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LAX
TRACON
FIRST



Cover Story

Fran Vandiver, a former U.S. Navy Controller, has become the first woman to reach certification in the 10-year history of Los Angeles TRACON. She achieved Full Professional Level status after 12 months of training.

During her training at Los Angeles, her husband Brad was at sea with the U.S. Navy, so Fran had the added responsibility of caring for Amy, their new baby girl.

Before coming to the FAA, Fran spent eight years in the Navy, reaching the rank of Petty Officer First Class while serving at locations such as Roosevelt Field, NAS Bermuda, NAS Patuxent and NAS Alameda.

Fran first came to Los Angeles TRACON as part of the Navy's support to the FAA during the initial controller strike recovery efforts in the summer of 1981. She quickly certified on the TRACON Departure Sectors and performed in a superior manner for eight months before returning to her U.S. Navy duties at NAS Alameda.

But the challenge of Los Angeles TRACON's "Standard of Excellence" program had to be met, so Fran left the U.S. Navy for the FAA.

Fran found there was a great deal of support and encouragement given her during her training at Los Angeles. She says "I am happy with my decision and encourage other women to think seriously about Los Angeles. It is a great facility and everyone is pulling together to make it even better".

A native of Plainville, Kansas, Fran holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry Riddle University.

Cover photo: Fran Vandiver at the scope. Photo by "Mo" Mochizuki.

Weather Research Needed

Although FAA programs now underway will provide "substantial improvements in the observation, processing and dissemination of weather information," there still is a need for new technology in some areas.

Testifying before a Congressional subcommittee recently, FAA's Neal Blake said the "needed research includes improving accuracy in measurement and forecasting of winds aloft for both domestic and oceanic areas." Blake oversees the agency's aviation weather programs in his capacity as Deputy Associate Administrator for Engineering.

He said that other needed research "includes improvements in sensors for present weather and cloud height measurement, cloud type identification, vertical wind shear detection, and wake vortex detection; improvements in short-term forecasts and icing and turbulence forecasts; and development of airborne turbulence and wind shear detection systems."

Blake said FAA is working closely with other government agencies and universities to develop the needed technology and cited several "new technology" programs currently underway. Included is the development and testing of new sensors, such as the microwave PROFILER and the satellite-based WINDSAT, to improve upper air measurements. Also mentioned were better forecast models, an "eye safe" laser ceilometer and improved icing forecasting methodology.

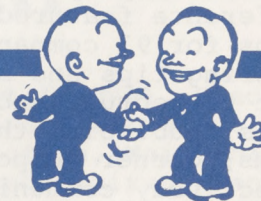
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Regional Maintenance Technician Of The Year



Every year an effort is made to single out the most outstanding maintenance technician in a competition known as the Maintenance Technician of the Year Award. This regional award allows the public to recognize the importance of the role maintenance technicians play in aviation safety. This year's winner was Leo Lake of Grass Valley, Calif. With the support of the Sacramento General Aviation District Office, Mr. Lake was recognized for his continuing contribution to aviation safety as a General Aviation Maintenance Technician. The aviation community in the Grass Valley area turned out in force to celebrate the occasion and to recognize Leo's achievements at the award presentation held in Grass Valley.

Above photos: Bill Withycombe (left), Flight Standards Branch, presents Leo Lake with a commemorative plaque and certificate for Western-Pacific Region's Maintenance Technician of the Year Award. A very special coffee and cake ceremony followed the presentation.



Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings at R.O.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are being held at the Regional Headquarters. Both old and new members are welcome. For information, please call Anne Clayton, Aviation Medical Div., Ext. 6300.

Civilair News

There has been a price increase in the printing of FAA business cards. The cost is now \$10.25 for 250 cards. This is the plain card (no outline map). This is an increase of \$1.00. Orders are taken at the Civilair desk on the fourth floor of the Regional Office.

