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Fenello Says H.R. Effort On Track

As part of its human relations program, FAA now has some 920 employee involvement groups comprised of more than 6,000 people, Acting Administrator Michael Fenello told Congress recently. In addition, the agency's human relations staff has held 1,280 workshop/training sessions attended by nearly 11,000 people.

Facility Advisory Boards and "diagonal slice" working groups, that is groups including employees and management, also are playing an important role in the human relations effort he said. Last year, for example, the Air Traffic Service in Washington Headquarters convened 78 such diagonal slice groups involving 800 participants, with many more operating at the regional level.

Human relations training of managers and supervisors also is continuing, he added. Over 4,700 have taken FAA courses to date, and another 1,200 are scheduled to take them by the end of the fiscal year.

These and similar events demonstrate that "FAA is serious about changing management attitudes and interpersonal skills," Fenello said. "No doubt there are still times when we encounter examples of poor management practices, but that doesn't mean that our efforts are not in good faith or that they have failed. We will maintain the intensity of those efforts, and we expect them to result in lasting change, which will make the FAA a much stronger organization." "Our theme is 'One FAA', meaning that we need the effort of every individual employee to accomplish this," he continued. "I am confident that the vast majority of FAA's employees from top management on down and from the bottom on up will respond to this challenge, and we will continue to improve on a national airspace system that is the best in the world."

Proposed Rule Sets Flight And Duty Time

The agency has proposed a new, more flexible rule governing the number of hours airline pilots can fly and the rest they must get between flights.

The proposal is the first product of "regulatory negotiation" in FAA and one of the first in government. In this case, the agency worked with an advisory committee made up of various aviation interests and came up with a consensus that was used as the basis for the rulemaking action.

The proposal would replace rules that were drawn up more than 30 years ago and have required thousands of pages of interpretation. Previous FAA efforts to simplify and update the rules failed because of widespread opposition, prompting the agency to adopt the regulatory negotiation approach.

Specifically, the proposed rule is more flexible than the one it would replace, and it would reduce the need for airlines to cancel or significantly delay flights because crews needed additional rest following a late arrival the previous day. In addition, the proposal more adequately guards against short-term fatigue by requiring minimum rest after every flight period. Under the current rules, a pilot could fly eight hours every day until the 30-hour weekly limit is reached. The proposal also would impose stricter rules for commuter airline pilots.

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Above left: Mike Peters, Supervisory Computer Center Operator, goes over some figures.

Above right: The visitors discuss the amazing print-out qualities of The Data General MV8000. From left--Gary Altman, Olga Gomez, Shirley Reed, Kathie Yamada, Mary Teats and John Worden.

Cover Story

The Management Systems Division recently held an open house in the computer center to show off the new computer, "Data General-MV8000."

This new computer is current "State-of-the-Art" construction. It is designed to be "User-Friendly"; i.e., many users will have terminals available by which they may enter and receive data or information. Ultimately, all Regional Office Staffs, Divisions, Branches and Field Offices and Facilities will be able to access the computer and communicate with each other via the computer and its terminals.

Lin Smith, Manager of the Data Processing Branch, is very pleased with the Data General's perform-

ance. He reports that recently the Aviation Safety Analysis System (ASAS) was installed on the Data General for regional use. Now, rather than contacting Oklahoma City, the required information is readily available right here at Regional Headquarters.

Cover photo: Shirley Reed (seated), Computer Operator, demonstrates and explains the new MV8000 computer to: From left--Mary Teats, Computer Operator, Airports Division; John Worden, Airports Division; Kathie Yamada, Airports Division; Gary Altman, Assistant Project Engineer, Airway Facilities Division; and Olga Gomez, Secretary, Airports Division. Cover photo by Barbara Abels.

Airports Increased in 1983 New Airport Rule

The number of U.S. civil airports, heliports, and other landing facilities increased again last year, reaching a total of 16,029 - a gain of 198 over the 1982 figure.

But the news wasn't all good. The number of landing sites open to public use decreased for the twelfth consecutive year. It dropped from 6,137 in 1982 to 5,987 in 1983, as an increasing number of owners chose to restrict the use of their facilities.

Of the total 16,029 landing facilities, there were 12,653 airports, 2,918 heliports, 392 sea-plane bases, and 66 stolports. These figures do not include 12 ultralight flight parks, 32 gliderports and 7 balloonports.

The State of Texas continues to lead all other states with 1,543 landing areas, followed by Illinois 909, California 862, Pennsylvania 720, and Ohio 678.

A total of 677 facilities are served by air carriers. Of these, 400 locations received scheduled commercial services and 268 are served by air carriers on an unscheduled basis.

Oakland AFS News

Gene Cole and Maurice Shwetter received a Letter of Appreciation from Wayne Lynch, AWP-17, for their CPR work throughout the Region. Another Letter of Appreciation from AWP-17 went to Ted Miller for the fine work he did while detailed with the Training Branch.....Thirty year Career Service Emblems were presented to Ed Harris and Tom HandHow in the world could anyone have a better send-off than Jim Hansen? The final count was somewhere around 150 friends who showed up to honor him at his retirement party. The food was outstanding; the program great; and everyone, including Jim, had a good time.

