



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

# Western- Pacific Intercom



FAA ADMINISTRATOR PRESENTS  
FACILITY OF THE YEAR AWARD  
TO VAN NUYS TOWER PERSONNEL

## Cover Story

FAA Administrator J. Lynn Helms recently presented Van Nuys Tower with the 1980 Air Traffic Facility of the Year award as the best in the VFR (visual flight rules) category. Receiving the award on behalf of Van Nuys Tower personnel was Jim Turner, Chief, who is now Deputy Chief of the Los Angeles TRACON. Also attending the ceremony were: Mrs. J. Lynn Helms, Mrs. Jim Turner, Regional Director H. C. "Mac" McClure and Air Traffic Division Chief Bob Smith.

Van Nuys Tower was selected over hundreds of towers in the nation because of its high productivity while it maintained the highest level of safety. For the past two years, Van Nuys, the world's busiest general aviation airport, has rated fifth in the nation for total aircraft operations.

Regional Director McClure said the facility is to be commended for its excellent performance in meeting the high air traffic demands, "but what is even more important is that the Van Nuys controllers accomplished their tasks with only one operational error during 1980."

Van Nuys Tower controllers handled over a half million aircraft in 1980. Van Nuys has 1,400 based aircraft and last year recorded 567,055 take-offs and landings. During 1980 the tower had a staff of 27 men and women and was headed by Jim Turner, Tower Chief.

Although the airport does not serve airlines, it handles a variety of aircraft ranging from Piper Cubs to a multitude of general aviation aircraft, Air National Guard cargo transports, and business jets, which operate from the airport's two

## New Instructors At Academy

Last month 150 new ATC instructors reported for duty at the FAA Academy. All are former controllers or specialists who recently retired or were medically disqualified. The new instructors are needed to handle the expanding classes in the strike-recovery program. From now on, student enrollments are scheduled to increase gradually over the next several months and stabilize in early 1982 when the full instructor and facility complements are in place. For more on the Academy's future plans, see "Academy To Get Help."

## Travel Advances

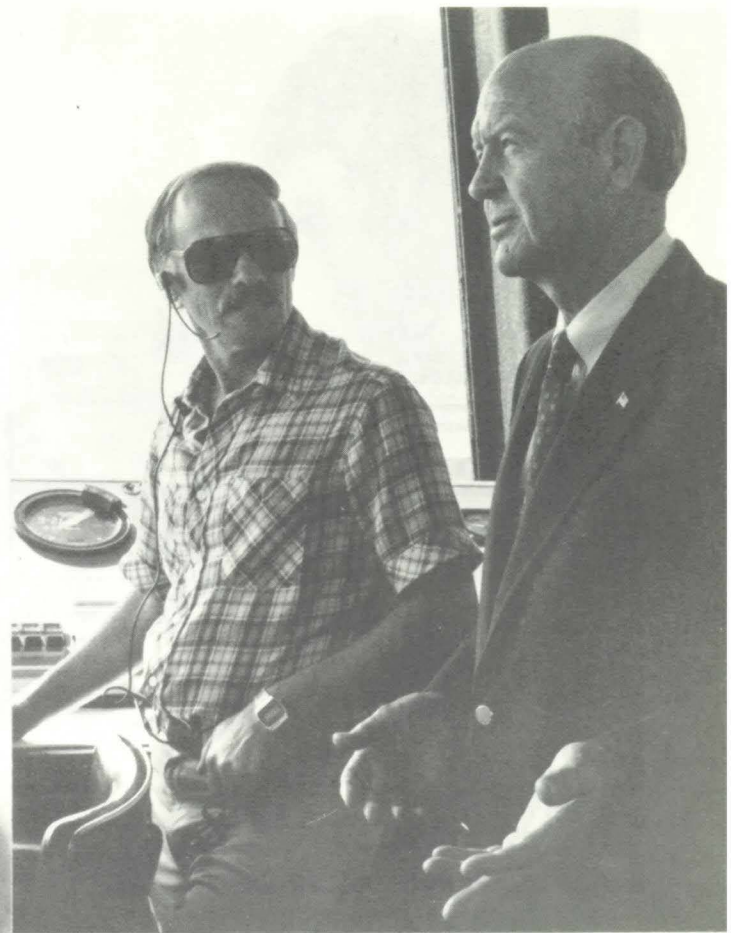
The Accounting Division will not process advance requests until two weeks prior to the date the travel is to begin. To insure timely payment of your advance request, be sure and include the actual date your travel begins, especially on training travel. If you were authorized POV, your advance may have been delayed because we did not know the exact date your travel began.

