

DOT Today

April 1994
Volume III, No.7
U.S. Department of Transportation

 DOT Ties America Together

DOT and the NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

The National and Community Service Trust Act, signed in September 1993, opens the way for federal agencies to participate in the American volunteer movement in an exciting and dynamic way. And the Department of Transportation is doing just that.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, established by the new law, encompasses the work and staff of two former independent federal agencies – the Corporation on National and Community Service and ACTION. It will fund, and assist in developing, national and community service programs. In building the National Service system, the Corporation aims to identify and support locally driven programs that meet rigorous national standards, thus enabling communities around the country to channel their talents to meet their specific needs. One of the new program directions is to afford federal agencies opportunities to use Corporation resources to achieve agency objectives through National Service.


Involving people in community service and helping them out with their education at the same time is what National Service is all about. It will enable thousands of Americans to serve in a variety of programs on a full- or part-time basis, either before, during or after their post-secondary education. They may receive a living allowance while serving, and on successful completion of a term of service in their communities, they may qualify for an educational award. In this year's budget, the Corporation has program funds available, and up to 6,000 educational awards to be distributed on a competitive basis to national non-profits, federal agencies, and programs operating or planning to operate in more than one state. Federal agency

awards are intended to serve as "seed money" to expand agencies' existing resources and grant making capability, and to integrate national service activities into existing programs.

DOT has moved ahead in the National Service arena at a brisk pace. Even before the new law was enacted, a DOT Internal Working Group on National Service was established in July 1993, with representatives from each operating administration and various OST offices. They have been hard at work since then, striving to bring transportation and community service together in some unique programs to further our transportation-related community, state and national goals.

The working group has identified five transportation-related national service program areas that combine the aims of the President's National Service program with the priorities of the department. In March, Secretary Peña wrote to the governors of every state in the nation asking them to look closely for opportunities to participate in the program, and to alert them that certain federal-aid funds may be used for national service projects. "We need to find creative and innovative means to weave National Service into our programs and the way we do business," says





"I hope, believe and dream that national service will remain, throughout the life of America, not a series of promises but a series of challenges, across all generations and all walks of life, to help us rebuild this beautiful but troubled land...National service recognizes a simple but powerful truth: that we make progress not by governmental action alone, but we do best when the people and their government work at the grass roots in genuine partnership."

Bill Clinton
President Bill Clinton

continued on page 2

photo by PAC Frank Jennings



Since mid-December, the Cleveland-based Coast Guard Cutter *Neah Bay* has been busy keeping the shipping lanes of Lake Erie open to commercial traffic. In recent weeks, the cutter and its crew have taken on the added task of breaking up ice jams at the mouth of Lake Erie rivers.

Coast Guard Breaks Records as Well as Great Lakes Ice by PA1 Bob Morehead

The U.S. Coast Guard's Great Lakes icebreaking fleet has broken up more ice and assisted more ice-bound vessels this season than in all three previous winters combined. In 1991, Coast Guard icebreakers spent 92.6 hours freeing ice-bound vessels a total of 38 times. In 1992 it was 44.5 hours for 19 assists. Last year, they spent 73.4 hours assisting vessels 12 times. As of February 1994 this season's tally stands at 395 hours spent assisting vessels on 105 occasions.

Officially, the Great Lakes ice season extends from the closing of the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., January 15 to "Spring Break Out" March 25. While most shipping on the Great Lakes stops during this period, certain cargoes, such as heating oil and coals, must continue to move. For this reason, the U.S. Coast Guard's Ninth District employs five 140-foot bay class icebreakers and the 290-foot Mackinaw. In addition, the district's three 180-foot buoy tenders have reinforced hulls, allowing them to be used for light icebreaking if needed. This year, they've been needed.

"We've been working side by side with the Canadian Coast Guard to keep critical waterways open and assist Great Lakes vessels, regardless of nationality," said Capt. Rod Schultz, chief of the Ninth District's Aids to Navigation Branch.

Since mid-December, much earlier than usual, the fleet has been underway nearly non-stop breaking channels in the ice for vessels to follow, maintaining the channels in the ice for the vessels to follow, and freeing ice-bound freighters and tugs. The ships have returned to port only to take on fuel and supplies, make repairs and allow the crews to rest.

"I've been up nearly 36 hours straight," Lt. June Ryan, commanding officer of the Cleveland-based icebreaker *Neah Bay* remarked after returning from an escort trip to Toledo. "The crew's been up about as long. We're all pretty beat." The Coast Guard's icebreaking duties on the Lakes has a long history, but were finally set into the U.S. Code as law in 1936. As spring arrives, so will new challenges for the icebreaking fleet. "Due to the extensive ice coverage, we anticipate a difficult spring opening this year," Schultz said. "But our icebreakers are ready for the challenge."

Thaws provide no respite for the crews. As ice melts and chunks flow downstream, the fleet is often called upon by the Army Corps of Engineers to remove ice jams on the tributary rivers to relieve flooding.

INSIDE

4

"The Ties That Bind"

5

FHWA's Engineer of the Year

7

Earth Day '94

DOT and the National Service Program

Secretary Peña. The president intends for National Service to be a legacy for future generations. It will succeed only if we contribute our time, creativity, and resources to this effort." More than 10 governors wrote back to the Secretary within two weeks of his letter, offering their support and congratulating DOT on its efforts in this important program.

Because national service is about meeting community-based needs, the working group was challenged to come up with ideas to create partnerships with communities.

1. As a result, they formulated five program areas:

- Rehabilitation, Reclamation, and Beautification of Transportation-Related Facilities
- Transit Ambassadors
- Operation Lifesaver
- Hazardous Materials Transportation Emergency Preparedness Assistance
- Youth Traffic Safety Education Programs

2. A Request for Proposals was published in the Federal Register to solicit proposals in the five program areas. A diverse group of responses from 15 states and the District of Columbia were received in a one-month period.

3. The working group is now evaluating the applications they have received and will be selecting the highest quality programs to submit for funding.

4. Finally, by April 29, projects will be selected by DOT and may be filed with the Corporation for programmatic and educational awards. A number of operating administrations within DOT will contribute program funds to be used for some of

those selected.