Business And Government Representatives Share Experiences In Adopting Schools

Steve Rodriguez, Adopt-A-School Program Coordinator, Civil Rights Staff, recently represented the FAA at an Adopt-A-School Council Seminar which brought together company and government coordinators to exchange ideas on expanding the program at their respective organizations. Engineers from TRW Co. regularly get up at 7 a.m. to teach technical classes at Narbonne High School in Harbor City. Employees of the Ameron pipeline manufacturing firm have volunteered for three years to make weekly career talks at El Sereno Junior High School. Dodger baseball stars Steve Sax and Fernando Valenzuela regularly talk to students at Solano Avenue Elementary School on the value of good habits. The spirit of voluntarism is alive and well among employees of 194 businesses and organizations that have "adopted" 240 schools through the Los Angeles Unified School District's Adopt-A-School program. How to capitalize on that spirit and make the relationship as mutually beneficial as possible was the subject of the recent conference for business and government representatives held at the Southwest Museum.

Sponsored and conducted by the Adopt-A-School Council, a group of veteran company coordinators, the conference featured a series of workshops for 93 company coordinators offering tips and suggestions on how best to recruit and cultivate volunteers; publicize the program to their firms; garner support of management; effectively communicate with their "adopted" schools; develop ideas for projects and activities at their schools; utilize the growing list of materials and resources available from participating firms; and work with the media to publicize their community relations efforts.

The conference was the first of its kind for company representatives since the Adopt-A-School program began in 1979. A similar conference was conducted last year for school district employees in participating schools. The theme, "Meeting The Challenge," was in recognition of President Reagan's recently-launched national "Partnerships in Education" program to encompass every public, private and parochial school and community college in the country.

As noted in welcoming remarks by Wayne Carlson, district director of Adopt-A-School and Lorna Round, assistant superintendent of elementary instruction, the district's ever-growing adoption program serves as a national model, and is a sound educational program to prepare children for the future. The educational aspect of the program also was echoed by Dr. August Coppola of Zoetrope Studios in remarks following an award ceremony recognizing his service in spearheading the development of the Adopt-A-School Council nearly three years ago. "Through the program," he said, "businesses and governmental agencies can help children develop a meaning to their lives and a sense of personal service." Children don't see the complexity of society, he said, or the important role of business in creating much of the continuity and freedom of our society.

The FAA, Western-Pacific Region is planning to continue to participate in the Adopt-A-School Program during the coming year. Several events are currently in the planning stage. If you would like to volunteer or wish further information, call Jim Mills, Aviation Education Coordinator, AWP-4E, telephone FTS 966-6493, Commercial 213/536-6493.

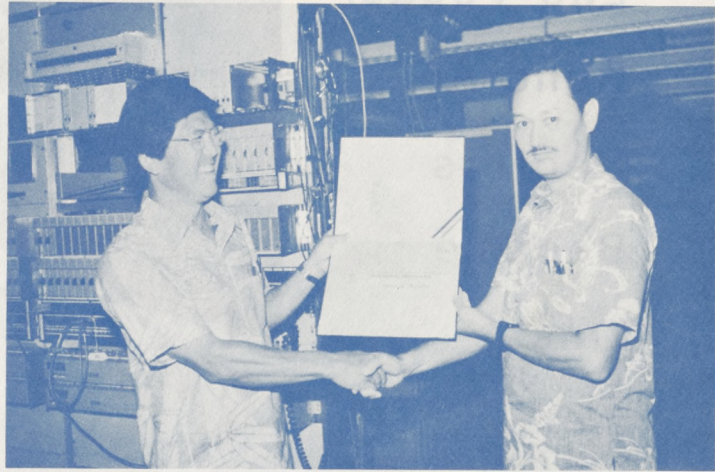


An "Outstanding" For Victor Pestana

Honolulu Airway Facilities Sector's Victor Pestana (right) recently received a Quality Increase Award based on an outstanding rating from Airway Facilities Watch Supervisor Warren Sato.

Victor is an EARTS Computer Technician in Honolulu ARTCC. He was recognized not only for doing an impeccable job in the Center but also for his work outside the facility. During the last year Victor, on his own initiative, developed a software analysis program for EARTS. This program was used to integrate the Honolulu EARTS and ARSR-3. Due to the capability of his program, Victor was also asked by FAA Washington headquarters to assist with radar integration with the Alaska EARTS and a new military radar. Victor also traveled to Syracuse, Washington and the Atlantic City Tech Center working on the integration project.

As Victor's talents became widely known, he continued his travels and worked with the Tech Center in developing the EARTS real time analysis program for monitoring radar performance. He also helped the Nellis EARTS crew in integrating the ASR moving target detector into their system. Victor put in a lot of miles for FAA last year and Honolulu AFS is very proud to have this outstanding technician on their staff.



