



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

Western Intercom



TOUCHDOWN '81



Cover
Story:

Touchdown '81 --
Ontario
International
Airport

Western Region Director John D. Mattson (now retired); Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley; Mary Lou Cunningham, President, L.A. Board of Airport Commissioners; Robert E. Quincey, Manager, Ontario Airport; and other dignitaries were on hand recently at "Touchdown '81," where they participated in the formal dedication of the Ontario International Airport's new parallel runway. Thousands of people attended the dedication and Community Day Open House (as shown on the cover). The new runway, 8 Right/26 Left, can accommodate wide-body aircraft. It is 10,200 feet long and 150 wide and is equipped with a solid state Category I instrument landing system. Ontario Airport provides commercial air service to the eastern part of the Los Angeles Basin including the cities of Ontario, San Bernardino and Riverside. Touchdown '81's Community Day Open House and Dedication was sponsored by the Los Angeles Department of Airports. (Photos by Los Angeles Department of Airports)

Report Calls For More Air Traffic Automation

Increased use of automation could significantly enhance the efficiency of the air traffic control system as well as provide substantial safety benefits, a new FAA report asserts. The report advocates the application of modern computer technology to perform many of the routine, time-critical tasks now performed manually by air traffic controllers. The results would be increased controller productivity with less opportunity for system errors. Discussed in depth by the report is the Automated En Route Air Traffic Control (AERA) concept which would permit more fuel-efficient aircraft routings. FAA studies have shown that the potential for fuel savings in an AERA system can be as high as 10 percent for flights receiving these services. Essentially, the report concluded that the AERA concept is feasible, the degree of automation implied can be achieved through state-of-the-art equipment, the system can be designed so that no aircraft would be placed in danger by complete failure and, finally, that AERA has benefits that are substantially larger than its costs.

Name the King Air Contest Cancelled

The "Name the Aircraft" contest to name the Western Region's new King Air F90 aircraft has been cancelled due to the uncertainty of the agency's regional consolidation plans. We appreciate and thank all those who sent in suggestions and regret the cancellation of the contest.

Arc Burn Caused Failure

A fan blade break caused by an electrical arc burn was the reason an engine cowl fell from a DC-10 near Washington's Dulles Airport last January 31, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. The Northwest Airlines flight returned immediately and landed safely without incident. The Board also noted that the failing engine caused damage to components other than the engine itself and pointed out that FAA regulations require that damage be contained. As a result of the investigation the Board recommended that FAA require additional inspections of titanium alloy fan blades and review associated designs.

Evidence of Payment a Must

As a result of a recent change to Travel Order, 1500.14, employees who lease a trailer or mobile home as living quarters while on temporary duty will have to attach a copy of the lease/rental agreement and evidence of payment to claim reimbursement of travel expenses. These attachments will help expedite the examination and payment of travel vouchers.

Lancaster AFS News

We congratulate the many people from the Sector who have recently received awards and are listed in the Awards section of this issue. We would also like to wish Mickey Henderson, our former Administrative Services Clerk, the very best at Los Angeles Center.

Gregory Snyder Honored For Outstanding Save

Gregory Snyder, Oakland Air Route Traffic Control Center, has been named as one of three winners of the outstanding flight assist awards for 1980. Greg's flight assist involved a twin-engine plane that lost power in both engines within a short space of time. Snyder vectored the airplane to the Red Bluff, Calif., airport and then talked the pilot through a difficult spiral descent in a thick overcast to a safe deadstick landing. The two other winners were Gary W. Bentley, Gage (Okla.) Flight Service Station, and Christopher Johannson, formerly of the Fairbanks (Alas.) Airport Control Tower but now at Charleston, S.C. Bentley's problem was a non-instrument rated pilot who was caught on top of a thick overcast with his fuel supply rapidly running out. Using his own piloting experience, Bentley carefully explained every move as he kept track of the plane's position with direction finding (DF) equipment. Coaching and sometimes cajoling, he brought the inexperienced pilot down to a safe landing at the Gage Airport on the second attempt. Johannson's flight assist was kicked off by a panicky radio message which said, "Something's happened to my husband. I'm in control, but I don't know how to fly." The woman's husband was unconscious after a stroke, and she was trying to fly the single-engine aircraft by herself. Fortunately, she had just completed a "pinch hitters" course designed to deal with this situation. Unfortunately she was seated behind her husband and couldn't move him from the controls. But she managed to fly the airplane anyway by leaning over her husband's

