

81-51  
Dec. 18, 1981

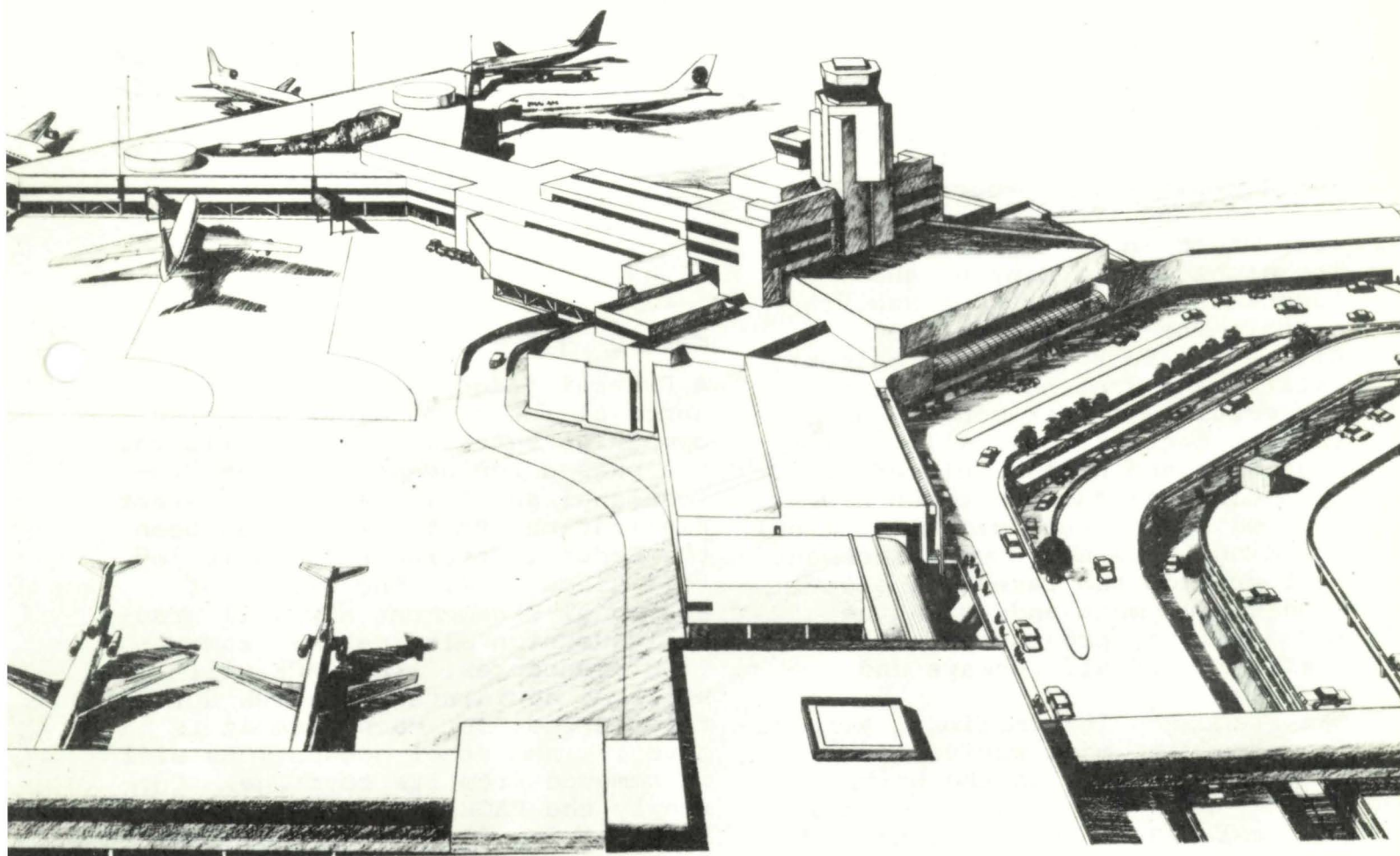
Public Affairs Office  
AWP-5

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



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

# Western-Pacific Intercom



New Look For  
San Francisco  
International  
Airport

## Cover Story

San Francisco International Airport has embarked on an extensive modernization program for the 25-year-old Central Terminal to house a new International Terminal. Included in the modernization plan is:

- A new Airport Traffic Control Tower.
  - A new boarding area to accommodate additional aircraft.
  - Upgraded terminal building to house Federal Inspection Services operations now located in the South Terminal.
  - New connectors to the existing North and South Terminals.
- Total cost of the project is \$67 million, and it is scheduled for completion in the Fall of 1983.

