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

Western-Pacific Intercom



Aloha

Dear Fellow Employees:

As you know, the Western Region is now officially known as the Western-Pacific Region, and encompasses not only the Western Region states of California, Arizona and Nevada, but also the Pacific Region as well.

I wish to take this opportunity to personally extend a warm welcome to all of you in the Pacific Region who are becoming a part of our Western family.

The new Western-Pacific Region has many challenges ahead and I know I can count on the excellence of performance demonstrated by the Pacific Region employees in the past. We welcome your expertise and know, by working together, we can continue to set forth and maintain the high standards of our region.

Again, we welcome you and look forward to becoming better acquainted with you and your facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. C. McClure".

H. C. McCLURE
Director

Hearing Set On Pay Bill

The FAA Administrator was scheduled to testify on Wednesday, Dec. 2, in support of the Air Traffic Control Revitalization Act of 1981 which would increase the pay of FAA employees involved in the operation and maintenance of the air traffic control system. The hearing before the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee is the first step in the legislative process that could lead to passage of the pay package. Under the Reagan Administration's proposal, controllers would get an average 6.6 percent pay hike with much of it retroactive to the August 3 strike date. The bill also would give five percent raises to flight service station specialists, Airway Facilities technicians in field sectors, flight inspection pilots and test pilots. Additionally, it would raise the premium pay cap for these employees.

U.S./Canada Work Together

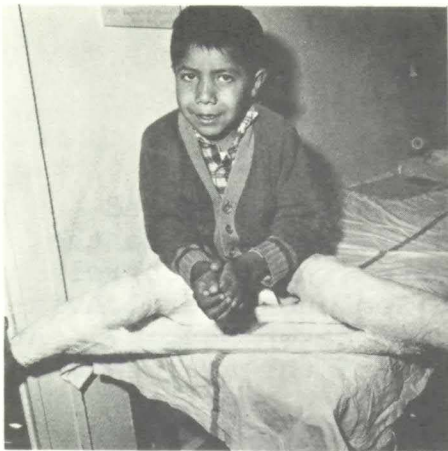
The United States and Canada recently signed an agreement to work together and share research and development information in aviation safety and air transportation systems. FAA must now designate a program coordinator to oversee work done by the two countries. The agreement is aimed primarily at the promotion of a free exchange of information and experience in various areas of mutual interest. Subject areas covered by the agreement include safety analysis, the automation of air traffic services, weather programs, human factors, airport facilities, security, research and development planning methodology.

All To Be Paid

All employees who were furloughed on Monday, Nov. 23, when the Federal Government was partially shut down for budgetary reasons will be paid for the time they were off the job. The Office of Personnel Management has directed that all furloughs will be treated as administrative leave, noting that the cost of processing furlough notices would exceed the resulting payroll savings. This means no one will lose money because of the furloughs. They will be paid along with those who remained on the job. Employees who were on previously approved leave and missed all the excitement will be charged leave for the 23rd just as if nothing had happened.

'Tis The Season To Be...Careful

Once again, we are moving into the holiday season, when people are disposed to gift giving as an expression of appreciation or friendship or more questionable motives. Consequently, employees and supervisors, especially those who work in regulatory or contracting or inspection activities, should be aware of the complications which can result from accepting holiday gifts or favors from persons who deal with DOT. The Office of the Chief Counsel reminds everyone that accepting even a seemingly innocent holiday gift can result in a real or apparent conflict of interest. Remember, what might be acceptable in the private sector could be a violation in the FAA. For full details on the acceptance of gifts and favors, employees should check DOT Regulations, Part 99, Employee Responsibilities and Conduct, or contact their servicing personnel management division.



Dr. Charles Lowman, Founder of the Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital, helps children at the Clinic. Named "Surgeon of the Century" in 1970, Doctor Lowman is known internationally for his compassion, skill, and a medical career that spans more than sixty years. Mrs. Lowman speaks fluent Spanish and helps her husband in the Clinic.

This is the story of a Clinic that grew "from seed to need."

