

DOT Today

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Moving America Together

USCG Shipyard Achieves World-Class Status

by Dottie Mitchell

"Your quality system is equal to the best in the world!"

Invited guests and employees of the U.S. Coast Guard's nearly century old shipyard in Baltimore, Maryland, delighted in these words of praise during a first-of-its-kind ceremony held at the shipyard on Aug. 10th. Over 600 people gathered for the presentation of the prestigious International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001 certification. The achievement validates the Yard's control of its work processes and its commitment to produce reliable products which meet customer's needs. The Coast Guard Yard became the first organization in the United States Government and the first public shipyard in America to obtain ISO 9001 certification.

The Coast Guard Yard earned this benchmark after 1-1/2 years of a rigorous examination of its quality management system.

Mr. Joseph Vorbach, President and General Counsel for the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) Group of Companies, Inc., in Houston, Texas, joined in the praise. Representing the ABS Quality Evaluations, Inc., the Yard's ISO certification registrar, Vorbach commented, "Today we recognize a major milestone for the U.S. Coast Guard and the Baltimore Coast Guard Yard. You have been scrutinized by the toughest, most experienced auditors on our staff. They have determined your effective operation is among the best found in the international marketplace. Congratulations on this significant achievement!"

ISO, a worldwide federation, was founded 50

years ago to develop international manufacturing, trade and communication standards. ISO 9001 is the federation's set of internationally recognized standards for quality management systems among businesses around the world. The standards establish organizational structures and processes to ensure that the production of goods and services meet a consistent level of quality for the customer.

Completion of the ISO audit sets the stage for the Coast Guard Yard's "ongoing" preparation to successfully compete for the coveted Baldrige National Quality Award in 1998. The unique accomplishment of ISO 9001 certification is the pinnacle of the Yard's continuous quality journey to date.

The Coast Guard Yard pursued the world-class 9001 quality management standards to gain control of and incorporate customer requirements into its business processes; to allow each employee to offer input into how shipyard processes are written; and to boost the Yard's position for the Baldrige competition. The goal of ISO is to make it easier for the Yard to deliver the right product, at a competitive price, on time to its customers.

Admiral Robert Kramek, Commandant of the Coast Guard, and Mr. John Kamensky, Deputy Director of Vice President Al Gore's National



Adam Gayton, Yard Quality Assurance Manager, displays the newly presented ISO 9001 Certificate of Compliance. His enthusiasm brought loud applause and cheers from the audience during the certification ceremony at the shipyard.

Performance Review task force, joined the official celebration during the Yard's ISO certification ceremony.

Reading from a letter written by Vice President Gore, Kamensky quoted, "You have every reason to take pride in this accomplishment. By achieving ISO 9001 certification, you have demonstrated your commitment to this Administration's efforts at making government work better and cost less. I hope that, in the future, these standards will become the benchmark for all federal activities...Please accept my most sincere congratulations."

Admiral Kramek used the occasion of the ISO certification ceremony to honor the Coast Guard Yard with the Coast Guard Unit Commendation.

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We are committed to reviewing existing regulations on a continuing basis to eliminate unnecessary or obsolete rules, update rules in light of current technology and industry conditions and improve rules to serve our customers better.

-Secretary Peña

DOT ELIMINATES UNNECESSARY REGULATIONS

In response to President Clinton's directive to cut government red tape, focus on results and develop alternatives to burdensome federal regulations, Secretary Peña publicly issued the department's regulatory reform initiatives that had been provided to the President.

"We're rewriting the rule book and throwing out the unnecessary regulations to make government work better," Secretary Peña said. "There's been too much piling on of rule after rule, but now that's going to be all out the door. We will now be able to serve our customers better and use the taxpayers dollars more efficiently."

In responding to the President's initiative, the department's top management actively participated in the review to ensure that all DOT agencies were fully involved. The department's agencies conducted a page-by-page review of each of their Parts of the Code of Federal Regulations to determine if they should be eliminated or improved upon.

As a result of the review, the department is currently making many changes to decrease regulatory and paperwork burdens, permit electronic filing, facilitate the use of new technology and make a variety of improvements.

"We are eliminating about 1,450 pages from the Code of Federal

Regulations, about 13 percent of our total, by eliminating or consolidating rules," said the Secretary "and we are rewriting another 37 percent to make them easier to understand and more outcome focused."

A department-wide working group developed a report on ways that the department will ensure that its compliance efforts reward results and de-emphasize red tape. It focuses on matters such as improved performance measures, customer service training of frontline regulators and the development of a framework for performance management that would require that evaluation of the work of all employees, not just front line regulators, be based on results, not process, and education and training programs that would assist regulators and customers in working together to achieve compliance.

"Our goal is to ensure that our regulations are sensible, cost beneficial and are issued and reviewed through a top-notch regulatory process," said the Secretary. "We are committed to reviewing existing regulations on a continuing basis to eliminate unnecessary or obsolete rules, update rules in light of current technology and industry conditions and improve rules to serve our customers better."

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DOT Offices Receive Vice President Gore's Hammer Awards

On July 24, Secretary Peña hosted a ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of teams of DOT employees selected to receive Vice President Gore's Hammer Award. The Hammer Award recognizes significant contributions in reinventing government by putting customers first, cutting red tape, empowering employees and getting back to

Management System team, which maintained a nationwide effort with teams in Headquarters and in each region, all recognized teams were in Washington, D.C. The following are the award winning teams and descriptions of their accomplishments:

USCG Marine Pollution Notice of Violation "Ticket" Program Team designed a program to drastically shorten the time it takes to close simple cases of oil pollution violations. Recipients can now acknowledge their violation and agree to pay the appropriate penalty within 30 days, without waiting for the case to move through a lengthy chain of review to a hearing officer. Prior to the ticket program, cases were taking over a year. During the "pilot testing" of this program, customers have shown overwhelming support for it by paying 88% of Notice of Violations issued.

