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# Western-Pacific Intercom



**First AFSS Groundbreaking  
Prescott, Arizona**

## Cover Story

The first Automated Flight Service Station groundbreaking in the Western-Pacific Region was recently held in Prescott, Arizona.

The facility will serve the entire state of Arizona and is part of a national program which will replace the current 317 manual flight service stations with 61 automated facilities.

The Arizona Automated Flight Service Station is scheduled to be commissioned in mid 1985. The FAA estimates this facility will be staffed by approximately 70 employees with an average annual payroll of \$1.6 million.

The new Automated Flight Service Station will contain computerized equipment to provide specialists with rapid retrieval of the information they need to brief pilots. Data will be processed and stored in the computers for immediate call-up on TV-like displays at the specialists' positions. A future enhancement to the system will allow pilots direct access to the computer data base from remote computer terminals at airports and other accessible locations.

Awarded through competitive bidding, the City of Prescott is providing for a 10,000 square-foot building constructed in accordance with FAA requirements.

Today's network of 317 stations, operated by 4900 specialists, provides pilots with air-ground communications, weather briefings, navigation aid monitoring, flight plan processing, direction finding for disoriented pilots and military flight service. These services are provided for the nation's 815,000 active pilots, who fly 97 percent of the civil aircraft. However, the present system, established in the 1920s, is outdated with stations located on obsolete route structures and

disparities in station size and productivity. Antiquated equipment also limits the specialists' ability to keep pace with increasing demands for service.

Currently FAA plans call for the AFSS network to be fully operational in 1989. Our region is designated to have eight Automated Flight Service Stations under the new modernization program -- five in California, one in Hawaii, one in Nevada, and one in Arizona.

Officials attending the groundbreaking ceremony at Prescott included: Andy Tomlinson, City Manager; Jim Morrison, Manager, Prescott Municipal Airport; Mary Baker, Manager, Prescott Chamber of Commerce and FAAers Lloyd Golden, Manager, Air Traffic Plans and Programs Branch; Bob Moline, Manager Logistics Real Estate and Utilities Branch; Joan Zubarik, Contracting Officer, Logistics Division; Dan Hedani, Lead Project Engineer from the Airway Facilities Division; and local FAAers-- Angel Cervantes, Manager, Prescott FSS; Kermit Clark, FAA Rep and Manager, Phoenix AFS; Terry Wilson, Mike Liversidge and Ken Secrist, Phoenix FSS; and Fred Miller, Manager, Prescott AF Sector Field Office.

The FAA Regional AFSS Task Force consists of: Joan Zubarik, Logistics Division; Billy Lee, Air Traffic Division; Louis Jelen, Airway Facilities Division; and Dan Hedani, Lead Project Engineer, AWP-450.

Cover photo: From left: Joan Zubarik, Logistics Division; Dan Hedani, AF Lead Project Engineer; Jim Morrison, Prescott Municipal Airport Manager; Bob Moline, Real Estate & Utilities Branch; Robert Burke, Electronics Technician, Prescott AFSFO; and Jerry Barila, Phoenix FSS. Cover photo by Barbara Abels.

# Arizona AFSS Groundbreaking



A



B



C



Above: Terry Wilson, Phoenix FSS, takes a moment for an impromptu press interview with local media.

A--FAA welcomes Embry-Riddle University students. From left: Terry Wilson, Assistant Air Traffic Manager, Phoenix FSS; Mike Liversidge, Area Supervisor, Prescott FSS; Jerry Barila, Area Supervisor, Phoenix FSS; greet Cadet Col. Merrill Ballenger and Cadet Capt. Michael Pabisinski, representing National and Illinois Wings of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol.

B--Jim Morrison, Manager, Prescott Municipal Airport, delivers the opening address at the ceremony.

C--Mary E. Baker (second from right), Manager, Prescott Chamber of Commerce, takes her turn with the golden shovel along with FAAers, from left, Angel Cervantes, Air Traffic Manager, Prescott FSS; Lloyd Golden, Manager, Air Traffic Plans & Programs Branch; and Joan Zubarik, Contracting Officer, Logistics Division.

## NTSB Study Finds Airport Pluses and Minuses

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has found "measurable improvement in airport safety" since the inauguration of FAA's Airport Certification program in 1972, but says the program can be strengthened even more.