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parallel runways.

Cover photo: FAA Administrator J. Lynn Helms presents the Van Nuys Tower Facility of the Year Award to Jim Turner who was Tower Chief during 1980. From left--Betty Peterson, Tower Secretary; Mrs. J. Lynn Helms; Controller David Miller; J. Lynn Helms; Supervisory Controller Don Havard; Jim Turner, Tower Chief; Controller Bill Aslaksen; Mrs. Jim Turner; and Bob Smith, Air Traffic Division Chief.

FAA  
Administrator  
Visits  
Van Nuys  
Controllers



FAA Administrator Helms was a most welcome visitor to Van Nuys Tower recently. A--Gene Hapip (left), Air Traffic Control Specialist, with Administrator Helms. B--Administrator Helms chats with David Miller, Air Traffic Control specialist, and Don Havard (right), Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist. C--Jim Turner (right), Van Nuys Tower Chief (who is now serving as Deputy Chief, Los Angeles TRACON) is presented with an Outstanding Rating and Special Achievement Award by Administrator Helms. Photos by Barbara Abels.



More Van Nuys...

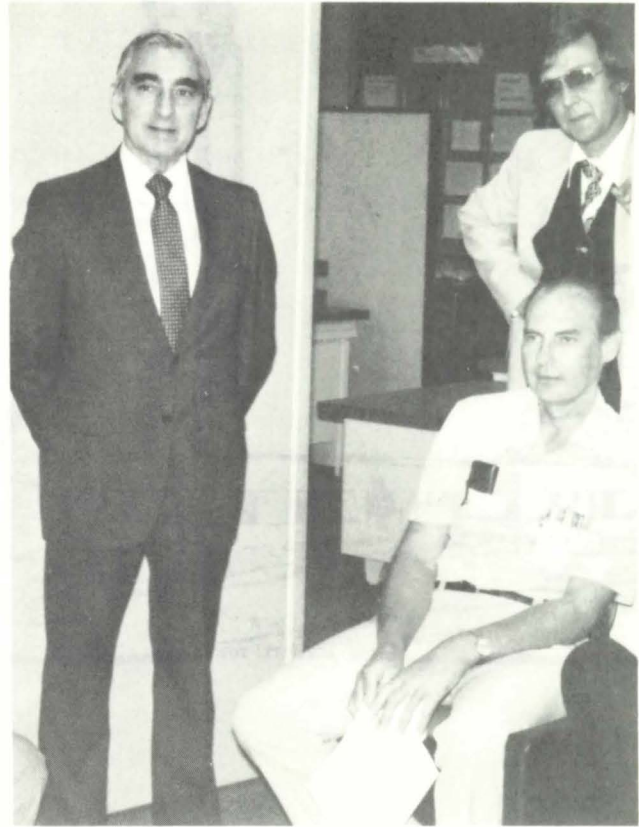


More Van Nuys Tower personnel who were present at the awards ceremony are: Air Traffic Control Specialists David Miller (A), Don Kline (B) and Carl Leeds (C). D--Betty Peterson (right), Tower Secretary, receives one of the individual facility of the year awards from FAA Administrator Helms. Photos by Barbara Abels.

## Outstanding Performance Award for Bob Gayden

Bob Gayden, Nav/Aids Electronics Technician, Los Angeles Airway Facilities Sector, received an Outstanding Performance Award for his continuous exceptional maintenance activities with the diversified Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) at Los Angeles International Airport. Deputy FAA Administrator Mike Fenello, who was visiting LAX Sector, congratulated Bob on his award and also thanked the LAX AF personnel for their professional dedication displayed during the early and hectic period of the PATCO strike.

