

May 1, 1981

81-18

Public Affairs Office  
AWE-5

FAA—Western Region  
Los Angeles, CA  
90009  
(213) 536-6431



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# Western Intercom

FAA  
ADMINISTRATOR  
J. LYNN HELMS



## Congress Replete With Pilots

The current Congress seems to have more than its share of pilots. Figures compiled by Air Line Pilot Magazine show 39 pilots in the 97th Congress, 10 of whom are listed as inactive. Twenty-six are in the House and 13 in the Senate. Congressmen Bill Chappell, Jr. (D-Fla.) and Robert K. Dornan (R-Cal.) and Senator Gordon J. Humphrey (R-N.H.) all hold active Airline Transport Pilot certificates. In addition, Senator Lloyd Bentsen has an inactive ATR. There's also one woman aviator on the list--Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.), who has a private pilot's certificate. Other ratings include glider pilots, helicopter pilots, multi-engine pilots, one flight engineer and two spacecraft pilots--Senators John Glenn (D-Ohio) and Harrison "Jack" Schmidt (R-N. Mex.).

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## FAA Plays Big Part In Awards Program

Nomination forms for the annual Flight Instructor and Mechanic of the Year Awards will be distributed by FAA district offices beginning this month. FAA also will support the industry-run program in other ways, such as participating in the selection of regional and national winners. In addition, the traditional national awards ceremony will be held at FAA Washington Headquarters on October 15. Although FAA employees are not eligible for awards, they can submit nominations. The deadline for submitting nominations is August 17.

## Cover

## Story

J. Lynn Helms was sworn in as FAA Administrator in Secretary Drew Lewis' office in Washington, D.C. on April 22.

Helms is an aeronautical engineer, former test pilot, and a manager with a proven track record. Most recently, he was President, Chief Executive Officer and Board Chairman of Piper Aircraft Corporation.

The 56-year-old Helms was born in DeQueen, Ark., and earned his B.S. degree in aeronautical engineering from Oklahoma University.

During World War II, Helms flew with the Marine Corps and later served as a test pilot and instructor pilot. He left the military in 1956 to become a design engineer with North American Aviation in Columbus, Ohio.

He moved to the Bendix Corporation in 1963 and in just seven years rose to the position of group vice president of the Norden Division of United Aircraft and then was named president of Piper. He resigned from Piper last November. Helms still is an active pilot with more than 10,000 hours in his log book. He holds a commercial certificate, single and multi-engine ratings and an instrument rating.

Helms is a member of various aviation organizations, including the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and the Pioneer Club. He was elected to the latter organization for being the first pilot to exceed 1,000 m.p.h. in a combat aircraft.

## Western Region Kicks Off Bond Campaign

The month of May has been designated for the 1981 Savings Bonds Campaign. Our overall goal concerning this campaign is for each employee to take stock in firming his or her financial future through the U.S. Savings Bonds Payroll Deduction Plan.

Richard L. Devereaux, Chief, Flight Standards Division, is this year's Campaign Chairman. Representatives throughout the Western

Region are currently being selected and each of their names will be announced shortly. This will establish a centralized focal point of contact for all employees interested in helping their country and themselves with a safe and dependable savings plan.

To help you choose the right Bonds for you, listed below is a detailed description of the various U.S. Bonds now available.

### All You Wanted To Know But Didn't Ask about—

# U.S. BONDS

## Series EE Savings Bonds

Bonds issued in and after November 1980: Series EE Bonds of this period will earn eight percent, compounded semiannually, when held to maturity of nine years. Intermediate yields are increased and will rise from five and one-half percent after one year to seven and one-half percent after five years. Term to original maturity has been shortened from 11 years to nine years.

Bonds issued from January through October 1980: Overall yield is increased by one percent to maturity of 11 years and intermediate values are improved effective with the first semiannual anniversary of the issue date that occurs on or after May 1, 1981. The Bonds will earn at a level rate of eight percent for the two years preceding original maturity.

## Series E Savings Bonds

Bonds issued in or before April 1976: Overall yield is increased by one percent to next extended maturity and intermediate yields are improved, effective with the first full semiannual interest accrual period that begins on or after November 1, 1980. All of the Bonds will have reached original maturity before May 1, 1981.

Bonds issued from May 1976 through November 1978: Overall yield is increased by one percent to original maturity of five years and intermediate yields are improved effective with the first full semiannual interest accrual period that begins on or after November 1, 1980.

