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Western-Pacific Intercom



Edwards RAPCON
AWP's Terminal Facility of the Year --

Cover Story

Congratulations to Edwards Radar Approach Control (RAPCON)--the Western-Pacific Region Terminal Facility of the Year. Representing the Regional Air Traffic Division, Charlie Aalfs (holding plaque) presented the award to some of the folks at Edwards. They are, from left, Mike Hame, Kathy Smith, Sandy Detherage, Rob Moffitt and Carl Sagerquist.

TV Stations To Receive AT Recruitment Ads

More than 50 television stations in the Western-Pacific Region will soon receive videotaped Air Traffic Control Specialist recruiting announcements. The 60-, 30- and 15-second public service spot announcements were professionally prepared by the Gerard Company of Baltimore, Maryland. They depict numerous tower and radar controllers on the job, their work environment, and some aircraft. This recruiting effort can be supported by referring callers to the nearest Air Traffic facility or office.

Western-Pacific Intercom

EDITOR
Elly Brekke

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
H. C. McClure

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Barbara Abels

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Summer Delays Plummet

Remember all those dire predictions for the summer travel season of chaos in the skies and horrendous delays on the ground? Well, they never materialized, and here are some numbers to prove our point:

* September flight delays down 41 percent from September 1986;

* July-September delays down 24 percent from 1986;

* May-September delays down 17 percent from last year.

Due to a sharp drop in summer delays, the total for the year now is eight percent below the comparable figure for 1986. Through September, the agency logged 280,502 delays of 15 minutes or more in the system in contrast with 305,445 for the same period in 1986.

The September delay figure was 26,586 for a daily average of 886 as compared with 44,868 and 1,496 per day in September 1986.

Air Traffic's Jack Ryan attributed the drop in delays in part to the more realistic airline schedules that were implemented following DOT/FAA meetings with airlines this spring and to improved ATC procedures, such as the Expanded East Coast Plan.



Atlanta Is Number One

Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport can now lay claim to being the world's busiest airport, having finished Fiscal Year 1987 with more operations than the long-time leader, Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Preliminary figures show that Atlanta finished the year with a total of 801,122 operations as compared with 795,804 for the Chicago airport. O'Hare has been top dog airport traffic-wise on both a calendar and fiscal year basis since 1962.

National University

Selected As

Resource Center



Don Clausen (middle), Special Assistant to FAA Administrator McArtor, cuts the ribbon to officially dedicate National University's Teacher Education Resource Center. Dr. David Chigos (right), president of National University, and Randy "Duke" Cunningham, dean of NU's School of Aviation Science and Flight Training, watch the ceremony.

The goal of the center, according to Clausen, is to further air safety through

aviation education utilizing a partnership between government, educational institutions and the community. Clausen stated that centers like at NU will play an integral part in the future of aviation stating that the "ultimate success will depend upon a strong educational foundation and strategy." He continued, "I predict it (the center) will have a regional impact as well as potentially an international impact."

New Course For Air Traffic Evaluators Starts

A total of 22 Evaluation Specialists from headquarters and the field attended the initial classes, Oct. 19-23, of a new AT course emphasizing standardization in methods for carrying out investigations and evaluations.

Increased standardization is the goal of a new course for Air Traffic Evaluators that was kicked off in Arlington, VA, on October 19. Plans already are under way for follow-on classes to be held on a routine basis beginning early next year.

Air Traffic's chief evaluator Harvey Safeer was the lead-off speaker and told his audience, "We must standardize the way in which evaluations and investigations are conducted by all levels of air traffic from facilities to headquarters." Safeer is director of the

Office of Air Traffic Evaluations and Analysis (ATS).

The course was put together under the guidance of Chuck Snover, a military officer assigned to the Headquarters Evaluations Branch, using suggestions and ideas from both headquarters and field personnel. Subject areas included FAA/NTSB responsibilities in accident/incident investigations, handling of air traffic operational errors and near midair collisions, procedures for full facility and other types of evaluations, and resource management.

The 22 participants in the five-day seminar were drawn from each of the regions, the Headquarters Evaluations Branch (ATS-120) and the Field Evaluations Branch (ATS-130).

