

82-39
Sept. 24, 1982

Public Affairs Office
AWP-4P

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



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western-Pacific **Intercom**



**Las Vegas
FSDO**

Changes in Retirement

The Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1982, signed by President Reagan on Sept. 8, contains some important changes in the Civil Service Retirement Program, including new limitations on payment of cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). Also affected are the rules governing voluntary and involuntary early retirement and the method for crediting military service toward Civil Service retirement. A brief summary of the major points follows:

- Cost-of-living adjustments for annuitants will be paid every 13 months for the next three years, instead of on March 1 of each year. They will go into effect on April 1, 1983, May 1, 1984, and June 1, 1985. The effective date will revert to March 1 the following year.
- Annuitants under the age of 62 will receive a reduced COLA (unless they are disabled or survivors) for the next three years. The bill says those under 62 on March 1 of each year will receive one half the "assumed" increase defined by Congress, plus the full amount of the difference between the assumed increase and the actual increase. For example, the assumed increase for 1983, established in the Act, is 6.6 percent, so annuitants under age 62 will get 3.3 percent to start. If the actual COLA increase were 9.5 percent, they also would receive the full amount of the difference between 9.5 and 6.6 percent, or 2.9 percent. That would give them a total COLA of 6.2 percent.
- Effective Oct. 1, voluntary early retirement will be allowed only if a major reorganization, RIF or transfer of functions will result in a significant number of employees being separated or immediately reduced in pay. In the case of involuntary separa-

tions (other than for misconduct), early retirement is predicated on the employee not having another job offer in the same agency and commuting area. Also, an employee is not eligible for early retirement if he or she has declined an offer of a position for which he or she is qualified and which is not more than two grades below the current position.

- "Catch 62," the provision regarding retirement credit for military service after 1956, has been revised. Under current law, military service may be credited toward a Civil Service annuity, but the annuity is recomputed at age 62 to exclude credit for any post-1956 duty if the individual is eligible for Social Security benefits. The new law requires that employees hired on or after Oct. 1 must make a cash contribution to the retirement fund (based on a percentage of the individual's post-1956 military pay) in order to receive credit for the military service for future Civil Service retirement. Employees hired before Oct. 1 have the option of continuing under the existing law and having their annuities recomputed at age 62 or contributing to the retirement fund and receiving full credit for the post-1956 military period.

Other changes in the new law tighten the financial tests of return to earnings capacity for disability retirees, limit future annuities in most cases to no more than the top step of a GS-15 and alter the rules and interest rates on deposits and redeposits to the retirement fund. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is developing guidance material on all affected areas and it will be distributed to FAA personnel offices as soon as possible.



COVER STORY...

The Las Vegas Flight Standards District Office is located in Las Vegas, Nevada, and is responsible for air carrier activities in the entire State of Nevada; Inyo, Alpine, Sierra, Plumas and Lassen Counties in California; and that portion of Nevada Placer and El Dorado Counties in California that lie east of the Sierra Nevada Divide. Its responsibility for general aviation activities includes Inyo County in California; Nye, Esmeralda, Clark and Lincoln Counties in Nevada.

Cover photo: Homer Wormdahl, Manager of Las Vegas FSDO. Cover photo by Barbara Abels.

Above photo: Las Vegas FSDO personnel (from left) -- James Shields, Principal Maintenance Inspector; Dave Tilton, Accident Prevention Specialist; Charles Miller, Principal Avionics Inspector; Wanda Chappell, Aviation Clerk; Paul Muskat, Principal Operations Inspector; Evelyn LaBar, Aviation Safety Assistant; Homer Wormdahl, Manager; Lawrence Fahey (recently retired); and Thomas Tate, Principal Operations Inspector. Not shown are: Gary Moore, Operations Inspector, and Earl Morgan, Maintenance Inspector.



Joe Coords (left) and George Geringer (center) receive their career service emblems from San Diego FSS Manager E. Stanicek. Chris Herrmann (not pictured) and Joe Coords were awarded three-year emblems, and Area supervisor George Geringer received his 30-year emblem.