It is predicated on the simple principle that a sick child is a sick child. It makes no difference what nationality he is, nor the country he comes from. He is ill. And, to make matters worse, he is poor. He needs help, comfort, rehabilitation. And only the goodness of our heart can supply them.

Located at Calexico, California, the Valley Orthopaedic Clinic lives up to its creed: "Where Hope Meets Help." It is a non-profit, charitable organization that gives professional orthopaedic care to any child or adolescent from either side of the international border. Anyone under twenty-one is eligible for help. Most of the patients come from Mexico because the need there is definitely greater.

Result: In the short span of twelve years, the Valley Orthopaedic Clinic has become a

haven of hope and health for many children suffering from crippling diseases and traumatic injuries due to accidents—children who would otherwise go untreated their entire lives.

As in years past, the Regional Headquarters has chosen to support the Valley Orthopaedic Clinic in lieu of sending Christmas cards. Cash or checks in any amount, which are tax deductible, will be gratefully accepted. Each Division is asked to make its own collection and forward contributions to AWP-10 by January 8, 1982. "Where Hope Meets Help" has witnessed many miracles. Let's do our part to help these "miracles" continue.

Oakland Center Airway Facilities

A Farewell Luncheon was recently held for Henrietta Dix, Computer Operator at the Oakland Center Airway Facilities Sector. Henrietta has transferred to the San Carlos Tower as an Air Traffic Control Specialist. Best of luck to her on her new assignment. Kathleen Giles, Electronics Technician trainee, has recently retired on disability retirement. We all enjoyed working with Kathy and wish her all the best.

Lost Pilot Strays Into Mexican Airspace

When the staff at the Douglas, Ariz., Flight Service Station realized that a flight was overdue in their area, they took things in hand and sent a plane up to help with the search. The errant aircraft was about a half an hour overdue when facility chief Mike Liversidge took off. Although the search plane soon made radio contact, the disoriented student pilot, who had strayed into Mexican airspace, had to be coaxed back north of the border where he could be located by Albuquerque Center radar. With additional assistance from the Tucson FSS and Tucson approach control, he finally was led to a safe landing at Tucson International. Coordinating the assist and handling the inflight position at the Douglas FSS throughout was specialist Donald W. Bodeman. During the month of October, 79 flight assists were reported--40 by flight service stations, 29 by towers and 10 by centers. There were a total of 138 people reported on board the aircraft involved.

Administrator Presents Top Facility Awards

The FAA Administrator presented Facility-of-the-Year awards to the Seattle Air Route Traffic Control Center and the Spokane General Aviation District Office on Nov. 17. At the Seattle Center, the award was presented to a select committee representing all controllers, whereas the Spokane award was given to GADO Chief Robert Hill who acted for all of his employees. The Administrator commended the employees in both facilities for their award-winning performances in 1980 and also for the outstanding work they have continued to do in 1981. During receptions following the ceremonies, he especially complimented the families who have supported employees during the difficult last year.

AF Maintenance Operations Branch

Welcome to Paul Collander, our new 80's Maintenance Concept Program Manager. Good luck to Joan Grimm, who is now working in the Personnel Management Division.

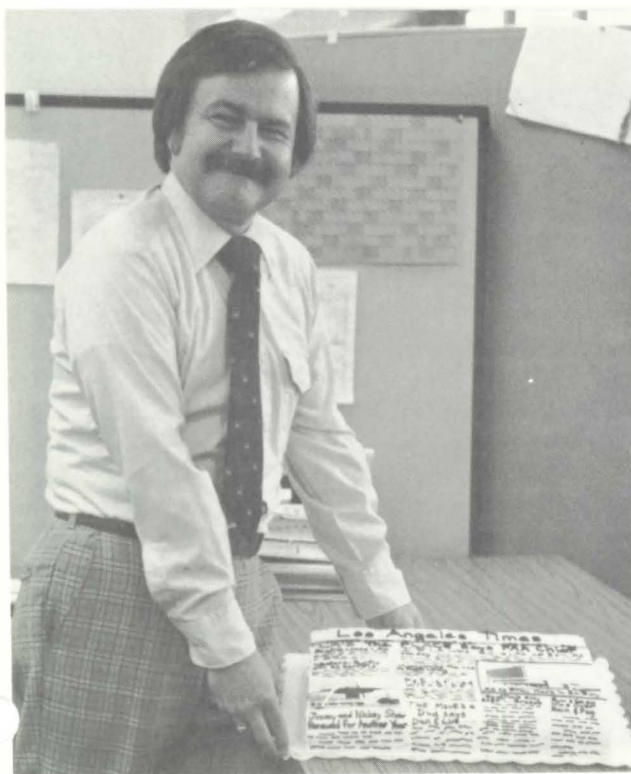
FAA INTERCOM is published weekly for Western-Pacific Region employees of the Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration by the Public Affairs Office. Articles and photographs should be received by the Editor, AWP-5, extension 6431, by 11 a.m., Thursday, for publication in the following week's issue.

