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# Western-Pacific Intercom



**Bobbie Jones --  
DOT Secretary's Award For Excellence**

## Cover Story

A recipient of the Secretary's Award for Excellence, Bobbie Jones is the Administrative Services Coordinator at Oakland Center Airway Facilities Sector. In this position, she comes in contact with every employee in the Sector. Bobbie is known throughout the facility for her unique ability to deal with people and to meet their needs. She is a caring and helping person, and is a problem-solver deluxe. She loves her work and the people of the FAA, and has declined several career opportunities in other federal agencies.

Bobbie spent three years with GSA before coming to the FAA. After a short time in the Airports District Office in Burlingame, Calif., Bobbie came to Oakland Center. She served 18 years in Air Traffic and the last seven years with Airway Facilities. Six years of her Air Traffic service involved the implementation of the Automated National Airspace System Plan at Oakland Center. Eighteen years later, Bobbie is again working on implementation of a new automated NAS system--she is a Coordinator for the Oakland Center HOST Computer Dedication, which will take place on November 20. Some 600 leaders from government and industry have been invited to participate.

Bobbie hails from Tennessee, coming to California 33 years ago as a U.S. Marine. Here she met and married her husband Ross, also a career Federal employee. Bobbie and Ross have one son Michael and one grandson Kevin. Kevin, of course, is Bobbie's favorite pastime. Her hobbies include oil painting, collecting thimbles, and various other craft activities.

Bobbie was recently honored in Washington D.C. for her dedication and accomplishments as an FAA employee. In receiving the Secretary's Award for Excellence, Bobbie was lauded as an excellent employee who is innovative and extremely talented.

Cover photo: Administrative Services

Coordinator Bobbie Jones (left) is honored with the Secretary's Award for Excellence. Making the presentation is former Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole.

"Bobbie is known for her unique ability to deal with people. She is a caring and helping person..."

## Western-Pacific Intercom

EDITOR  
Elly Brekke

REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
H. C. McClure

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
Barbara Abels

INTERCOM is published weekly for the employees of the Western-Pacific Region by the Public Affairs Office. Articles and photos are welcomed. If you have questions, suggestions or submissions, please call the Editor at FTS 984-1431/COMM 213/297-1431.

## More Cover Story



Other recipients of the Secretary's Award for Excellence include: C. Lorraine Bush, ACE, Atlanta, GA ACO; Jih Ng, AEA-20, Jamaica, NY; Gloria N. Fullerton, AEA, Norfolk, VA AFS; Bobbie F. Jones, AWP, Oakland ARTCC, CA AFS; Adele G. Harrison, ACE, St. Louis, MO AFSS; Carol J. Montgomery, AHR-1, Washington, DC; Janet K. Walker, ASW-400, Fort Worth, TX; Leila Joy Flynn, AEA, Pittsburgh, PA FSDO; Teri L. Nyhaug, AGL, Sioux Falls, SD SFO; Carolyn J. Walker, AAL-50, Anchorage, AK; FAA Administrator McArtor; Beverly A. Sluder, AAC-50, Oklahoma City, OK and Dixie L. Dean, APR-2, Washington, DC.

Unavailable for photo is Marilyn S. Gray, AGL, Indianapolis, IN AFS.

## Service Suspended

The property rental management and rental assistance services provided under FAA's relocation contract with ChemExec Corp. have been temporarily suspended because of a ruling by the General Accounting Office (GAO) that limits relocation services to those specifically authorized in the Federal Travel Regulations.

The DOT General Counsel currently is reviewing the GAO decision to determine what options are open to the agency in this area. The ruling affects only rental services in which the contractor managed the rental of employees' homes and assisted them in finding rental housing at their new duty stations. There is no change in the guaranteed home purchase and home finding services.

## Science Grants Awarded To 11 Institutions

FAA has awarded competitive airway science grants, totaling \$5 million, to 11 colleges and universities in nine states and Puerto Rico. The funds can be used for building construction and/or the acquisition of instruction equipment to support each school's airway science curriculum.

The FAA-sponsored grant program was initiated in 1983 to help educate the nation's future aviation leaders. Thirty schools currently have an FAA-approved airway science program and another 20 are in the process of getting approval.

The 11 grant recipients are Auburn University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida Institute of Technology, Hampton Institute, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Kearney State College, Middle Tennessee State University, National University, Ohio State University, San Jose State University, and Southern Illinois University.

## Retirement Party Slated For Jim Holweger

Assistant Air Traffic Manager Jim Holweger has announced his retirement. A dinner has been planned in his honor on Saturday, November 21 at the Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza; 5985 West Century Blvd.; Los Angeles, Calif. No-host cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner following at 7 p.m. Rooms are available at a rate of \$65.

For dinner reservations, contact Marlys Vandervelde in the Air Traffic Division at 213/297-1198.

## Flight Instructors And Mechanics Honored

This year's Certified Flight Instructor of the Year is June Bonesteel from Scottsdale, AZ, Airport and the Maintenance Technician of the Year is Lenny Skunberg of the Salmon, ID, Airport. Both were honored at ceremonies in the FAA Washington headquarters on October 24. Bonesteel operates her own flight school at Scottsdale, and Skunberg is proprietor of "Lenny's Airmotive" at the Salmon Airport.

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## News In Brief

\* A recent FAA audit of the deferred maintenance practices of 11 airlines could lead to tougher FAA rules in this area. Deputy Associate Administrator for Aviation Standards John S. Kern told a Congressional subcommittee on Oct. 21 that the agency is concerned about possible abuse of airline minimum equipment lists (MELs) which specify what items must be operational before a pilot can take off. Kern said, "The results of the audit are currently being analyzed, and we are considering strengthening our current requirements to reduce deferral of maintenance items for prolonged periods."