Thanks From Alice Miyake

Alice Miyake, former Secretary, Air Traffic Division, wishes to thank her many friends for the "beautiful going-away party." Alice says, "It was very difficult for me to leave my FAA family and go to my new job with the D.O.D. I felt very touched and shall always remember this special day. My best wishes to each one of you and God bless you all."

Lancaster Airway Facilities Sector News

We would like to wish the best for Ralph Velasquez, a former Electronics Technician, who left to pursue his Electrical Engineering degree. We would also like to wish Steve Takacs, a former Electronics Technician at the Boron Sector Field Office, a very happy retirement. Lancaster Sector was very saddened to hear that Reuben Pearce, a recent retiree, passed away.

inert body and following Johan Johannson's step-by-step instructions. After what seemed like an eternity, she brought the plane down at the Fairbanks Airport and escaped injury when it veered off the runway and overturned. The three ATC specialists, all of whom are pilots, will receive their awards from the Administrator at headquarters on July 25. The award-winning flight assists were among 2,695 made by ATC specialists during 1980.

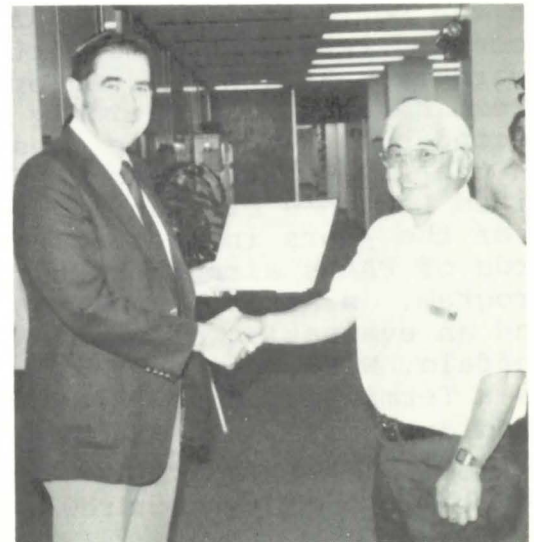
San Jose Inspector Heads U.S. Navy Helicopter Squadron



Charles B. Johnson, Operations Inspector, San Jose General Aviation District Office, recently took command of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Eighty-Five (HS-85) in ceremonies held aboard the Naval Air Station, Alameda, Calif. Chuck has been associated with the Navy since 1962. He remained on active duty until 1970 and affiliated with the Naval Reserve Program in 1971. A graduate of North Dakota State University at Fargo, Chuck has also served with HS-4 and aboard the USS Okinawa. He has been a member of Helicopter Squadron 85 since completing the Aviation Safety Officer Course in Monterey, Calif., in 1971. His assignments with the unit have included stints as Aviation Safety Officer, Assistant Maintenance Officer, Operations Officer, Maintenance Officer and Executive Officer prior to assuming command of the squadron. Chuck has been with the FAA since 1971 serving as an Operations Inspector and Helicopter Specialist, Accident Prevention Specialist, and is presently the Jet Specialist in Lear Jets and the Aero-spatiale Corvette Jet. Front Row--FAAer Commander Chuck Johnson and Captain Grazier. Back Row--Senior Chief Taylor and Captain Duffy. (Official U.S. Navy photo)