Bill Stewart Receives SAA

Bill Stewart (right), Electronic Engineer, Electronic Engineering Section, Maintenance Operations Branch, Airway Facilities Division, is the proud recipient of a Special Achievement Award presented by Supervisor Bill Lindsey. Photo by Rafael Riera.



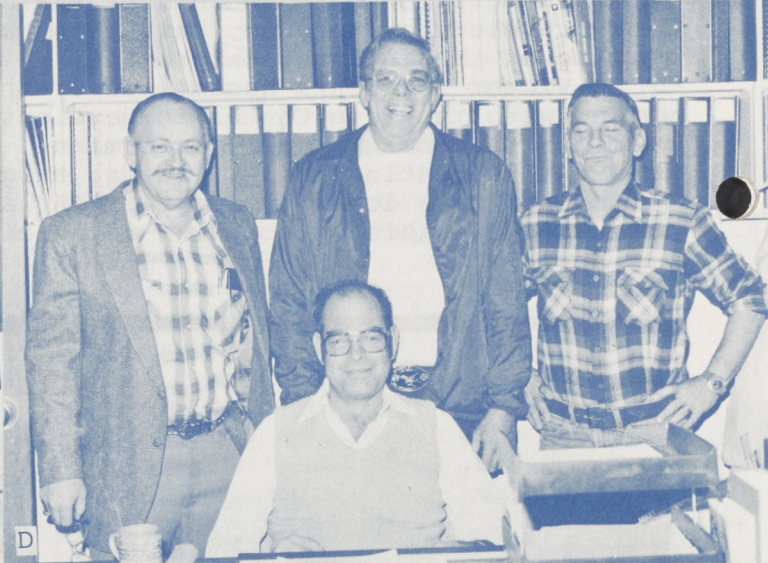
Las Vegas/
Reno AF
Sectors
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As another step into the Maintenance Concept of the '80s, the Las Vegas and Reno Airway Facilities Sectors were consolidated last fall, formulating the new Las Vegas AF Sector, headquartered in Las Vegas with Dean DeShazo as Sector Manager. This newly-formed sector will encompass the entire state of Nevada, a vast geographical area of diverse and extreme weather conditions, which contains a wide variety of facility types from remote one-man sites to a level IV hub airport.

Special thanks go to regional and sector personnel for their diligence in the resolution of the many problems encountered during the planning and implementation phase since without such dedicated support the consolidation would not have been possible. Since the old Reno Sector headquarters staffing was very low, the relocation impact on people was minimal. The people who had to bear most of the burden of the workload are the Administrative, Logistics and Technical Support Units.



Following the shuffle, you will now find headquartered in Las Vegas (formerly of Reno): Dean DeShazo, Sector Manager, and Deena McFarlane-Girola, Administrative Officer. Changes in Reno include the reassignment of Bill Dickinson to Manager, Level II Field Office Chief (formerly Asst. Manager, Reno AFS) and the retirement of Celia Abraham, General Supply Specialist.

Above photos:

A--Lake Tahoe, Calif. VORTAC.

B--Battle Mountain, Nev. Air Route Surveillance Radar (ARSR).

C--John Miller (left), General Supply Specialist, and Glen Haas, Supervisory General Supply Specialist.

D--From left--Bernie Padgett, Environmental Technician-in-Depth; Frank Power, Environmental Support Unit Supervisor; Woody Harkcom, General Maintenance Mechanic; and, seated, Jack Neely, Environmental Technician-in-Depth.

E--Boulder, Nev. VORTAC.

F--Deena McFarlane-Girola, Administrative Officer.

Ontario FSS Happenings. . .