The architect is Gensler and Associates/Architects of San Francisco. The contractors are Williams & Burrows, Inc., Belmont, Calif.; and Continental Heller Corporation of Sacramento, Calif. The new control tower will be 156 feet high and will be placed directly behind the shorter tower now located at the rear of the terminal building. The new tower placement will provide the latest in electronic equipment and, with the added height, provide excellent visibility of all runways and taxiways.

San Francisco International Airport is one of the most active international gateways in the United States, with some 1,000,000 international travelers moving through customs yearly at current levels. The International Terminal is planned to ease the transition for travelers into unfamiliar surroundings, simplify customs procedures and provide a stimulating introduction to the San Francisco Bay Area. Throughout the facility, warm, Western-oriented colors, generous amounts of natural light and interior landscaping will give

## Space Shuttle Flag Given to Edwards RAPCON

A special award was presented to the personnel of Edwards RAPCON during their annual RAPCON Christmas party held on December 5 at Mr. B's, Lake Los Angeles. The award included a plaque and a flag which had been flown aboard STS-1. The plaque read, "Presented to the Federal Aviation Administration - Edwards RAPCON. This flag was flown aboard Space Shuttle "COLUMBIA" (STS-1) April 12-14, 1981. It is presented to you in recognition of the significant contribution you made to the success of the mission." The award was signed by Shuttle pilots John Young and Robert Crippen.

## PACE Phasing Out

A Federal judge has given final approval for a job discrimination complaint settlement that calls for the phased replacement of the Professional and Administrative Career Examination (PACE), which has been the Federal Government's basic job test since 1974. The Office of Personnel Management now will gradually develop alternative examination procedures. The PACE will still be administered by OPM during this period, but each time it is given, a number of occupations will be removed from its coverage. Currently the PACE determines entry-level hiring for 118 Federal professions.

---

the terminal a human scale and a strong association with the Bay Area environment.

Cover sketch: Courtesy of the San Francisco Airports Commission.



### FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR...

The Holiday Season is upon us. It's that time when once again our thoughts turn to hearth and home and to those who are near and dear to us.

We think of the jolly, plump man in the red velvet suit. We think of peace and good will towards man. We think of our families and friends. We think of good health and good cheer. And our thoughts turn to our own children and children everywhere -- and we think of what lies in the future. Our FAA family is no exception. We at the FAA can be proud of our accomplishments in the past and look forward to a challenging future filled with increasingly complex technology and renewed dedication as we strive, working

together as a team, to even further improve the aviation safety record for our fellow Americans.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your individual contributions this past year in helping to make the Western-Pacific Region a region of which we all can be proud.

My family and I sincerely wish you and your loved ones a very joyous Holiday Season and a most prosperous and rewarding New Year. I have enjoyed working with you in 1981 and look forward to even greater achievements in 1982.

*H.C. McClure*

## Safety Board Reports ATC System Safe

Following an eight-week investigation of the nation's air traffic control system, a team of National Transportation Safety Board special investigators concluded that the system was operated safely in the two months following the Aug. 3 controllers' strike. Furthermore, the Board said, FAA is capable of operating a reduced ATC system safely during the reconstruction of the system, provided certain important actions are taken, such as continued use of flow control. After formally interviewing over 200 working controllers and supervisors and visiting 45 air traffic facilities, the investigators found that there was no basis for the allegations that the government is using unqualified or medically unfit controllers. The Board also reported that "no basic ATC procedures were changed or compromised in order to keep the ATC system in operation." In addition, the team of 16 investigators noted that FAA's pre-strike planning was instrumental in enabling the system to operate safely at 75 to 80 percent of the pre-strike level with a reduced work force. Also reported were statistics indicating that FAA operational errors decreased from 1.83 per day in August and September 1980 to 0.77 per day for the same period in 1981. And, the

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.

## New ATC Register Mounting

The Special Examining Unit Staff at the FAA Aeronautical Center has processed more than half of the estimated 50,000 tests given to controller candidates during the open register period this fall. The staff expects to process them all by late December. Of the first 27,000 tests graded, close to 14,000, or about 50 percent, of the candidates had passing scores. The names of those with passing scores will now be put on a register from which future controllers will be hired. The test currently being scored is the new one developed by FAA and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to improve the selection process and, thus, reduce the number of in-training failures. Since some candidates on the new register already have been referred to the regions, a number of potential controllers who have passed the new test will be in Academy classes by January.

investigative team said, there was no indication that working controllers had failed to report operational errors or deviations, although the number of reports they filed was significantly below historic levels for the August-September period. The investigators also surveyed various aviation organizations, companies and user groups and found they "were almost unanimous in agreeing that the system, putting aside delays and the reduction of flights, was working well, if not better, than before the strike." Moreover, the report continued, "most respondents stated that the system was safer now than during the pre-strike period."