The FRA Field Liaison Team reinvented the technical interpretation process to eliminate inconsistent applications of FRA regulations. The team established a Technical Resolution Committee to formulate consistent technical interpretations and enforcement policies across safety disciplines. Committee decisions were used to develop FRA's technical manuals and technical training programs.

The FTA Electronic Grant Making and Management System Committee Team was recognized for the development and implementation of a process to allow capital planning and operating assistance grant applications to be submitted and approved electronically. The cost avoidance and

quantifiable enhancement benefits of the national on-line grantee program is estimated at \$967,305 in the first year and a minimum of \$4,836,525 in the fifth year. This effort was unique in that teams were located nationwide in each FTA region.

The MARAD Office of Acquisition Team was recognized for significantly improving acquisition support to MARAD customers including spearheading the President's revitalization program for the shipbuilding industry and developing a contract administration review program. Other benefits the office significantly improved were the turnaround time for contract reviews and executing a protest-free solicitation on a procurement estimated to be over \$100 million.

RSPA's Office of Hazardous Materials Initiatives and Training Team greatly improved relations with its customers by using grassroots partnership efforts, listening to their customer's requests, and taking actions to meet the customers' needs. For example, the team expanded access to the Hazardous Materials Information Exchange, a computer bulletin board and national clearinghouse for hazardous materials information, by providing a direct connection through the Internet and initiating gateway through Fedworld.

The BTS Data User Services Division/Information Technology Team was recognized for creating a one-stop shop for the users of transportation statistics and making comprehensive and reliable information and statistics about the U.S. transportation system readily accessible and free to the public. The team designed and developed over 50 data products to meet customer needs and disseminated approximately 75,000 statistical products.



Secretary Peña presents Vice President Gore's Hammer Award to the members of MARAD's Office of Acquisition Team. Joining in are Admiral Herberger, Deputy Administrator Joan Yin and Associate Administrator John Mann.

basics. Award winners received a team plaque, individual "Hammer" lapel pins and a certificate signed by the Vice President. Award winning teams were from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Maritime Administration, the Research and Special Programs Administration, and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Teams ranged in size from six to 29 members. With the exception of FTA's Electronic Grant Making and

Internet Service Available From DOT

The DOT's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) recently announced the release of the publication, *The Internet Starter Kit*, and related video, *Your Roadmap to the Internet*.

The starter kit and video trace the history of the Internet and its evolution into the most widely used information resource today. The video also includes information on connection options, search tools and how to find transportation-related resources on-line.

Dr. T.R. Lakshmanan, Director of BTS said, "Accessibility to this technology is vital to the transportation community. Now, planners and policy makers around the country may access information quickly by using a variety of interactive Internet devices."

Additional transportation information is available from the DOT Internet home page. The World Wide Web address is <http://www.dot.gov>. The department's press releases, selected speeches by Secretary Peña and other public affairs information can be accessed from the home page by selecting "DOT News and Information."

To order *The Internet Starter Kit* and *Your Roadmap to the Internet* video, or for further information, contact the Bureau of Transportation Statistics at (202)-366-DATA or by fax at (202)-366-3640.

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Please Recycle

USCG Achieves World-Class Status

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Admiral Kramek (far right) presents the Coast Guard Unit Commendation pennant to representatives of the Yard's military and civilian personnel during the ISO certification ceremony.

The Yard received the Award for exceptional meritorious service in support of fleet readiness and embodying the Coast Guard's quality policy. This is only the second time in nearly 100 years that the Yard has received this coveted Award.

"The dedication, pride and professionalism displayed by Yard personnel reflect credit upon themselves, their unit and the United States Coast Guard. I take pleasure in presenting the Coast Guard Unit Commendation to the U.S. Coast Guard Yard," said the Commandant.

The festivities of the afternoon paid tribute to the Coast Guard Yard's quest for world-class status. The shipyard's remarkable ISO registration visibly demonstrates the Coast Guard's support and commitment to reinventing government. This globally recognized certification provides the critical step toward institutionalizing a continuous improvement mindset at the Coast Guard Yard, making it the "Shipyard of Choice" for its customers. As Captain Ronald Marafioti, Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Yard, stated in his welcoming remarks, "We used to advertise ourselves as a 'full service' shipyard. All of us can now proudly say, 'We are a 9001 shipyard!'"

Coast Guard Hero To Be Honored

by PA3 Michael P. Brock

World War II was a war like wars before it, filled with stories of death, furious battle, victorious armies and heroic deeds. One such deed occurred on the south Pacific island of Guadalcanal in the fall of 1942. A gallant young Coast Guard petty officer by the name of Douglas A. Munro faced the greatest of all dangers time and time again before offering the ultimate sacrifice to the U.S. Coast Guard and the United States of America.

Signalman first class Munro continuously positioned a Higgins Boat between gunfire and other rescue vessels so that hundreds of Marines could safely charge into rescue boats positioned near the beach. Realizing the last group to leave faced the greatest danger, Munro ordered several landing vessels to provide cover for the crafts taking the troops to safety.

During the mission, Munro was struck by machine-gun fire and mortally wounded. When he regained consciousness later, he asked one question before dying. "Did they get off?"

