



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

# Western-Pacific Intercom



## TOP FAA AWARDS IN HIJACK ATTEMPT

## Cover Story

FAA Administrator Donald D. Engen recently presented top agency awards to six individuals whose bravery, dedication to duty, and quick and decisive action stopped an armed man trying to shoot his way aboard a PSA DC-9 at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas.

Receiving the top agency award, the Award for Extraordinary Service with Gold Medal, was Ms. Gloria J. Brown, a supervisor at the checkpoint. Ms. Brown was shot three times when she blocked the gunman's access to the ramp to the aircraft. She is employed by Holman Security.

Mr. George A. McDonnell, the metal detector operator for Holman Security, received the FAA Award for Distinguished Service. Mr. McDonnell was shot when he tried to block the gunman from entering the sterile area.

Also receiving FAA Awards for Distinguished Service were Officers Donald L. Mahar and Jack L. Harrah of the Las Vegas Metro Police Department, who responded speedily to the alarm sounded by Ms. Romero. Their timely action stopped the gunman.

Ms. Maria T. Romero, the X-Ray Operator at the checkpoint, received the FAA Certificate of Commendation. Ms. Romero pushed the alarm button summoning the police when the gunman pulled his weapon.

Also receiving a Certificate of Commendation was Mr. Stephen M. Hughes, PSA Ramp Service Agent, who assisted Ms. Brown in quickly clearing passengers from the sterile area when the gunman entered, locked the door to the airport operating area, and alerted the captain of the DC-9 to pull away from the gate.

In making the presentations, the Administrator said that, in his view, the events at the airport that day illustrate that the pre-board screening system and the back-up to the system can and do work well during a most demanding situa-

tion. Security-in-Depth was certainly in evidence on April 8.

"The reaction at Las Vegas on that day was professional, extraordinary and heroic. The system functioned as it was designed to function."

The Administrator went on to say that we now have a 10-year history of working together, consulting, and reaching informed judgements to resolve common problems. What has evolved is a common security strategy. In all areas of Civil Aviation Security, we are seeing a common strategy at work involving airline and airport management, law enforcement, employee unions, and government agencies, principally the FAA and the FBI.

"The actions of all these individuals," Administrator Engen concluded, "are a great credit to themselves, their organizations and the U.S. Civil Aviation Security System. Because of them, and people like them throughout the country, that system remains secure."

Representing the Western-Pacific Region at the special awards luncheon were Regional Director H. C. "Mac" McClure; Jay Adsen, manager of the Civil Aviation Security Division; and Bobby Tucker, manager of the Las Vegas Civil Aviation Security Field Office. Also in attendance were Billie Vincent, Director, FAA Office of Civil Aviation Security, and Mr. Jim Sheehan, senior vice president of Pacific Southwest Airlines.

Mr. McClure expressed his appreciation to the award recipients and stated that the Western-Pacific Region is extremely proud of these individuals whose efforts, in the discharge of their duties, placed them in extreme jeopardy for the benefit of the flying public.

Cover photo: FAA Administrator Donald D. Engen (right) congratulates the award recipients--from left--Maria T. Romero, Donald L. Mahar, Jack L. Harrah, George A. McDonnell and Gloria J. Brown. Cover photo by Barbara Abels.

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## Jones Committee Review Started

At the request of Administrator Engen, The Jones Committee, which was appointed after the controllers strike to study FAA employee-management relationships, began taking another look at the agency's progress in this area beginning last month. Interviews are being conducted in both Washington Headquarters and the field.

Two of the three committee members spent June 21 and 22 at FAA Headquarters talking with top air traffic and personnel managers, as well as those from the airway facilities and aviation standards sides of the house.

During the second phase of the review, all three committee members will visit facilities in the Great Lakes, Southwest, Southern, and Eastern Regions. They will be accompanied by Larry Kotzker, Special Assistant to the Deputy Administrator.

Kotzker notes that they will visit as many facilities as the

tight schedule allows. "We will be talking at first with managers," he said, "but the committee will spend the vast majority of its time having one-on-one interviews with working-level employees."

Originally appointed by DOT Secretary Drew Lewis and FAA Administrator J. Lynn Helms in August 1981, the committee submitted its first report on March 17, 1982. Among other things, it found that FAA had been characterized by an "Autocratic style of management."

However, when the committee reviewed the agency's human resources program a year later, it concluded that the agency had made great strides toward improving the working environment.