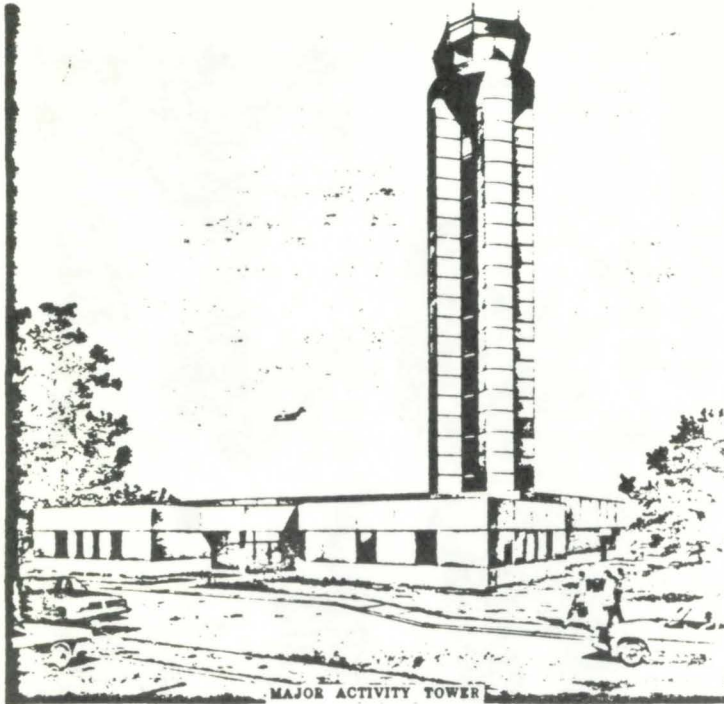
Right: Deputy Administrator Mike Fenello addresses Los Angeles AF Sector personnel. Bob Gayden, seated, and Lloyd Golden, Assistant Chief, Los Angeles TRACON, is standing in the background. Photo by Yukio "Mo" Mochizuki.



## FAA Academy To Get Help

The University of Oklahoma has been hired by the agency to help the FAA Academy train new controllers to replace those who have been fired. Under the \$10 million contract, the university will provide FAA-certified instructors to supplement the Academy's staffing, to handle the training of the substantially increased influx of new controllers as called for by the agency's Air Traffic Recovery Program. The university's campus at Norman, located just 20 miles away from the Academy, may also serve as a supplemental training site. Students at the Norman campus spend most of the 17- to 20-week initial training course there, returning to the Academy for laboratory training and simulation work, the final phase of the program, before they move on

to ATC facilities for on-the-job training. Most of the instructors provided under this contract will be retired FAA controllers. All instructor candidates must pass a four-week basic instructor course and a second four-week course specifically geared to ATC instruction. The university has provided instructors and facilities for FAA over the past ten years for management training and the Air Traffic Pre-Developmental Program. As an added benefit during a severe housing shortage in the Oklahoma City area, the university also has 100 housing units formerly occupied by Pre-Developmental Program students, available for FAA use. The one-year contract contains renewal options for two additional years, estimated at \$10 million annually.



## Special Award For Honolulu Tower's Don Kramer

Pacific-Asia Regional Director Bob Ziegler presents the Employee of the Quarter plaque to Don Kramer, Team Supervisor, Honolulu Tower. Don was highly involved in analyzing new and revised national requirements for development of local procedures, radar video maps, minimum safe altitude charts, LOAs, standard instrument departure and arrival procedures, airspace realignments and quick reference charts for the control positions. Don met those requirements in an outstanding and professional manner. His dealings with all users greatly enhanced the FAA's and facility's image among the aviation community. Comments from officials at Hickam AFB Operations verified that Don is very effective in communications and a favorable impression was made on the personnel he worked with. The Area Officer of the Honolulu Center's staff was outstanding. One of his most important accomplishments was his participation in the restructuring of the airspace and air route system delegated to Honolulu Tower.

## Towers Abuilding

Contracts to build five new air traffic control towers have been awarded by the agency. McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas and Miami International Airport will get major activity facilities--that is, 180-foot high towers designed by Welton and Becket and a TRACON base building. Both towers should be operational by late 1983. Intermediate activity facilities are scheduled for John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana, Calif., and Midland Regional Airport in Midland, Tex. The John Wayne tower is expected to be ready for controller occupancy by December 1982 and Midland by March 1983. A low-activity, 40-foot high tower is planned for Molokai, Hawaii. It should be ready for controllers by early 1983.