"Assured the troops were safe, the brave Coast Guardsman died, a smile lighting his face," according to Coast Guard magazine, *The Shield*.

"I have pride in telling you that he covered himself with honor and I hope glory, and fulfilled the mission so satisfactorily that almost all of the men he had under his charge returned to their Unit. Without exception, all had praise for your son's execution of his duties," wrote LCDR. D. H. Dexter, Munro's commanding officer, in a letter to Munro's parents informing them of their sons death.

This was not the first time Munro risked his life to save others.

On Sept. 20, 1942, he volunteered for the search and rescue mission of a U.S. Navy dive-bomber forced down off the coast of Savo Island, in the South Pacific.

As the boat maneuvered within 300 yards of the beach, the crew heard the angry buzzing of machine guns as the Japanese opened fire on the vessel. The crew escaped with only minor injury. Upon arriving at their base, the rescue team learned that the aviators had been picked up shortly before they arrived on scene.

For Munro's actions in the Pacific, especially at Guadalcanal, he received several awards posthumously. Among the awards were the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart. Edith Munro, his mother, received the Medal of Honor for her son from President Roosevelt, May 24, 1943. The citation accompanying the Medal of Honor reads:

"For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty as officer in charge of a group of 24 Higgins boats engaged in the evacuation of a battalion of Marines trapped by enemy Japanese forces at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal on September 9, 1942. He gallantly gave his life in defense of his Country."

This was the first and only time a Coast Guardsman received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

An exhibition has been scheduled to honor Douglas A. Munro at the Coast Guard Academy's museum. A new case will contain a painting of Munro, the authentic Medal of Honor, and his other medals.

A brass plaque will be fixed to the case, crediting the National Chapter of Chief Petty Officers Association with providing the funds for the construction of the case.

A dedication ceremony for the case is scheduled this month.



An oil painting of Munro with his authentic medals from left to right: American Defense Medal, World War II Medal, USCG Expert Rifleman Medal, Purple Heart Medal, and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

He whimpered not of sickening pain, or
asked of loved ones dear.
His dying thoughts were not of self,
but of duty strong and clear —
"Did they get off? Did they get off?"
The young Coast Guardsman cried.
And with these words upon his lips,
the hero smiled and died

— Janice Coombs

Taken from *The Death of Doug Munro*, a poem Coombs dedicated to the young hero.

MED WEEK '95

Each year since 1983, the President designates one week to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of minority entrepreneurs. This year, Sept. 24-27 has been set aside in observance of Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week. The theme for MED Week '95 is "Minority Business: Building America's Future through Economic Growth and Job Creation."

The conference, to be held in Washington, D.C., will bring together hundreds of minority entrepreneurs, representatives from major corporations and purchasing officials representing private organizations, as well as federal, state and local governments from across the nation.

MED Week '95 provides an excellent opportunity to focus on minority and women entrepreneurs who have made significant contributions to the DOT and to our nation's economy. Such entrepreneurs continue to make outstanding contributions in our workplace, bringing products and services into our economy and creating thousands of job opportunities for today's workers.

As a special feature of MED Week '95, DOT's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, in conjunction with DOT operating administrations, will sponsor a Small, Minority, and Women-owned Business Trade fair on Sept. 28 in the DOT's Washington Headquarters Nassif building courtyard. This event will provide a forum to develop contacts for new business opportunities, expand the network of business associates for minority and women-owned businesses and to present awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of minority and women-owned enterprises.

DOT is proud of the significant achievements of minority and women-owned business enterprises. DOT will continue to work in partnership with these entrepreneurs and expand the opportunities for them to participate in DOT programs, as well as those in the entire transportation community.



TRAVEL MANAGEMENT CENTERS

For several years, the Federal Government has been using commercial travel agents, including the offices of SATO Travel, Inc., to provide a wide range of travel services to the traveling Federal employee. The travel agents, under contract with the Government, are better known as Travel Management Centers (TMCs) and can arrange all aspects of your official business travel. TMCs provide the Government with quality services, such as:

- ticketing Government contracted and other discounted airlines;
- ticketing for train and intercity bus service;
- reserving rental cars and hotels/motels at Government discount rates;
- providing advance seat selection and boarding passes when available through the airline;
- providing written detailed travel itineraries;
- obtaining reservations when flying ticketless;
- providing 24-hour, toll-free emergency assistance; and
- providing information on visa and passport requirements.

In addition, many TMCs offer free flight insurance to supplement the insurance provided to you through your American Express Government travel charge card.

These experienced professionals provide high-quality, high-value travel services to Government travelers and are adept at finding special cost-saving travel programs for all your travel needs.

Let your nearest Travel Management Center plan your next trip!

Frequently Asked Travel Questions

1. **Who do I call to make airline, hotel and car rental reservations?**
Answer: Call SATO Travel, our Travel Management Center at their new number, 202-366-2700 or 703-435-8870.
2. **How do I obtain a contractor-issued American Express (AMEX) card?**
Answer: Contact your Servicing Finance Office.
3. **If issued an AMEX card, will I have ATM capabilities for an advance and other expenses?**
Answer: Yes, if approved by your authorizing official.
4. **Am I billed directly or is DOT billed for charges against the AMEX card?**
Answer: The bill will be mailed to you.
5. **Whom do I contact for "Flying Ticketless" information?**
Answer: Call SATO Travel.