"We're looking for quality programs," explains U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Tim Beltz, coordinator for DOT's National Service initiatives.

"We've set high standards for the programs we want to support. They must have sustainability and a long-term focus. We want to start small this first year, and build a firm foundation for the future of the program," he says.

In addition to the programs that will be selected by the working group, the Federal Highway Administration has allocated additional funds for a one-year pilot program in the community of Sandtown-Winchester in Baltimore, Md. Working with the Maryland State Highway Administration, the city of Baltimore, and Community Building in Partnership, Inc., this new program is now starting to take shape. The idea is to recruit young people from the neighborhood to work on transportation-related projects alongside city crews. Examples of programs that could qualify for funding are beautification projects, such as planting trees along streets or installing curb cuts to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The "recruits" would have a training period and then begin working on the streets of their own neighborhoods alongside the city crews.

The spirit of National Service is spreading rapidly to the field, and potential projects are being identified all over the country. Administrators have been asked to inform their regional offices about the pro-



Back row (l to r): CDR. Bill Bannister (USCG), Gordon Smith (FRA), Mary Capel-Lee (MARAD), Karen Kabel (FHWA), Charles Rogoff (RSPA), Steve Shapiro (OST), Leslie Haaner (FAA), Jerry Olson (MARAD)

Front row (l to r): April Marchese (FHWA), Beth Poris (NHTSA), CDR. Tim Beltz (USCG), Ann Fisher (OST), Brenda Harris (OST), Susan Gaskins (OST)

Not Pictured: Karen Holder (FHWA), William Mencer, Brian Cudahy, Roger Tate and Susan Gorzowski (FTA), Jim Kabel (RSPA), Bob Lewis and Kim Lydon (SLSDC), Paul Larsen (C-1), Judi Gold (I-1) and Brenda Parker (S-50)

gram and offer encouragement and explanation on how organizations or groups in their areas could get involved. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.

"When we first started out last year, we thought we'd be hard pressed to come up with a connection for transportation and community service projects," says Cmdr. Beltz. "We soon discovered that there were many, many areas where we could reach out to communities. All we had to do was think of ways to build on our successful volunteer spirit here at DOT. Then it became easy. This has been a very exciting project to be involved with."

Here are the five DOT program areas in more detail:

1. Rehabilitation, reclamation, and beautification of transportation-related facilities:

Examples of projects include cleaning up of roadsides, planting trees and flowers near transportation facilities, organizing and managing community beautification and cleanup projects, and working with local artists to beautify terminals and other facilities with artwork, and coordinating with railroad companies to organize clean-up campaigns and work days along railroad tracks and rights-of-way.

2. Transit Ambassadors: NS participants would act as guides and

escorts for the elderly and those with disabilities, teaching them how to use their local transportation system to reach destinations such as medical facilities. The NS participants would also ride on vehicles transporting children to and from school, then spend the day as teachers' aides in the classroom.

3. Operation Lifesaver.

A well-established initiative within FRA, Operation Lifesaver promotes railroad safety, especially at rail-highway grade crossing. NS participants would augment the ongoing effort by going into classrooms

and educating school-age children on rail safety.

4. Hazardous materials transportation emergency preparedness assistance.

NS participants would assist state emergency response commissions and local emergency planning committee by preparing local emergency plans, performing hazmat commodity flow studies, and coordination of plans.

5. Youth traffic safety education programs.

NS participants 16 to 25 years of age would be trained in critical traffic safety issues and conduct educational

activities to promote highway safety for children and youth from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. The program content will focus on one or more of these areas: child passenger safety, pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, safety belt use and preventing impaired driving.

"National service and urban youth corps activities can provide benefits for everyone involved," concludes Secretary Peña. "Not only the community and the youth, but the state agencies will benefit as well. This is an extremely worthwhile effort and we at Transportation are proud to be involved."

DOT Today

Volume III, No. 7 April 1994

DOT Today is an official publication of the U.S. Department of Transportation, under the direction of the Office of the Secretary, Office of Public Affairs. It is a monthly publication and is distributed to DOT employees nationwide.

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This is your publication, and we value your input.

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The deadline for the May 1994 issue is April 22.

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recyclable



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Getting Too Many Copies of DOT TODAY? Not Enough Copies?

The current circulation for DOT Today is based on a master list maintained at Headquarters by the Requirements Section. Over the last year, we have been able to cut the number of copies needed by thousands, thereby saving money and natural resources. If you are getting too many copies, or maybe not enough copies, please call 202-366-4600. With your help, we can continue to keep costs down while still getting the information out there!

Band Together and Buy Bonds!

America, like a good marching band, needs the cooperation of all members to move forward efficiently. Purchasing U.S. Savings Bonds is one way to help the national economy, and at the same time help yourself. For the individual, Bonds pay competitive interest rates, are guaranteed by the U.S. Government, and have certain tax advantages. For the nation, Bonds are a cost-effective way to finance the national debt.

Let's band together
- Buy Bonds!



Take Stock
in America U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

Valerie Dorsett, an attorney with the Federal Aviation Administration in Georgia, has become the first African-American woman appointed to the five-member Boxing Commission there. A native of Greensboro, N.C., Dorsett became interested in boxing when she was a teenager, and watched the sport with her father. She often spent her spare time reading about boxing, and as she got older, she attended seminars and was certified as a professional judge.

"It's challenging to me," says Dorsett. "Once you start to watch it, you realize it's much more of a skill than people think. I guess the first time I saw a match, I thought it was violent and brutal. But now, I realize it takes a lot of skill. It also takes a lot of strength to endure the punches." Dorsett served as a boxing judge for two and a half years before becoming a commissioner. She says she'll definitely go back to being a judge once her tenure as boxing commissioner is over. (Dorsett was appointed by the governor for a four-year term.)

A Howard University graduate, Dorsett later went on to law school at the University of Denver. She got her first break in the boxing industry when she moved to Atlanta three years ago. "Though I was the only female professional fight judge in Georgia," Dorsett says, "there are several women judges in the industry, and even a few referees. All these women are extremely qualified – they know the sport," she says. "I have a lot of friends in the industry throughout the country, but there are not too many women commissioners – no more than 10 nationwide. It's a pretty close knit group as well. There are some women friends of mine who judge the heavy-weight professional fights, and I've learned a lot from them. I think of this chance to be a commissioner as just a different avenue to pursue in the field."