News In Brief

* Vice Admiral/NTSB Member/FAA Administrator Donald Engen has a new title to list on his resume. He was named president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's Air Safety Foundation at the organization's recent convention in Las Vegas. He's already on the job.

* The first revision of the FAA Handbook since 1984 is in the final stages of coordination, but don't look for it to show up in the in-box for a couple of months. The clearance and printing processes take time. Major changes reflect the agency's new performance system and the latest retirement options, such as the Federal Employment Retirement System (FERS) and the Thrift Savings Plan.

* There is a new 366-5957 telephone number for DOT's Consumer Affairs Division that will give FAAers and others faster access to personnel in that office. Previously, everyone there shared the 366-2220 number that is also used for consumer complaints about air travel, and it gets rather busy at times. The 366-2220 number now is primarily for consumer complaints.

* This year's winner of the Annual Management Systems Activities Award was the Alaskan Region's Management Systems Division. The award recognizes an overall high level of performance in such areas as program accomplishment, communications, employee development, external relations and professionalism. Alaskan Division Manager Dick Brindley took possession of the winning plaque from Management Systems Director Mike Sherwin in a September 21 ceremony in Washington headquarters.

* Approximately 890 FAAers were affected by the recent Office of Personnel Management (OPM) special pay raises for Federal engineers, scientists, medical personnel, and other shortage-category employees. The special pay rates became effective with the first pay period in October.

* Veterans Day this year will not get Federal employees a three-day weekend. Veterans Day is being celebrated on Wednesday, Nov. 11, the original Armistice Day marking the end of World War I.

Final AFSS Commissioned With Model 1 System

The first phase of the Automated Flight Service Station (AFSS) Program was completed September 28 with commissioning of the basic automation package, known as the Model 1 System, at the Jackson TN, facility. The agency now has 37 Model 1 stations on line, seven others operating with the computer supported Leased Service A & B System (LABS), and 17 more scheduled to receive the leased system by 1991.

Meanwhile, the AFSS contractor, E-Systems, is developing a more powerful version of the basic system, called Full Capacity Model 1, which will replace the LABS equipment and also be used to upgrade the existing Model 1 installed installations. Deliveries will begin in early 1990 and be completed in late 1992.

The agency also plans to contract with the private sector next year to provide weather graphics and direct computer access to the system. Deliveries of these enhancements will begin in 1989.

AES At ATCA Convention

The Systems Engineering Service is sponsoring two advanced equipment exhibits at the Air Traffic Control Association (ATCA) conference, November 2-5 in Anaheim, CA.

One is the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) exhibit, demonstrating the potential use of a satellite link to transmit ATC flow management data to Aircraft Situation Display units throughout the system.

The Controller Radar Training Automation (CRTA) display will show how computers can enhance the training of radar controllers by monitoring student performance and providing verbal corrections when they violate legal, procedural, or technical rules.

FAA Offers Grace Period For Pilots To Report DWIs

FAA is giving a second chance to pilots who failed to report required information on drunk driving and other traffic convictions on their medical certificate applications. They now have until January 1 to set the record straight with the assurance that the agency will not take enforcement action on the basis of falsification, for any falsification of a record of traffic conviction disclosed by the voluntarily supplied information.

As of January 1, the FAA intends to intensify its enforcement action in falsification cases involving traffic convictions. However, even after January 1, and until further notice, FAA will continue to accept corrected data on traffic convictions and will not take enforcement action on the basis of falsification providing the airman acts before the agency becomes aware of the falsification through other means.