By Chuck Burge

Ontario FSS is the new professional home of Dave Hatt, who recently arrived from Oakland Center and has started the rigorous facility training program. Welcome Dave.....After months of hard work, Chuck Andries and Linda Smith have achieved facility ratings. Linda also achieved full performance level status. Congratulations to both... ..The Ontario FSS FATTAC committee recently changed personnel. Paul Provence replaced Skip Burt, who departed the facility for Riverside Tower; Chuck Burge replaced Marty Krueger, whose term on the committee had expired; and Eddie Nelson replaced Bruce Jones, whose term also had expired. The new members join remaining member Tom Dunn..... The kudos have accumulated in bunches recently for Jack Farnsworth. First, his work was recognized as being excellent by a Western Pacific regional evaluator. The evaluator called the facility for a weather briefing and Jack responded. Afterward, the evaluator praised Jack for "a very positive briefing". The second area of recognition for Jack was his receiving a Special Achievement Award for his performance during the past reporting period. The award was presented to him by Area Supervisor Bob Dirks. Thirdly, Jack was selected for temporary promotion to Area Supervisor in the Ontario FSS. His advancement to temporary supervisor is to replace another temporary supervisor, Gary Spranger, whose term in the position has expired. Facility Manager, Jack Moore, praised Gary Spranger for "the excellent job" he performed during his tenure in the position. A second member of Ontario FSS was also selected to a temporary Area Supervisor position. Marty Krueger moves up to that position replacing Jerry Marcum who has been selected as

the new Ontario FSS Assistant Air Traffic Manager. Jerry moves up from an area supervisor position he has held at Ontario FSS since September 1976. A hearty congratulations to all new appointees..... Ontario FSS recently unveiled its newly acquired "Air Purifiers" which were installed to assure that smokers and non-smokers can continue to work within the same environment.....Members of Ontario FSS continue to emphasize education as being important in their careers. Russ Withers, an Ontario FSS Journeyman, is also an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) counselor for the Western-Pacific Region. Russ recently completed an EEO Effectiveness course at Lawton, Oklahoma. Larry Ciarlo, Tom Dunn and Howard Irwin recently completed the FAA "Fundamentals of Digital Logic" course in group study. The class was conducted by SATCS Larry Berg. ATCS Howard Irwin is attending Cal Poly Pomona College in his off duty time studying for his masters degree in business administration.



Two Women Promoted

Two women who switched to FAA from other Federal organizations, the Department of Commerce and the Veteran's Administration, in mid-career have been named flight service station managers in the Great Lakes Region. They are Carol Veazie at the Watertown, S.D., FSS and Paulette Barnes at the Lansing, Mich., FSS.

Carol Veazie joined FAA in 1979 and worked in the Cold Bay and Kenai, Alaska, FSSs before moving south to the Decatur, Ill., facility. Paulette Barnes is a second-generation FAA employee who joined the agency in 1975 at the Teterboro, N.J., FSS. She also worked as an instructor at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City before moving on to the Detroit FSS.

**Capsule
Glimpses. . .
Meet
Nancy
Kitzig**



Nancy Kitzig has joined the staff of the Van Nuys General Aviation District Office as an Operations Inspector. Her career began in Phoenix, Arizona, where she became an instructor in both airplanes and helicopters.

After moving to San Diego, Nancy became a Chief Pilot and was subsequently designated as a Pilot Examiner.

Her interests include the popular Rotorcraft Association, The Ninety-Nines and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

Nancy is married and the mother of three children. Her husband, William, is also in aviation and holds an FAA Airplane & Powerplant Certificate and is an Authorized Inspector.

Flight Standards Division Awards

Congratulations to the following Flight Standards Division personnel who recently received awards:

Outstanding with Quality Increase Award - Rhuno Nelson, Phoenix FSDO; Larry Perkins, Fresno GADO and James Pendergast, San Diego GADO; Outstanding with Special Achievement Award - Patricia Thomas, San Diego ACDO; Jewett Gibson, San Francisco ACDO; Denise Mishima, Honolulu FSDO; John Hull, San Diego GADO and Donald Best, Los Angeles FSDO; Letters of Commenda-

tion - Joseph Cincotta, San Francisco ACDO; Jerry Gavette and James Shields, Las Vegas FSDO; Frank Kellogg, Hr., Sacramento GADO and Eugene Haldas, AWP-250; Letters of Appreciation - Paul Bigler and Frank Kellogg, Jr., Sacramento GADO; Eldon Gubler, H. K. Meyer, Norman Mecklenburg, John Noel, James Polhamus, Thomas Blatz, Robert Kruse, Calvin Schroeder, John Lynch, James Kelly, Robert Curtis, E. McCrone and Donald Judd, Phoenix FSDO.

AFSS Site Picked

FAA has picked Columbus, Neb., as the site of the automated flight service station that will serve the Nebraska flight plan area.