ABS STOMP & STEER

by Kathleen Powers

On Aug. 2, Secretary Peña got behind the wheel of a car to demonstrate the safety benefits of antilock brakes (ABS) at "ABS-Stomp & Steer," a national event to educate drivers on the proper way to use this safety technology.

"We're here today to show motorists what safety engineers have known for years. Antilock brakes offer an important safety advantage by allowing drivers to steer and maneuver their vehicles during hard braking," the Secretary said. "And we're here to help Americans break our braking habits, since only half of all drivers know how to properly use ABS, while over half the cars sold in the last model year were ABS-equipped," he added.

The Secretary was joined at RFK stadium by Ricardo Martinez, M.D., Administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and representatives of the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA), the American Coalition for Traffic Safety (ACTS) and Robert Bosch Corporation, a supplier of antilock braking systems (ABS).

With some coaching from Al Unser, Sr., four-time Indy 500 winner, the Secretary gave a driving demonstration on the difference between antilock and non-antilock braking systems on a wet, slippery braking surface.

After his test drive, the Secretary said the difference between using and not using ABS was "night and day."

"When I did not have ABS I did a 360 degree turn, totally out of control," he said. "But when I

did the very same speed using ABS technology, I stayed in a straight direction and was able to maneuver the car and keep control."

Dr. Martinez, who also gave the course a whirl, explained that many drivers are in the habit of pumping their brakes to prevent wheel lock-up. However, ABS pumps the brakes automatically when wheel lock-up is detected. Manually pumping antilock brakes or letting up on them actually will decrease their effectiveness.

Martinez said the correct way to use antilock brakes for emergency braking is to *stomp and steer*.

"Stomp and Steer means you step hard on the brake pedal and don't let up, even if you feel the brake pedal pulsing beneath your foot," he said.

A NHTSA analysis released last winter showed mixed results for ABS effectiveness in the real world. ABS performed well in some situations, but not in others. The NHTSA study found that ABS improved safety on wet roads, reducing multi-vehicle fatal crashes by 24 percent, but that these improvements were offset by sharp increases in the



Above: Al Unser, Sr., (2nd from left) four-time Indy 500 winner, gives some driving tips to (l to r) Joseph Bornese, Senior Vice President, Bosch; Secretary Peña and Dr. Martinez. Left: Secretary Peña demonstrates how a car without ABS technology can easily lose control.

number of single vehicle, run-off-the-road crashes.

NHTSA believes that increased public awareness of how to use ABS correctly could improve ABS effectiveness in reducing fatalities. A recent survey by the American Automobile Association found that nearly half of all drivers don't know how to properly use ABS for emergency stopping. And 59 percent believed incorrectly that anti-lock brakes shorten stopping distances under normal driving conditions.

RSPA Continues The Spirit of Reinventing Government

DOT took another step forward in improving its efficiency and customer service when the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) recently transferred the International Passenger Data Program (I-92) to the Department of Commerce (DOC).

"This action clearly reflects the Clinton Administration's and Secretary Peña's commitment to reinventing government. The data collection activity is more closely aligned with the mission of the DOC's United States Travel and Tourism Administration (USTTA)," explained RSPA Administrator Dr. D.K. Sharma.

The information gathered by the International Passenger Data Program is collected and disseminated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and used extensively by the USTTA to publish international air travel statistics. The I-92 program publications are sold to other government agencies, airlines, airports and other travel and trade business enterprises.

Greg Farmer, the Under Secretary for U.S. Travel and Tourism, in a letter to RSPA stated, "the cooperation exhibited between USTTA, DOT and INS is truly an example of how government agencies should work together to obtain common goals internally and for our customers."

New Line of Business

Office of Commercial Space Transportation Joins the FAA

The Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST) will soon move from the DOT's Office of the Secretary to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). OCST will officially become FAA's seventh "line of business" on Oct. 1.

"The safety licensing activities of OCST for launches of launch vehicles and operation of spaceports share a common safety objective with FAA's aircraft, airspace and airport safety regulatory activities," said Secretary Peña. This move is consistent with the Clinton Administration's goals for the enhancement of the nation's high technology industries, including an internationally competitive U.S. commercial space transportation industry."

The U.S. commercial space transportation industry is comprised of aerospace companies and entrepreneurial businesses that provide launch services to foreign and domestic customers and the U.S. government. Since 1989, the year the first licensed commercial space launch, the industry steadily expanded and OCST has issued licenses for more than 50 U.S. commercial launches, both orbital and sub-orbital.

According to FAA Administrator David Hinson, "the FAA is well positioned to advance OCST's goals of ensuring safety, promoting the development of new markets and customers for U.S. products and maintaining U.S. technological leadership."

This year's agenda of 15 licensed U.S. commercial launches could, for the first time, exceed the number of government launches in a single year. "To meet the regulatory demands of new launch systems and a growing industry, combining the resources and skills of OCST with the FAA allows us to address those challenges," said OCST Director Frank Weaver. "I am delighted that we will be moving to the FAA and look forward to advancing the goals of the commercial space launch industry to position it competitively for the next century."

The OCST was established in 1984 to license and regulate all U.S. commercial launch activities to ensure that they are conducted safely and responsibly and to promote, encourage, and facilitate commercial space transportation.



Standing in front of the Maritime Administration's U.S. Ocean Carrier Display unit are, (l to r), David J. Barram, Deputy Secretary Department of Commerce, and Trade Specialists Cindy Sparkman and Patrick R. Rohan, Maritime Administration, on the occasion of the conference on "Northern Virginia in the Global Marketplace" held in Alexandria, Va.