---

## Why The Reagan Decision

Most FAAers no doubt saw the news reports concerning the President's decision to permit the fired air traffic controllers to apply for other government jobs outside of FAA. But Intercom thought you might be interested in Secretary Lewis' explanation of the rationale behind the decision, so here it is: "The President has taken action because he believes the controllers should have a fair and equal opportunity to compete for any Federal job where they can meet the suitability standards and have the qualifications. He has excluded their eligibility for positions within the FAA for two reasons. First, those who went on strike showed a disregard for the FAA mission--to assure the safety of the airways--and their responsibility to the public in carrying out that mission. Second, our primary obligation is to have a safe and efficient system, and we can't do that when there is tension and friction between those who went on strike and those who stayed on the job. As I have said many times, the issue at stake in PATCO's dis-

pute with the government was a fundamental principle of law, not labor management relations... That point has now been well established. Now is the time for compassion to those who choose to pursue careers with the Federal Government. But we also owe to those who stayed on the job, despite severe pressures and considerable harassment, an obligation to respect their interests and concerns... They do not want their former co-workers to return. The system is operating safely and efficiently. Relationships between controllers and pilots have never been better. There are fewer operational errors than before the strike. The morale at this point is high, and we believe that allowing the controllers who chose to strike to return to the FAA would be damaging to the safety and efficiency of our air traffic control system. We believe, however, that those dismissed from their positions as controllers should be free to seek other Federal employment if they wish. The action by the President today gives them that option."

---

## Caution Advised

The Office of Civil Aviation Security warns all employees that the number of daytime thefts always increases with the approach of the holiday season. At this time of the year, particularly, caution is advised. At least:

- Keep your purse or wallet with you or locked up at all times. Do not leave it unattended even for a short time;
- Require all unknown persons who appear in your office to identify themselves; and
- If you observe any suspicious persons or activities in your building, notify the local guard office immediately and then notify the nearest FAA security office.

---

## Civilair Christmas Toys For Tots

This is just a reminder that the Hawthorne Disaster Wing's yearly pilgrimage to disadvantaged children in the U.S. and Mexico is now in full force. Your contributions of toys are much appreciated. Weekly missions are being made to distribute the toys, and more toys are needed. Toys which are new or in good working order may be placed in barrels located in the lobby of the Regional Headquarters building, at LAX Hangar Complex, and at the Long Beach Aircraft Certification Office. Donations will be accepted until January 1, 1982. Thanks for helping these children have a Merry Christmas.

## Donate Used Greeting Cards To Worthy Cause

This year, instead of throwing out your used Christmas Cards--or any kind of Greeting Cards--please send them to: Los Angeles Voluntary Action Center, 621 S. Virgil Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90005. Just mark the box "used greeting cards" and send via third class mail. Children use these "throwaways" all year long in their arts and crafts projects. They can also use bits of ribbons and other wrappings. Anything you can send them will be greatly appreciated.

## OSEM's Koenke Named Tech Center Director

Edmund J. Koenke, deputy director of the Office of Systems Engineering Management in Washington, has been named the eighth director of the FAA Technical Center in Atlantic City. An aeronautical engineer and career government executive, Koenke joined the agency in 1973 as an electronics engineer in Washington. Before coming to the FAA, he served as a top manager with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and as an aerospace engineer with Sperry Univac. A Ph.D graduate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Koenke has earned a number of awards during his career, including NASA's Apollo Achievement Award, an MIT creative engineering prize and the Secretary of Transportation's Award for Meritorious Achievement.

## Health Benefits Info.

The latest news release from Office of Personnel Management (OPM) states that the general 1981 open season for health benefits will not take place beginning Dec. 7, 1981, as had been reported, and is postponed until an unspecified later date. However, a limited open season will be held from Dec. 7 through Dec. 31, 1981, during which only elections made by employees who were not enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program on Dec. 4, 1981 may enroll. This limited open season does not allow changes from one plan to another nor from one option to another option, nor from a self only to self and family coverage. Employees, of course, may always make changes in accordance with the opportunities to change (i.e., marriage, change in family status) as listed on the reverse side of page 2 of SF-2809, the health benefits registration form, or in SF-2809A. Employees also may change from self and family to self only at any time. The effective date of an election to enroll by an unenrolled employee during this limited open season will be the first day of the pay period which begins on or after Jan. 1, 1982, and which follows a pay period during any part of which the employee is in pay status. Unenrolled employees who wish to enroll during this period must submit the registration form SF-2809 in time to reach AWP-14E no later than Dec. 31, 1981.