Quality Within-Grade For Tom Fujiwara of LAX AFS

Tom Fujiwara (right), a veteran NavAids Electronic Technician at Los Angeles Airway Facilities Sector, receives a well-deserved Quality Within-Grade Increase Award from Wally Ward, Los Angeles AFS Manager. Some of Tom's many noteworthy accomplishments included refurbishing cables, replacing antennas of NAVAIDS systems and installation of a new Distance Measuring System (DME) at Los Angeles International Airport. Photo by Yukio "Mo" Mochizuki



The News In Brief

In conjunction with the Air Traffic Facility of the Year Awards, a special award will be presented to the National Communications Center in Kansas City, Mo. The Center was cited for continued outstanding performance over the years that has contributed significantly to the safe and efficient movement of aircraft within the nation's airspace system. Each employee who worked at the Center for at least six months in 1980 will receive a certificate, and a special plaque will be awarded to the Center. ● A major expansion program is due to get underway soon at the Anchorage En Route Center. A new automation wing will be added. Work on the \$1.7 million expansion is scheduled for completion by July 1982. ● Chicago O'Hare once again is the world's busiest airport in terms of passenger movements. The perennial Number One lost its title in May when Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport edged ahead of it, but the O'Hare manager said he knew it wouldn't last. When the June passengers were counted at both airports, O'Hare had regained its position as King of the Hill. ● FAAers flying to Lawton to attend the Management Training School will be happy to know that they'll be landing at one of the safest airports in the Southwest Region. Lawton recently received an airport safety award from Regional Director C. R. "Tex" Melugin. It was only the second such award to be presented in the five-state region and recognized Lawton's outstanding record over the years in meeting the standards of FAA's airport certification program. ● After extensive study and an evaluation of public comment, Buffalo, N.Y., has been withdrawn as a Terminal Control Area (TCA) candidate site. Of the original 44 sites proposed by FAA, Buffalo is the 20th to be withdrawn.

Airport Policy Proposed

A proposed new policy for Washington National and Dulles Airports was announced last week by Transportation Secretary Lewis and FAA Administrator Helms. To prevent ground-side congestion at National, a ceiling of 16 million passengers a year would be set for the airport. Other proposed moves to control noise and avoid congestion at National include cutting the hours of airline operations from 16 to 15 a day and reducing the number of scheduled airline flights per hour from 40 to 37. At the same time, hourly allocations for commuter airline flights will be increased from eight to 11. Besides these changes, the proposed policy would impose stringent noise limitations for operations at National. These noise limitations and other policy changes are expected to increase the use of Dulles International Airport as airlines switch flights to the larger, underutilized facility. Also, to further increase the use of Dulles, ground transportation to the airport will be improved by accelerating construction of a high-speed, limited access highway that will link downtown Washington with the Dulles Access Road. A public hearing on the proposed policy is set for July 28 in Washington, with implementation of the final policy set for October 25.

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Three Decades Of Service

Gene Bader (right), Flight Data Communications Specialist, receives his Career Service Emblem for 30 years of Federal service from Erwin A. Buschauer, Chief, Oakland Air Route Traffic Control Center. Gene's three decades of Federal service included tours of duty at: Fairbanks, Alaska FSS; Wake Island IFSS; Honolulu IFSS/FSS; Pulaski, Va. FSS; Honolulu Tower; Kahului, Maui Hawaii Tower/ Combined Station/Tower; Hayward, Tower; San Francisco IFSS; and, of course, Oakland Center. Photo by Gary Olson, Evaluation and Proficiency Development Specialist, Oakland Center.