SAN DIEGO FSS NEWS

So long to specialists Mert Boutwell, Kent Dees, Gary Prock, Chris Herrmann and secretary Lori Williams. Mert recently retired after more than 30 years of service; Kent, George and Chris are leaving for the terminal option; and Lori received a promotion to the San Diego GADO office. Welcome to Edale Clark, Ron Kessock, Bill Westin and Joel Gregg. Joe Coords and Bob Perry are going through qualification training in San Diego; Billy Bryant is at the Academy cracking the books in the FSS school. All are looking forward to Norine Kusumoto's arrival to San Diego FSS from Santa Barbara FSS in October. Sharon Degen recently joined the facility staff as Administrative Services Clerk. Welcome to the San Diego FSS family, Sharon. Jim Mendenhall and Mary Szalinski were recently married. Much happiness to them both.

CAREER MILESTONE FOR HERMAN BLISS

Regional Airports Division Manager Herman Bliss recently received his career service emblem for 30 years of Federal service. Presentation was made at a regional staff meeting by Acting Deputy Director Dick Devereaux. At right: Herman Bliss (left) is congratulated by Dick Devereaux.



LAX AFS SUPPORTS
U.S. AIR FORCE ROTC
SUMMER CAMP



The Los Angeles Airway Facilities Sector recently provided logistics and airplane parking support for the U.S. Air Force ROTC Summer Camp at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. The ROTC cadets, representing nationwide colleges, were flown into LAX AFS by California National Guard C-130 transport planes. Louise Stiles, LAX AFS Hangar Manager, coordinated support with the U.S. Air Force representative, Maj. Gray. This has become an annual event at LAX AFS.

Top photo: From left--Louise Stiles, Major Gray and Assistant, and Evelyn Mosquera, former LAX AFS Hangar Assistant, shown beside the parked C-130 transport airplane.

Left: ROTC cadets deplaning from the C-130.

Right: Lots of activity at LAX Hangar as the ROTC cadets assemble their baggage for their onward trip to Vandenberg Air Force Base. Photos by Yukio "Mo" Mochizuki.

DOT Honors 36 FAAers at Awards Ceremony

FAA's Associate Administrator for Aviation Standards, Walter S. Luffsey, heads a list of more than 35 FAAers honored at the DOT's annual awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 14. Luffsey is the only DOT employee this year to receive the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement. He was cited "for his exceptional success in managing and developing personnel, and his outstanding organizational accomplishments in aviation safety." Nine FAA people were among those receiving the Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement. They are: Raymond Van Vuren, Director of the Air Traffic Service; Craig Beard, Director of the Airworthiness Office; William Allen, Technical Assistant to the Associate Administrator for Engineering and Development; Donald Myers, A.F. technician at the Los Angeles ARTCC; Allen Busch, FAA Technical Center branch manager; Donald Schneider, A.F. Division Manager in the Central Region; Frank J. Monaco, FAA Representative, Miami International Field Office; Lyndel Long, Austin (Tex) A.F. Sector Manager; and Billy G. Bailey, Material Management Division Manager, Logistics Service. The award for Valor went to Kenneth A. Wood, a Quality Assurance Specialist from Ft. Lauderdale, "for exceptional courage in the face of great personal danger in aiding a woman being attacked by an armed man." Receiving the Award for Cost Avoidance, Reduction and Efficiency (CARE) were seven headquarter's employees who helped to cut leased telecommunications costs: Carol Ashby, Glendon Brammer, Jerome Cohen, Wallace Cook, Jr., Loren Fuhrman, Marshall Munro and John C. Owen. Another group of four headquarter's employees were cited for reducing the publication and distribution costs of the summary of airworthiness directives: William

King, John McGrath, Jere Styer and Linda Walker. Also receiving a CARE Award was Frank Babiak, Jr., A.F. Sector Manager in Anchorage, for his contribution to reducing fuel and other costs. The Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Equal Opportunity went to FAAers John Dempsey, Manager of the Memphis Airport District Office, and Earnest Joyce, Jr., an Airspace Specialist in the Southern Region's Air Traffic Division. The Lawrence R. Schneider Award, which honors a former NHTSA Chief Counsel, went to FAA headquarters attorney James Whitlow for his role in shaping the agency's position on critical labor issues. Ten FAAers received the Secretary's Award for Excellence which recognizes employees below GS-10 and WG-9 for outstanding performance. Four are from Washington headquarters: Barbara Foor, Elizabeth Bugay, Joan Carmel, and M. Denise Cashmere. The others are J'Nell Johnson, Southwest Region; Linda Bryles, Aeronautical Center; Louise Bostwick, Southern Region; Kim Marie Bento, New England Region; Patricia Hickman, Central Region; and María Marks, Technical Center.

