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Western Intercom



Cover Story

Lyle Adams, an engineer in the En-route Automation/Radar Section of the Airway Facilities Division's Maintenance Engineering Branch, recently received a Suggestion Award of \$1856.00 for an employee suggestion. Lyle outlined methods and procedures for utilizing the Center computer's Radar Data Acquisition Systems (RDAS) analysis programs to verify radar coverage patterns in conjunction with targets of opportunity. The suggestion has been implemented nationally with substantial savings of flight check flying time, which is convertible to savings in manpower, aircraft time and fuel--plus enhanced utilization of an existing tool; in other words, the Center computer. Lyle's suggestion reduced by 50 percent the flight time for enroute radar flight checking. Congratulating Lyle Adams in the cover photo is Martin C. Elliott (right), Chief, Airway Facilities Maintenance Engineering Branch. Cover photo by Barbara Abels.

The News In Brief

FAA expects to receive PATCO's contract proposals by mid-January and negotiations are scheduled to begin February 12 at a site still to be determined. FAA's negotiation team will consist of 13 members drawn from Washington headquarters and the field. It will be headed by Edward Curran, the agency's Director of Labor Rela-

tions. PATCO is expected to field about the same number with seven members drawn from various field facilities. The present three-year pact with the union expires March 14. ● The FAA technicians who install and maintain the nation's air traffic control/air navigation system may be asked early next year to choose between the Federal Aviation Science and Technological Association (FASTA) and the Professional Airways System Specialists (PASS) as their national bargaining agent or no union. The way for a nationwide election was cleared last month when the Federal Labor Relations Authority handed down a ruling that favored the PASS challenge to FASTA, which presently serves as the national bargaining unit for more than 7,800 AF technicians. PASS represents about 1,300 technicians but enjoys only local recognition. The election probably will be held in the spring, possibly in March. ● Former PATCO president John Leyden has been named Executive Director of AFL-CIO's Public Employee Department. A one-time air traffic controller at the New York Center, Leyden served as PATCO's president for almost ten years before resigning last February. He rejoined the agency last fall and was assigned to the Air Traffic Service in Washington headquarters.

Jim Williams Retiring

Jim Williams, Los Angeles Air Traffic Control Tower, retired on Jan. 9 after 30 years of service. A retirement luncheon will be held in Jim's honor on Feb. 12. Friends and co-workers who are able to attend should contact Ed Couch, Los Angeles Tower, 213/642-3969, for the time and place before Feb. 5.



Oakland Center Airway Facilities Wins Two Energy Awards

Two Energy Saving Awards were recently presented to the Oakland Air Route Traffic Control Center Airway Facilities Sector in a recent ceremony at the San Francisco Department of Energy Office. Receiving the awards were: Left to right: Ken Claar, San Francisco Airway Facilities Sector Manager, representing the Regional Director; Byron Mabee, Oakland Center Airway Facilities Sector Manager, holding the plaque awarded by the Federal Executive Board; Martin J. Domagala, Acting Regional Representative of the Secretary of Energy; Virgilio Torres, Chief of the Oakland Center Environmental Support Unit, holding the award certificate from the Department of Energy; and Russell Hall, Oakland Center Environmental Technician-in-Depth. These awards were gained in a competition between all government agencies and military installations in the nine northern California counties participating in the San Francisco Federal Executive Board.

Employee Saves Motorist From Death By Fire

Charles B. Taylor, a member of the Environmental Support Unit at the San Francisco Airway Facilities Sector, was instrumental in saving

the life of a driver of a car which plunged 200 feet off Interstate 280. Charles and his companion pulled the driver from the vehicle just moments before the car exploded in flames. We salute Charles Taylor for his valor and unselfishness in risking his own personal safety to save the life of another.



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New Bill Alters Retirement Figures

President Carter recently signed a bill, PL 96-499, that gets rid of the "Look Back" provision used in computing retirement annuities. Another change establishes a prorating system for figuring a new retiree's first cost-of-living adjustment. Essentially, the "Look Back" provision increases the annuities of new retirees for inflation that occurred before they retired. For example, employees who retired between September 1 and January 18, receive the 7.7 cost-of-living adjustment that went into effect September 1. After January 18 the "Look Back" feature will be discontinued. There also is a change in the method of figuring the way a new retiree's first cost-of-living increase is calculated after retirement. Since the semi-annual cost-of-living adjustments are intended to compensate for inflation that occurred in the preceding six months, employees will have to be off the payroll for almost the entire six months to get the full benefit. Otherwise, their initial increase will be computed on a prorated monthly basis. This change begins with the cost-of-living adjustment scheduled for March 1 and affects all new retirees, whether they retire before or after January 18. For example, those retiring in January will get one-third of the March 1 increase and those retiring in February one-sixth. In spite of these changes, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) cautions that because of the multiple factors involved, each employee must determine independently if retirement before January 18 is advantageous.