First Focus Group Meets

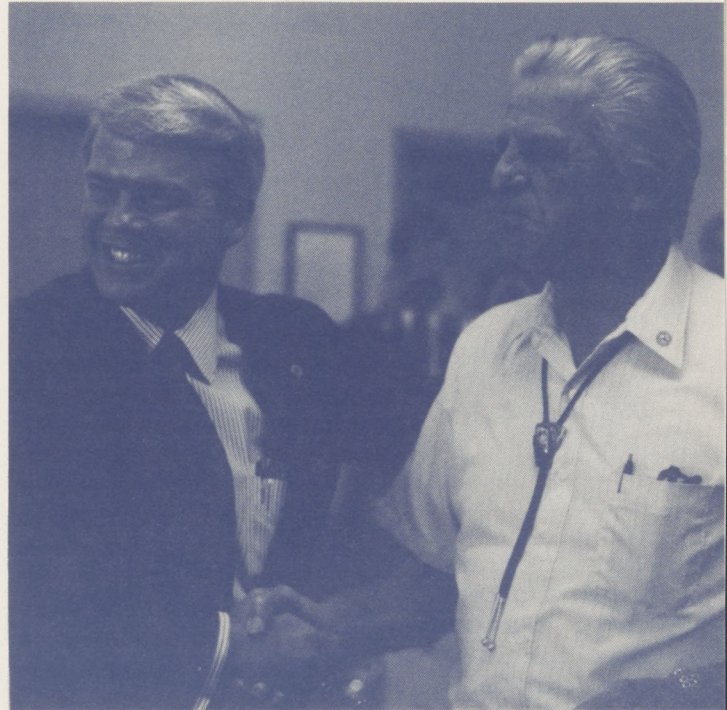
FAA will initiate a new approach to problem solving when it convenes its first "Employee Focus Group" composed of working controllers in Atlanta, Oct. 29-30.

Already scheduled is a second meeting with Flight Standard inspectors for November 18-20 in Atlanta. Meetings with other groups will follow.

Administrator McArtor will chair the initial meeting, which will bring together 27 full performance level air traffic controllers selected from centers and towers in each of the regions, as well as three representatives of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. Joining McArtor will be top level Washington officials from Air Traffic, Systems Maintenance, Aviation Standards, Budget and Human Resources.

The theme of the first meeting will be "The Right Stuff--How Do We Improve Controller/Team Performance To Reduce Operational Errors and Increase Professionalism?" McArtor believes working controllers are among the best qualified to answer these questions.

McArtor And McClure Visit Las Vegas FSDO



Las Vegas Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) recently had the pleasure of visiting with FAA Administrator T. Allan McArtor. The Administrator, accompanied by Regional Director Mac McClure, reviewed the Grand Canyon procedures and route proposals for tour operators. During the visit, Administrator McArtor (left) presented Principal General Aviation Air Worthiness Inspector James Shields with his 35 year service pin.

Oakland Airshow Success

Oakland Airport recently celebrated its 60th anniversary with a big airshow at which the FAA organized a large pictorial display booth, featuring our history. All of the Oakland Air Traffic facilities participated in this outstanding display.

A special thanks goes out to Controller Edale Clark from the Oakland Flight Service Station who was the display coordinator for this event.

Accounting Branch News

The Los Angeles Federal Executive Board and the University of Southern California recently established a Fellowship in Public Administration. Five of the 20 program participants are Western-Pacific employees including accountant Tina Reddix of the Financial Reports and Analysis Unit.

Tina will be assisting Federal agencies in training assignments for development of knowledge, skills and abilities for performance of official duties. In addition, the program affords employees opportunities to earn one or more advanced degrees and to participate in USC's Management Certificate Program.

A native of Siagon, Vietnam, Accounting Technician Lan Nuyen was recently recognized for her ability to master the challenges of language and cultural barriers through teaching herself to speak and read English in an Indonesian camp. Her commitment to further self-development in others has led Lan to participate in orientation sessions and serve on the staff of a college-based news organization. Through her efforts, foreign students are encouraged to improve reading and writing skills. In recognition of her abilities, Lan received a "Salute to Women" award in the second annual Western-Pacific presentation, sponsored by the Federal Women's Program Committee.

Logistics Division Christmas Party Slated

The Logistics Division Christmas Party will be held at Charley Brown's Restaurant, King Harbor, Redondo Beach on Thursday December 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. Luncheon selections will be Beef Stroganoff at \$10 or Fresh Pacific Red Snapper Vera Cruz at \$11. Price includes salad, potato or rice, vegetable, rolls, coffee or tea, and dessert. Also included in the price are tax, tip and door prize. (Because of our past business with Charley Brown's, a 10% discount is helping to keep the price down.) For further information, contact the Logistics Division at 213/297-1133.