Bonds issued from December 1978 through June 1980: Overall yield is increased by one percent to original maturity of five years and intermediate values are improved, effective with the first semiannual anniversary of the issue date that occurs on or after May 1, 1981.

## Series HH Savings Bonds

Bonds issued in and after November 1980: Series HH Bonds of this period will earn interest at a level rate of seven and one-half percent to maturity of 10 years. There will be an interest adjustment that will reduce the yield on Bonds purchased for cash that are redeemed within five years after issue to the yield on Series EE Bonds held for the same period. Bonds purchased in exchange for Series EE or E Bonds or Savings Notes are not subject to this interest adjustment.

Bonds issued from January through October 1980: Outstanding Bonds will earn interest at a level rate of seven and one-half percent to maturity of 10 years effective with the first full semiannual interest period that begins on or after November 1, 1980. Interest will be adjusted on any Bonds purchased for cash that are redeemed within five years of issue.

## Series H Savings Bonds

Bonds issued in or before April 1971: Outstanding Bonds will earn an additional one percent to the next extended maturity date effective with the first full semiannual interest period that begins on or after November 1, 1980. All of these Bonds will have reached original maturity before May 1, 1981.

Bonds issued from May 1971 through December 1979: Outstanding Bonds will earn an additional one percent to original maturity of 10 years, effective with the first full semiannual interest period that begins on or after November 1, 1980.

## Savings Notes (Freedom Shares)

The yields on all outstanding Savings Notes are increased by one percent to next extended maturity. Intermediate yields are improved, effective with the first full semiannual interest accrual period that begins on or after November 1, 1980.

## Additional Information

Since the yields will be improved on all outstanding Savings Bonds and Notes that have not reached final maturity, owners will generally benefit from holding these Bonds/Notes rather than cashing them to purchase new Series EE Bonds. In addition, the accrued interest on any Series E or EE Bonds or Savings Notes that are cashed is subject to federal income tax reporting if it has not been reported as it accrued.



## Western Intercom

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FAA INTERCOM is published weekly for Western Region employees of the Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration by the Public Affairs Office.

Articles and photographs should be received by the Editor, AWE-5, extension 6431, by 11 a.m., Thursday, for publication in the following week's issue.

## NBCFAE Annual Conference

All employees are cordially invited to attend the Western Region National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE) sponsored annual Equal Employment Opportunity Seminar. The seminar will be held on May 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Century I and II Conference Rooms of the Quality Inn/Airport, 5249 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, and will be attended by the Regional Director and members of his staff. Employees are also invited to join the group on Saturday evening, May 16, at a Gala Dinner with guest speaker John Mack, Director of the Los Angeles Urban League; a show, featuring Desiree Afro Asian Dance Troup; and a dance at the AMFAC Hotel Riviera Ballroom, 8601 Lincoln Blvd., Los Angeles. The cost is \$20 per person (tax deductible). Further information is available from Ralph Beard, LAX Chapter Chairperson, at Torrance Tower, telephone 213/325-2458.

## Human Factors Workshop To Concentrate On Air Traffic Control

A human factors workshop that will concentrate on air traffic control issues is scheduled to be held at the agency's Technical Center, May 13-15. At the workshop, groups will study problems such as "The Controllers Role in an Automated Environment," "Technicians in Automation," "Impact of Transition on the Human--Near and Long Term," "Controller/Pilot Issues" and "Controller Performance as Affected by the Environment." Representatives of the aviation community and industry have been invited to the three-day session, which is the fourth in a series of agency-sponsored workshops designed to explore problems related to the human element in aviation.

## More Reports Available

The agency has published another long list of aviation-related scientific and technical reports. This one has 107 titles, none of which stands much chance of being made into a TV mini-series. But they do include such subjects of interest to FAAers as aircraft safety, airports, air traffic control, approach and landing systems, aviation medicine, communications and weather. Employees can get copies of the list from the Office of Public Affairs, APA-300, FTS 426-8521. Individual reports may be ordered from DOT, M-443.1, 1725-15th Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20005. Include both title and report number.