In a study that focused on 14 major air carrier airports but applies to all 662 FAA-certificated airports, the Board came up with 21 recommendations for improving safety regulations. Included were recommendations on new regulations for airport fuel farms and refueling facilities; more frequent airport safety inspections; and mandatory airport emergency drills. It also cautioned against precipitous action to relax the present fire/crash/rescue requirements at smaller air carrier airports.

The Board's study addressed airports in general. It made no specific conclusions or recommendations on any one of the 14 airports, which included Washington National, Dulles, Kennedy, LaGuardia, Los Angeles, San Diego-Lindbergh, Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena, Houston Intercontinental, Houston-Hobby, Chicago-O'Hare, Chicago-Midway, Denver-Stapleton, Boston-Logan, and Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood.

## Las Vegas AFS Salutes Weightlifters

Ernie Schmuck and wife Brenda recently participated in the Nevada State Powerlifting competition in Reno. Ernie finished second in his 242 lb. weight class with a total lift of 1,460 lbs. Brenda finished first in her 123 lb. weight class with a total lift of 700 lbs. Congratulations to both on their outstanding success. Ernie is an Electronics Technician at the Angel Peak Sector Field Office (ARSR).



## Doris Lee Presented Award

Doris Lee (above left), Administrative Officer at the Los Angeles Airway Facilities Sector, was recently presented a well deserved Quality Increase Award with an outstanding rating by Jim Lougheed, Los Angeles AFS Assistant Manager. Congratulations, Doris!

## Faberman Acting AGC-1

Edward Faberman, FAA's Deputy Chief Counsel, was named Acting Chief Counsel, effective May 1, while J. E. "Sandy" Murdock serves as Acting Deputy Administrator. Faberman has been with the Agency since 1970. He is a graduate of American University and received his law degree from Saint John's University Law School.

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## Tom Horn Retires

Thomas Horn, a controller at Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center in Palmdale retired a second time on March 28. Tom first retired in August 1979 but returned to work on August 5, 1981 when recalled because of the controller strike.

After graduating from High School in 1942, Tom entered the U.S. Navy flight training, graduating in 1943 as a United States Marine Corps Second Lieutenant. He saw combat as an F4U pilot in the South Pacific. After World War II, Tom attended Oregon State University for a year, and then worked for an airline. When recalled to active duty in Korea, he served as an air controller and observation Pilot. Upon being released from the Marines in 1958, Tom joined the CAA/FAA at the Phoenix Center. When the Phoenix Center closed in 1964, Tom transferred to Los Angeles Center. The FAA family wishes Tom an especially Happy Retirement No. Two!



Tom Horn, (right), receives his 35-year pin from Area Supervisor Adelbert McIntyre.

## Airway Science Program

The agency's Airway Science Program continues to build steam, with 21 schools now having FAA approved curricula and 11 more currently being considered.

The goal of this demonstration project is to meet NAS Plan's call for a cadre of technically-trained candidates to fill future supervisory level positions with FAA.

The curriculum itself has received high marks from FAAers thus far. The Great Lakes Region recently hired three airway science graduates to serve in its Aviation Safety Inspection Division.

## World Focuses on H. R.

There are a couple of good reasons to read FAA WORLD this month. One is to learn about a planned survey of all FAA employees that will ask how they feel about their jobs and work environment. Another is to get some straight answers on the status and future direction of the human relations program from the man who should know--National H.R. Program Manager Jim Boone. Aviation buffs will find an article on the resurgence of the turbo prop, and sport fans can read about an Olympic skier in the "FAA Family." Also, look for the regular features.

## Magnum P.I. Visits Honolulu FSS

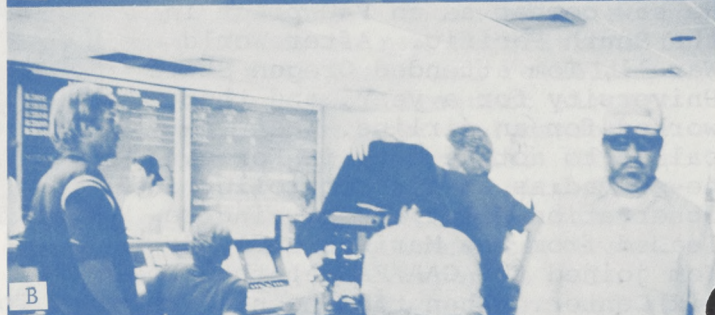
Recently, Honolulu Flight Service Station, in Diamond Head Crater was visited by the Magnum P. I. crew. The visit was somewhat disappointing for some, however, as Magnum himself (Tom Selleck) was not there--just his double.