Wedding Bells On Guam



Congratulations to Bea Aguon, Electronics Technician, Guam Airway Facilities Sector Field Office and Rocky Riberal, AWP-464.6B, on their recent marriage.

Pre-Developmental Program Reactivating

Begin networking now within FAA and other Federal agencies to help find qualified candidates for the Air Traffic Pre-Developmental Program. Bids for this special emphasis program will open next spring. Candidates will need to pass the Air Traffic Control Specialist (ATCS) examination and meet all other medical and security requirements. Age restrictions may apply.

Please see FAA Order 3120.17B, ATCS Pre-Developmental program, for additional information.

FAA People

* New England Region Director Robert Whittington is back in Washington again to help fill the executive-level void created by the recent departure of Deputy Administrator-designate Larry Hecker. Whittington has the title of Acting Executive Director, which will become permanent once all the paperwork is completed. He previously filled in from July 1986 to July 1987 as Acting Deputy Administrator and then briefly as Acting Administrator before returning to New England.

* Thirty-year FAA veteran Joseph Rubino has been named Deputy Director of the agency's Technical Center at Atlantic City, NJ. A former Airway Facilities technician, Rubino has been at the Tech Center since August 1975 and served as the Center's Acting Director from April to August of this year. He holds a B.S. degree from Stockton State College and has received 25 awards in his 30 years with the agency.

* The first woman aeronautical engineer hired by FAA's predecessor, the Civil Aeronautics Administration, is finally getting some well deserved recognition. On Oct. 15, Katherine Stinson was honored by the Los Angeles Section of the American Institute of "Aerospace Pioneer of the Year." Stinson, who also was the first woman aeronautical engineer to come out of North Carolina State, joined the old CAA in 1941 and spent 32 years with the agency before merging with the sun 'n fun set in southern California.

* Sometimes the best ideas are the simplest ones. Take the suggestion by Judith Marro of the Jacksonville enroute center to combine mail sent from field facilities to headquarters in a single envelope. The savings in postage are obvious, running into thousands of dollars a year. Not surprisingly, the agency adopted the suggestion and presented Ms. Marro with a check for \$400.



FAA Proposes Tougher Standards For Exit Doors

The agency has proposed a rule that, for the first time, spells out the maximum distance between emergency exits on large aircraft. The rule limits the distance between exits to 60 feet and requires that no passenger seat be more than 30 feet from an emergency exit. Current regulations require only that exits be spaced uniformly along the passenger cabin. The number is keyed to the number of passengers.

If adopted, the rule would affect all new transport airplanes type certificated after the effective date, and new planes produced under existing type certificates. Airplanes already in service would not be affected.

Welcome TWO-- A Professional Women's Organization

A new professional organization is being formed within the FAA for women in technical fields. Known as TWO-- Technical Women's Organization--the group has a two-fold function. It will serve as a support group and as a communication network for career development.

A convention is planned for early 1988 to formalize the organization and elect officials. During the early stages, the following women have volunteered for positions: President - G.S. Morgan, Charlotte, North Carolina; Vice President - Marie Meyer, Western-Pacific Regional Office, F&E; Treasurer - Clarissa Holland, Pittsburgh, Penn.; and Secretary - ViAnne Fowler, AWP Regional Office, F&E.

Each region also has a volunteer representative. Western Pacific's is Betsy Titherington who is a radar technician at Long Beach Airway Facilities Sector Field Office. For more information, contact Betsy at FTS 799-2008; Marie at FTS 984-1269, or ViAnne at FTS 984-1718.

A HANDY GUIDE TO 1988's MOST IMPORTANT AVIATION DATES

It's estimated that each year over 1500 aviation shows are held in the United States. They frequently vary from local "day-at-the-airport" shows, to specific interest group conventions like NBAA or HAI. B/CA has put together this FACT SHEET which lists some of the more important show dates and locations to help facilitate your planning for the coming year. For further information on dates, times and other shows, be sure to see B/CA's Calendar in each monthly issue.

