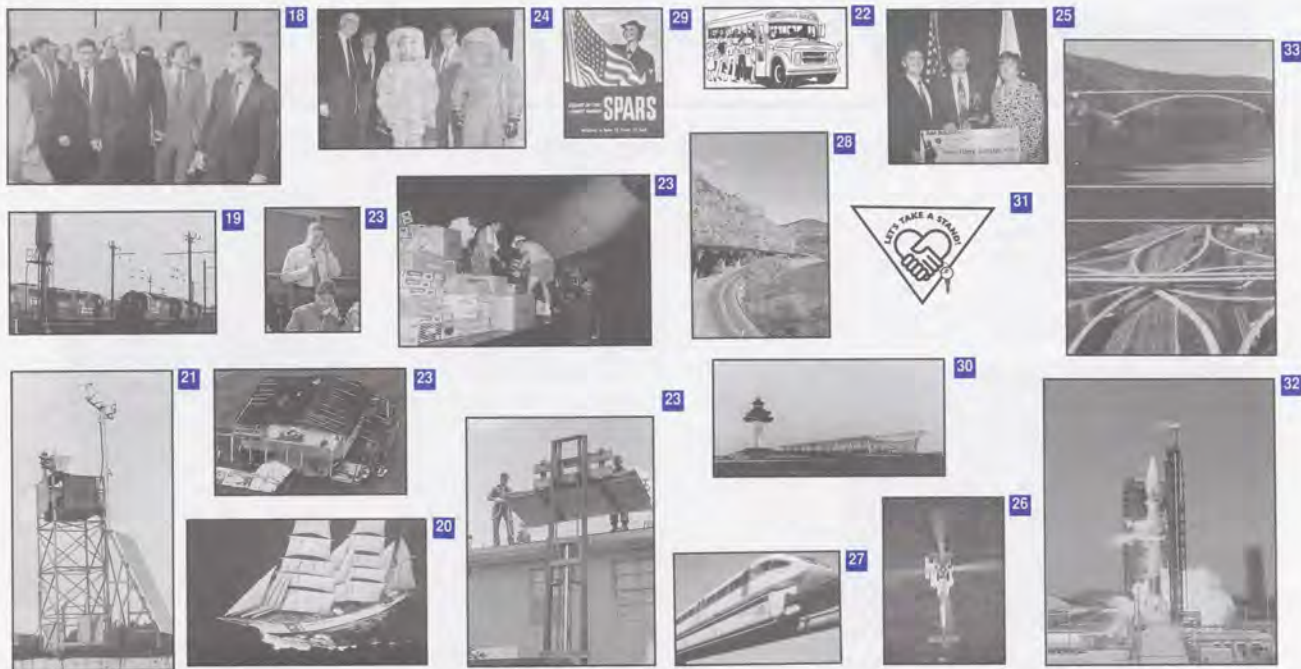
May

- DOT 25th Anniversary Ceremony. Special logo and theme, "The Future Starts Here"
- Oceanic Display and Planning System opens at New York Air Route Traffic Control Center
- DOT demonstrates Global Positioning System in Washington, D.C.

- FHWA adopts strategic plan
- Transportation Radio Network debuts with newsfeeds to radio stations around the country
- Landing rights halted in U.S. for Yugoslav Airlines in response to hostilities in former Yugoslavia
- Contract awarded for Boston's Big Dig, third tunnel under Boston Harbor extending I-90 to Logan Airport
- Buckle Up America Week
- Coast Guard astronaut CDR Bruce Melnick makes his second space shuttle flight, operating Endeavor's shuttle arm during satellite rescue
- Coast Guard and Merchant Marine academies hold graduation ceremonies
- FAA International Conference on Airplane Ground De-Icing attracts 800 world-wide
- As part of National Maritime Day, MARAD presents special medals to civilian seafarers who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam
- National Operation Lifesaver Day heightens awareness of highway-grade rail crossing safety
- RSPA establishes standards for training all employees working with hazardous materials