DOT HELPS SALT LAKE CITY GEAR UP FOR 2002 WINTER OLYMPICS

The Federal Transit Authority (FTA) recently announced a \$241 million grant to Salt Lake City to help build a new 15-mile light rail transit system.

The improvement of Salt Lake City's mass transit system will guarantee mobility for all citizens without such side effects of increasing traffic congestion. "This infrastructure investment will pay dividends during the Winter Olympics in 2002 when thousands of spectators visit Salt Lake City to enjoy the games," said Secretary Peña. "This is however a lasting investment, one that will remain paying dividends long after the Olympics are over."

The funds will be made available over several years, with service scheduled to begin on the 15-mile line on Dec. 31, 2000. In addition to the \$241 million in federal funds, the new light rail line project will require \$71 million in matching local funds for a total project cost of \$312 million.

Secretary Peña hailed the grant agreement as a prime example of the Clinton Administration's commitment to investment in key transportation infrastructure projects.

"We have to balance the federal budget and curtail federal spending," said the Secretary. "But we also have to make the right investments in our basic infrastructure if we are to ensure a growing economy and job opportunities."

The new light rail transit line will extend from downtown Salt Lake City to suburban Sandy, Utah. It will include 17 stations and be served by 21 new state-of-the-art electric powered transit cars. All stations will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Once constructed, the new system will be operated by the Utah Transit Authority.

Wisconsin Officer Named Top Truck and Bus Inspector

When you think of Wisconsin, one would normally think about the beer, cheese and the Oshkosh Experimental Aircraft Association Fly-In. And don't forget the World Championship Snowmobile Derby. Add one more to the list, Mark J. Abrahamson.

Wisconsin State Patrolman/Inspector Abrahamson, who lives in Fond du Lac, WI, was judged to be the top commercial motor vehicle inspector in a five-day annual international competition held this year in New Orleans. One of 55 competitors representing the U.S., Canadian provinces and Mexico, Inspector Abrahamson competed in events which tested the ability of inspectors to detect mechanical defects and other vehicle and driver safety hazards.

Winners were named in four other categories: Hazardous Materials Inspection, won by Wyoming patrolman Donald R. Edington; Driver Inspection, Minnesota inspector Denise M. Nichols; Truck Inspection, Michigan officer Michael Irwin; and Motor Coach Inspection, New York State inspector Raymond Gagnon.

"This event underscores what these and 5,000 other state enforcement officials do



every day in their important roadside vehicle and driver inspections," said Federal Highway Administrator Rodney E. Slater. "These inspections keep potentially unsafe commercial vehicles and operators off the roads, benefiting every highway user."

The Federal Highway Administration and the Commercial Safety Alliance sponsored the third annual competition.

Associate Administrator for the Office of Motor Carriers George Reagle, presents the Grand Champion Award to Inspector Abrahamson.



The John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

The Research and Special Programs Administration's Volpe National Transportation Systems Center will celebrate its 25th Anniversary at a special ceremony on Sept. 22, 1995. Located in Cambridge, MA., the Volpe Center, which was originally built as a National Aeronautics and Space Administration electronics laboratory, has developed into a national leader in transportation technology development and deployment. It performs a wide array of services for its clients, including systems development and technology and economics assessments. The DOT wishes to congratulate the Volpe Center on its first 25 years, and looks forward to their technology leadership well into the 21st century.

The Future of Traffic Management Has Arrived

Secretary Peña and Federal Highway Administrator Rodney E. Slater traveled to Hanover, Maryland, recently to take part in the opening of the first-ever statewide traffic management and emergency operations center.

"The Clinton Administration is committed to technology," said the Secretary. "Intelligent Transportation is an investment we need to make. In metropolitan areas, centers like this improve traffic flow by 15 percent — on average. Just a two or three percent improvement may be the difference between the freeway being a parking lot, or at least flowing along. In terms of economics, a one percent increase in efficiency saves us \$100 billion over a decade."

The Statewide Operations Center (SOC) serves as the central information facility for the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), Maryland State Police and the Maryland Transportation Authority for traffic surveillance, incident response, traveler information and traffic management. The \$7 million center, which was 100 percent federally funded, is also the hub for SHA's Chesapeake Highway Advisories Routing Traffic system. This system detects traffic incidents,

informs motorists of highway conditions and provides assistance during traffic incidents.

"It is no longer feasible for state highway departments to build their way out of congestion," said Administrator Slater. "We must be innovative in our solutions and Maryland has taken a proactive approach by using the latest technology to manage traffic."

Some of the technology the Center uses includes bi-directional traffic detectors, traveler advisory radio, closed circuit cameras, road pavement sensors, weather satellites and variable message signs.

"Our transportation system is the backbone of this country's economy and clearly

enables us to maintain our strong economic competitiveness in a global market," said Secretary Peña. "The opening of this Center underscores Maryland's commitment to the economic vitality of this region and the safe and efficient transport of people, goods and services throughout the state."



(l to r) Administrator Slater, Secretary Peña and Deputy Secretary Mort Downey seen here during a walk through of MD's Statewide Operations Center.

Photo by Susan Dobbs



Standing outside SLSDC's communications trailer, federal, state and local public safety officials review this year's Emergency Response Plan.

Joint Seaway Emergency Exercise Scores Well

by Dennis E. Deuschl

The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) on Aug. 25 successfully conducted its fifth annual training exercise in support of its

Emergency Response Plan, which details emergency responses along the St. Lawrence River by federal, state, and local public safety agencies.