Open Season Or No Open Season

The question of whether there will be a Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) open season this year is still unresolved. The Office of Personnel Management's decision to postpone the open season indefinitely was challenged in the courts and a Federal judge in Washington, D.C., subsequently ordered a two-week open season beginning Dec. 7. However, OPM is seeking a stay of the order and will appeal it to the U.S. Court of Appeals. The postponement originally was called because there have been substantial changes in several FEHB plans, and brochures explaining these changes are not yet available. In some instances, publication of the brochures must be held up until lawsuits concerning the changes are resolved.

Regulation By Objective

The agency has announced that it is planning to adopt a new regulatory concept known as Regulation by Objective. Under the new concept, which represents a major change in the agency's regulatory philosophy, the agency would outline the objectives of its regulations and let those affected by the regulations decide how best to meet those objectives. Thus, instead of saying how things should be done, as the regulations do now, they would say what should be done, while the agency continues to monitor to make sure that it is done. The first regulation to be issued under the new concept will combine Parts 121, 127, 129 and 135 of the FARs--those dealing with the certification and operation of airlines and commuters--into one single regulation. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making is expected to be issued in the first half of next year as the first step in the process.



MARGIE'S MASTERPIECE--Margie Stagner, wife of Jim Stagner, Chief, Electronics Section, Airway Facilities Establishment Engineering Branch, was so delighted with the decision for the Regional Headquarters to remain in Los Angeles she baked a cake. Jim Stagner (left) proudly displays his wife's masterpiece. Photos by Barbara Abels.

The News In Brief

Through the first 10 months of 1981, the accident figures still look good when compared with the same period in 1980. The combined number of fatalities in airline, commuter and air taxi service was down from 122 last year to 91 this year. And general aviation registered a similar decline, with fatalities dropping from 1,095 to 1,045, although the number of fatal accidents increased from 551 to 571.

● The average salary for commuter airline captains is \$23,600, according to a recent survey by Aviation Convention News. And the publication noted that first officers for the larger commuters "took home \$13,600, some \$2,000 less than a student air traffic controller gets while still in training." Not surprisingly, the publication found that flight crew salaries increased with aircraft size, and the top money--\$36,324--went to the captains of the deHaviland Dash 7.

● Just how much an FAA type certificate means to foreign aircraft

manufacturers was illustrated rather dramatically recently when Mitsubishi Aircraft took a full page advertisement in the Wall Street Journal to announce the certification of its new Diamond I business jet. The Japanese firm described the event as "Our Moment of Brilliance." Mitsubishi received the FAA type certificate on Nov. 6 from Southwest Region Director Clarence "Tex" Melugin.

● Richard E. Livingston, Jr., from the Office of Aviation Safety in Washington headquarters, has been appointed chairman of the FAA Helicopter Operations Task Force. His new responsibilities include improving certification procedures for helicopters, enhancement of navigational capabilities and definition of critical requirements for helicopter research, development and engineering. He also will serve as the U.S. member of the International Civil Aviation Organization study group on helicopter operations.