June

- Arthur Rothkopf sworn in as deputy secretary of transportation
- General Thomas C. Richards confirmed as FAA administrator
- NHTSA announces alcohol-related traffic fatalities dropped nearly 10 percent in one year, largest one-year drop ever recorded
- USCG Commandant ADM Kime visits Russia, Poland, Greece and Italy, initiating talks on developing coast guards in those countries
- Secretary Card unveils the administration's maritime reform proposal before Congress
- NHTSA outlines criteria for state anti-drunk driving incentive grants
- Summer interns arrive under new program with Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
- Russian President Yeltsin meets with Secretary Card in Washington, D.C., signs agreement on airspace use and air traffic control
- Coast Guard and Saint Lawrence Seaway develop a foreign-flagged vessel screening program for compliance with U.S. safety and environmental protection laws
- FAA awards contracts for advanced version of Microwave Landing System
- Coast to coast shutdown of passenger and freight rail



Year In Review

traffic when unions and railroads fail to reach agreement; promptly ended by congressional action

July

- Robert E. Martinez sworn in as associate deputy secretary and director of DOT's new Office of Intermodalism
- Operation Sail '92: More than 200 of the world's tall ships visit New York and Boston, led by the USCG Eagle
- Installation of new remote weather stations along the St. Lawrence River and a weather display system allows better vessel traffic control and weather updates
- CDR Vivian Crea becomes first woman commanding officer of a Coast Guard Air Station
- Safety recall of 185,000 school buses announced by NHTSA
- RSPA establishes registration and fee program for certain shippers and carriers of hazardous materials

August

- Hurricane Andrew devastates southern Florida and Louisiana coastline - more than 300 DOT families are affected. Secretary Card appointed by President Bush to coordinate the Presidential Task Force; leaves for Florida to lead relief efforts first-hand
- DOT employees from every operating administration around the country donate money and supplies and hundreds volunteer and are sent to help with FEMA and other assistance efforts
- Typhoon Omar strikes Guam, causing major damage
- The 937-foot cruise ship Queen Elizabeth II runs aground off Massachusetts coast. Coast Guard helps evacuate 2,815 passengers and crew
- NHTSA announces states could lose highway funds if they fail to revoke licenses of convicted drug offenders
- Seaway's maximum draft for eastbound vessels increased to 26' 3", allowing vessels to carry as much as 200 metric tons in additional cargo

September

- Hurricane Iniki hits Hawaiian island of Kauai
- FHWA national conference on civil rights
- NHTSA requires registration of new child safety seats to aid in recalls
- Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C. Coast Guard aircrew awarded the Association of Naval Aviation Outstanding Achievement Award for Helicopter Aviation
- Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation trade

missions during the year visit nine countries

- Marion C. Blakey sworn in as ninth NHTSA Administrator
- U.S. signs open skies agreement with the Netherlands
- U.S. - Chinese maritime agreement extended
- FHWA and Department of Labor announce Women in Highway Construction program
- Final rule issued on the use of child restraint systems on aircraft
- De-icing rules issued by FAA
- RSPA announces Emergency Preparedness Grants Program
- OCST reviews and approves operation for Orbital Science Corp. to launch its Pegasus vehicle from an aircraft

October

- 25th Secretary's Awards Ceremony in Washington honors more than 125 employees
- Coast Guard begins replacing HH-3F Pelican helicopters with first of four new Jayhawks
- Federal Women's Week
- To date, more than \$235,000, plus tons of clothing and supplies, are donated by fellow employees to DOT families affected by Hurricane Andrew
- Five high-speed rail corridors selected to receive federal ISTEA grants to eliminate grade crossing hazards and facilitate future development
- CG Marine Safety Detachment at Concord Naval Weapons Station, Calif., selected as 1992 Reserve Unit of the Year
- Legislation signed reauthorizing FAA programs
- NHTSA recommends states adopt lower blood alcohol level of 0.08 as standard for driving while intoxicated
- OCST teams up with Spaceport Florida Authority in "Rockets for Schools" program
- New school bus safety standard requires more emergency exits
- Colorado opens final link of Interstate 70 in Glenwood Canyon
- Secretary Card participates in completion celebration of Michigan's 1,241-mile Interstate Highway System
- President Bush signs pipeline safety reauthorization, extending RSPA's program for three years