Will Cut Restrictions

The agency dropped strike-related landing restrictions at Denver Stapleton, Chicago O'Hare and New York's LaGuardia Airports on April 1, as the air traffic control system continues its recovery. This means that now the strike-related quotas are in effect only at Los Angeles International. At that location, they will be continued until Aug. 26, because one of the airport's four main runways will be closed for strengthening and because of increased traffic caused by the Summer Olympics.

At O'Hare and LaGuardia the slot quotas will be replaced by a less restrictive "high density" rule, which is designed to match traffic demands at the two airports to available capacity. Under this rule, increased operations will be permitted at both airports. At New York's Kennedy Airport, the rule will cause virtually no change in total operations. In addition, hourly slots will be redistributed at the airports to give commuters a larger share.

Originally adopted in 1969, the first high-density rule was superseded by the strike-related quota system in Aug. 1981. FAA will review the rule again this fall and eliminate any unnecessary restrictions by Jan. 1, 1985.

The rule was discussed at a public meeting on March 13.

Bob Newark Retirement Party

Robert A. Newark, Sacramento Metro Tower will retire after 29 years of FAA service. A retirement party will be held in Sacramento on April 30 at the Alamar Restaurant. No host cocktails at 4 p.m.; dinner at 5 p.m. Cost: \$15. Please call Vic Katz, 916/929-5151 for reservations.

Accounting Employees of the Month

Betty Hashigami (left), Accounting Division Examination and Classification Branch, and Conghuyen Ngoclan, Operations and Analysis Branch, were selected by their coworkers as December, 1983, Employees of the Month. Betty joined the Accounting Division in April of 1981 from the Southern Region Accounting office. Her eye for detail and investigative nature make Betty a definite asset to her branch. Conghuyen, or "Lan" as she is called by coworkers, is the oldest of four children and came with her family to the U.S. from Saigon, Vietnam in February 1980. As an accounting major at El Camino Jr. College, she is doing a great job of easing some of the work load created by the new accounting system. She is a student-aid clerk-typist presently in the General Ledger section, works diligently and conscientiously, and well deserves the honor. Congratulations to both Betty and Lan.



Engen Says Communications Vital To Cabin Safety

Good communications between airline flight crews and flight attendants "is crucial to cabin safety" FAA Administrator-designate Donald D. Engen has told the Independent Union of Flight Attendants.

Speaking in Washington, D.C., in his present capacity as a National Transportation Safety Board member, Engen said the free flow of information between the front end and back end of the airplane "can defuse a potential emergency, or avoid an unnecessary incident." He added that "total crew coordination is the key to the survival of each person--passenger and crew."

In his March 27 speech, he pointed out that NTSB had just made several recommendations to FAA for im-

proving communications among crewmembers during emergencies. Included was a recommendation for a standardized signal that would alert flight attendants to instruct passengers to assume the brace position.

Engen said that some airline people talk about cabin crews and cockpit crews as if they were always two totally separate entities and cited the need for "bridge building" between the two. "Neither the flight crew nor the cabin crew is doing the job properly if they adopt a 'two different worlds' philosophy, and in an emergency situation, a lack of this needed free-flowing communication can hinder any crew's performance," he concluded.

New Weather Plan Published

Ignoring the axiom that "everyone talks about weather but no one does anything about it," FAA has published a 229-page plan detailing the agency's program for weather-proofing the National Airspace System.

The "Aviation Weather System Plan" addresses both the long- and short-range programs that FAA is pursuing in order to meet aviation's requirements for more accurate and timely weather services. Short-term efforts include expansion of the Hazardous In-Flight Weather Advisory Service and installation of wind shear alert systems at 51 additional airport locations. More long-range programs include the next generation of weather radar (NEXRAD), Doppler radar, the automated weather observing system, and the central weather processor complex.

Distribution of the plan has been made to branch level in Headquarters and the Technical Center and to division level in the regions. The plan also can be purchased from the Government Printing Office for \$7 a copy.

Richard "Dick" Tarantino Retirement Party

A retirement dinner/party honoring Dick and his wife Bobbi will be held Friday, May 4 at the Knollwood Country Club, 12024 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills. The evening will begin with No-Host Cocktails at 7 p.m. and follow with Prime Rib Dinner at 8 p.m. Cost, including gratuity and tax, will be \$18 per person.

After 31 years of government service, Dick will be retiring April 28 with over 20 years at Van Nuys Tower as a controller and area supervisor.

For further information contact Betty Peterson, Sally Briggs or Carl Leeds at Van Nuys Tower 818/904-6166 or 818/904-6109 (FTS 983-6166 or 983-6109).

HBCU Program is Launched

On March 16, Acting Administrator Mike Fenello realized a major FAA Civil Rights goal when he signed the papers making Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, one of the first contract recipients of the agency's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Program. The program is designed to foster research and development opportunities for HBCU's through federally-sponsored programs.