Oakland Towers Awards And Events

Congratulations to Air Traffic Control Specialist Robert Remmick on his Quality Within-Grade Increase; Controller Mary Williams who became Controller Mary "Haynes" and Controller James Jensen who decided to end his bachelorhood; and to the following proud daddies: Robert Remmick on the birth of his baby girl, Stacy; Greg Hildebrand on the birth of his firstborn, son Scott; Bill Goins on the birth of his baby girl Shirley; and Don Permoda on the birth of his son David.

Meet Your Federal Women's Federal Subcommittee



Back row: Ethel Lawson, Federal Women's Program Manager, Civil Rights Staff; Joan Grimm, Subcommittee Chairperson, Airway Facilities Maintenance Operations Branch; Gertrude Williams, Flight Standards General Aviation Branch; Kathy Sandoval, Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center; and Barbara Adams, Flight Standards Administrative Staff. Front row: Micki Hines, Management Systems Division; Barbara Nurse, Air Traffic Operations Branch; and Gladys Bolden, Personnel Management Employment Branch. Photo by Barbara Abels.

Current members and alternates of the Western Region Federal Women's Subcommittee are: Janet Allen, Burbank Tower; Yvonne Gibson, Planning Staff; Terry Jiron, Logistics Division; June Kemner, Oakland Flight Standards District Office; Constance Easley, Civil Aviation Security Division; Marge Booth, Airway Facilities Division; Micki Hines, Management Systems Division; Barbara Nurse, Air Traffic Division; Gladys Bolden, Personnel Management Division; Gertrude Williams, Flight Standards Division; Kathy Sandoval, Los Angeles Center; and Barbara Adams, Flight Standards Division. Joan Grimm, Airway Facilities Division, serves as Chairperson.

The Western Region Federal Women's Subcommittee is established under the Civil Rights Committee and is comprised of a chairperson and 10 members representing the division and staff offices. The subcommittee's main function is to identify problems and concerns of women that are barriers to the employment and promotion of women and to recommend solutions or actions to correct them. Programs to improve the status and employment of women are planned and conducted by the subcommittee, with special emphasis given to furthering the education of women employees to enhance qualifications so they can qualify for higher level positions.

Jobs Open

The International Civil Aviation Organization has two-year openings in Mexico for a Spanish Language Officer, and in Montreal for a Russian Language Officer. Salary for these jobs is \$23,910, with a tax-free net of \$16,968 to \$18,193. Applications are due in API-19 by February 6. There also is a position open in Montreal for a Conference and General Services Section Chief that pays \$29,940 with a tax-free net of \$20,209 to \$21,756. Applications are due in API-19 by January 9. Additional information is available in servicing personnel offices.

Oakland FSS News

Oakland "by-the-bay" Radio would like to welcome aboard Specialists Dick Ridgeway, Paul Pagel, Gus Guzman and Developmental Brian Ashley. Recent awards were presented to Programs Officer Jack Howard, who received a Special Achievement Award for his extensive work on the Dimension 2000 telephone system being installed in the new Oakland FSS building; Specialists Anne Raney and Clifton Jarman, who received Special Achievement Awards for their extra efforts and fine performance while working in the operations section; Jerry Raney received a Letter of Commendation for "...doing a very professional job on your training assignment for the facility certification of ATCS(S) (Developmental)..."; and Andy Davie received a Letter of Appreciation for his commendable efforts in facility training. Operation Raincheck allowed Specialists Sandy Burgoyne, Edale Clark, Jerry Raney, Bill De Blasio, Danny Poletto, Bruce Britos and Jim Thomas, to share their wealth of aeronautical knowledge with local pilots. Moreover, Specialist Andy Davie cooperated with Janet Hitt, San Jose

General Aviation District Office's Accident Prevention Specialist, on a presentation to 300 South Bay pilots.

FAA and PATCO Lose Suits

A Federal judge in Chicago has dismissed an FAA suit against the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization and a counter suit brought by the union against the agency. Both actions stemmed from an alleged controller slowdown at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport last August. In dismissing the FAA suit, U.S. District Court Judge Milton I. Shadur essentially agreed with PATCO attorneys that Congress has vested exclusive jurisdiction over unfair labor practices in the Federal Labor Relations Authority. The judge noted that strikes against the Federal Government clearly are illegal under existing statutes and can result in the dismissal of employees and criminal prosecution of unions and employees who engage in such activity. However, he added, "this court is not being asked to determine criminal responsibility. It is rather being asked to enjoin the conduct of a labor union that is an alleged unfair labor practice." The agency has asked the Department of Justice to appeal the judge's decision. Judge Shadur also dismissed the PATCO countersuit against FAA for lack of jurisdiction. PATCO had charged that controllers at O'Hare continually are pressured by supervisors to ignore separation standards and are subject to punishment if they don't comply. However, the judge found that the union's claims were speculative and conjectural and not supported by facts. PATCO has not decided as yet on an appeal.