## Employee Death

We are saddened to report that Frederick Napier suffered a heart attack and passed away on Nov. 26. Fred had been an Environmental Systems Technician at the Santa Rosa Airway Facilities Sector Field Office since 1971. He will be missed by his friends and fellow employees. We send our sincere condolences to Fred's family.

## Civil Rights Committee Needs You

The Western-Pacific Region's Civil Rights Committee is currently seeking new members. By becoming an active member, you can gain valuable experience in working with others to identify equal employment problems in the region and to develop workable solutions and strategies. You will have opportunities for leadership roles in conducting special projects and programs sponsored by the committee. If you work in the Regional Office or commuting area and would like to apply for membership, simply forward your name through your supervisor to the Civil Rights Staff, AWP-9. Order WE 1110.7B provides more information about the committee.

## Phocus on Phoenix AFS

We have a lot of catching up to do since you haven't heard from us for some time. We are very proud that so many of our people have received various awards and/or recognition. We are also proud that Robert Juarez Electronics Technician, Phoenix AF Sector Field Office, was selected as Hispanic Employment Program Manager of the Year in the Phoenix Federal Executive Association area. Congratulations, Bob! Two of our employees have received their permanent promotions: Robert Benge, Environmental Systems Technician - WG-11, and Philip Crea, Electronics Technician, GS-11. Nicholas Xidis, Chief of Phoenix AF Sector Field Office, has been promoted and transferred to FAA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. We will miss you, Nick--our loss is Washington's gain!

## Where Hope Meets Help

In the short span of 12 years, the Valley Orthopaedic Clinic in Calexico, Calif., 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. The Clinic Success Story Book contains many stories that make the sweat and struggle worthwhile:

*Little Angelica suffered from epileptic seizures. People of her village had never heard of the strange ailment. The village healing revival minister prescribed a "treatment" that would release the "evil spirit." She was thrown down a well. For months afterward she lay in the corner of her hut paralyzed. Angelica was brought to the Clinic, where she was helped. Her parents were then taught by the Clinic to understand the nature of her illness and how to cope with it without panic. Today Angelica leads a relatively normal life.*

Tax-deductible contributions to the Clinic will be accepted from each Staff and Division Office by Personnel Management Division, AWP-10, through Jan. 8, 1982. See Notice WP N 0001.15 for details.



Again, in a hut in a small Mexican village, a baby slept in a corner cardboard box. The box caught fire. The heat was so intense that rescue of the baby was impossible. By some miracle, when the fire was out, the baby was still alive but horribly burned. Today that child leads a normal life. But it took years of treatment, much money, and great medical skill.

---

## The News In Brief

The Supreme Court has refused to review the malpractice case of a former Atlanta psychiatrist who certified more than 150 air traffic controllers as totally disabled due to job-related psychological problems in the mid-1970s. The high court action clears the way for a Federal District Court trial of a law suit brought against the psychiatrist, Dr. Merton Berger, by the insurance company that had underwritten disability policies on many of the disqualified controllers. Dr. Berger contended that he could not be sued for malpractice because he was serving as an FAA consultant and the controllers were not his patients. A Federal District judge agreed with him, but this decision was reversed by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, which held that Dr. Berger was "under a duty to exer-

cise reasonable care in performing medical services..." ● The Halon Fire Protection System, which is being installed at all Air Route Traffic Control Centers (ARTCCs), including Anchorage, Honolulu and San Juan, has now been tested at 13 en route centers throughout the country. Currently, the fire protection system is being installed or checked out in five centers. Installation is scheduled to begin at Oakland this month and at Los Angeles next month. ● FAA Regional Office employees can no longer be reached on the AUTOVON military telephone network. Due to its expense, this service has been drastically reduced throughout the agency as part of a nationwide cut-back in leased communications services. In all 65 AUTOVON lines used by the agency have been reduced by approximately 50 percent.