And In This

FAA Employee Appointed Boxing Commissioner

Corner...
...



Sonya Johnson was appointed to the commission along with Dorsett. "Hopefully with our doing a good job on the commission, it will open doors for other women in boxing," she says. The two women join three men on the commission in their role to regulate boxing in Georgia, making sure matches are equitable, legal and as safe as possible.

"Boxing has been around since the 1800s in some form or another, but women are pretty new in the industry," says Dorsett. "It's coming along slowly, but it's happening," she continues. "And, I don't think being a female has anything to do with my ability. I'm qualified."

TRANSPORTATION TRANSFORMATION

Headquarters and Field Employees: Keep May 9 open on your calendar for "Transportation Transformation Day" – dedicated to highlighting the department's successes through the National Performance Review and announcing our plans for continuous change. Look for announcements concerning upcoming activities in your regional communications and in next month's issue of DOT TODAY.

Rugh is Railroad Safety Inspector of the Year



Harold Rugh receives his award from FRA Administrator Jolene Molitoris

The Federal Railroad Administration has named Harold A. Rugh "Railroad Safety Inspector of the Year" for 1993. Rugh, a motive power and equipment inspector in FRA's Pittsburgh office, serves as the lead federal inspector at the major locomotive manufacturing site in the United States.

Each year, FRA selects one railroad safety inspector as the individual who best represents the agency in its top priority mission of ensuring safety on the nation's railroads. Rugh was selected from nearly 400 FRA safety personnel working in eight regional offices and 54 field offices. Rugh worked for many years as an engineer and road foreman of engines on the Pennsylvania and Lehigh Valley Railroads before joining the agency in 1976.

"Harold Rugh perfectly represents the dedication to customer service and commitment to excellence for which FRA strives," said Administrator Jolene Molitoris. "One of FRA's outstanding leaders, he works proactively in partnership with rail management, labor and manufacturers to meet our safety goals. He represents the quality of FRA safety inspectors nationwide."

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK

APRIL 28, 1994

On April 28, the department will participate in the second annual "Take Our Daughters to Work Day." This day, developed and promoted in conjunction with the Ms. Foundation, is designed to focus attention on girls ages 9 to 15 as they explore the connection between education and the world of work. At DOT, this will be an opportunity for girls to experience the realities of the world of work and see how women contribute to the work force and to the economy, with emphasis on careers in transportation. Traditionally, this program encourages parents/guardians to bring their daughters to work for the day.

At headquarters, children of employees and students from our adopted schools will participate in field trips and other activities that will help them learn about transportation and transportation careers. Field offices are encouraged to sponsor activities supporting this worthwhile program.

A schedule of events and other information on how to participate on April 28 will be posted in the lobby areas at headquarters and will appear on TV-TEN.

1994 National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week

In 1993, there were over 4,800 organ donors in the United States and 18,029 organ transplants were performed. As you can see by those figures, more donors are needed. There are more than 34,000 patients now waiting for organ transplants, and estimates are that as many as eight patients die each day because suitable organs are not available.

This year, the Division of Organ Transplantation of the Department of Health and Human Services is inviting all federal employees who are transplant recipients or members of a donor family to participate in the opening ceremony of

Organ
Donor



1994 National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, Sunday April 17 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Great Hall, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.. This event will honor organ and tissue donors from around the country.

If you are interested in meeting other federal employees who are transplant recipients or members of a donor family, you are invited to participate. Contact Mary Ganikos, Ph.D., chief, public and professional education branch at HHS, at (301) 443-7577.

The

Ties That Bind

A Third Generation Coast Guardsman Discovers His Heritage

Photos and story by PA1 David M. Santos

Growing up, Cmdr. Dwight Meekins doesn't recall hearing many stories about the Coast Guard. "The only time I can really remember my father mentioning the Coast Guard," Meekins said, "was when it was time for me to go to college, and he said, 'Why don't you go to the Coast Guard Academy?'" Instead, Meekins went to North Carolina A&T State University, then enlisted in the Navy, where he attended Officers' Candidate School and became a pilot.

It wasn't until years later that Meekins learned about his family's ties to the Coast Guard. One day, back home visiting relatives, someone asked him why he had joined the Navy. "They said, 'Don't you know?'" What he didn't know about was his family's tradition of Coast Guard service. He also wasn't aware that his grandfather, Theodore Meekins, Surfman #1 from the U.S. Lifesaving Station at Pea Island, was a hero. "I guess being in the Coast Guard was such a natural order of things that they didn't talk about it, they just did it. But, I wasn't paying attention. They knew about our history," he said, "but I didn't."

A Famous Grandfather

Station Pea Island was established in 1878, on a dangerous stretch of the Atlantic Coast near Cape Hatteras, N.C. by the U.S. Lifesaving Service, one of the early federal agencies that became part of the modern day Coast Guard.

In 1880, Richard Etheridge became the first African American lightkeeper in the U.S. Lifesaving Service. Etheridge, along with his highly-trained, all-African American crew,

including Meekins' grandfather, quickly earned a reputation as one of the best in the service.

On Oct. 11, 1896, the schooner E.S. Newman ran into a hurricane that stripped off its sails and left it aground near Pea Island. Back at the station, Surfman Theodore Meekins was on duty. From the lookout tower, he saw what he thought was a distress signal. In response, he lit a flare and called Keeper Etheridge over to look for a return signal, confirming a distress call. Moments later they saw it. High water and raging surf conditions stopped the men from using their equipment to reach the survivors clinging to the wreckage. Meekins and another surfman were sent into the water bound together in an attempt to reach them. Early that morning, some six hours after the initial flare sighting, the survivors of the E.S. Newman and the Pea Island crew were back safely on solid ground.