## Tim Kelly New Chief, Recruitment/Placement Staff

Jim Kelly, formerly Chief, Recruitment/Placement Section, AWE-14B, has been selected as the new Chief, Recruitment/Placement Staff, AWE-14A, Personnel Management Division. Jim originally came to the Western Region in 1979 from the Internal Revenue Service where he was Chief of Employment. Photo by Barbara Abels



## Gerald Walton Selected as Chief Los Angeles Center

Gerald C. Walton has been selected as new chief of Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center in Palmdale, Calif. Jerry had served as Deputy Chief of Los Angeles Center since April 1980. Prior to that time, he was Assistant Chief, Oakland Center, from July 1977 to April 1980. His other service includes Executive Staff, Washington Headquarters; Operations Specialist, New England Region; controller and supervisor at Boston Center. Photo by Alex Garvis.

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## Air Traffic Control Procedures and Practices To Be Reviewed

At least one en route center and various other Air Traffic Control facilities will be involved in a review of ATC procedures and operating practices called for by Administrator J. Lynn Helms recently. "We need additional information to broaden FAA's decision-making base," Helms said. "We need to assess more definitively the interaction between air traffic control and collision avoidance systems." Information sought will include aircraft separation in relation to altitude and flight attitude (climbing, descending, level flight). The analysis is expected to be completed in less than a year.

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## Thanks From Ethel Lawson

Ethel Lawson, recently retired Federal Women's Coordinator, writes: "I cannot find enough words to express my gratitude for the many cards, letters, flowers, memory book, carafe, binoculars and plaques from all of you. The honors and tributes bestowed upon me by Richard Gipson, the Civil Rights Committee, Federal Women's Committee, Sugar Ray Robinson and his wife Millie, the Pittsburgh Los Angeles Club and the Black Coalition of FAA Employees are deeply appreciated. I am especially honored to have been chosen as a recipient of the Administrator's Distinguished Career Service Award." In the words of William Shakespeare, Ethel says, "I can no other answer make but thanks and thanks and ever thanks."

## Computer Based Instruction Coming On Line

Equipment and courses for computer-based instruction are in the process of being sent out to the field. The Springfield, Mo., and Long Beach, Calif., Airway Facilities Sectors already have received most of their CBI equipment. The Jacksonville, Fla., and Baltimore, Md., sectors will get theirs in June, and 36 other sectors are scheduled to receive theirs in late September. By October, the first course, covering Electrical Principles, will be available. It will be sent over telephone lines and picked up by the new equipment. Shortly after the first course, the ATCBI-5 and Back-Up Emergency Communications (BUEC) courses and the theory portions of the ARTS II and Electronic Technician Qualification courses will "come on line." The Common Principles and Common Visual Landing Aids courses and the theory portion of the Communications Equipment course will become available in the spring of 1982. Students will take the courses in their sector or, depending on cost considerations, will travel to the Academy to take them. In subsequent INTERCOM articles, the Office of Personnel and Training will explain further how this new system will work and what it will be like to take a CBI course.

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## Civilair Travel Desk

Have you planned your summer vacation yet? Thinking of Mexico, Hawaii, etc.? Why not visit the Travel Desk on the 4th floor of Regional Headquarters on Wednesdays or call 213/670-1180 during the week and talk to Connie.

## Orange County Tower Happenings

Things are returning to normal at John Wayne Airport two months after the ill-fated arrival of an Air Cal B-737, and it is time to recognize the superior efforts of those who "hung in there" when the going was tough. The quick and efficient reaction of the entire crew may have made a big difference in the number of casualties that resulted from the airliner accident on February 17. Welcome to Fred Mauck, new Team Supervisor, from Coast TRACON, and Ralph McConnaughay from Los Angeles Center. Fred scored better than a 97 percent average on tests in the Supervisory Initial Course at Lawton and qualified for Distinguished Graduate honors. There is a third Gillespie now. Bob's wife, Marta, provided the new arrival, Kenneth, all 8 lbs. 15 oz. of him. Congratulations! So long to two more stellar performers--George Carman to Coast TRACON and Jim Brewer to Ontario TRACON.

## News From Salinas

Airway Facilities Sector Field Office--Welcomes Chuck Epps, Environmental Support Unit Technician, from Red Bluff. Gary Sobak recently passed his Instrument Instructor check ride.

Tower--Vince Andrello is on the receiving end: he is working on his private pilot license. This brings the number of active pilots in the tower to five, one more to go for 100 percent!

Flight Service Station--Welcome to Ann Spencer, formerly from Crescent City FSS. Developmental Tom Cooper has returned after surviving the Academy. Kudos to Candy Burkett for passing her Instrument Instructor check ride, and to Specialists Mary Gomes and Dave Banner for providing top quality briefings which prompted letters of acknowledgement from the pilots.