This year's exercise lasted approximately three hours. The scenario involved an eastbound tanker vessel (simulated by SLSDC's tugboat Lewis Castle), which "strikes" the Seaway International Bridge that spans the St. Lawrence River and connects Cornwall and Ontario, Canada and Massena, N.Y. As a result, several crew members were "injured" and 10,000 gallons of thick oil "spilled" into the river.

Overall, 150 public safety personnel from 23 U.S., Canadian, and Mohawk

agencies from the surrounding area participated. Co-sponsors of the exercise, in addition to SLSDC, included: the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards, the Franklin County (N.Y.) Office of Emergency Preparedness, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe of Hogansburg, N.Y., and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, which is a reservation that encompasses parts of New York State and Ontario, Canada.

"The bottom line," noted the SLSDC Acting Administrator David Sanders, "is that our agency is the first line of defense on the Seaway for accidents, especially those involving commercial ships. It is essential to take a proactive approach, planning joint responses for a variety of emergency scenarios, and it also is critical that we involve local community resources."

Seaway Corporation Director of Operations and Maintenance, Stephen C. Hung, who organized the exercise, explained that the Seaway's primary role in the 1995 scenario was the initial containment of the spilled oil. SLSDC also used its mobile communications trailer which served as the exercise command center. About 20 SLSDC employees took part in the drill.

Among the SLSDC guest observers at the event were 20 representatives from the offices of six U.S. members of Congress and from various Congressional committees that follow Seaway activities. U.S. Army evaluators from nearby Fort Drum gave the exercise drill a very high overall rating.



A rear facing child safety seat and infant dummy were used to demonstrate the dangers a deploying airbag can cause.

Air Bag Cutoff Switch

by Kathleen Powers

On Aug. 23, the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration (NHTSA) and Ford Motor Company announced a fix to a safety problem involving infant seats and air bags. NHTSA has been warning parents since 1991 not to place rear-facing infant seats in seating positions with an air bag. But the question of what owners of pickup trucks and other vehicles with a passenger-side air bag and no back seat should do if they need to transport an infant remains.

For those with a 1996 Ford Ranger, they can now "cutoff" the passenger side air bag with a turn of the ignition key while the rear-facing seat is being used.

Announcing that "air bags and rear-facing infants do not mix," NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez, M.D., called the availability of a manual cutoff switch "an important step in preventing injury to infants who are in the front seat by necessity."

With a demonstration on an actual air bag deployment into a rear-facing child safety seat in a pickup truck the media saw first-hand the potential for injury to an infant whose head rests just inches from the point on the dashboard where an air bag deploys. During the demonstration, a rear-facing safety seat and infant dummy were hit with the force of the deploying air bag and thrown away from the dashboard in less than a second.

"In order to provide adequate protection for older children and adults who have stronger, more mature bone structure, an air bag deploys very quickly and aggressively. For you and me ... that works in our favor. But for an infant, it means that the air bag slams into the rear-facing seat with enough force that the child's head and neck could be injured as the child seat is pushed rearward," Martinez said.

Dr. Martinez stressed that the back seat is always the safest place for children to ride and urged parents to read the instructions that come with their safety seat and the vehicle owner's manual carefully for proper installation and use.

The 1996 Ford Ranger is the first production vehicle in the industry to install the cutoff switch. In May 1995, in response to requests from manufacturers, NHTSA amended its frontal crash protection standard to permit use of a manual cutoff switch for the passenger-side air bag in vehicles with no, or an inadequate back seats. NHTSA views the cutoff switch as an interim measure and expects manufacturers to develop other means of preventing the danger to infants on vehicles built after those dates.



The force of the deploying air bag slams into the rear facing seat with enough force to injure an infants head and neck.

Poland Avenue Wharf Promises To Lead MARAD Into A Productive Future

by Rona Young

In 1989, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) Central Region announced a cost saving plan in partnership with the Department of Defense that was well ahead of its time. Needing space to home port some of the Ready Reserve Fleet (RRF) ships, MARAD commenced plans to purchase the Poland Avenue Wharf located in New Orleans, LA., by signing an Inter-Service Agreement with the Department of the Army Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC). The initial agreement provided approximately 1200 linear feet of dock space for two RRF ships and 40,000 square feet of transit shed used for the storage of RRF spare parts.

In 1991, when the MTMC was ordered by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to close the wharf, MARAD went to work again only this time the aim was to purchase the entire Wharf. Pete O'Connell, Supervisory Marine Surveyor of MARAD's Central Region began working immediately to gain the support and recommendation of Michael Delpercio, Director of the Office of Ship Operations, and Ed Telfair, Facilities Manager. Delpercio deemed that there was a need to purchase the Poland Avenue facility to save money for the RRF. Telfair assisted in the negotiation of fee payment and worked to attain a release property from the Department of the Army. This teamwork assured, MARAD's Central Region successfully procured the Poland

Avenue facility from the Department of the Army for an estimated \$273,000.

The property consists of 17.3 acres, which includes 2,200 linear feet of Wharf fronting the Mississippi River and about 180,000 square feet of covered transit shed. The port authority in New Orleans leases berths 4 and 5, consisting of 950 linear feet of dockspace with 85,000 square feet of transit shed. The port authority utilizes this area for commercial marine operations.

Procurement of the Poland Avenue facility saves the RRF money previously used to pay private contractors for the outporting of vessels. Presently, the wharf serves as a berthing area for two Lighter Aboard Ships which are 800 feet long and designed to carry cargo barges. The Wharf is used to store the inventory of spare parts which is maintained to service RRF ships and as the Central Region's file archives. In the event of a military crisis, the Wharf could be used as an immediately accessible storage facility.