Erwin Buschauer and Gene Bader

Awards

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION:

Al McHugh, Chief of the Edwards Automation Sector Field Office, for instruction given by Lonnie Freyler, John Hopkins and Phillip Stange, Edwards Systems Performance Specialists, to an Edwards RAPCON specialist.
Russ Crooks, Chief, Santa Barbara Environmental Unit.
Hobart Martin, Nav aids Technician-in-Depth, Lancaster AF Sector.
Lancaster AFS personnel Jim Delaini, Chet Isgar, Dave Strickland, Dick Jenkins, Earl Johnson, Rick Larson, John Howard, Kevin Johnson and Russ Crooks.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Ella Dexheimer, Airway Facilities Frequency Management and Leased Communications Staff, with cash award of \$325.
Members of Voucher Examination Section for reducing travel advances by over \$600,000.00 since February 1981.

QUALITY WITHIN-GRADE INCREASE AWARD:

Larry Cramer, Oxnard Airway Facilities Sector Field Office.

CAREER SERVICE EMBLEMS:

Dolores Kutz, Chief, Accounting Classification & Review Section - 30 years.
Jim Hussong, Lancaster Airway Facilities Sector - 25 years.
Chuck Elston, Systems Accounting, Accounting Division - 25 years.
Larry Cramer, Oxnard AF Sector Field Office - 15 years.
Mickey Henderson and Lynn Damewood, Lancaster AF Sector - 3 years.

Mary Austin Long-Range Training Candidate

Mary J. Austin, Data Systems Specialist at Coast TRACON, Santa Ana, Calif., has been selected as one of four FAA employees for the agency's 1981-1982 long-term training programs, which provide a year of graduate-level studies at various education institutions throughout the country. Mary was picked for the Education for Public Management Program. A native of Lynn, Mass., Mary began her career with the FAA in 1973 as an air traffic controller at Salt Lake City ARTCC. In 1977, she transferred to a Data Systems Specialist position at San Juan Air Route Traffic Control Center and was there two years before coming to Coast TRACON. She holds a B.A. degree in Mathematics from the University of Utah. As an undergraduate student, she received numerous academic honors, being selected for the Dean's List for Academic Excellence (overall grade point average 3.6) and for membership in several honorary scholastic fraternities. She spent an additional two years at the University of Utah in graduate work in mathematics and in receiving her secondary teaching credentials, teaching mathematics at the university level as a graduate student. The Western Region is proud of Mary Austin and wishes her much success.

Other long-term training candidates selected were: Barbara K. Hertton, Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Flight Service Station, also picked for the Education for Public Management Program; and Rudolph J. Escobedo, FAA Academy, and Jack Nager, FAA Headquarters, for the Air Transportation Systems Specialist Program.

Retirees Picnic for Southern California

FAA Retirees Picnic for Southern California will be held on Wed., Sept. 30, at Live Oak Park on Road S-13 between I-15 and Fallbrook. Bring lunch and drinks and meet old and new friends. From 10 a.m. til ??

Bakersfield Tower News

Bakersfield Tower is very proud of its Western Region Non-Radar Approach Control Facility of the Year Award plaque. The presentation of the plaque was accompanied with appreciated pomp. Other participants in the ceremony included the Regional Director, Air Traffic Division Chief, and the present and two immediate past Tower Chiefs. Members of the local news media were present to cover the event. All enjoyed the coffee and cakes provided by Joyce Graham. In addition to the plaque, other new additions to Bakersfield Tower are: the Chief, Don Miller, from the Regional Office Air Traffic Evaluations Branch; Tom Petrakis from Fresno Flight Service Station and Greg Juro from Tonopah Flight Service Station. Tom and Greg did a touch-and-go in Bakersfield and are now in Oklahoma City. The commissioning of Bakersfield TRACON is imminent and anxiously awaited--but Help! Altimeter Setting Indicators (ASIs) are no longer available and we may have to commission the TRACON short two ASIs. If anybody knows the whereabouts of any ASI, please advise Bakersfield Tower at FTS 984-1325. Our self-sufficient Airway Facilities Sector Field Office (AFSFO) assures us they can repair any old units. P.S. Congratulations to Non-Radar Approach Control National Facility of the Year Award winner - Hutchinson, Kansas.