---

## Reno Happenings

November 14th marked the formal dedication of the new passenger terminal at Reno/Cannon International Airport. The new 375,000 square foot facility is a welcome asset over the old 70,000 square foot terminal. Many dignitaries were present to observe the event including: Senator Howard Cannon; Nevada Governor Robert List; Reno and Sparks Mayors/Council members; Astronauts Lovell, Stafford and Lewis; along with numerous airline and general aviation representatives. To conclude the festivities, the Airport Authority hosted a Black Tie Dinner-Dance at the MGM Grand for an estimated 650 persons. Attending the first-class gala event were Reno Tower supervisors and wives, plus the group in the above photo: From left--(standing behind their spouses) Fred R. Kelly, Chief, Reno FSS; "Edge" Ritter, Chief Reno GADO; Dean DeShazo, Sector Manager, Reno AFS; and Joe Ganser, Meteorologist-In-Charge/Area Manager, National Weather Service.



# Kudos For Regional Controllers



**Western Airlines**

November 30, 1981

Sacramento Tower  
5620 Alan Boyd Drive  
Sacramento, California 95837

Attention: Mr. Vic Katz, Chief

Dear Mr. Katz:

These past three and one-half months have seen a new spirit of cooperation develop between the flight crews and facility personnel. It's been a very difficult period for all concerned, especially those of you who have been putting in the long hours, but those extra efforts have not gone unnoticed and unappreciated.

Would you please pass on to your people the heartfelt thanks of all Western Airlines employees, particularly the pilots, for the superb manner in which they have kept "the system" operational. And, please tell them that we want to make this spirit of cooperation a continuing thing.

Our very best to you as we approach the busy holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seth M. Oberg".

Seth M. Oberg  
Director-Flight

:vi

## And...From Bakersfield

Don Miller, Chief, Bakersfield Tower, recently received a very complimentary letter from the Montgomery Drilling Co. in Bakersfield. We think it is worthy of being shared with all FAAers: "We realize that since the majority of PATCO controllers went on strike. . .you and your staff have been forced to work long hard days. In some cases despite harassment and ridicule. Yet through all of this an air of 'professionalism'

and courtesy has been maintained that has been seen in very few people for quite some time. The staff here at Montgomery Drilling Flight Operations would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your organization for a job extremely well done and to express our support. We know some of you personally and look forward to meeting the rest of you soon." Hats off to all Regional controllers for a job well done!

## Flight Data Specialists Coming on Line

As of Dec. 3, the agency had hired 1,286 flight data specialists to help ease the workload of non-striking air traffic controllers. The flight data specialists, 800 of whom so far are furloughed airline pilots, handle flight data strips and perform other support jobs to free qualified controllers for the job of handling air traffic. In addition to the furloughed pilots, 159 of the flight data specialists are former military controllers and 327 in one way or another have had two years of experience with the air traffic control system. The hiring began on Oct. 25, and the agency hopes to hire a total of 1,500 of the specialists by the end of the year.

## University Courses Offered

The University of La Verne will be conducting off-campus graduate business programs at several locations throughout Southern California, including the Los Angeles Flight Service Station at 5885 W. Imperial Highway. Their Winter Term 1982 schedule includes the following courses being held at the FSS: Communications in Organizations - Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 6, from 5 to 10 p.m.; Personnel Administration - Mondays, beginning Jan. 4, from 5 to 10 p.m.; Institutional Ethics and Corporate Responsibility - Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 12, 5 to 10 p.m. Students must pay their own expenses and will not be reimbursed by the agency. Further information is available from Wayne Lynch, Chief, Training Branch, 536-6220, or Jim Howland, Los Angeles FSS, 642-3961.

## Logistics Division

Congratulations to Marge Booth, Procurement Branch, on her selection and promotion to Procurement Agent in the same branch. Welcome aboard to Janell Gallagher, Realty Specialist, Real Estate and Utilities Branch. Janell had left the branch for a promotion in the Alaskan Regional Logistics Division and has returned. Also, welcome aboard to Amy Chalekian, our new temporary File Clerk in the Mail/Distribution Section, Services Branch. Howard Krattenmaker, General Supply Specialist, Materiel Management Branch, will be retiring on Dec. 25. We wish him a happy and healthy life of leisure. Betty Core, Procurement Agent, Procurement Branch, is leaving us for the Navy Ordnance Center in Corona, Calif. Good luck in your new position, Betty.

## Accounting Division Telephone Changes

Effective Dec. 7, the new telephone numbers for the Voucher Examination Section, AWP-26A, will be FTS 966-6145/6146/6147. All other extensions for the Voucher Examiners have been disconnected. If you have any questions regarding payments, use the numbers shown above.



**HOLIDAY  
GREETINGS**