Actually, the filming did not involve the film star himself as the Flight Service Station was converted into the gunnery control room of a Navy Ship. During the filming the FSS/ship served as the command station, firing at a target island in the Pacific.

The FSS, and some of its employees, went through a miraculous transformation from an FAA facility to a Naval ship. The above photos (A,B and C) show the film crew making the changes and getting set up. Some of the FSS people also became Naval personnel during the filming.

Here in photo D, FSS Supervisor Ed Ishisaka wears Navy dungarees--he was probably smiling about the next "take".

The Magnum people indicated they were quite pleased with the results and hopefully the FAA "stars" won't end up on the cutting room floor.



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## Jeff Trapp FAA Essay Contest Winner

Jim Holtsclaw, Los Angeles Tower Manager, gives Woodland Hills sixth grader Jeff Trapp a certificate for his winning entry in the FAA's "Importance of Aviation to Our Society" essay contest. Jeff's entry, one of almost thirteen hundred from the Western-Pacific Region, was awarded first place in the California fourth to sixth grade category. After receiving his certificate, Jeff and his family enjoyed a tour of the facility. Jeff will also receive a model airplane, courtesy of Beech Aircraft. Photo by Larry Etter.



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## NAR Excom Says Farewell To Chairman Fenello

Heartfelt farewells to Deputy Administrator Mike Fenello and 97 more recommendations for airspace safety highlighted the eighth National Airspace Review (NAR) Executive Committee (EXCOM) meeting held at FAA Headquarters April 24. Fenello has run the NAR program since its inception in May 1981 and also has served as the EXCOM chairman.

Administrator Engen addressed the EXCOM meeting saying that he would support the NAR concept and feels it has been highly productive.

The ten-member EXCOM considered four studies submitted by individual task groups and sent all recommendations on to the Administrator to be cleared for further considerations. The four studies concerned were: Standard Instrument Departure (SID) and Standard Terminal Arrival Group (STAR) charts and the Airport/Facility Directory; parachute, glider, and ultralight operations; flight plan format; and international delegated airspace.

Fenello told the EXCOM members that "Working with these user groups and accomplishing what we have has given me tremendous personal satisfaction."

EXCOM members then responded in kind. Major General Robert D. Beckel presented a bronze plaque from the Department of Defense and commended Fenello for his "Let's get it done" leadership.

Glenn Leister of the Helicopter Association International also presented Fenello with a plaque, and John H. Winant, of the National Business Aircraft Association, gave the retiring deputy a paperweight, "to keep his NAR papers together."

Last, but by no means least, FAA's own Steve Harless, representing Air Traffic's Special Projects Staff, presented the departing Deputy with a framed montage of NAR participants.

Now that Fenello has departed, Acting Deputy Administrator J. E. "Sandy" Murdock will take over as the EXCOM Chairman.

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## Long Beach FSDO Awards

Carole McClure (left), Administrative Officer and Pat Twist (right), Aviation Safety Assistant, were recently presented Quality Increase Awards with outstanding ratings by Long Beach Flight Standards District Office Manager Walt Daigle (presently Acting Manager, Flight Standards Branch, AWP-250). Congratulations, Carole and Pat!



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## FEGLI Rates To Go Down

Federal employees who have become accustomed to constantly paying higher rates for just about everything got a pleasant surprise recently. The Office of Personnel Management announced that the premium rates for the Federal Employee Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program are actually going down for the average employee.

The new premium structure will create lower costs for nearly all coverages. The cost of Basic Life has been reduced from 24 cents to 22 cents biweekly for each \$1,000 of coverage. The rates for the three forms of optional insurance also have been reduced, except for the premium for age groups 55-59 and 60 and over in the Additional and Family Options.

The new rates went into effect April 30. Salary checks received June 5 will reflect the new premium rate deductions. Check with your personnel office for the complete schedule of new Basic and Optional rates.

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## FAA Evaluating Fire Blocking Materials

The FAA proposal to require fire blocking layers on airliner seats is keeping Technical Center personnel busy evaluating a flood of materials submitted by industry.