In addition to Lawrence Jones, who is president of the Coleman Company, the other committee members are Dr. David G. Bowers of the University of Michigan and Prof. Stephen H. Fuller, of the Harvard Business School.

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## Joe Brasher Receives Award

Joe Brasher (left), Long Beach Flight Standards District Office Airworthiness Unit, recently was presented a Quality Increase Award for his outstanding work during the past year. Frank Leano, Airworthiness Unit Supervisor, made the presentation. Congratulations, Joe!



## News From SAC FSS

Sacramento Flight Service Station has been busy these last few months, since Ben Marcelo (new Air Traffic Manager) and Pam Proctor (new Clerical Assistant) arrived... Congratulations to Ron Tener, now Area Supervisor at Red Bluff FSS, and Ken Mahorney, new Area Supervisor for Arcata FSS. Both recently attended Supervisor's training in Lawton. Sacramento FSS held a terrific party in their honor at the Red Baron.....Congratulations also to Randy Colvin, Sacramento FSS, and Marcia Sessions, Marysville FSS, on receiving Quality Increase Awards. Keep up the good work! Ray Winfree and Paul Curtin are in line for congratulations for receiving their facility ratings. Ray also received a temporary promotion. Also on the receiving end were Al Heller and Glenn Hotrum for passing Preflight Weather Briefing. Welcome to the ranks of "Specialist".....Welcome aboard to the following new arrivals: Jerry Judd, to Sacramento FSS from Lancaster FSS Area Supervisor; Jose Mandawe to Stockton FSS from Oakland FSS as Area Supervisor; Ron Wenstrom to Sacramento as Assistant Air Traffic Manager from Paso Robles FSS; Pasquale Fazio to Marysville FSS from Reno FSS, and Mark Payne to Sacramento after completing Academy training. Also, new arrival Mark Payne has a new arrival of his own. He and wife Lisa welcomed son David on May 6. Proud papa Mark distributed cigars upon David's arrival. All are fine! Mark wasn't the only one increasing his family--Loren Manges became a grandpa in Feb., welcoming home grandson Michael Cody; and, not to be outdone, Tara Grant also said hello to a bouncing baby grandson, Michael Steven. Kelly Van Vleck, Area Supervisor at Sacramento FSS, has a new arrival also. Kelly and Jan were married in Sunnyvale,

Calif. Congratulations also to Ken Mahorney who entered his horse in the Red Bluff Round-up parade and captured first place.....Many thanks to Damon Knight for a job well done as Acting Area Supervisor at Stockton FSS while awaiting Jose's arrival; to Ray DeLucia and Ron Tener for volunteering for TDY assignments to Stockton FSS to aid in a staffing shortage; to Ken Mahorney and Foy Pulliam for their work as temporary EPDS's and to Orville Nelson on his aviation education talks.....Marvin Johnson has been selected as the temporary QATS for Sacramento FSS. Since Foy Pulliam's return to operational duties and Ken Mahorney's selection to Arcata FSS, Marv has his hands full.....Sacramento FSS has a softball team that is entered in two leagues. One is the FAA League (in the Sacramento area) and the other is the Sacramento County Softball League. The FAA League plays on Wednesday nights in Elk Grove and began on June 13. The Sacramento County league began the week of June 18. Randy Colvin is the Captain and Chuck Raper is the Assistant. The team consists of six flight service specialists, one controller from Sacramento Metro tower, one controller from Sacramento Executive tower, one Airway Facilities technician, and five civilians. LOTS OF LUCK GUYS.....On July 14 the Sacramento FSS will enter two teams of three people each, in "Eppie's Great Race". This is a local triathlon consisting of bicycling 13 miles, running six miles, and kayaking six miles. One person per team per event. The teams are John Prior--running, Loren Manges--bicycling, and Ralph Guerriero--kayaking on one team and Randy Colvin--kayaking, Ray DeLucia--bicycling, and a civilian--running, on the other team. This event will be sponsored by Eppie's Restaurant with the proceeds going to the benefit of the handicapped.



## AAA Urges DD/EFT For Safe Vacation

That summer vacation can end up costing much more than planned if employees haven't taken the proper steps to protect their paychecks during their absences. Having the checks sit in a mailbox is an open invitation to thieves who couldn't care less that tampering with the U.S. mail is a Federal offense.