The government has indefinite access to the Wharf, after which time the facility will revert to the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans. "The Poland Avenue Wharf will be an asset to the government for many years," says Pete O'Connell. To assure this, the Poland Avenue property is being repaired to enhance facilities to accommodate future RRF outporting plans.

A view of the Poland Avenue Wharf.



RSPA Deputy Administrator Selected For

WOMEN OF HOPE

Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) Deputy Administrator Ana Sol Gutiérrez was recently selected for the "Women of Hope" project as one of 12 Hispanic women whose achievements and contributions have helped in shaping

American life.

The project aims to provide greater awareness of the images and stories of outstanding "Latinas" as inspirational role models for all Americans.

The "Women of Hope" project entitled "Latinas Abriendo Camino" (Latin Women Opening the Way) includes a 12-poster series intended to serve as an inspirational tool for schools and colleges, community groups and organizations. The pro-

ject aims to provide greater awareness of the images and stories of outstanding "Latinas" as inspirational role models for all Americans. This nationally recognized project, sponsored by the Bread and Roses Cultural Project of New York, has broadly distributed the posters for display in schools, art galleries, churches, and other public places including the New York City subway system.

Appointed Deputy Administrator of RSPA by Secretary Peña in Jan. 1994, Ms. Gutiérrez brought to DOT her extensive background in science and technology. Her academic achievements include degrees in chemistry, systems engineering and management. Before joining the Government she worked for more than 30 years in private industry in the fields of computer and information sciences. Most recently, she worked with Computer Sciences Corporation developing advanced air traffic control systems for the FAA's Advanced Automation System.

Ms. Gutiérrez also dedicates much time to community work. She is currently serving her second term as an elected member of the Montgomery County (MD) Board of Education. As the only Latino elected official in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, she is a strong supporter and advocate for improved educational opportunities, human and civil rights, and the overall well-being of the growing Latino community.

Among the other Latinas honored are New York Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez; Dolores Huerta, who founded the United Farm Workers Union along with Cesar Chavez; Antonia Hernández, founder of the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund; as well as Latino women composers, authors, artists, doctors and scientists. Gloria Steinem commented that the series "will inspire all Americans, and especially Latino youth."



As DOT celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month, proclaimed by President Clinton to be celebrated from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, RSPA has arranged for the display of the poster series honoring these 12 outstanding "Latinas" in the four lobby areas of the Headquarters Nassif Building.

Ms. Gutiérrez is seen here displaying her poster to be used in the campaign. The posters backdrop is the radar screen for the air traffic management system, a system which Ms. Gutiérrez helped develop.



A Russian AN-72 Coaler sits on the tarmac near a Coast Guard C-130 from Air Station Kodiak. The Coaler is a medium range jet and performs many of the functions a C-130 does for the Coast Guard. Photo by Air Station Kodiak.

Russian Visit To Elmendorf

KODIAK, Alaska — Sixteen delegates from the Russian Northeast Border Patrol service recently visited with delegates from the 17th Coast Guard District at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska.

Rear Admiral Ernest R. Riuta, 17th Coast Guard District Commander, and Maj. Gen. Viotenko Petrovich, Deputy Commander, Northeast Border District, discussed recent and future joint high-seas driftnet patrols by the Coast Guard and border guard. This joint effort at law enforcement in the North Pacific is just one of many cooperative efforts between the Coast Guard and their Russian counterparts.

Trimaran Posts Fastest Pacific Crossing By Sail

San Francisco — The American trimaran *Lakota* has broken one of the oldest sailing records by crossing the Pacific Ocean in 16 days, 17 hours, 21 minutes and 19 seconds.

The *Lakota*, sailed by Steve Fossett and his crew of three, completed the 4,525-mile voyage, crossing under the Golden Gate Bridge at 12:23 p.m. on August 29 said project manager Bo Kemper. It had left Yokohama, Japan, on August 14.

Quantum Leap

FAA Awards Contract To Develop and Install Satellite Navigation System



The FAA recently awarded a \$475 million contract for the development of the Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) that will utilize the revolutionary Global Positioning System (GPS) to achieve a quantum leap in aviation safety, navigation, and fuel efficiency. The contract to develop and field a network of ground stations across the U.S. was awarded to a consortium led by Wilcox Electric, which will team with Hughes Aircraft and TRW. This greatly improved navigation system will let civilians, from airline pilots to motorists, use Pentagon satellites to pinpoint their locations anywhere in the United States to within seven meters, or about 21 feet.

"This is the beginning of a new era. In the near future, satellites in space will guide how planes take off, fly and land — replacing ground based-navigation systems, some of which have been around since the 1940's," said Secretary Peña. "With this project, we will not only become the world leader, but we will also help create what experts project to be a \$30 billion GPS industry in a decade, generating thousands of new American jobs."

FAA Administrator David Hinson said that the transfer of the current ground-based navigation system to a space-based one is in keeping with the FAA's mission to install advanced technology to guide the nation's airspace system into the 21st Century. "When fully implemented as an integrated, global system, the possibilities become virtually unlimited," he

added. The contract calls for the development and fielding of a network of ground stations across the U.S. These stations will receive, analyze, and refine signals from GPS satellites and transmit the information via communication satellites to all aircraft flying within U.S. airspace. The WAAS ground station will be located at approximately 35 air traffic control facilities across the country.