Central State President Leonard H. Newsom and Vice President for Relations and Development Joseph L. Anthony participated in the Headquarters signing ceremony, along with Civil Rights Director Leon Watkins. Fenello described the \$181,000 contract to develop a theoretical model for airport pavement sub grade stabilization as a "milestone occasion" and part of "our total education program."

Former Civil Rights staffer Audrey Simmons was praised by all the participants as the chief architect of the agency's HBCU Program and for her role in the selection of Central State to initiate the program. Now Deputy Civil Rights Director at UMTA, Simmons said, "We hope this marks the beginning of a long and productive HBCU Program at FAA."

World Goes International

The current issue of FAA WORLD has a photo of the Eiffel Tower on the cover for good reason. The lead story focuses on job opportunities with FAA overseas, particularly Paris, London and Rome. There also is an interesting article by Phillip Swatek, Director of the agency's Europe, Africa and Middle East Office. He reports from Brussels on the European challenge to America's historic leadership in aviation.

Additional articles deal with flying the Ford Tri-motor, EEO award winners and the work of the Houston ARTCC human relations committee. There's also a long list of January retirees that should be checked over to see who's here and who isn't anymore.

Four More Years For Tom Hendricks

A special Reenlistment Ceremony was recently held at the Regional Headquarters for Master Sergeant Tom Hendricks, ATC NCO, U.S. Army Regional Representative. Major Jeffery Hovious administered the oath of reenlistment before a crowd of regional FAA well-wishers before coffee and cake was served. Tom has over 20 years of military service and reenlisted for an additional four years.

Right photo: Master Sergeant Tom Hendricks (middle) is congratulated by Major Jeffery Hovious as Tom's wife, Joni, looks on with her approval.



It's The Law

It's the law that the public be given full opportunity to participate in the agency's rulemaking process. This was apparent at Washington Headquarters on March 13 when two public meetings were held on major rulemaking actions.

One brought together top airline officials, including presidents and board chairmen, in the Headquarters auditorium to discuss the agency's high-density airport rule. Meanwhile, representatives from user groups and other organizations met in the ninth floor conference rooms to comment on a regulatory proposal which would ban overflights of certain nuclear weapons facilities.

John Cassady, Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement, said comments made at these meetings will be considered along with written comments to determine the future course of actions on these regulatory dockets.

Proposal On Single-Engine Turboprops Issued By FAA

The performance and efficiency of turboprop engines has made them a very popular alternative to jet and piston engines. And now they are beginning to show up in single-engine general aviation aircraft. This has prompted the Central Region's Aircraft Division to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would require that the design of such single-engine aircraft include an analysis of the "whirl mode effect" to make sure it won't result in the engine tearing away from the aircraft. The whirl mode effect was determined to be the culprit in Lockheed Electra crashes in 1959 and 1960 after a long and painstaking analysis of the cause of the accidents. For more on the resurgence of the turboprop engine, see the article in the April issue of FAA WORLD.

Brackett Tower News

Warner Bros. just completed the filming of "Midas Valley" starring Jean Simmons and Robert Stack, to be aired on CBS in Sept.....Brackett Airport is in the process of making a series of improvements and expansion. Installation of the North Parallel Taxiway lights has been completed and are now in operation. A new 30,000 square foot tie down area was completed on the S.E. corner of the airport which will accommodate approximately 50 aircraft. A new 17,500 square foot tie down area is close to completion on the N.W. corner of the airport which will accommodate approximately 30 aircraft. The addition of four new hangars, which will accommodate 20 aircraft each, will soon be completed.....Plans are under way for the "Super Nationals" to be held in Oct. at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds. The "Winter Nationals" held in Feb. brought in 37,000 fans both days with a moderate number of fly-ins.....Congratulations to Christopher Kloman who is now Facility rated and to Jeff Acord who received a Special Achievement Award.....Paul Jakubowski completed the Facilitator Training Course held in November..... Brackett Tower welcomes the recent arrivals of Robert Young, Michael Bunch, Dan Mazgaj, and Steve Pansky as Area Supervisor.

Intercom Editors

Need Your Help

We appreciate all the submissions we have been receiving for INTERCOM. However, due to the volume received and the editing workload involved, we would appreciate having all articles typed and double-spaced. Plain bond paper, or reminder memos are fine so long as the information is double-spaced. Also, please do not use acronyms - spell out all abbreviations and this will hasten your item being seen in print.

In the case of photos, please remember that we cannot print color - all photos should be black and white glossy. Do not tape or staple photos to anything. For identification purposes, please lightly (never bear down, you will harm photo) place a number in the middle of the back of the photo. Then correspond that number on a sheet of plain, bond paper and identify subjects with correct names and titles, from the left. Protect with cardboard (or file folders) and mail to AWP-5 and we'll do our best to see that it appears in a future issue of INTERCOM.

We really do appreciate your support and thanks for all the kind words we've been receiving. Remember -- the PRINT IS BLUE BECAUSE INTERCOM IS FOR YOU.



William Dickinson Presented Award

William Dickinson (right), Reno Airway Facilities Sector Field Office Manager, was recently presented a Quality Increase Award for outstanding performance by Dean DeShazo, Las Vegas Airway Facilities Sector Manager. Congratulations, Bill!