November

- Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas elected President of the United States
- FHWA, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and industry associations launch National Quality Initiative to improve nation's highways

•Continuation of the Seaway Incentive Tolls Program results in more than 450,000 metric tons of new cargoes approved during the year

- RSPA issues final rule regulating transportation on chemicals identified as marine pollutants
- NHTSA rejects claims that millions of safety belt buckles are defective
- More than 700 attend 50th Anniversary Reunion of SPARS, Coast Guard Women's Reserve
- Merchant Marine Academy wins Secretary's Cup football game against Coast Guard Academy, 42-0
- Coast Guard removes last foghorn from Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, replacing it with an electronic beacon
- 30th Anniversary of Dulles Airport

December

- National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month
- Secretary Card presents the Humanitarian Service Medal to the U.S. Coast Guard for humanitarian efforts between October 1, 1991 and November 1, 1992
- DOT announces alcohol testing guidelines for transportation industry employees
- Investigation by NHTSA on fuel tank safety of GM full-size pickup trucks (1983-87) to see if safety defects exist
- ADM Kime is presented with the first-ever DOT Distinguished Service Medal for his outstanding leadership of the Coast Guard
- RSPA awards grants totaling \$11.5 million to 10 regional and three national University Transportation Centers
- U.S. Navy acquires 12 additional roll on/roll off Ready Reserve Force Vessels to be managed by MARAD
- OCST regulated and inspected seven commercial launches during the year, for a total of 31 since 1989
- Secretary Card announces safety belt use nationwide reached a new high: 62 percent; the rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes declined from 48 percent in 1991 to 45.8 in 1992; the 1992 traffic fatality rate of 1.8 deaths per 100 million miles of motor vehicle travel is the lowest on record; estimated fatalities of 39,500 is lowest in 30 years
- Northwest becomes the first commercial airline to carry U.S. troops to Somalia
- Interstate Highway System now 99.7 percent open to the public. Just 106 miles to go!

Employee Profile

Carol Fenton Keeps Watch on the Seaway Locks

by Kevin O'Malley

Each year, thousands of vessels from more than 50 nations are raised and lowered the height of a 60-story building as they pass through the Saint Lawrence Seaway System's 16 locks, carrying cargoes from grain to

iron ore and steel. For more than a decade, Carol Fenton has played an important role in the lock functions of DOT's Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation in Massena, N.Y., and along the way, she has set a number of precedents for women in the field.

"I'll never forget my first ride through the locks right after I joined the Seaway Corporation," Carol says. "It was aboard the PETER MISENER and I was simply amazed by the size of the vessels and the locks. I guess I always wanted to be involved with the operations

part of the waterway." Carol was hired in 1977 as a clerk/receptionist, then two years later, she joined the Vessel Traffic Assistant program and worked her way up, becoming the first woman vessel traffic controller and later operations supervisor. She recently became the Seaway Corporation's operations specialist.

"Many times I felt the pressure of being the only woman around," Carol says. "I was always on my toes and worked twice as hard. I also owe a lot of credit to a number of my male supervisors who supported me and kept pushing me to do more."

Carol sums up one aspect of her new position as supervisor in four words: "NO MORE SHIFT WORK!" For Carol, a wife and mother of one and stepmother of two, the idea of a normal work schedule is very appealing. "I can now be home on weekends and cook dinner for my kids. My life has become normal again after more than 10 years of shift work," she says. "Vessel traffic controllers work



12 hour shifts, many times through the night, and that becomes hard. In this new position, I find myself handling more administrative tasks, but I still substitute for traffic controllers and supervisors when needed."

What Carol also says is enjoyable about her job are the friends she has made over the years, especially her coworkers. "Some people that retire come back to visit and just talk," she smiles. "The people here really are the Seaway. I'm sure I'll stop by to visit my friends when my time with the Corporation is over."