"My father told me that the surfmen worked seven days and had one day off. He would sometimes go to the station a day or two before grandfather's day off," Meekins said. "He seemed to be most impressed with the swimming drills - maybe because he said grandpa was the unit's best swimmer." One exercise they did was drop 20 to 50 pound weights into about 10 feet of water, then dove in and brought the weights up to the surface.

Cmdr. Meekins eventually learned more about the day to day life of his grandfather from his father, Nicholas Meekins. He also learned his father was in the Coast Guard for a short time working with port security during World War II. Eventually,



Cmdr. Dwight Meekins, Associate Director of Admissions, U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Painting depicting 1896 rescue by Pea Island crew, of which Meekins' grandfather was a member

through a Navy pilot exchange program, Cmdr. Meekins himself was able to transfer to the Coast Guard. "When I heard about who my grandfather was, I felt a great degree of pride. I liked the thought and the feeling of this family tradition," he said.

A Family Tradition that Includes Saving Lives

One night, at Coast Guard Air Station Barber's Point, HI., a call came from the Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu. Coast Guard pilot Dwight Meekins was on duty. They had lost radio contact with a tug calling for help. Meekins and the helicopter crew began searching the waters near the tug's last known position. The first half of the search was over with no sightings to report - until Meekins saw a flare. "I asked the guys if they saw it. No one else had," he said. After searching the area near the flare sighting, they spotted the tug's barge adrift. Meekins set up another search using the location of the barge as the centerpoint, flying out in all directions from that spot. Later, they spotted an orange raft with five survivors in it. Apparently one crewmember never made it to the raft

and was probably adrift somewhere.

After picking up the most injured person from the liferaft, the helicopter crew began searching for the lost crewman. Meekins saw a tidierip, an area where two currents merge, and decided to break off and go in that direction. "Then somewhere out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, I saw this one guy floating there like this," Meekins says, waving his arms like the survivor. "When we brought him up and he saw the other guys we had picked up, they were like brothers who hadn't seen each other for 20 years," he said. "It's hard to describe what a search and rescue case does to you when you're successful."

Today, A New Kind of Mission

Far from the helicopters and the rescue cases, Meekins is now the Associate Director of Admissions at the Coast Guard Academy. Near his desk is a model of a Coast Guard helicopter. "Here, you're not saving lives, but you're certainly helping someone shape their future," he says, "and helping them make some very important decisions in their life. Working with those fresh young minds, however distracted they may be at times," he said smiling, "is rewarding as well."

Federal Wages Now Subject to Garnishment

Did you know that with passage of the recent Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993, you may now be subject to garnishment of your wages?

If you are a federal employee, a portion of your basic pay can now be used to satisfy judgments against you imposed by the court system. These may include outstanding bills for hospital and medical services, or other unpaid bills for which a court-issued document called a "writ of garnishment" has been entered against you.

Under the Consumer Credit Protection Act, up to one fourth of your salary can be withheld each pay period to satisfy the debt until it is paid off. Employees earning less than approximately \$250 per pay period are not subject to garnishment.

An appeal process is available. When DOT receives notice that an employee has appealed, the withholding of pay will be suspended or pay will be retained by the department until further order of the court. In the District of Columbia, a "motion to quash" filed by the employee with the court is the equivalent of an appeal.

For confidential assistance with financial counseling and debt management, get in touch with the Employee Assistance Program in your area.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARD WINNERS

It's official - the president has announced the 1993 Senior Executive Service (SES) Presidential Rank Award recipients. Each year agencies may nominate career SES members whose performance is exceptional for at least three years for one of two presidential ranks: Distinguished Executive or Meritorious Executive. The director, Office of Personnel Management, with the assistance of review panels composed of leading individuals from government and the private sector, recommends awardees to the president, who makes the final selection.

Presidential rank awards are very rare and prestigious - the vast majority of executives would not expect to receive a rank during their careers. Each year, only one percent of SES members governmentwide may receive the rank of Distinguished Executive with an award of \$20,000 and a gold recognition pin. Only five percent may receive the rank of Meritorious Executive with an award of \$10,000 and a silver recognition pin.

This year four DOT executives were among the 62 top-level executives governmentwide who were recognized and presented with the Distinguished Executive Rank Award:

M. Craig Beard, Director, Asia/Pacific Office, FAA

E. Dean Carlson, Executive Director, FHWA

Robert H. McManus, Associate Administrator for Grants Management, FTA

Patrick V. Murphy, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Program Development, OST

In addition to DOT's Distinguished Executives, the following 10 DOT officials received Meritorious Executive awards:

Donald C. Bischoff, Associate Administrator for Plans and Policy, NHTSA

Jerald P. Clark, Regional Administrator, Portland, Oregon, FHWA

William Handel, Regional Administrator, Eastern Region Headquarters, FAA

Linda M. Higgins, Director, Office of Acquisition and Grant Management, OST

Rosalind A. Knapp, Deputy General Counsel, OST

John L. Mann, Jr., Associate Administrator for Administration, MARAD

Barbara K. Orski, Director, Office of Right of Way, FHWA

Harvey B. Safeer, Director, FAA Technical Center, FAA

Eugene K. Taylor, Jr., Director, Office of Administrative Systems Development, OST

Alvin L. Thomas, Program Director for Weather and Flight Service Systems, FAA



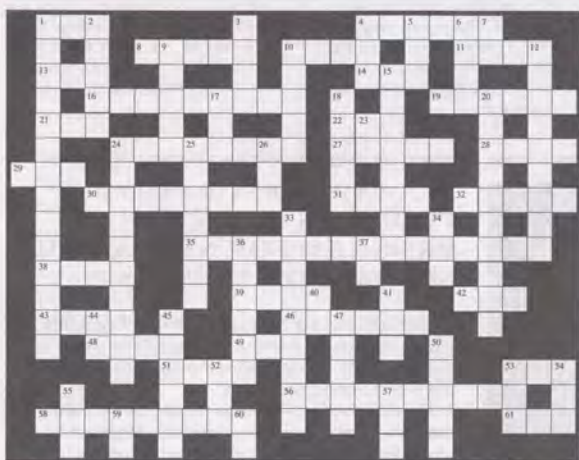
James D. Cooper Named FHWA's Engineer of the Year

James D. Cooper, P.E., has been named the Federal Highway Administration's Engineer of the Year by The National Society of Professional Engineers' Practice Division Professional Engineers in Government. Cooper was one of 33 federal agency engineers recognized as top engineers for their agencies and honored during National Engineers Week (February 20-26).