Accordingly, the Office of Accounting is making another pitch to get employees to deposit their paycheck directly with a financial institution via Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT). When this is done, checks will be safe, and the money will be there when needed. Authorization forms for DD/EFT are available at servicing personnel offices.

## Engen Speaks To National Supcom

This year's annual National Supervisors Committee (Supcom) meeting was highlighted by briefings on nine major air traffic programs and a banquet speech by Administrator Engen.

The meeting brought together 33 first and second line supervisors from all over FAA to discuss items of common concern and come up with recommended solutions. Also, they learned about new and ongoing programs from Headquarters managers.

In all 56 items were considered by the supervisors who represented all three air traffic options, en route centers, towers, and flight service stations.

Summing up the meeting was Max Hall, Area Supervisor from the Salt Lake City Center. He called it a very productive meeting and said, "Now, after three years we know the Supcom program does make a difference and we appreciate the support we are getting from Headquarters."

## Dayle Buschkotter Speaks at Air Youth Day



Los Angeles Tower Air Traffic Control Specialist Dayle Buschkotter was a featured speaker at the California Association for Aerospace Education's Air Youth Day recently held at Northrop University in Inglewood, Calif. She was one of a panel of prominent figures in the engineering and aerospace industries who met with high school and college-age students to talk about career options in these areas.

Academic scholarships were also awarded during the day to two outstanding students whose talents are directed toward aerospace or aviation careers. The scholarships provide full tuition and are sponsored by the Academy Pacific Travel School and Northrop University.

Air Youth Day was co-hosted by the Los Angeles Department of Airports, Flying Tigers, and Northrop University.

Dayle has been a controller for five years, the last year-and-a-half spent at LAX Tower. Photo courtesy Northrop University.

## Raise Appears in July

Most FAA employees will find the recently granted one-half percent pay raise and the appropriate retroactive pay included in the check they receive during the first week of July. The exceptions will be wage grade employees, for whom revised pay schedules have not been received; employees with special salary rates; and those who changed Federal Pay Systems since January 8. They will find the raise reflected in a somewhat later check.

In addition, any employee who transferred within the FAA or from another administration serviced by the Uniform Payroll System during the retroactive period will receive a separate check for that portion of the increase. This separate check will be mailed to the latest address of record by the agency cashier colocated with the payroll office servicing the employee's previous post of duty.



## Airport Security System Working

Here are a couple of mind-boggling statistics for you from the latest FAA report to Congress on the effectiveness of the Civil Aviation Security Program. Since the program was begun in 1973, over 5 billion people and 6.5 billion carry-on items have passed through airport checkpoints. That's more people and more suitcases/shopping bags than there are on the entire planet.

As a result of these checks, 29,000 firearms have been detected and kept off airplanes and 12,000 persons have been arrested. Still, looking at the up side of this equation, that means most airline passengers are pretty solid citizens--with only one out of every 172,000 having a firearm and only one in 417,000 ending up in the pokey. Of course, it only takes one on your airplane to ruin your whole day.

## Merit Pay Is Here

The merit pay system is now a reality for nearly 6,000 FAA employees. It was postponed in the past because supervisors worked unusual schedules during the strike recovery period.

Under this system, merit pay employees will now receive a combined raise, called a merit pay increase. The amount of this increase will be determined by the employee's grade, present salary, and annual performance rating for the 12-month period ending June 30. Employees rated as "outstanding" or "excellent" generally will earn raises larger than those paid under the General Schedule (GS) system.

According to the Office of Personnel and Training, accurate performance ratings are now more important than ever. Final ratings should be given to merit pay employees as soon as possible after June 30 in order to assure that these employees will receive their raises in October.

## Los Angeles TRACON News

The Los Angeles TRACON runners have done it again. For the second year in a row, they beat the "Bur-bank Jets" at the Jimmy Stewart National Relay Marathon. Jerry Shourds, Bryan Viselli (Los Angeles Tower), Larry Viselli, Mike Sosebee, and Roland Hernandez completed the race with a winning time of three hours and one minute.

The race was held on April 8th at Griffith Park and consisted of a 26.2 mile course with each of the five runners running 5.25 miles. Nice job by all!

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 black and white photographs should be sent to Barbara Abels, Editor, or Beth Caughey, Assistant Editor, AWP-5, 213/536-6431 or FTS 966-6431.