How a Lock Works

Vessels as long as 730 feet, as wide as 76 feet in beam and with a maximum draft of 26 feet can transit the Seaway locks.

The locks are filled and emptied by gravity. To raise a vessel, the upstream valves are opened and the water flows into the chamber through the openings at the bottom of the lock walls. To lower a vessel, the downstream valves of the lock are opened and water flows out of the lock chamber. More than 22 million gallons of water are used for each lockage.

Within 10 minutes, a vessel is raised or lowered to the optimum level. More time is needed, however, for the vessel to maneuver in and out of the chamber. Total lockage time is about 45 minutes.

Maritime Academy Students Aboard Vessel in Somalia

For the second time in two years, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy students are assisting the nation's armed forces in a military action overseas.

Two sophomore midshipmen from the Kings Point, N.Y., academy are aboard the Navy-chartered cargo ship JACK LUMMUS, currently unloading military supplies at the port of Mogadishu, Somalia. During 1990-91, 150 undergraduates from the academy served on cargo ships in the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

The two midshipmen aboard the LUMMUS are John B. Smith, 21, of Bethel, Pa., and Edward P. Anderson, 19, of Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.

The 44,000-ton LUMMUS is virtually a floating warehouse, stocked with food, water, fuel and equipment such as battle tanks and light armored vehicles.

Alcohol Testing Program Proposed by DOT

Approximately 7,000,000 transportation workers will face random alcohol testing under a program proposed December 10 by DOT. Truck drivers, transit and train operators, airline pilots and other workers in the transportation field would also be subject to breathalyzer tests during pre-employment screening; if employers have "reasonable suspicion" that there is alcohol abuse (after observation by a supervisor on-the-job); following accidents; and as follow-up for those returning to the job after problems with alcohol abuse.

In addition, existing programs for drug-abuse testing would be expanded in transportation-related areas. The full text of the 18 proposed rules appears in the December 15 Federal Register. The rules may also be obtained from the ADIC (Anti-Drug Information Center) by modem, 1-800-225-3804 or through phone or fax requests, 1-800-225-3784.

TSI Offers Realistic Disaster Training

A training video is now available to help prepare local and federal officials deal with hazardous materials accidents. Last summer, when it was shot in Mustang, Oklahoma, RSPA's Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) made sure the details were there to make it the most realistic exercise they had ever staged.

The simulated accident involved the collision of a bus loaded with 32 passengers and a cargo tanker with a 9,400 gallon capacity in flammable liquid. The purpose of the exercise was to examine hazards of emergency evacuation of transit buses and emergency response to accidents where hazardous materials are involved. The exercise was conducted by TSI's Mass Transit and Hazardous Materials Divisions in cooperation with local fire, police and civil defense officials.

About 200 participants from transit providers, fire departments, civil defense and emergency service departments representing 47 municipalities and state agencies throughout the state of Oklahoma were involved.

TSI is the primary provider of transportation safety and security training for the Department of Transportation. The Mass Transit Division receives technical assistance from DOT's Federal Transit Administration, and Research and Special Programs Administration supports the activities of the Hazardous Materials Division.



Oklahoma City and Midwest City firemen rescued all 32 passengers from the bus, then set the bus and the tanker ablaze as part of the exercise



Fire sweeps both tanker and bus, simulating a fire caused by the bus striking the underside of the tanker and igniting its load. More than 40 gallons of fuel were used to create the inferno



Wound makeup, called moulage, was applied to volunteer "victims"

photos by Jack Iman and Mike Harvey

DOT's Emergency Organization Stands Tall During Crises

When there is a serious regional emergency affecting the nation's transportation system, the Department of Transportation's emergency response structure springs into action to manage the crisis and put the pieces back together. We don't see the people who make up this structure until there is a need, and when order has been restored, the crisis team disappears until they are needed again. Who are they? Where do they come from?