- January 27 - 31:** Asian Aerospace 88 — Singapore Changi Airport. *Contact:* Cahners Exposition Group, 1 Maritime Square. #12-03 World Trade Centre, Singapore 0409. Tel. 2711013, Tlx RS 39200 CEGSP, Fax 2744666.
- February 7 - 9:** Helicopter Association International 40th annual meeting. Anaheim. *Contact:* HAI, 1619 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3406 (703) 683-4646.
- March 15 - 17:** Professional Aviation Maintenance Association 17th annual convention, Houston, TX. *Contact:* PAMA Convention, 500 Northwest Plaza, Suite 912, St. Ann, MO 63074 (314) 739-2580.
- March 21 - 26:** Airport & Civil Aviation Expo/China '88. Guangzhou. *Contact:* China Promotion Ltd., Rm. 1810 Shun Tak Centre-West Tower (New Hong Kong - Macau Ferry Terminal) 200 Connaught Rd., Central, Hong Kong, Telephone: 5-592055. Telex 76270 CHOCH HX. Fax 5-476537.
- April 20 - 22:** Flight Safety Foundation Corporate Meeting. Williamsburg, VA. *Contact:* Flight Safety Foundation, 5510 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204 (703) 820-2777.
- April 24 - 27:** National Air Transport Association convention. Santa Clara. *Contact:* NATA, 4226 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302 (703) 845-9000.
- May 5 - 12:** Hannover Air Show, Hannover, West Germany. *Contact:* Hannover Fairs USA, Inc., P.O. Box 7066, Princeton, NJ 08540 (609) 987-1202.
- May 8 - 12:** Aircraft Electronics Association 31st annual meeting. Reno. *Contact:* AEA, P.O. Box 1981, Independence, MO 64055 (816) 373-6565.
- May 11 - 13:** Canadian Business Aircraft Association annual convention. Toronto, Canada. *Contact:* CBAA, 275 Slater St., Suite 1212, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1P 5H9. (613) 236-5611.
- June 16 - 18:** American Helicopter Society 44th annual forum, Wash. DC. *Contact:* AHS, 217 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314. (703) 684-6777.
- June 20 - 22:** Regional Airline Association Trade Show., Washington, DC. *Contact:* RAA, 1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036. (202) 857-1170.
- July 20 - 24:** Airborne Law Enforcement Agency Annual Meeting. Tampa. (916) 923-1446.
- July 21 - 24:** Dayton International Air Exposition. Vandalia, OH. *Contact:* Air Show and Trade Exposition, Rm. 214, Air Terminal Bldg., Dayton Int'l Airport, Vandalia, OH 45377. (513) 898-5901.
- July 28 - August 5:** Experimental Aircraft Association Annual Meeting. *Contact:* EAA, Wittman Airfield, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2591. (414) 426-4800.
- Sept. 4 - 11:** Farnborough International Air Show. Farnborough, England. *Contact:* British Information Services, 845 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022 (212) 752-8400.
- Sept. 19 - 23:** ASHBEAMS (American Society of Hospital Based Emergency Air Medical Services) 9th Annual International Conference. Boston. *Contact:* ASHBEAMS, 612 Dennis Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103. (619) 542-0388.
- Oct. 6 - 8:** Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association meeting. Nashville. *Contact:* AOPA, 421 Aviation Way, Frederick, MD 21701 (301) 695-2000.
- Oct. 18 - 20:** NBAA's 41st annual meeting. Dallas. *Contact:* National Business Aircraft Association, 1200 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 783-9000.
- Nov. 14 - 16:** Regional Airlines Association fall meeting. Denver. *Contact:* RAA, 1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 857-1170.
- Dec. 5 - 10:** Shanghai Air Show '88. Shanghai. *Contact:* China Promotion Ltd., Rm. 1810 Shun Tak Centre - West Tower (New Hong Kong - Macau Ferry Terminal) 200 Connaught Rd., Central, Hong Kong, Telephone: 5-592055, Telex 76270 CHOCH HX. Fax 5-476537.
Radio & Television News Director's Association meeting. Information not available at this time. *Contact:* RTNDA 202-659-6510.