Time to Honor Hispanics

September is a time for remembering the Hispanic contributions to the building of America. That was the intent of Congress in passing a joint resolution in 1968 requesting that a period in September be set aside by Presidential proclamation to focus public attention on the proud history of Hispanic Americans, who were the first "Westerners" to reach our shores. This year, National Hispanic Heritage Week is Sept. 12-18 and Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis has urged all DOT employees to use the opportunity "to share more fully in the Hispanic heritage and to increase our awareness of the needs and concerns of the Hispanic Americans among us."

GS-9 HIREES COMPLETE LAX TRACON PROGRAM

Los Angeles Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) is understandably proud of its newly-hired GS-9 controllers. In the top photo we have Jim Yennie, seated at the Parallel Monitor position in LAX TRACON. In August 1981, Jim was one of the military controllers assigned to the TRACON to assist in the recovery from the controller strike. He has since been discharged from the U.S. Navy, hired by the FAA, and is fully certified on all operational positions in the TRACON. Jim has the honor of being the first GS-9 hiree, in recent history, to complete the TRACON program.



In the bottom photo, we have Shawn Moore, seated at the Departure Radar position in LAX TRACON. Shawn was one of the first GS-9s hired following the strike and has the distinction of being the second to complete the TRACON program.



Correcting FAA World Mailing Addresses

The home address used by the agency to mail FAA World is the same one used for mailing W-2 income tax forms every December. The list normally is canvassed each November but employees should submit corrections when they have a permanent change of station or simply move to a new home in the same community. This will keep FAA World coming on time and also assure that there will be no delay in receiving W-2 forms.

Employees should ask their time and attendance clerk for FAA Form 2730-18, "Payroll Address Information," and complete items 1 and 2 only. (Items 3 and 4 are for changing the mailing of paychecks, which may go to a different address such as a financial institution.) The T&A clerk will forward the form to the payrolling office for processing into the payroll system.

The News in Brief

● The four percent pay raise for Federal civilian workers recommended to Congress by President Reagan on Aug. 26 is expected to become effective on the first day of the first pay period on or after Oct. 1. No legislative action is necessary for the pay hike to take effect on this date. Although either house of Congress has the authority to veto the proposal by Sept. 30, no veto is expected. If the raise becomes effective as expected, it will be reflected in pay checks received on or about Oct. 26.

● Two FAAers were part of the U.S. investigation team that was hurriedly dispatched to Spain at the request of the Spanish government following the recent Spantax Airlines DC-10 accident in Malaga. Joining the team were Paul Madden of the Accident Investigations Division, Office of Aviation Safety, and Richard Hill, Fire Safety Branch, Aviation Safety Development Division at the Tech Center. Also included on the U.S. team were three National Transportation Safety Board investigators, two technicians from McDonnell/Douglas, the aircraft manufacturer, and a representative from General Electric, the engine manufacturer.

● The agency has picked another automated flight service station site. This one is at the Beauregard Parish Airport in De Ridder, La. It will service the entire state of Louisiana in the future system. The FAA decision to locate at De Ridder was based on an agreement with the Beauregard Parish Airport Commission, which will build a 10,000-square-foot building to house the automated facility and lease it to the government at \$1 a year for 20 years. Commissioning is scheduled for the latter half of 1985.

LONG BEACH FSDO NOTES

Three new employees were recently welcomed by the Long Beach Flight Standards District Office: Betty Herron, new Aviation Clerk (typing) from the Central Region Word Processing Section; Marvin Curl, Principal Aviation Safety Inspector (Airworthiness), from the Van Nuys General Aviation District Office; and Joseph Rando, Aviation Safety Inspector (Avionics), who transferred from the LAX Flight Inspection Field Office. Welcome to all!

HAWTHORNE TOWER HIGHLIGHTS

Hawthorne Tower welcomes its new Facility Manager, Sherry Becker from Oxnard Tower. Also, welcome aboard to Douglas Benesch from Los Angeles Tower. Congratulations to William "Wild Bill" Brown on his facility rating. The tower recently survived the "attack of the killer ants" -- at last report there were no casualties (except for the ants!)Hawthorne Tower's Lightning-Fast Softball Team wishes to challenge all Los Angeles Basin facilities to a game. Contact the tower if you are interested.

CIVILAIR NEWS

Volunteers are needed for these upcoming Civilair events:

SEE's Candy Sales -- Children's Christmas Party -- Adult Christmas Party -- please contact your Civilair Representative.