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## Karen Wessel, Top Performer At Oakland Bay TRACON

Karen Wessel, Air Traffic Control Specialist at Oakland Bay TRACON, recently received a Letter of Appreciation for her significant achievement in completing the Bay TRACON training program in one third of the authorized training hours. Karen also is the first woman full performance level (FPL) certified since establishing the Bay TRACON. Karen is part of another first--wife/husband team (Larry)--at the facility. On-the-job training instructors Darrell Reazin, Don Peck and Dan Bigelow are justifiably proud of Karen's performance and achievement. Photo by Harold Heinrichs, Evaluation and Proficiency Development Specialist.



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## Sympathy Appreciated

Helen Harris, Airway Facilities Division, acknowledges with deep appreciation the kind expression of sympathy from her friends and co-workers in the loss of her mother.

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## The News in Brief

So far, 1981 is shaping up as something of an "instant replay" of last year's outstanding safety record. In fact, it's looking even better through the first three months. Preliminary statistics compiled by the Aviation Standards people show general aviation with 265 fatalities in the first quarter, compared with 278 in 1980. Commercial aviation shows an even larger percentage gain with fatalities down from 44 to 29. Air taxis are the pace setters in this segment with fatalities dropping from 35 to 17. ● The Presidential task force examining airline crew complements will hold public hearings the weeks of May 11-18 and May 27-29 at the DOT building in Washington, D.C. April 20 was the deadline to speak at the first meeting and May 22 the deadline to speak at the rebuttal meeting. Requests should be addressed to the President's Task Force on Aircraft Crew Complement, Room 7405, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. ● The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has published new regulations and issued new guidance to agencies concerning the Federal disability retirement program. According to the new rules, applicants must not only be disabled for service in their current positions but also for service in any vacant position at the same grade or pay in the same commuting area of the agency. In addition, agencies may now reemploy disability annuitants in any position for which they qualify without a medical examination or determination by OPM. ● A low-cost marking and

## Reno FSS Review

Reno FSS personnel have put away their winter gear and are turning to warm weather activities. Bernie Bronow has joined fellow journeymen handgun shooters Tom West, Jim Gruhn and Carl Johnson in preparing special handloads for the upcoming season's activity in metallic silhouette competition. Local duffers, Bud Weber, Bob Stanco, Jack Woods and Facility Chief Fred Kelly, are anticipating the upcoming round of tournaments in the local FAA/National Weather Service Golf Club. Bicycle enthusiast Bob Andrews put away his skis and is warming up for his weekly 30-mile jaunt around Washoe Lake. Other gas savers, Carl Johnson and Bernie Bronow, have started riding their bicycles to work. Ben Mansfield received a Special Achievement Award, and Don Meredith a Quality Within-Grade Increase. Ralph Guerriero has been conducting tours for local groups, the most recent being the aviation class from Northern Nevada Community College. Carl Johnson was kept busy one evening recently fielding calls from concerned citizens in response to a rare local appearance of Aurora Borealis.

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lighting system that could become the standard for unpaved runways throughout the country will be the subject of a May 29 government-industry meeting at the FAA Technical Center. Developed by the Tech Center, the system helps pilots locate grass and dirt runways from the air. Tech Center officials said the ultimate goal of the program is an FAA Advisory Circular that would be issued to all airport owners/operators. Such standardized guidelines would help eliminate the confusion pilots face when different methods of marking and lighting are used at different airports. (See FAA WORLD, December 1980, page 18.)

## Sacramento Airway Facilities Sector News

Pat Mercurio received a Letter of Appreciation from Dean Deshazo, Reno Sector Manager, for the good job Pat did in Reno. Pat and Lupe Guerrero received another "thank you" for their cooperation with Reno Sector personnel in Stockton in February. Tom Soik received a Career Service Emblem for 15 years of Federal service, and Don Gross received a letter of thanks from the Sacramento tower chief for his work in designing the "vehicle on the runway" reminder at Metro. So long to Paulette "Mariante" Cuilla who is leaving the FAA to go into private industry. Dick Rippe has been working with members of the Los Rios College District and local business leaders in the electronics industry as a participant in their Technical Advisory Committee. Purpose of the group is to identify and assist in the formulation of various local college programs to assure that the needs of these industries are being met in Sacramento.

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## Home Addresses-- Are They Current?