The Columbus Airport Authority and City of Columbus have agreed to build the facility and lease it to the agency for \$1 a year which includes the cost of maintenance. The building occupancy date is January 1985.

FAA now has selected 26 of the 61 automated FSS locations that will comprise the future system.

Security System Working

More than 313 million people were processed through airport security systems during the first six months of 1983, resulting in the detection of 1,360 firearms and the arrest of 630 people. In addition, the agency completed the investigation of 1,669 alleged security violations, taking administrative action in 1,422 cases and civil penalty action in 96 others. These are just a few of the statistics in the agency's "Semiannual Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of the Civil Aviation Security Program for January 1 - June 30, 1983." Copies are available from the Office of Aviation Security.

Denver En Route Center Plans FAA Ski-Fest

All FAA employees, families, and friends are invited to the Denver Center Ski Club's "First Annual FAA Ski Fest," in Keystone, Colo., February 27 - March 2. Center skiers are challenging skiers from all other FAA facilities to a downhill race. The winner will get a large trophy which may be retained for a year.

For special fly-in rates, call 800-525-1092 and ask for reservations on code 302274. For special room rates, call 800 525-1309.

Other questions should be sent to Denver Ski Club, c/o Denver ARTCC, 2211 17th Avenue, Longmont, Colo. 80501, Attn: Gil Miceli or John Byrd.

Ambulance Was There To Save Pilot's Life

"I'm the only pilot on board and becoming grossly ill," was the cryptic message transmitted to controller Richard Kleebauer of the Fort Worth Center recently. In a strained voice the pilot of the light, twin-engine corporate aircraft went on to ask for a vector to the nearest airport and got an immediate response from Kleebauer. "The nearest airport is 12 o'clock and one zero miles," said the 18-year FAA veteran. "Descend to and maintain 4,000 feet."

After the pilot acknowledged, Kleebauer continued to vector the plane for a straight-in approach at Granbury Airport, Granbury, Texas. He heard pain in the airman's voice as the man asked for an ambulance to meet him at the airport.

Immediately, Kleebauer arranged for an ambulance. This was done by telephone and through a Lear Jet flying in the area that relayed the request on the Unicom frequency.

Kleebauer's care and professionalism paid off when the pilot landed after being vectored virtually to the runway's threshold where an ambulance was on hand to whisk him to the hospital.

It was learned later that the pilot, who was a 59-year old oil executive, had suffered a severe heart attack but was expected to recover thanks to Kleebauer.

"All I could do," he told the Dallas Times Herald, "was head him for the nearest airport, give him the best service I could, and say a prayer that he makes it."

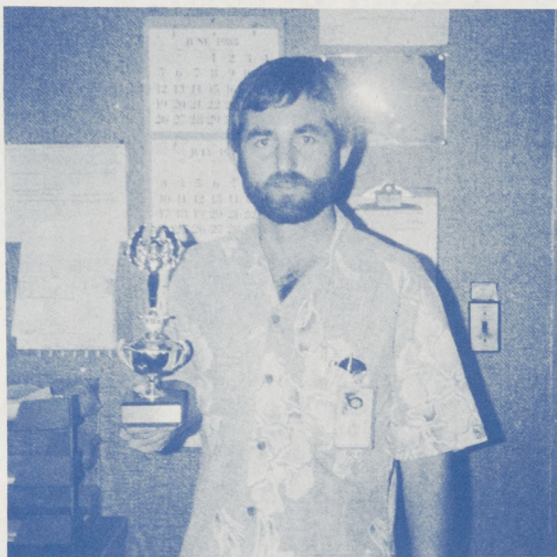
The Kleebauer flight assist was one of 84 by the Air Traffic Service during November. There were 134 people on board the aircraft involved.

Accounting Hilites

The Operations and Analysis Branch extends a warm welcome to Kim Gross, Operating Accountant, and a welcome back to Accounting Technicians Ethel Jones, formerly of Payroll, and Sharon McIntosh, back from maternity leave.

Mike Reilly Endurathon Winner

Mike Reilly, Electronics Technician, Samoa Airway Facilities Sector Field Office, proudly holds the trophy as winner of the Endurathon staged by the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. More than 170 athletes of all ages entered the event to either foot, cycle, windsurf--individually or in teams--their way through the 33-mile course along the mostly coastal highway. Mike was the first participant to cover the distance on his bicycle. He clocked at 1 hour, 49 minutes. The last finisher came in about seven hours later after walking for 8 hours, 33 minutes. After the competition, the athletes, supporters and sponsors were treated to a barbecue party given by the Lions Club of Pago Pago at the Bayshore Beach, Fagaalu.