Cooper has been with FHWA for 18 years, and works at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center in McLean, Va. as chief of the structures division, Office of Engineering and Highway Operations Research and Development. Recently, Cooper com-

pleted work in Los Angeles for the FHWA and the Interagency Committee on Seismic Safety in Construction to determine how bridges designed to newer standards and older bridges that had been seismically strengthened or retrofitted performed during the recent earthquake.

"Jim is an internationally renowned expert in earthquake and structural engineering research and we are extremely proud to have him on our team," said FHWA Administrator Rodney Slater. "His tireless efforts to develop national highway and bridge earthquake design criteria have earned him the respect of his peers."



TRANSPORTATION TREAT!

Roy Jenkins, a Federal Railroad Administration employee in El Paso, Texas, made up this transportation crossword puzzle for your enjoyment. Some of the clues might require referring to your DOT Strategic Plan! Answer to puzzle is on page 7.

- Across**
- 1 small hotel
 - 4 DOT goals will focus on and prepare for the _____
 - 8 mild oath or expletive
 - 10 Federal Highway Administration (abbr.)
 - 11 past tense of sell
 - 13 Congress and the administration are trimming the _____ from the budget
 - 14 American Association of Engineers (abbr.)
 - 16 essential planning and goals with long-range focus
 - 19 born in or coming into being in a place or environment
 - 21 American Railway Association (abbr.)
 - 22 Alternative fuels reduce dependence on foreign _____
 - 24 operational tasks defining purposes of an organization

- 27 needed to combine diverse efforts toward one set of goals
- 28 watchful, considered effort with attention to detail
- 29 Federal Transit Administration (abbr.)
- 30 developing a scheme for future accomplishment of goals
- 31 when a job is well _____
- 32 sometimes things move at a _____'s pace
- 35 low emissions and alternative fuels: part of DOT's goal that programs be _____ sound
- 38 Reinventing government takes a _____ effort
- 39 Show healthy, sound judgment
- 42 _____ is a never-ending challenge in maintaining transportation infrastructure
- 43 Long, narrow stretch of paved surface on

- which motor vehicles travel
- 46 free from fear of risks connected with travel
- 48 teamwork between federal, state and local agencies promotes _____ transportation
- 49 Taking time _____ is essential to a healthy lifestyle
- 51 _____ communication between officials at all levels will develop teamwork
- 53 Customer _____ (abbr.) is a vital part of the agency's job
- 56 Listening to those we serve help us be _____ to meet changing customer needs
- 58 a measure of superior performance; far above mediocrity
- 61 the medium in which we breathe

Down

- 1 underlying basis or foundation of the country's transportation services
- 2 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (abbr.)
- 3 United States Coast Guard (abbr.)
- 4 Federal Aviation Administration (abbr.)
- 5 "____ America Together" - part of the DOT mission; wooden beams on railroad tracks
- 6 Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA)
- 7 Programs supporting civil rights for all active duty military (abbr.)
- 9 DOT's seven strategic _____ will help implement our mission
- 10 wise use of dwindling resources means strong concentration or _____ on goals
- 12 civil rights programs help promote work-place _____
- 15 An _____ between US transportation and technology industries
- 17 Extra terrestrial intelligence (abbr.)
- 18 what you hear as a result of vibrating air molecules
- 20 effective use of resources depends on exploiting new developments and innovations in _____
- 23 unit of measure used to specify track gage (abbr.)
- 24 using more than one form of transportation
- 25 Making the strategic goals work will take a _____ effort on everyone's part
- 26 inverted image used to make photographic prints
- 33 "Reinvent" or _____ the way government conducts business
- 34 gas turbine ship (abbr.)
- 36 a requirement of good leaders
- 37 Maritime Administration (abbr.)
- 40 electrical engineering (abbr.)
- 41 Federal Railroad Administration (abbr.)
- 44 symbol for arsenic
- 45 "Putting _____ first" in our transportation system
- 47 Railroad track is defined by its _____
- 50 Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (abbr.)
- 52 employee id number on tax statements (abbr.)
- 53 large lake or landlocked body of water
- 54 automobile; rail vehicle carrying freight or passengers
- 55 the budget "____" is often wielded during tight fiscal periods
- 57 Office of Defense Transportation (abbr.)
- 59 Railroad system on a structure above the street (abbr.)
- 60 Transportation Request (abbr.)

FTA Employee Earns Spot on U.S. Olympic Festival Team



Avon Meacham, a budget analyst with the Federal Transit Administration at DOT headquarters, has earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic Festival team. Meacham was among 60 players chosen from 242 respondents who filed applications to compete in St. Louis, July 1-10. In the past, the top four finishers from the Amateur Softball Association Men's Major Fast Pitch National Championship earned berths to the U.S. Olympic Festival (see story in DOT's November 1993 issue).

The 60 players will be divided into teams representing geographical regions of the United States, with 15 players on each team. Meacham, who has been a member of two USA Men's Pan American teams, will be making his Festival debut this summer playing the outfield for the North team. During the Festival, the selection committee will choose 17 players to comprise the USA Men's National Team to represent the USA in the 1995 Pan American Games in Argentina. Softball has been an official event at the Games since 1979, and the USA Men's Teams have won four silver medals.

In 1996, for the first time in the history of the sport, softball will be part of the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

SIGNING CEREMONY

On January 26, 1994, a signing ceremony was held to officially recognize the Department of Transportation Coalition of Minority, Disabled and Women Employee Associations and Member Organizations. Deputy Chief of Staff Katherine Archuleta presided over the ceremony.

In April 1992, members and officers of the various minority, disabled and women employee organizations came together to develop a unified coalition to address issues important to their organizations. On December 16, 1992, the Coalition unanimously voted to submit a charter to the Secretary requesting official recognition. The mission and purpose of the DOT Coalition is to work with the department in addressing issues and concerns of member organizations and their constituents. The department, in turn, is committed to providing assistance and support.