● Oct. 2 & 3 are Fun Days at Knotts Berry Farm. Discount Certificates are available at Civilair Desk. It will allow admission to the park for only \$7.50. Children admitted free.

● Jack LaLanne's Club Special to FAA employees -- 2 for 1 special, \$149 for two-year membership if you act now. It will run through October 1982. Details at Civilair Desk.

No Furlough This Year

Now that it's definite there will be no FAA furloughs in fiscal year 1982, ending Sept. 30, the notices of proposed furlough, issued to employees earlier this year, are cancelled. In order to keep costs down, employees will not receive individual decision letters advising

that the furlough has been cancelled. Instead, the Administrator's telegraphic message to all regions, field facilities and Washington headquarters, issued Sept. 10, and this article will serve as official notification.

L
A
X

T
R
A
C
O
N

A
W
A
R
D
S



Left photo: Jon "Ed" Flippen (right), Team Supervisor at Los Angeles TRACON, accepts a 15-year Pin from Jim Holweger, Manager of the Los Angeles TRACON. Ed has served as controller, data systems specialist and team supervisor at various facilities throughout the Western-Pacific Region including Brackett Field, Ontario TRACON, Torrance Tower and LAX TRACON.

Right photo: Jim Strother (left) accepts a diamond-studded tie tack and letter of appreciation from Jim Holweger. Jim has served at LAX TRACON for over 22 years as controller, team supervisor, and in his current position as Assistant Chief....Assistant Chief, that is, until a year ago when Jim was called upon to fill part of a void created by the controller strike. Jim answered the call by recertifying on all TRACON positions of operation and is again doing that which he did so well in the past, "moving airplanes". This is quite an accomplishment for an individual who has been away from the line for 12 years. In addition to his multi-talents, Jim has used no sick leave for the past seven years. Jim is an excellent example of the caliber of people we have in our FAA family here in the Western-Pacific Region.

BAY TRACON HAPPENINGS

In addition to carrying a tremendous workload this past year, the Bay TRACON Training staff has found the time recently to host a number of visitors to the facility. Included have been U.S. Coast Guard pilots, airline pilots, a Fear of Flying group, and a French Air Traffic Control Procedures Specialist. Bay TRACON Training staff members are: Harold Heinrichs, Ron Willis, Janet Bullock and Don Mullin. Gene Klein, Jay Knauer and Lloyd Payne are Contract Instructors.

RETIREE HOSPITALIZED

FAA Retiree Richard Krengel, former Regional Accident Prevention Coordinator, has been hospitalized and is recovering from heart surgery. We know Dick would love to hear from his many FAA friends and former co-workers. Address those cheery "get-well-extra-quick messages to: R. Krengel, Rt. 1 - Box 753M, Cantonment, FL 32533, telephone 904/968-6765. INTERCOM joins with the rest of the Western-Pacific Region family in wishing Dick a very speedy recovery.

R.O. GOES HAWAIIAN ON FRIDAYS

Visitors to the Regional Headquarters on Fridays might become confused and think they've arrived at the Islands -- but it "ain't necessarily so!". In honor of our FAA family to the west, Western-Pacific Region employees in the Regional Office building have designated Fridays as "Hawaiian Day" and may choose to come to work dressed in suitable Hawaiian attire.

More Towers Reopen

The Central Region has announced the reopening of three airport control towers that were closed in August 1981. They are in Salina, Kan.; Joplin, Mo.; and Grand Island, Neb. All three are scheduled to resume operations on Dec. 13, 1982. They will be open eight hours a day, Monday through Friday, with the exact hours of operation to be determined locally.

Former Public Affairs Boss Becomes Honest Writer

A former FAA Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs and regular Intercom contributor, Jerome Doolittle, now has a novel in the stores. Called "The Bombing Officer," the book is based on Doolittle's experiences as a USIS officer attached to the American embassy in Vientiane, Laos, in the late 1960s and early 1970s. One reviewer already has compared the book to "The Quiet American" for its realistic view of the long conflict in Indochina. During his two years at FAA (January 1979 to January 1981), Doolittle contributed regular articles to Intercom on the proper use of the English language ("English Revisited"). FAA readers of "The Bombing Officer" might want to watch for any errors of grammar or syntax and contact Doolittle in care of his publisher, E.P. Dutton of New York City, just to let him know they were paying attention.

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-4P, extension 6431, by 11 a.m., Thursday for publication in the following week's issue.