The department's Emergency Response structure is managed by the acting Research and Special Programs Administrator, Douglas B. Ham, through the Director of Emergency Transportation, Lloyd E. Milburn. The operational emergency structure has two components. The first is the Crisis Management Team, consisting of RSPA's Office of Emergency Transportation, planning officers from the offices of the assistant secretaries, and emergency coordinators from DOT's operating administrations. Responsible for centralized program guidance and coordination, this team monitors emergencies, develops situation reports, and assists in resolving transportation issues.

The second component consists of personnel in the field who are responsible for decentralized program execution. In each of the 10 federal regions and Alaska, two DOT employees lead the department's emergency response in a crisis. A Regional Emergency Transportation Coordinator (RETCO), a high official from Coast Guard, FHWA or FAA, has the responsibility to pull together resources from DOT's regional operating administrations to staff an emergency response team. Each RETCO has a Regional Emergency Transportation Representative (RETREP) from the same operating administration, to provide day-to-day planning and on scene crisis management.

Depending upon the scope of the disaster, the RETREPs' actions range from simple information gathering and situation reporting to managing a fulltime task force in the disaster area, as was the case in hurricanes Andrew and Iniki. The RETREPs responsible for managing the response to Andrew were Bernard F. "Bernie" Gunnels (FAA, Atlanta) and James E. Cox, (FAA, Fort Worth). The RETREP for Iniki was Edward P. Henry (USCG, Alameda).

In national security emergencies, the field organization may be augmented by National Defense Executive Reservists who provide specialized expertise. Fortunately, there was no national security emergency in 1992 that caused the reservists to be activated, but they participate in annual training and practical "exercises" and stand ready to support the department when needed.

Response to hurricanes Andrew and Iniki involved substantial onsite federal presence. Secretary Card personally led the Presidential Response Task Force to provide on-the-scene assistance, managing the response of the total federal community and supported by the RETREP and a team of transportation specialists from various DOT regional organizations, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC). In Florida, Louisiana, and Hawaii, the RETREPs established onsite teams that procured and managed transportation resources in support of federal, state and local agencies in the disaster areas. They worked around the clock, locating refrigerated vans, chartering aircraft, leasing cranes and vehicles for temporary use and supporting the other transportation functions. Most victims of the disasters will never know the names Bernie Gunnels, Jim Cox, Ed Henry or their team members, but thousands of people directly benefitted from their work. The members of these emergency teams are listed below. We salute them!

MIAMI DISASTER FIELD OFFICE:

Bernard F. Gunnels FAA	Cathie Gee FHWA
Robert Bates FAA	Robert Gilroy FAA
Richard Biter ICC	Edward P. Henry USCG
Mary Ann Cassano FAA	Stan McClain FAA
John Chambliss ICC	Reuben Plachy FHWA
Daniel Christian FHWA	Mary Beth Smith FAA
Raymond Cicchio FRA	Russell Smith MTMC
Charles Cunningham FAA	John Speir FAA
Harold Dorminey FAA	William Stouder FHWA
Thomas Dunaway FHWA	Phyllis Thames FAA
Robert Florence FHWA	Gerri Whitehead FAA

BATON ROUGE DISASTER FIELD OFFICE

James E. Cox FAA Russell Smith MTMC

DENTON, TEXAS REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER:

Henry Christiansen FAA Gail Smith FAA
James Gill FAA Harold Weller FAA

HAWAII DISASTER FIELD OFFICE:

Edward P. Henry USCG	James Gill FAA
James E. Cox FAA	LCDR M. Jenkins USCG
Henry Christiansen FAA	LCDR E. Love USCGR
LCDR L. Clark USCG	Jack Sasser FAA

In 1992, DOT responded to more than 50 emergency situations, including earthquakes, train derailments, hazardous materials incidents, and, of course, Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki.

Reaching Out Through TEAMwork

by Lynn Martin, Volpe Center

RSPA's Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, Mass., recently inaugurated an innovative community outreach program called the Volpe TEAM (Tutoring, Educating And Mentoring) Effort. On hand for the kick-off celebration were Cambridge Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, Assistant School Superintendent Sandra Spooner, city council members and community activists.