According to Tech Center researchers, more than 250 samples already have been tested to see if they meet the agency's criteria and over 100 have been found acceptable. These materials include neoprene foams, thermally resistant aluminized fabrics, heat stabilized polyacrylonitriles, high temperature blends and fiberglass cloths.

The Tech Center also reports that the weight of these fabrics continue to decline, making them increasingly attractive for airline use. Their weight ranges from four ounces a yard for the fiberglass and up to 24 ounces a yard for the neoprene foams.

FAA issued its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on fire blocking layers in October with a 120-day comment period. A final rule is targeted for this fall.

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## San Diego AFS Awards

Letters of Appreciation went to: Lee Wangerin, EST, from AWP-450 for his support during the construction of Santa Ana Tower; Fred Stubbe, ANV/COMM Unit #1 Supervisor, from the Gillespie Tower Manager for his efforts in many areas and ability to get things done; George Darakjian and Garry Wohlleib from John Hull, Manager, San Diego Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), for their assistance during and since the recent moves of the GADO and ACDO to a new location; Tom Huber, Willie McGee and Lee Metcalfe from AWP-420 for their fine work on the Runway 27 Localizer installation at Lindbergh Field; and Ken Champagne and Nick Heineck from the Long Beach Airway Facilities Sector Field Office (AFSFO) Manager for their assistance in the engineering and relocation of the Long Beach RR facility. Career Service Emblems have gone to the following: 30= years - Masashi Miyaoka, Electronics Technician, Long Beach; 25= years = Chick Miller, Miramar and Dick Longbrake, El Toro, Electronics Technicians; 15= years - Matt King, Environmental Support Unit Supervisor and John Svoboda, Staff Engineer, San Diego.



Above: Receiving Special Achievement Awards with an Outstanding rating from Environmental Support Supervisor Matt King are, from left: Juan Del Rio, Lee Wangerin and Winston Sloan--all from the San Diego Environmental Support Unit.

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## Hayward Tower News

Happenings at Hayward include new arrival Robert Allen who, before joining us, worked at Oakland Center as a Flight Data Specialist. There also have been two departures with a third pending in the near future. Dennis Decker has left for the Oakland Tower and has just about completed his training there.

Juanita Ago, secretary, departed in March and is now attending pre-developmental training in Oklahoma. Lastly, Mark Libby has been selected for promotion to San Jose Tower. We will miss all of them and wish everyone the best of luck in pursuit of their careers.

David (PX) Paxton is the newest full performance level at Hayward.

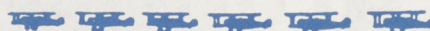
## Meet Hector Placencia . . . Career Day Presentation An Honest Man



Riverside Airway Facilities Sector is proud to share the story of its resident Good Samaritan, Hector Placencia (above). Hector is a General Supply Specialist and also the Class B Imprest Fund Cashier for the area. On one eventful trip to the bank to cash a rather large imprest check, the cashier accidentally gave Hector \$3,000 too much. Upon verifying the cash back at the sector, he discovered the mistake and unhesitatingly phoned the teller and immediately returned the money. The teller confided that she would not have discovered the error until the end of the day and the bank would most likely have had no recourse to locate or reclaim the money. That teller thinks Hector is pretty special and so do we. Hector is modestly amazed at all the attention and states, based on his religious faith and humanitarian spirit he couldn't have considered any other course of action.

Hector has recently been selected for a position in the Logistics Division, Materiel Management Branch.

A Career Day Program was recently presented to 8th Grade Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students at the Park View Intermediate School in Lancaster, Calif. Frank Arcidiacono, Area Supervisor at Los Angeles Center, and Pat Faux, Secretary in the Air Traffic Division, spoke on careers in aviation and careers in the FAA. They were joined by Lt. Col. Beckmann, USAF Rocket Propulsion Laboratory at Edwards AFB, and Don Fletcher, a flight test engineer at Lockheed Corp. Mr. Arcidiacono is active in aviation education in the Antelope Valley, and will be presenting more programs at local high schools during the Spring Semester.



## Michael King Show Saver

A few years ago, Michael King, son of Matt King, San Diego Airway Facilities Sector Environmental Support Unit Supervisor, was featured in Intercom when his soccer team toured New Zealand with a winning team from Rancho Penasquitos. Today, Michael is excelling in a new field--ballet which he is studying at the Black Mountain Dance Center in Rancho Penasquitos and at the International University in San Diego. To date, one of his outstanding performances came when a fellow performer in USIU's production of "Cinderella" was seriously injured and Michael, with only four days of rehearsal, stepped in and performed the required solos and received excellent reviews. Michael is working hard and spending many hours preparing for a career in dancing.