Official recognition of the DOT Coalition communicates the department's commitment to goal of achieving diversity and empowering employees.

An informal reception following the ceremony gave senior DOT managers the opportunity to personally meet with the newly elected officers and respective members of the associations and organizations that constitute the DOT Coalition of Minority, Disabled and Women Employee Associations and Member Organizations.

Coast Guard Program is a Hit With New York City Students

At Virgil I. Grissom Junior High School in Queens, N.Y., Coast Guard Rear Admiral John N. Faigle got a tour of a unique maritime theme-based academy there. Approximately 170 students out of the 1,800 enrolled at Grissom are now in the successful program. Using Coast Guard training manuals, magazines, books, and interface with volunteer Coast Guard personnel, the instructors at the school are developing curriculum in all academic fields. Whether math, geography, or English, it is the application of real problems encountered by the Coast Guard that excites the students and makes them want to learn.

During Black History Month in February, the students studied the career of Captain Mike Healy, an African American man who com-

manded the famous Cutter BEAR from 1885 to 1896. He was "the only law" along the 2,000 miles of coast in the Alaska territory. When there was danger of starvation among the Alaskan Eskimos, he introduced reindeer from Siberia into the region to be herded by the native Americans and to become a major food source. The students wrote three songs honoring Captain Healy, which they sang during Admiral Faigle's visit.

The Admiral praised the students' academic accomplishments. Over 78 percent of the students in the special maritime program showed a 34 percent increase in their grade point average over the past three years. They also demonstrated a 27 percent higher attendance rate compared to the general student population at Grissom.



Photo by LT John E. Shallman

"Your performance records are outstanding," he told the students. "They show me you understand how necessary your education is to your future. I am happy we in the Coast Guard can be a part of this program."

RAADM John N. Faigle presented a copy of the Coast Guard's painting of CAPT Mike Healy's crew to the students at Grissom Junior High School



Secretary Peña congratulates Arthur Ray Harper III on being named Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) Student of the Year. Harper, a high school senior from Indianola, MS., visited Washington March 7 to meet with Secretary Peña and Christopher A. Hart, acting administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

DOT Hosts Emergency Planning and Training Conference

An annual conference on February 25 brought together nearly 75 individuals concerned with crisis management from not only DOT, but other federal departments, the Canadian government, the National Defense Executive Reserve, and from private industry. The theme for this year's conference was "New Challenges in Crisis Management."

Coming on the heels of the devastating California earthquake, and the still-recovering Midwest flood areas, the agenda reflected the impact these disasters have had on the emergency community and the many lessons

that have resulted from managing these crises.

DOT's Ana Sol Gutierrez, acting administrator of the Research and Special Programs Administration, gave the keynote address for the conference. She said we must "encourage a rededication and commitment to the job of crisis management. As we reinvent government, we should realize that we have an essential role and we are the ones looked to for leadership when suffering occurs."

The conference participants attended panel discussions on subjects ranging from DOT intermodal initiatives to terrorism and transportation security.

SEAWAY CORPORATION PROPOSES INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR NEWLY-BUILT SEAWAY-SIZE VESSELS

The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation recently proposed an incentive program offering sizable toll discounts over a five-year period to owners and operators of newly-built Seaway-size vessels.

The sliding-scale toll discounts would equate to 100 percent for the first year of Seaway operation, 80 percent for the second year, 60 percent for the third year, 40 percent for the fourth year, and 20 percent for the fifth year. The program would be effective for new vessels delivered between Jan. 1, 1996, and Dec. 31, 2001, and would be applicable to any size, class or flag that uses the Seaway.

The program is expected to give a much needed boost to the building of a new Seaway-size bulk vessel fleet. Since 1984, only 89 new lakers (vessels using only the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Seaway) or combination ocean/lakers have been built - only eight have been built in the past six years.

The proposal was sent by Seaway officials to Great Lakes port authorities and pilot groups to gather additional ideas or suggestions. Ten U.S. Great Lakes ports have endorsed the program and many will offer additional port charge discounts to further the incentives.

Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Administrator Stanford E. Parris was pleased by the overwhelming support for the proposal by the port industry and is convinced that the program has the backing to be implemented.

"The tremendous and broad support from officials of nearly all the major U.S. Great Lakes ports is a clear indication that such an incentive program is needed and will work if all parties involved work cooperatively," Parris said.

Electronic Forms

DOT moved closer to achieving a paperless workplace this month when DOT forms management officers adopted a software package that will generate standardized forms across the department.

This new way of managing information supports National Performance Review initiatives aimed at developing integrated electronic applications to more effectively access information and services. Electronic forms will reduce staff time needed to complete and process forms, eliminate duplicate forms, and speed the transfer of information throughout the department. In the near future departmental forms will be electronically transmitted and produced by a laser printer, adding an electronic signature.

For more information about electronic form capabilities, contact the DOT forms management program manager, Kathie Harting on, (202) 366-9717.

Earth Day 1994



This year marks the 24th anniversary of Earth Day. The Department of Transportation will celebrate at headquarters with events in the Nassif Building Courtyard from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Earth

Day, April 22. Displays and exhibits on alternative fuel vehicles, mass transit programs, energy efficiency, recycled products, hazardous waste cleanup, aircraft noise pollution, oil spill tracking, hazardous material incident response, bike trail programs, wetlands programs, wildflower programs and much more, including remarks by Secretary Peña are planned for the day.

The FAA celebration focuses on what the FAA is doing in response to the Department's Strategic Plan, Goal 5: "Actively Enhance Our Environ-

ment." Displays in the FAA lobby from April 18-22 will focus on topics including: progress in aircraft noise control, atmospheric effects of aviation, balancing wildlife and aviation, groundwater remediation, energy and water conservation, recycling, and precious metals recovery. Subject matter experts will be on hand April 18 and 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to provide additional information and answer questions.