At nearby Kennedy Elementary School, volunteers are working with two seventh grade classes one morning a week before their own workday begins. These volunteers teach minicourses on such subjects as communications, career choices and planning, statistics, visual perception and problems in math and science.

At the Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, volunteers are working with a students who represent more than 60 countries. Each mentor/student pair meets twice a week for 45 minutes to provide academic assistance as well as support to help students cope with day-to-day social issues.

Four nights a week after

work hours, the Volpe Center becomes a school for area adults interested in learning English as a second language. Currently, 25 adults from such countries as Brazil, India, Afghanistan and Haiti are enrolled. In January, enrollment is expected to double.

The Volpe Center also provides outreach to area residents employed at the Center through stay-in-school, worker-trainee and co-op programs. Volunteers serve as role models, and encourage additional education and careers in transportation.

The response from employees to this volunteer-only program has been overwhelming. More than 10 percent of the Volpe Center's federal workforce has volunteered, along with a number of onsite contractors. In all, there are approximately 70 volunteers.

Overall, the experience has been a positive one for all the volunteers. The general feeling is that the volunteers are getting back as much or more than they are giving. As one volunteer put it, "Sharing our skills and knowledge helps us grow."

Sign Up for Thrift Savings Plan by January 29

Employees have until the end of January to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan or to change the amount of current contributions to any of the plan's three funds. TSP is designed as a retirement savings plan for employees covered under both the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) and Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). Employees with continuous service who were hired before July 1, 1992 are eligible for the plan. All contributions are tax deferred until withdrawn (usually at retirement). FERS employees can contribute up to 10 percent of their base pay, with a 5 percent agency match (this includes DOT's automatic 1 percent contribution). CSRS employees can contribute up to 5 percent of their salary, but without agency match.



Flavio Leo of EG&G Dynatrend (left) and Mark Bucciarelli of the Volpe Center (right) with students from Robert F. Kennedy Elementary School.

Combined Federal Campaign Goes Over the Top

Overall, more than 80 percent of the department's employees contributed to this year's campaign, including more than 600 who gave at least 1 percent of their salaries (Eagle Awards). Thanks to everyone around the country who responded to those in need through the 1992 Combined Federal Campaign.



Goals were exceeded all over the country this year. At the Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City, FAAers Pam Johnson (left), co-coordinator for DOT's campaign in Central Oklahoma, and Leslie Jones, radiate the enthusiasm that went into CFC activities there.

The two had just conducted an egg race, part of CFC special emphasis week at the center, which included dunking the bosses, pie-throwing, and a 50s sock hop. The final total for the Aeronautical Center was \$127,587.64 — 102 percent of their goal!



Secretary Card serves up breakfast at DOT Headquarters as a fundraiser for the Combined Federal Campaign. Final total for all headquarters offices was a little over \$1,300,000 — exceeding the overall goal by more than 18 percent.

Transit Benefit Increase

Secretary Card recently approved an increase from \$21 to as much as \$60 per month (depending on actual commuting cost) for employees participating in the DOT Transit Benefit Program. The increase is the result of a law signed by the president in October 1992 which raised the cap on tax-free transit benefits to \$60 per month. The new benefit applies to all departmental employees and will be effective this month.

The increase should provide even more incentive for DOT employees who now commute to work by car to convert to public transportation. Employees who are interested in participating in the program can contact the Transit Benefit Program representative in their organizations for further information.

Coast Guard Cadet Becomes One of "America's Funniest"

The football game between the Coast Guard Academy and Worcester Polytechnic Institute was going the Coast Guard's way. After a touchdown, the Coast Guard players rushed to the end zone, got in a circle, and started jumping up and down. Dan Deptula, an offensive lineman, ran toward the group and decided to jump on top to surprise them. Unfortunately, that's when all the other players decided their celebrating was over. Deptula leaped, then landed face down on the ground — spread eagle, described as a "belly flop without water." He wasn't hurt (at least not physically).

Later, he discovered it had all been captured on videotape. Recently, thanks to defensive coordinator John Loose, Dan's appearance went national. The tape was shown November 22 on ABC-TV's "America's Funniest Home Videos," and won third place. "When we showed it on the highlight films," Loose said, "the kids laughed like crazy. I'm not sure whose idea it was to send it to the show."