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## Roy Johnston and Terri Pfannkuche Commended

Roy Johnston (center), Sacramento Metro Tower, recently received his third Letter of Commendation for his third gear save in 12 months. This time, however, he is sharing it with his trainee, Terri Pfannkuche (left) who is learning the business from an expert. On Feb. 6, while working the Local Control Position, Roy and Terri spotted N7316C, A C210, diving for the runway after an unusually steep descent, with gear in the up position. Pilot Lynn Taylor of Broomfield, Colo. said later

he didn't know why he was ordered to "go around". But of course he did and was very thankful that Terri was "keeping alive" the tradition that Roy had been perfecting since 1958. Roy and Terri were commended by Manager Eric Katz (right) for their very professional quick response which avoided what could have been a serious accident.



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## Ontario FSS Happenings

By Chuck Burge

Ontario Flight Service Station recently welcomed four new people to the facility: Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist (SATCS) Beverly Clark, from Red Bluff FSS; SATCS Jack Woods, from Reno FSS; Air Traffic Control Specialist (ATCS) Dennis Floyd from the FAA Academy at Oklahoma City; and ATCS Jim Soucek from Los Angeles Center. A big Ontario FSS welcome to all... ..Congratulations to Dave Hatt, who recently attained his facility rating at Ontario FSS. Congratulations to those who celebrated wedding anniversaries during March and April: Howard Irwin and his wife Pamela, six years of wedded bliss; Bob Williams and his wife Claudine celebrating their 11th

wedding anniversary; and Chuck Burge and his wife Maureen celebrating their 19th anniversary. In other family affairs, a new grandfather was recently proclaimed in the facility. Ben Clarke's daughter Sharon presented Ben with a new granddaughter, Shauna. Congratulations to Ben and to the new mother! Congratulations are also in order to Ontario FSS people who assumed new positions within the facility: Chuck Burge, newly established temporary Evaluation and Proficiency Development Specialist (EPDS); Paul Provence and Bob Dean, temporary promotions to Area Supervisor; and completing terms as temporary Area Supervisors are Jack Farnsworth and Marty Krueger.

## FAA Retiree Honored with Inaugural Gold Chip Award



Jim Freeman (right), Radar/Comm Unit Supervisor, Reno Airway Facilities Sector Field Office receives the Reno Sector Field Office first annual Gold Chip award from Electronics Technician William "Willie" Hess.

This distinctive award is presented annually to the supervisor who most exemplifies expertise in the areas of scientific, managerial or crisis decision making. The nugget is 100 percent, 24-carat, Nevada Hereford. The presentation was held at a luncheon honoring Jim on his retirement from Federal Service. Congratulations and Happy Retirement!

## Proposed Change For "Age 60" Rule Dropped

The agency has dropped the proposal that would have allowed some airline pilots to continue on the job after their 60th birthday because it found no valid way to predict which ones might pose a safety hazard for medical reasons. FAA issued the proposal last June in an effort to provide airline pilots with some relief from the present "Age 60" retirement rule, which has been in effect since 1959. The notice itself asked for data or suggestions that could be used to identify those pilots who could continue to fly with the airlines after age 60 without endangering the lives of passengers and other crew members due to a sudden incapacity illness.

However, based on the response to the notice, the agency concluded that it is "impossible to accurately predict when an incapacitating event might occur with respect to any given individual age 60 or older."

Concurrent with the withdrawal action, FAA is suspending action on a petition to extend the Age 60 rule to flight engineers, noting that the role of the flight engineer is not as critical to safety as that of the pilots.

## Honolulu Center Adds Automatic Fire Alarm

Airway Facilities personnel have recently completed the installation of a Halon Fire Protection System at the Diamond Head Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) in Hawaii. The project was 100 percent complete on March 30 when the painter put the finishing touches on the piping. Now there is a completely automatic, state-of-the-art fire alarm and suppression system which serves the Enroute Automated Radar Tracking System (EARTS), Maintenance Processor Subsystem (MPS) and Rimsite Computer equipment areas. Congratulations to resident engineer Ted Tamada for an exemplary effort.

ALOHA