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## The News In Brief

Aircraft operations on the North Atlantic routes have been declining in recent years because of the switch to widebodies and generally slow economic growth in the U.S. and Europe. Operations went from 127,000 in 1978 to 122,800 in 1980 and are expected to drop another four percent to 117,700 in 1981. But the North Atlantic Traffic Forecasting Group says aircraft movements will start back up in 1982 and reach 132,700 in 1986. The group, which includes FAA's Gene Mercer from Washington Headquarters, also projects a continued increase in passenger traffic between the U.S. and Europe. It's expected to increase from 19.9 million in 1980 to 26.6 million in 1986. Members and friends of the (ATCA) will get together October 18-22 in Las Vegas to discuss the issues of the 80s." FAA Associate Administrator for Aviation

Standards Walt Luffsey is the general chairman of the annual meeting, and the Administrator will speak on the 20th. Other agency participants include the Associate Administrator for Engineering and Development, A. P. Albrecht, who will serve as chairman of the kickoff session. ● The Great Lakes Region has saved \$769,581 over a 12-month period by reducing natural gas and electricity usage in FAA facilities. Over \$120,000 was saved by cutting the use of gas, and an additional \$648,000 was cut from utility bills by reducing the use of electricity. The reductions were accomplished by conservation measures as simple, in some cases, as turning down thermostats. Costs were also cut by extensive streamlining of heating-ventilation-air conditioning operations at the region's four enroute centers and at some towers.

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## Prize At Oshkosh

David Pierson, FAA Accident Prevention Counselor for Long Beach Flight Standards District Office, proudly displays the plaque received when his 0-1 Bird Dog won "Best Military Classic" at Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Pierson has been an Accident Prevention Counselor for the FAA for a number of years and works closely with Paul Stebleton, Accident Prevention Specialist at the Long Beach FSDO. Pierson is also a Major in the California Wing Civil Air Patrol and flies search and rescue missions out of Torrance Airport. Photo by Barbara Abels.



## Automated FSS Network Is One Step Closer

After years in the planning stages, the automated flight service station network took a giant step towards realization last week with the award of two contracts totaling \$78.3 million for the production of the network's computer systems. The contracts went to E-Systems of Garland, Tex. These two "turn key" contracts call for the production of computerized systems that will provide FSS specialists with rapid retrieval of information they need to brief pilots. Eventually, the new FSS network will consist of 61 automated facilities. Initially, however, 41 existing FSSs will be automated with the Model 1 system, capable of displaying weather and aeronautical data in the form of alphanumeric on the specialist's screen. Model 1 will be operational at the 41 sites within two years. By the fall of 1988, the entire 61-station network will have the more sophisticated Model 2, which will add a second display for weather radar, charts and other graphics. Model 2 also will include the capability of testing direct access by pilots to the computer data base from remote computer terminals at airports and other locations. Later, the capability of Model 2 will be expanded to allow pilot access also via push-button telephones or similar devices. Implementation of this feature will begin in 1985. Ultimately, the more than 300 existing FSSs will be consolidated into the 61 automated facilities. The automated network is expected to provide a higher level of service, using a fewer number of specialists than there are now, at a substantially lower cost to the taxpayer.

## Thanks From Jerry

Jerry Yocom, Long Beach Tower Chief, wishes to thank all his friends who sent cards wishing him well and those who called to wish him a speedy recovery. Jerry says, "Your kind words and cards played a big part in my recovery. I will know in a month or so if an operation is needed. In the meantime, thank you so much for your moral support."

## Party Reminder

The Long Beach Tower Retirement/ Reunion Party to celebrate Mary O'Brien's and Dick Hansen's retirements is set for November 6, at Rochelle's Convention Center in Long Beach. Tickets are \$17 per person, and checks should be received at Long Beach Tower no later than Oct. 30. No host cocktails, 6:30 p.m.; New York steak dinner, 7:30 p.m.; entertainment, 9 p.m. Make checks payable to K. E. Kuhlmann and send c/o Long Beach Tower, 3610 E. Spring St., Long Beach, CA 90806. Accommodations available at Rochelle's Motel, 3333 Lakewood Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90808, 213/421-8215, single \$34 or double \$38.

## North Carolina Thanks ATCSs

In a formal resolution the North Carolina Aeronautics Council recently sent gratitude to "those loyal FAA employees who are serving our vital aviation system to keep it safe and functioning during a very trying period."