## FAA Employ Survey

The FAA Civil Aeromedical Institute (CAMI) has developed an agency-wide Employee Survey to gather information about employee perceptions of their work environment. The first stage of the survey consists of written surveys which will be mailed to all employees at their home addresses (obtained from PMIS records). The second stage of the survey process will be small-group sensing sessions (interviews) to be conducted at representative facilities in all regions.

Data and information obtained from the Employee Survey will: (1) provide useful information relative to employee opinions and perceptions; and (2) serve as baseline data for comparison of data obtained in subsequent surveys. The survey has been designed to focus on the FAA organizational culture as it relates closely to the current human relations/human resources efforts.

The results will be tabulated and fed back to the managers and employees in the fall. Because of the agency's desire to maintain confidentiality, work site location information will not be requested for facilities/offices employing fewer than 25 people. For those offices with 25 or more employees, survey results will provide information relative to the specific facility.

This survey is an instrument which can help managers achieve the FAA's goal of obtaining a higher degree of employee job satisfaction and a higher quality of worklife which results in greater productivity and efficiency. Your cooperation and participation in this survey will help make the FAA an even better place to work. We would appreciate your timely submissions of completed survey (within five days of receipt) in order that feedback can also be presented in a timely fashion. Once again, thank you for your cooperation.

## John Miller Receives Award



John Miller (above right), General Supply Specialist, Logistics Supply Unit, Las Vegas Airway Facilities Sector, was presented a Quality Increase Award for his outstanding performance during the past year. Presenting the award to John was Dean DeShazo, Las Vegas AFS Manager.



## Monterey Tower News

Welcome aboard to Forney Lundy, Air Traffic Manager, from the Airspace and Procedures Section in the Western-Pacific Regional Office and to Mark Thacker, controller from San Jose Tower.....Congratulations are extended to Mark and Dorothy Thacker on their recent marriage.....More controllers join the ranks at Monterey Tower: Rob Mendelsohn, Ken Powell and Helen Cota have achieved facility certification. Congratulations and welcome to the "team".

## Reno Silver Dollar Open Golf Tournament

Reno announces the fourth annual Silver Dollar Open golf tournament, a two-day event to be held at Washoe and Sierra Sage Courses on Aug. 27 and 28. Entries are limited and we're looking forward to another great turnout--so mark your calendars now. Tournament format will include a 2-3-4-5 scramble on Monday (shotgun start at 8 a.m.) and the open on Tuesday with a Championship, Ladies' and Men's Flight. Please call Reno FSS for further information--702/784-5416.

## FAA/SBA Agree to Award Minority Contracts

FAA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) recently entered into a partnership by signing an agreement to award \$139 million in contracts to minority and disadvantaged business firms.

Under terms of the agreement, which establishes a pilot program spanning two years, the SBA will contract with companies having the expertise to handle all or part of four major projects the FAA has designated as part of its air traffic control modernization program.

The four projects in the pilot program which are part of the President's budget request are: installation or replacement of radio control equipment at air route traffic control centers, at airport control towers, and flight service stations; upgrading of existing Direction Finder (DF) systems with solid-state equipment; implementing Remote Maintenance Monitoring (RMM) equipment for instrument landing systems; and establishment of an Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) that will transmit surface weather data directly to pilots and to the National Weather Service for use in preparing forecasts. In FY 1983, the agency awarded \$71.2 million to minority businesses--an \$18 million increase over the previous year under its regular Minority Business Enterprise Program.

## Jim Krueger Retiring July 31

After 32 years in the field of Aviation of which 27 were spent with FAA, James A. Krueger, Western Aircraft Certification Office, Aircraft Modification Section, ANM-179W, has announced his decision to retire as of July 31, 1984. Plans for an appropriate send-off will be announced at a later date. You may contact Marv Rammelsberg or Lisa Buchanan on 213/536-6350 or FTS 966-6350 for more information.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND  
THE COFFEE & CAKE PARTY ON  
JULY 31 IN ROOM 5W3 AT 9 A.M.

## Janice Beccue to Rescue



In the early morning light on June 6, an excess piece of feathered property was FOB (found on base) under Tree #3 in the employee parking lot. The property was salvaged by Janice Beccue, Supply Technician, Materiel Support Section, Logistics Division. Dosed with tetracycline water and equal parts of cooked ground beef, egg, raw corn, tropical fish tablets and meal worms, this property can now be reported to be in N-1 condition. Photo by Bob Moline's aide.