All employees are reminded to keep the Payroll Branch, AWE-24, apprised of their current home mailing addresses. This can be accomplished very easily by completing and submitting WE Form 2730-5(3-80), Employee Salary Check and W-2 Home Mailing Address. The information required is self-explanatory on the face of the form.

Current home addresses are important even though you may be having your salary check mailed directly to a financial organization. For example, they are used for mailing W-2 Forms, FAA WORLD and other special mailings to employees' homes on occasion.

## Point Mugu Projects Completed In Record Time

On March 23, 1981, Airway Facilities personnel completed a project at Point Mugu in a record short time frame. In just 33 days, the Instrument Landing System/Distance Measuring Equipment was commissioned and the Runway Alignment Indicator Lights and two Visual Approach System Indicators were operational. The project began on Feb. 17, with a preliminary meeting at the Pacific Missile Test Center in Point Mugu, Calif. Attending were representatives of the U.S. Navy, advance crew of Air Force One and Western Region personnel. The next day, approval was received from Washington headquarters for an Instrument Landing System and Runway Alignment Indicator Lights for Runway 21 at Point Mugu.

Among the numerous hurdles which had to be overcome were adverse weather, equipment non-availability, change of project scope and missile firing adjacent to the Localizer/DME and Runway 03 VASI. The actual construction got underway on Feb. 20. The work force consisted of Field Maintenance Parties, Establishment Engineering Branch Civil and Electronics Engineers/Technicians and a Riverside Sector Technician. They formed a cohesive team, typically working rain or shine, 11 hours a day, 7 days a week. The cooperation received from Pt. Mugu personnel was extremely helpful in performing this installation. Accomplishment required close coordination between the Regional Office, field crews, Navy and Flight Inspection Field Office (FIFO), not to mention the weather. To complete this complex project under two months would have been a major accomplishment had all gone well. To do it in 33 days, despite adversity, is nothing short of phenomenal and took an extraordinary amount of dedication and teamwork. Congratulations to all for a job well done!

## Imperial Flight Service Station News

Congratulations to: Mary Jue and Sue Brewer on being promoted to GS-9, Rob Mendelsohn to GS-10, Gary Prock, GS-11, at San Diego Flight Service Station; John Baker who walked over to the Tower; and to Frank Garcia, Team Supervisor, who arrived from Las Vegas FSS. The traffic is still increasing at Imperial. Last year's prediction of 200,000 was only missed by 12,000.

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## Are You Having the Correct Amount of Federal Income Tax Withheld?

The Internal Revenue Service advises that if your refund check is more than \$200, you may be having too much income tax withheld from your wages. Employers are required to withhold income tax from wages so employees can meet their annual income tax liability. The withholding tables are designed to enable employers to do this. However, employees must keep their Forms W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate up-to-date so the employer can withhold the correct amount. You may want to get a copy of Form W-4 (Revised October 1979) from your employer and review the instructions carefully. If you are entitled to additional allowances, you should complete a new Form W-4. Claim the correct number of withholding allowances as explained in the instructions to the form, and give it to your employer. But, please make sure the information you provide your employer is accurate.

## Airway Facilities Election Set

Airway Facilities employees will vote in July on a national bargaining unit to represent them in negotiations with the agency. The candidates are the Federal Aviation Science and Technology Association, which currently is the national bargaining agent for 85 percent of the A.F. workforce, and the Professional Airways Systems Specialists, which represents the remaining 15 percent but has only local recognition. Employees also can cast a ballot for no union at all, if they wish. The election will be conducted on site at 18 en route centers, 17 major airports and the New York TRACON. The remaining A.F. sectors will use mail ballots, which must be returned no later than July 9. All ballots will be counted on July 15.

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## Palm Springs TRACAB News

A belated welcome to controllers Mike Adame from Montgomery Tower; Ralph Oehrlein, Santa Maria Tower; and Charlotte Dollar Long, Ontario Tower, who recently married Dan Long of Ontario TRACON. Welcome also to Steve Karovic, our new Team Supervisor from Montgomery Tower, replacing Harry Petrie who transferred to the Eastern Region. Welcome, too, to new Data Systems Specialist--Barbara Ady--from Orange County Tower, who is attending school in Oklahoma City. TRACAB Chief Art Woolston was a guest at Edwards AFB to see the space shuttle return to earth. Ron Cosby is now a full-fledged journeyman controller after completing all training. Congratulations, Ron!