\* The agency has told Congress that it wants to add more than 1,300 aviation safety inspectors and support personnel to the workforce in the FY 1988-1991 time period. FAA's "Annual Report on the Effect of the Airline Deregulation Act on the Level of Air Safety" for 1986 said the projections are based on new staffing standards which accurately match workload with staffing needs. Over the four-year period, the new standards call for a total of 1,028 inspectors and 352 support personnel.

\* Elizabeth "Liddy" Dole has departed her post as Transportation Secretary, but her name lingers on in the air traffic control system. At the direction of Administrator McArtor, there is now a Liddy intersection near the airport serving the former Secretary's hometown of Salisbury, NC. The intersection is at the two-mile DME point of the 19.6 degree radial of the ROWAN (Salisbury) VOR.



## Women Named To Top Agency Posts

Two FAA career women, Jacqueline Smith and Vina Showers, have been appointed to key executive posts in the Western-Pacific Region and the Aeronautical Center, respectively.

A 19-year air traffic veteran, Smith is the new manager of AWP's Air Traffic Division, the first woman to hold that post in any region. She started her career as a controller in the Los Angeles enroute center and later was assistant manager of the Cleveland center and manager of the Boston center before becoming assistant manager of AWP's AT Division.

Showers registers two agency "firsts" with her appointment as manager of the FAA Depot. She is the first woman to hold that job and also the first minority female in the Senior Executive Service in FAA. She has been with the agency in Oklahoma City and Washington for 20 years, earning both a B.A. and a law degree along the way.

## Forte' New ANE Deputy

Timothy Forte' has been reassigned to Deputy Director of the New England Region from his previous post as manager of the Western-Pacific Region's Flight Standards Division.

An experienced airman with an airline transport pilot's certificate and instructor rating, he joined the agency in 1978 as an operations inspector at the Farmingdale, NY, GADO. He subsequently moved to the Eastern Region Headquarters as an air carrier certification specialist and then to Washington headquarters as an aviation safety inspector.

He succeeds Clyde DeHart, Jr., who moved to the Southern Region as Deputy Director this summer.

## Thrift Savings Open Season Coming

Nobody enrolled in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) lost a penny of his/her investment in the recent stock market "correction" because the plan managers currently buy only short-term Treasury bills which paid 9 5/8 percent in October. The current interest rate will be printed automatically on your earnings and leave statement.

The TSP Open Season will work much like the Health Benefits Plan Open Season with both Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) workers allowed to enroll in the plan or change their options before the Jan. 30, 1988, closing date.

Contributions by CSRS employees again will be limited to five percent of their salary with no Federal matching funds. FERS workers can make up to a 10 percent contribution with the Government providing matching funds for up to five percent of that amount.

Elections made by Jan. 2 will be effective Jan. 3, with those submitted between Jan. 3 and Jan. 30 effective the first full pay period after receipt. Pick up brochures and enrollment forms from servicing personnel offices.

## City-Pair Transportation

As a result of delays encountered in procuring air/rail passenger transportation services for fiscal year 1988, current contracts scheduled to expire on September 30, 1987, have been extended through January 31, 1988.

The following current contractors have agreed to the extension: Hawaiian Airlines, Piedmont, United, US Air, Braniff, Midway, Empire, Pacific Southwest, Amtrak, Alaska, Pan American, Midwest Express, Southwest, American West, Eastern (YCA only), and Continental (YCA only). American, Delta, Northwest, and Trans World have decided not to extend their contract fares. Every effort should be made to obtain the best possible fare in those markets served by contractors who have chosen not to extend existing fares during this period.

## Employee Survey Follow-Up Evaluation Nears Completion

FAA has completed the regional follow-up evaluation of actions resulting from the 1986 Employee Attitude Survey and now has turned its attention to the Technical Center, the Aeronautical Center, and Washington headquarters.

Teams of headquarters and regional managers already have interviewed employees at approximately 100 field facilities to determine what actions have been taken to address negative findings in the survey and improve overall job satisfaction. The evaluators have focused primarily on the process that managers have instituted to correct problems.

Among the questions posed to employees is whether managers have realistically identified problems, have involved employees in finding solutions, and have requested additional guidance from the regional office. Another major area of concern is whether employees, themselves, have perceived any changes.

Results of the evaluation will be used to brief the Administrator and other top-level agency officials. They also will serve as a guide in the preparation of the 1988 survey cycle, which includes the administration of the survey, feedback of results, analysis, action, and follow-up evaluations.

## Mail And Distribution Discrepancies Found

While auditing FY-84 and FY-85 FAA mail records, the United States Postal Service (USPS) noted serious errors concerning the count of FAA mail volume. These apparent discrepancies resulted following the mail volume surveys, conducted twice yearly, where 100 percent response was not achieved.

FY-86 records will be inspected shortly. The regional offices have been notified of the discrepancies and have been advised that if the errors are not corrected, it is possible the FAA will be required to use metered mail.

## Employees On The Move Western-Pacific Upward Mobility Selectees



Congratulations to the recent selectees for the Western-Pacific Regional Upward Mobility positions. They are:

**Top row, from left --**

Alice Kimura  
General Supply Specialist  
Logistics Division

Sonya Hall  
Personnel Management Specialist  
Human Resource Mgmt. Division

Judy Stone  
Realty Specialist  
Logistics Division

**Middle --**

Yosuko "Micki" Hines  
Contract Specialist  
Logistics Division

**Below --**

Jarilyn Newman  
General Supply Specialist  
Airway Facilities Division

(Photos by Elly Brekke.)



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