Deptula didn't know it had been submitted. "I thought they were just kidding around," he said. "It was a little embarrassing," he admitted, "but, hey, it got me to California." The \$2,000 in prize money will go to the Coast Guard Athletic Association.

Travel Reminder

"Frequent Flyer" miles awarded to DOT travelers on official business may be used to reduce costs for future government trips. Because these bonus miles can only be used toward government travel, it is important to keep in mind the following:

- Maintain separate accounts for personal and official travel
- Before using bonus miles for official travel, consult with your servicing finance office regarding proper authorization procedures
- Do not use bonus miles earned during official government business travel towards personal trips.

Heaviest Lift Yet for New Coast Guard Helicopter

Story and photo by PAC Greg Creedon

Boston, MA—Crews from Portland, Portsmouth, and Air Station Cape Cod recently teamed up to pull off the heaviest lift ever with the Coast Guard's newest helicopter.

The objective: move a 4,200-pound aluminum framework for solar panels from Station Portsmouth Harbor out to White Island Lighthouse in the Isles of Shoals, 7.2 nautical miles away. The lift is just one part of a larger pilot project to totally solar power the historic lighthouse off New Hampshire.

The Civil Engineering Unit (CEU) Providence — including Harry Duvall, who works in Boston and is attached to CEU— designed a 40-foot high, 40-foot wide A-frame tower to hold the solar panel. The industrial crew at Base South Portland built the tower under the supervision of LTJG Shawn Toohey.

Then there was the question of how to deliver the tower to the remote island. After Toohey consulted with pilots from the air station, the question was answered. They agreed the tower could be air-lifted to the island by helicopter—as long as the tower and the new HH-60J could be stripped to mini-

mum weight and flown with a minimum crew.

The tower then had to be disassembled and trucked to Station Portsmouth, in New Castle, N.H., where Toohey, along with industrial foreman Ron Perron and dock foreman Maurice Drovinn then reassembled it.

The day of the lift, the Portland crew added foam cushioning to the base of the tower in case of a rough landing. The pilots were LT Dan Burbank and LTJG Scott Matthews. The flight mechanic was AD1 Ken Pearce.

"The lift went great," said Pearce. "A lot of planning went into it and it went off without a hitch. The helo performed well. The panel flew broadside, as expected, with a minimum swing. We were very safety conscious, flew around 25-30 knots, and used some ingenuity and common sense."

Crews from Portland will continue to finish the tower, which is expected to be completed and operational in a few months. If the project proves successful, other offshore lighthouses will be equipped with similar solar towers.

CALENDAR

January

10-14 Annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board, Washington, D.C. Call Dr. Richard Pain (202) 334-2960.

18 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration
20 Inauguration Day

February

3-5 The Federal Executive Institute Alumni Association's Eighth Annual "Executive Forum," Sheraton Reston Hotel, Reston, Va. The association is a network of graduates of the Federal Executive Institute residential executive development program, with 2,500 members serving in the highest ranks of the federal career service. Call (703) 476-5546.

6 10th Anniversary Party, Coast Guard Cutter BEAR. Former crew members interested in attending should contact YN1 Clark at (804) 483-8700 between January 17-30, or write to: Commanding Officer, USCGC Bear (WMEC-901), 4000 Coast Guard Blvd., Portsmouth, Va. 23703. Attn: YN1 Clark.

13-16 American Public Transit Association, general managers seminar, Monterey, Calif. Call (202) 898-4000.

15-17 JFK/Kennedy Tower Reunion. For information and to register, call Bill Fedowich (904) 444-5629 or David Royall, (404) 344-6910.

March

4-6 National Women in Aviation Conference, St. Louis, Mo. Call (618) 337-7500, ext. 203.

7-9 American Public Transit Association Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C. Call (202) 898-4000.

27-April 1 American Public Transit Association Transit Management Conference, Portland, Ore. Call (202) 898-4000.