The U.S. Coast Guard will sponsor an all day Environmental Forum on April 21, focusing on the CG's marine environmental protection mission and opportunities for creating mutual partnerships among national environmental nongovernment organizations, industry, and other federal agencies to protect the marine environment. Forum participants will include USCG, Office of the Secretary, Research and Special Programs Administration,

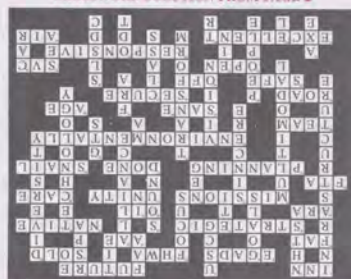
U.S. Maritime Administration, Department of State, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Minerals Management Service, Council on Environmental Quality, White House Office of Environmental Policy, and the U.S. Navy.

DOT regional and field offices across the country are also sponsoring activities for Earth Day. Join in and learn how DOT is helping to enhance the environment as well as celebrate the 24th anniversary of Earth Day.

What YOU can do for Earth Day

- Use a ceramic mug for coffee
- Caulk your windows
- Carpool
- Buy products that are recycled and recyclable
- Plant a tree
- Air-dry your laundry
- Install compact fluorescent lightbulbs
- Use cloth diapers
- Ride a bike
- Use ample insulation in your home
- Install water-efficient showerheads
- Test your home for radon
- Buy products in bulk or with the least amount of packaging
- Separate your recyclable garbage (newspaper, glass, aluminum)
- Use public transportation
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth
- Use curbside pick-up for recyclables
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn and compost leaves
- Weatherstrip your doors
- If you have any questions about the DOT recycling program please contact Jim Gower at (202) 366-4243

CROSSWORD SOLUTION FROM PAGE 5



FAA Appointments

Cynthia Rich, an aviation professional with more than 14 years' experience in airport administration, has been named assistant administrator for airports for the FAA.

Rich will report directly to the FAA administrator and will be responsible for national airport planning. Prior to her appointment to the FAA, Rich held top level positions at Cleveland's Department of Port Control, which oversees Hopkins International, a medium hub airport, and Burke Lakefront Airport, a general aviation facility. She had been the department's director since 1990, and previously served as assistant director and comptroller. During that time she was recognized for her numerous accomplishments, including developing an airport disadvantaged business enterprise program, resolving several potential environmental issues, and increasing funding for noise mitigation.

"I am delighted to have Cynthia Rich join our team in this important position," said FAA Administrator David Hinson. "Her airport policy and planning skills will be a vital asset to the agency."

Barry Valentine, a pilot with over 30 years' experience in aviation and government, has been named assistant administrator for policy, planning and international aviation for the FAA.

In his new position, Valentine reports directly to the administrator and is responsible for long-range strategic planning and setting national and international aviation policies, goals and priorities, including national environmental and energy policies.

Valentine served on the U.S. Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs from 1992-93 as a representative/investigator. From 1987-91, he served as airport manager for the Portland International Jetport in Portland, Maine. From 1983-87, Valentine was director of aeronautics for the Maine Department of Transportation, and chief advisor to the governor on aviation issues. His career has also included a wide range of aviation, private sector and government-related areas. An avid pilot, he first soloed at age 16, and has logged 3,000 hours (including 1000 hours of combat time) in more than two dozen types of aircraft.

"Barry's vast knowledge of aviation issues, as well as his proven experience in federal, state, and local government, will be a tremendous asset for the agency," said Administrator Hinson. "I look forward to his counsel and advice as we work to advance the nation's goals in aviation."

RSPA Distributes New Emergency Response Guidebook

The Research and Special Programs Administration recently completed distribution of more than one million copies of the 1993 DOT Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG). The ERG contains concise, practical information for use by state and local emergency response personnel when responding to transportation incidents involving hazardous materials. More than 4.5 million copies have been distributed, free of charge, since 1980.

In January, Alan I. Roberts, RSPA's Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, presented the first copy of the new ERG to Chief John M. Eversole, coordinator of hazardous materials for the Chicago Fire Department. Eversole underscored the importance of the guidebook to the nation's emergency responders, saying, "The DOT 'orange book' is the most widely used tool available to those of us who initially respond to transportation related hazardous materials incidents. We will never know how many firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel, or other public workers have avoided death or serious injury by having this document available."

While RSPA distributes the ERG only to state and local emergency response agencies, an equal number of copies is purchased by industry, medical facilities, academic institutions and commercial suppliers across the country. According to Fred Webber, president of the Chemical Manufacturers Association, "... the ERG is absolutely essential for the safety of employees who handle or work with hazardous materials. This is one of the government's best examples of serving the needs of its customers, in this case, the nation's hazardous materials workers and responders." Paul Bomgardner, hazardous materials program manager, American Trucking Associations, adds, "The document has become an important bridge



between the motor carrier industry and the emergency response community."

The first edition of the ERG in 1973 contained response guidance for only 28 specific chemicals, and had limited distribution. Roberts, who led the efforts to publish that first edition, and whose staff continues to develop it, said, "We recognized the need for this type of document 20 years ago. We never imagined that what we put together back then would evolve into what it is today. Now published in eight languages, our 'orange book' has become the most widely used emergency response guidance document in the world." The next edition is scheduled to be developed jointly with the Mexican and Canadian transportation officials as a North American ERG.

Ana Sol Gutierrez, RSPA's acting administrator, expressed support for the work now in progress on a Spanish language version of the guidebook and the need to harmonize emergency response guidance among Mexico, Canada and the United States. "These initiatives are not only excellent examples of our vision of RSPA's mission, they exemplify the safety, environmental and customer service goals and objectives of DOT's Strategic Plan," she concluded.

Left to right:
Alan I. Roberts,
Chief John M.
Eversole, and
Doug Brown,
Director of
Governmental
Relations,
International
Association of
Fire Chiefs

U.S. Savings Bond Kickoff at Headquarters May 4 - Room 2230, Nassif Building, 10 a.m.

In 1993, America's savings rate was 4.9 percent of disposable household income - one of the lowest in the industrialized world. One of the goals of the U.S. Savings Bond campaign this year is to increase that rate of savings by Americans. It's easy, profitable and most important, one of the most suc-

cessful ways to save, both nationwide and in the federal sector.