25-Year Pin

Bud Pore (right), Electronics Specialist, Regional General Aviation Branch, receives his 25-year service pin from Tom Westall, Chief, General Aviation Branch, Flight Standards Division. Prior to joining the Regional Headquarters, Bud served as Principal Electronics Inspector at Riverside General Aviation District Office, and served several years overseas as Air Carrier Principal Electronics Inspector with the International Field Office in Frankfurt, Germany. Photo by Barbara Abels.



Spotlight On San Diego Flight Service

The San Diego Flight Service Station was recently honored to have FAA Administrator J. Lynn Helms and Walter S. Luffsey, Associate Administrator for Aviation Standards, visit the facility. During the visit, Administrator Helms presented a 30-year career service emblem to Team Supervisor Richard Uruchurtu (top right), and spent time visiting with all personnel on duty.

Bottom right: Administrator Helms visits with San Diego FSS Specialist Charles Palmer.



Awards

Adopted Suggestion by the Western Region:

Charles Hollie, CCC Electronics Technician, Fremont AFS.

Letters of Commendation:

Hubert D. Bradley, Fremont AFS, from Director, Airway Facilities Service, AAF-1/Director, Western-Pacific Region, AWP-1/Acting Chief, AWP-400.

Letters of Appreciation:

Darrell Christoph, Fremont AFS, from Manager, Oakland AFS.

Phyllis Edmison, Fremont AFS, from Air Traffic, Oakland Center.

Carlyce Coit, Fremont AFS, from Air Traffic, Oakland Center.

Rex Callison and Robert Kerr of the Field Maintenance Party, AWP-460, for their efforts on the Mt. Laguna radar site project.

Career Service Emblems:

25 years:

Virgilio Torres, Chief, Environmental Support Unit, AFS Fremont.

Harry Yee, Radar Electronics Technician, AFS Fremont.

15 years:

Alfonso Meza, CDC/DARC Systems Performance Specialist, AFS Fremont.

Jobs Open In Montreal

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is looking for a few good men and/or women for two-year job assignments in the Montreal area. One job is Chief of the Registry and Distribution Section with a gross salary of \$30,518 and a tax-free net of \$21,000 to \$23,104. There are also openings for a personnel officer, a language officer-translator (French), and a language officer-translator (Russian). The salary for these positions is \$24,233 with a tax-free net of \$18,027 to \$19,195. Applications for the first job are due in Washington headquarters, API-19, by Dec. 21 and for the others by Jan. 9, 1982. Additional information about salaries, duties, qualifications, applications and benefits is available at personnel offices.

Records Made Easy

Pilots attempting to establish new records on Dec. 17, the 78th anniversary of powered flight, will receive special treatment from the National Aeronautic Association, which is the keeper of records, and the U.S. representative of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. In addition to beefing up the Contest and Record Board staff to expedite administrative procedures, NAA will reduce the fee schedule for attempts flown on the anniversary day. Records, which might be established, include time-to-climb records, speed-over measured distances for various weight category aircraft and so on. Pilots interested in establishing records may call 202/347-2808 for a Record Attempt Kit.

Lancaster FSS News

Welcome aboard to Steve Parkin, who transferred from Montague FSS, and to Developmental Mark Clair from Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center. We're glad to have both of you. A belated farewell to Dennis Mesa who has left us for Oakland Tower. Congratulations to Robert Spidell for his selection for Facility Representative (FACREP) of the Year by National Association of Air Traffic Specialists (NAATS).

Wanna Tie One On?

FAA is exploring employee interest in purchasing neckties featuring an FAA motif in the design. Cost would run between \$6-\$8. Employees interested in owning such a tie should drop a note to Intercom, APA-300. If there is sufficient interest, arrangements will be made with a manufacturer.

The Jefford Story Told In Detail

The Alaskan Region's former chief pilot, Jack Jefford, had a knack for telling stories. This and his sense of humor are both reflected in the recently published book, "Winging It," which was taken from Jefford tapes and edited by Alaskan Region public affairs officer Cliff Cernick. The end product is a book that, for a pilot at least, is very hard to put down. Jefford played a leading role in aviation history in Alaska from 1940 until he retired in 1972. "Winging It," published by Rand McNally, is a record of a fascinating career, containing the best of the Jefford stories.