Under the WAAS what used to be routine will no longer be needed. For example, aircraft will be able to fly more direct routes to their destinations, saving time, fuel and money. Precision approaches will be possible into nearly every airport in the U.S. as long as it is properly configured. Older ground based navigation systems, which are expensive to maintain and operate, can be gradually decommissioned. System capacity will be significantly improved by safely allowing more aircraft to occupy a given airspace without increased risk. System congestion and passenger delays will be reduced as a result of more efficient airspace management and scheduling. Navigational equipment on board aircraft will be reduced and simplified.

"This is the kind of revolution in navigation that we saw in computers in the 1980's" said the Secretary. "An augmented GPS system will benefit land and maritime transportation, atmospheric research, weather forecasting, surveying, in fact almost every phase of American life."

Happy Birthday U.S. Coast Guard!



Dear Admiral Kramek,

As the Coast Guard celebrates its 205th birthday this week, I want to convey my sincere admiration of and appreciation for the superb efforts of the Coast Guard.

The threat to our national security today comes not from those who control enemy missile silos but from the international criminals and drug traffickers who undermine the stability of fragile new democracies and threaten the future of our children. Coast Guard men and women are poised to meet these new challenges and their work is vital to helping to secure a better future for America.

The Coast Guard's multi-mission capability has enabled you to respond to our nation's needs on a moment's notice: Cuban migration, restoration of democracy in Haiti, interdicting drugs destined for American shores, protecting America's natural resources and developing and professionalizing foreign coast guard and maritime, law enforcement organizations.

Coast Guardsman Alex Haley once wrote, "You can do a lot of good by helping others, and that's what the Coast Guard is all about." Alex Haley was right. The countless lives your people have saved or assisted are a testament to their courage and dedication. Every time I have called on the Coast Guard, you have responded quickly and professionally.

Bravo Zulu, Happy Birthday and thank you.

William J. Clinton

President Clinton did not forget to wish the Coast Guard a happy 205th birthday recently. The following is the President's birthday greeting to Admiral Kramek, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

CALENDAR

September

10-12 National Rural Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference, Duluth, MN

14 American Society of Body Engineers' 50th Anniversary, Detroit, MI

15 - Oct 15 Hispanic Heritage Month

Check with your nearest regional diversity office to obtain a list of calendar events taking place in your area.

27 CFC Kick-off

October

CFC Campaign

26-28 OPA-90 Oil Pollution Prevention Technology Demonstration, Kings Piont, NY

November

1-2 Transportation Fatigue Symposium, Washington, DC

1995 Combined Federal Campaign

The 1995 CFC Campaign is about to begin. This year, close to 2,500 volunteer agencies will benefit from your contributions. A few minutes of your time to fill out a pledge card can mean meals for hungry children, relief for victims of hurricane disasters, help for families in need of counseling, research on cures for diseases, comfort for the dying, access to water in the Third World, environmental protection, and better lives and renewed hope for millions of people in our global community.

Through your designation, you ensure that your donation goes to meet those needs that you personally feel are most important. CFC has one of the lowest administrative expenses of any charitable campaign. Four percent of every dollar contributed goes to campaign administration (printing materials, training volunteers, processing and auditing contributions). Ninety-six percent of your contribution goes to member charities.

DOT has always been very supportive of the CFC campaign. Let 1995 be no different than years past. Remember, IT'S UP TO YOU!

Automatic withholding per pay period makes giving convenient and spreads the cost out over the entire year. Take a few minutes to look over your Catalog of Caring and fill out your pledge card. You can contribute by cash or check to the campaign to your favorite charity.



DOT Continues To Open Skies

Open Skies Agreement With Belgium Completes European Nine

The DOT recently announced that the United States and Belgium have formally signed an aviation agreement, capping the landmark open skies initiative with nine European nations that began in January.

"This agreement with Belgium which completes our open skies efforts with these nine European nations, and the successful negotiations with Canada which were concluded in February, represent by far the largest effort to open up airline service since domestic airline deregulation more than 15 years ago," said Secretary Peña.

On Jan. 27, 1995, the DOT announced that the U.S. Government had begun the process of negotiating open skies agreements with nine European nations. This stemmed from the Administration's November 1994 International Aviation Policy Statement's direction to seek open market aviation agreements with European countries. Last June, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland formally entered into agreements with the United States.

"This is a major step forward in creating an international free market for aviation services that will bring economic benefits for communities, traveler's and shippers," the Secretary said. "Through these agreements, we are opening the doors for U.S. carriers to serve any foreign community and for foreign carriers to serve any U.S. community, thus giving

those communities access to the international marketplace."

Secretary Peña made it clear, however, that DOT's work is far from over in opening up all skies across Europe. "While our original objective of concluding open skies agreements with these nine nations has been achieved, it remains my desire to negotiate open skies agreements with any other like-minded European nation," he said. "The goal of the United States is to make air travel and shipping affordable with expanded consumer options. This can only be achieved if airlines are allowed to compete freely without government intervention and have the flexibility to offer the services and prices demanded by the marketplace."

The Secretary thanked both the U.S. and Belgian negotiating teams and especially recognized Mark Gerchick, acting Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, and Paul Gretch, director of the Office of International Aviation, for their efforts in helping the Department realize the goal established in November 1994.

Secretary Peña has spent much time working with fellow transportation ministers around the world. In November 1994, he hosted a meeting of 12 ministers from the Western Hemisphere in Tampa, Fla. In June, he met with 18 ministers from the Asia Pacific region in Washington and took the ministers on a tour to showcase American transportation technology. He also traveled to Europe in June to meet with the continent's transportation ministers.