This year, our goal at DOT is to increase the participation rate in buying U.S. Savings Bonds to 40 percent. Secretary Peña is once again the chairperson of the Interagency Savings Bond Committee for the federal campaign. As

the Secretary says, "By investing in bonds, we have at our fingertips a safe and time proven way to achieve many personal goals."

What are some of the reasons Americans don't save and/or don't buy U.S. Savings Bonds?

Do any of these sound like you?:

1. "I can't afford more deductions. My check is too small already."

It's not a deduction. It's your money! It's a way to take your own money and put it in your own pocket. You have nothing to lose. You can cancel at any time and get all your money back. You can cash in the bond at any bank after holding it just six months.

2. "I save through Thrift Savings Plan - that's enough."

If you're under the FERS plan, you'll need TSP savings to enhance your pension check. But, you can't touch your TSP dollars until you retire or leave government. You can borrow from your TSP, but you have to pay it back and pay interest on it when you take it. You can cash bonds whenever you want. There's no need to wait for retirement, no need to pay anything back.

3. "I'm retiring soon - why bother?"

Couldn't you use some extra cash when your paychecks stop? Redeem bonds after you retire, when you're in a lower tax bracket - and save on taxes. Convert "EE" bonds to "HH" bonds for even more tax deferral. Get "HH" interest two times a year for extra income, to supplement your pension check.

4. "I can get higher interest elsewhere."

Savings Bonds rates are very competitive. You always get a guaranteed four to six percent minimum (if you hold them five years or longer). Very often, the actual rate is much higher than that, since the rate is market-based. Even the Wall Street Journal and Forbes magazine say bonds are very good deals right now. Also, there are no fees or commissions to pay and no state or local tax - ever.

This year, when the Savings Bonds sign-up cards are passed around by your keyperson, think about some of the reasons you've had in the past for not investing. Maybe this year could be the year to stop thinking of excuses and start saving for the future.

1993 Combined Federal Campaign Results

DOT Employees all over the country answered the call to action in the 1993 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Each regional and field office has an opportunity to participate in their area campaign. Headquarters is part of the National Capital Area campaign. This year's headquarters drive ended with a total of \$1,346,347, exceeding the goal by 11 percent.

At the March 16 awards ceremony in Washington, DOT was presented with the chairman's award for participation in the campaign. Also, the Federal Aviation Administration received awards in the Communications Contest for the best photographic coverage, the best lobby display, and the best special event.

In Florida, the campaign was a huge success, raising \$860,000 for the CFC supported agencies of Dade County. The Coast Guard drive there was the most successful in local history, raising \$88,506, a full 20 percent more than 1992.

Thanks to all the employees who participated in the 1993 campaign. Your help is helping others every day of the year.



The South Florida 1993 Combined Federal Campaign began with a successful kickoff at Coast Guard Air Station Miami. Managers of all federal agencies in Dade County, coordinators of CFC supported agencies and hundreds of middle school children were treated to a day of displays, tours, and lots of food.

Records Management Review

The department's records management officers are launching a review of records management procedures in DOT. As part of this effort, employees are invited to participate in quarterly meetings to explore issues ranging from new technology applications to documentation procedures.

By ensuring that our records are properly maintained, the department can provide more timely and efficient information to the American public and to our federal, state, and private sector colleagues. Improved records management and documentation will help DOT to:

- (1) respond to Freedom of Information Act requests more efficiently;
- (2) ensure data integrity and accuracy for possible litigation purposes;
- (3) safeguard sensitive data;
- (4) preserve and protect historical information and
- (5) protect against the damaging effects of computer viruses.

The records officers seek employees' help as they address new technology issues and ensure that all records are being properly maintained through the information life cycle. For more information about the records management review initiative or if you would

like to attend one of the scheduled quarterly meetings, please contact DOT's records management officer, Annette Wilson, on (202) 366-9716.

Records Officers

OST - Dave Parker (M-443.1) Nassif, Room 2318, 366-2095
USCG - Karen Sporn (G-TPS-2), CGHQ, Room 6141, 267-1016
FAA - Rita Westerfeld (AIT-300), FOB 10A, Room 604, 267-9894
FHWA - Art McCune (HMS-32), Nassif, Room 4419, 366-9090
FRA - Theresa Brooks (RAD-20), Nassif,

Room 8218, 366-0448
FTA - Karen Shaw (TAD-12), Nassif, Room 7427, 366-4865
MARAD - Mary Jane Harvey (MAR-318), Nassif, Room 8317, 366-5819
NHTSA - Ed Kosek (NAD-51), Nassif, Room 6117, 366-2589
RSPA - Ron Martin (DMA-11), Nassif, Room 8231, 366-2095
SLSDC - JoAnne Trippany, Massena, NY, (315) 764-3226

Quarterly Meeting Dates

June 30, 1994
 September 1994 (TBA)
 December 7, 1994

CALENDAR

April

Alcohol Awareness Month

13 - 9 a.m. to noon, **Software Engineering Forum**, FAA auditorium, Washington, D.C. The focus is "Software Evaluations." Panel discussions. Call Shirley Ginwright (202) 287-2643 for information and/or to register.

14-17 **Professional Women Controllers National Conference**, McLean, Va. For information or a registration package, call Kate Beebe, (202) 267-9234.

22 Earth Day

24 **Annual March of Dimes "WalkAmerica" walkathon**. DOT expects to have a checkpoint at headquarters. Teams are forming now. Call the volunteer coordinator in your area.

25-29 **Professional Secretaries Week** (April 27 Secretaries' Day)

May

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

2-8 **Public Service Recognition Week** (5-7, demonstrations and displays, National Mall, Washington, D.C.)

4 Savings Bonds Kickoff

5 **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Kickoff**, noon. DOT Headquarters, Nassif Plaza. Asian Pacific American Employees Council sponsors the celebration with speakers, entertainment, food and exhibits.

9 "Transportation Transformation" Day

15-21 National Transportation Week

25 **Annual "Spring Fling"** sponsored by the DOT Volunteer Committee, celebrating its 10th year of service. If you are interested in making crafts, donating items, or helping out, call the volunteer coordinator in your area.

30 Memorial Day



Remember, DOT Today is recyclable!