Goodbye GAR - Nobody Sang Auld Lang Syne

General aviation pilots had something extra to celebrate on New Year's Eve. They rang out the General Aviation Reservation (GAR) system along with the old year.

At midnight on December 31, the agency dropped the last vestige of the strike-related GAR system which required pilots to obtain an en route center reservation for IFR operations to or from airports in the northeast and north-central U.S. This is the Group Four center area which includes the New York, Boston, Minneapolis, Chicago, Indianapolis and Cleveland air route traffic control centers.

GAR was established after the August 1981 controllers strike to cut back general aviation operations in much the same way as air carrier flights had been reduced through the allocation of landing slots at key airports around the country.

Initially, general aviation pilots, working through flight service stations, had to obtain a center reservation to make any IFR flight.

FAA began relaxing these restrictions the following summer as additional capacity became available. In June and July 1982, it was lifted between airports within the boundaries of the Seattle, Salt Lake City, and Albuquerque centers.

The next step was to group centers by geographic areas and allow pilots to operate between airports in the same group without obtaining a reservation. The final countdown began Oct. 1, 1983, when unrestricted flights were permitted between Group One and Group Two centers, which included most of the U.S. west of the Mississippi. On October 31, the Group Three, or southeastern, centers were added, leaving GAR in effect only in the Group Four area.

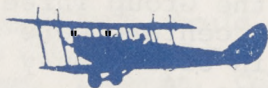
New Federal Employees On Social Security

Beginning January 1, newly-hired Federal civilian employees were covered by Social Security and now pay the full 6.7 percent Social Security tax on their earnings, just like workers in the private sector. This amount includes a 1.3 percent Medicare payment.

For the next two years, new employees also will pay 1.3 percent of the salaries into a "transitional" Federal retirement fund. This will give Congress time to come up with a supplemental retirement plan for the new Federal employees to augment their Social Security benefits when they retire. The system will be much like that in private industry where most workers receive both Social Security and some sort of company pension.

The change in retirement programs does not affect career employees now on the Federal payroll. They will continue to pay 7 percent into retirement and 1.3 percent for Medicare and be eligible for full Civil Service retirement benefits. In addition, Presidential appointees and non-career SES employees have an option either to continue in the Civil Service retirement program or switch to the Social Security program.

For purposes of inclusion in the new retirement system, a newly hired employee is defined as one with no prior Federal civil or military service or one hired after a separation of more than one year. Annuitants are not considered new hires even when they have been away for more than a year. Also, temporary employees will not be classified new hires if they are converted to career or career-conditional status next year. They will go under the regular civil service retirement system.



AAT-1 Gets New Status

It's now Associate Administrator for Air Traffic Raymond J. Van Vuren. The new title was conferred on the former Director of the Air Traffic Service by the FAA Administrator, effective Dec. 25.

The change reflects the fact that Van Vuren has been reporting directly to the Administrator since mid-1982 when a top-level reorganization abolished the post of Associate Administrator for Air Traffic and Airway Facilities. The Airway Facilities function was assigned at the time to the newly created position of Associate Administrator for Development and Logistics.

A career FAAer, Van Vuren learned air traffic control in the military during the Korean War. He went to work at the Chicago Midway Tower in December 1955 and then moved over to Chicago O'Hare as a supervisor in 1961. Prior to being named AAT-1 in June 1980, he was Deputy Director, AAT and, before that, AAT Division Chief in both the Eastern and Rocky Mountain Regions.

In September 1982, Van Vuren received the Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement for his leading role in directing the recovery of the post-strike air traffic control system. Other awards include the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award (1981) and Senior Executive Service Performance Award (1980).

Jack Doyle Recuperating

Jack Doyle, FAA Duty Officer, recently underwent triple bypass heart surgery at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles. We are happy to report the operation was a success. Jack is home now and already is looking forward to returning to work at the Comm Center towards the end of February. We know he would appreciate hearing from his friends.

Send those cheery cards and letters to: 1537 N. Commonwealth Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027.