A Reminder

Retirement Party for Merle Nichols, Air Traffic Division Evaluation Branch Chief, will be held on Jan. 24 at the Marina City Club, Marina Del Rey, Calif. Contact Bonnie Taylor, AWE-520A, ext. 6215, for reservations and further details no later than Jan. 21.

San Francisco Airway Facilities Sector News

The Sector welcomes aboard: Malcolm Clark, to Salinas Field Unit from Alaska; Karl Kraus to Salinas; Doug Bush to Half Moon Bay Air Route Surveillance Radar; and Albert Velasco to Paso Robles Field Office. The Sector is taking an active role in the Upward Mobility Program through the efforts of two new female electronic technician trainees. Janet Fallin of the Administrative Unit is now at the FAA Academy for her initial six months' training period. Virginia Sousa, Administrative Services Clerk at Oakland Center has been welcomed to San Francisco Technical Support Unit as an Electronics Technician Trainee. All Sector personnel have been diligently pursuing their studies, training and certification requirements, resulting in numerous promotions: Steven Urquhart, NAV/COMM; William Whalen, Monterey/Salinas; John Turberville, Monterey; Collin Wong and Dewey Pike at Half Moon Bay Air Route Surveillance Radar; and J. D. Queen at the Environmental Support Unit. Also, our student aid, Rhonda Robinson, has been promoted to a level

more suitable to her many varied duties at Sector headquarters. Merrill Scott, Technical Support Officer, and Paul Lee, NAV/COMM Technician-in-Depth, have received official Letters of Commendation in recognition of their efforts during the installation of an Automatic Weather Reporting System (AWRS) at "Sign Hill" in South San Francisco. Virgin Davidson, Jr., has received a letter of appreciation for his efforts in conducting local training during October, November and December. Letters of appreciation were also received by the Monterey Field Office for their work on intermittent failures of radar video mapping at Monterey Tower; to the Airway Facilities Sector from the Chief, Airway Facilities Division for the work on the AWRS at "Sign Hill"; and to Jeffrey Miller for his work at the City of Watsonville. Donald Hebbard, Electronics Technician, recently received his 25-year career service pin. We are also rapidly approaching the fifth anniversary of the CAT III Instrument Landing System at San Francisco International Airport.

Bob Dulaney Retires From Lancaster FSS

December 29 was a landmark for Lancaster Flight Service Station and William J. Fox Field. Bob Dulaney, the first and only Chief in the station's history, brought his long and distinguished FAA career to a close. Many knew Bob and their lives have all been a little brighter because of it. So long, Chief; all our best to you in your retirement!

Retiree Deaths

Friends of FAA Retiree Irene Dinnewith will be saddened to learn of her death on Jan. 3, 1981. Before retirement in mid-1979, Irene served 12 years with the Frequency Management Staff of the Airway Facilities Division at Regional Headquarters. Our sincere condolences are extended to Irene's family.

Friends and former co-workers of FAA Retiree Charles Dowitz were saddened to learn that he passed away in December. Chuck was a Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist at the Oakland Flight Service Station. Our sincere condolences to Chuck's family.

Oakland Towers Assist Police Department

For the past year, Oakland Airport has been plagued by vandalism and theft of automobile radios in the parking lot. The Port of Oakland estimated that during the Thanksgiving weekend there was between \$2500 and \$3000 damage to runway/taxiway lights. On Dec. 14, 1980, the crew in the South Tower aided the Oakland Police Department in spotting and identifying three suspects in the parking lot who had allegedly broken in and vandalized nine automobiles. These suspects were caught in the act of stealing radios.

On the evening of Dec. 22, Air Traffic Control Specialist Bob Williams observed two persons walking on one of the taxiways. While Bob continued to observe these two people, Controller Robert Remmick notified the Port of Oakland security and the Oakland Police Depart-

ment. Both units responded to the scene whereupon the trespassers hid in heavy underbrush. Unknown to the two suspects, the controllers were able to direct the police to their hideaway, resulting in the successful apprehension of the suspects. This operation occurred during the hours of darkness. The next morning the Oakland Police Department helicopter found a missing tug in the area where the trespassers were apprehended. The Oakland Police and the Port of Oakland also apprehended five people breaking runway/taxiway lights. Hopefully, the apprehension of the suspects will stop the vandalism problem. Congratulations to those controllers on duty who assisted the Police Department. They were: Paul Sutter, John Moore, Robert Remmick, Greg Hildebrand, Robert Williams, Developmental Specialist Pam Proctor and Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist John Albright.

Commuter Proposal Dropped

The agency has abandoned efforts to establish separate airworthiness standards for new commuter airliners after determining that the plan would save manufacturers only a negligible amount of money. FAA said that much of what it had hoped to gain under the proposed new FAR Part 24 could be achieved by amending the present airworthiness standards for large transport aircraft (FAR Part 25). The changes would provide less rigorous standards for commuter aircraft, while not degrading standards for heavier airliners in any way. The idea was first proposed by the agency in December 1978 and was the subject of extensive public hearings.