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**Federal Aviation
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Western-Pacific Intercom





*Holiday Greetings
from the Deputy Director*

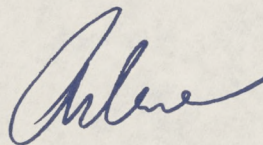
It gives me great pleasure to wish each of you the healthiest and happiest of years. I hope that the pleasant memories of the Holiday Season remain with you throughout 1988.

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you how much I appreciate your welcoming me so warmly into the Western-Pacific's FAA family. You've helped make 1987 a most enjoyable, interesting and rewarding year for me. I look forward to 1988 with continued pride as I work with such dedicated professionals.

I know that 1988 will bring new and often difficult challenges, but I look forward to the success we will all enjoy at keeping this the safest aviation system ever.

My warmest wishes for a good year.

Sincerely,



Arlene B. Feldman

Burnley Backs FAA Restructuring

Transportation Secretary Jim Burnley has made a review of FAA's statutory and organizational structures one of his top aviation priorities.

Speaking to the Air Transport Association on Dec. 3, the new Secretary said the FAA structure has not kept pace with the enormous changes in the airline industry with the result that "the FAA is mired in outdated practices and procedures which have hampered the best efforts of the men and women who work there to carry out its mission."

He was particularly critical of "cumbersome and lengthy" procurement procedures which, he said, made it extremely difficult to bring new equipment on line before it becomes obsolete.

Second EPG Meeting Held In Atlanta

The second in a series of Employee Focus Group (EFG) meetings, initiated by Administrator McArtor as part of IMPACT 88, was held in Atlanta Nov. 18 and 19. It brought together Flight Standards office managers with the aim of improving the agency's safety inspection programs.

Among the topics discussed were tighter screening of Safety Hotline items, using automated electronic communication to expedite journeymen vacancy announcements, and national recognition of the need for paratechnical support in the field offices. The group's recommendations have been forwarded to the Administrator for his consideration.

Speakers were Dan Beaudette, Manager of Flight Standards' Air Transportation Division; Jim Etgen, Director of the Program Engineering and Maintenance Service; and Keith Potts, Associate Administrator for Air Traffic.

Mimi Dawson Named DOT Deputy Secretary

What would you say the chances were of two people from tiny Webster Grove, MO, ending up in top executive positions in the Department of Transportation? Well, before Mimi Weyforth Dawson was sworn in as the DOT's Deputy Secretary on Dec. 3, Jimmy the Greek might have quoted you a million to one.

Turns out that Dawson grew up within half a block of FAA Administrator Allan McArtor in Webster Grove and that should help further improve DOT-FAA working relationships. However, in his recent talk to FAA employees, Secretary Burnley conjectured that it could work the other way, too, if Dawson wakes up one morning and suddenly remembers the time McArtor "might have pushed her in a mud puddle."

Before her DOT appointment, Dawson was a member of the Federal Communications Commission for six years and previously worked on Capitol Hill in various congressional offices. She has a B.A. degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

Western-Pacific Intercom

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Savings Bond Minimum Raised

The Treasury Department is discontinuing \$50 and \$75 savings bonds for new participants in the payroll savings plan as of Feb. 1 for economy reasons. The new minimum denomination will be \$100, with a purchase price of \$50.

The change won't affect those already signed up for the \$50 and \$75 bonds. These bonds also will be available for over-the-counter purchase at financial institutions.

In other actions, the Treasury Department is converting the punch card type Series EE bond to paper ones. Also bonds now are being mailed centrally from Philadelphia instead of from regional locations. That means the bonds may be arriving a bit later in the mailbox but, since buyers can't cash them for six months anyway, it doesn't make a heck of a lot of difference.

Gene Weithoner Retiring

A man who needs no introduction to FAA employees in Washington headquarters or the field--Associate Administrator for Human Resource Management Charles E. "Gene" Weithoner--deserves at least a farewell here as he closes out a quarter century of service to the agency and prepares to retire at year's end.

The most senior of FAA's Associate Administrators, Weithoner also has served as FAA's Acting Administrator on several occasions, most recently in early 1981. That was the interim between the departure of Langhorne Bond and the arrival of J. Lynn Helms.

He began his FAA career as an employment specialist in Jan. 1963, after moving over from the old Civil Service Commission. He progressed quickly up the career ladder and was named Deputy Associate Administrator for Administration in Dec. 1972, getting the top job in Nov. 1974. He has held his present post since Feb. 1985.

News in Brief

* This is getting to be old hat now, but flight delays dropped approximately 30 percent in November, marking the fifth month in a row that delays were lower than the same month in 1986. For the five-month period (July-November), delays were down almost 30 percent and for the 11 months, 14 percent, when measured against 1986. This record has been achieved despite a three percent gain in terminal operations and a four percent increase at the enroute centers.

* Another bit of statistical good news is that the number of near midair collision reports from pilots dropped in November also. That was the first monthly drop, when compared with the same month in the preceding year, since August 1986. Through November, the agency had received 1,007 NMAC reports, as opposed to 840 for all of 1986, but no one really knows how much of that increase simply reflects better and more complete reporting.

* Former FAA Administrators J. Lynn Helms and Donald D. Engen joined with officials from the Department of Defense and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association in opposing privatization of the air traffic control system at a public hearing in Washington, D.C., on December 1 and 2. Speaking in support of such a move where representatives of several conservative think tanks, such as the Reason and Heritage Foundations. The president's Commission on Privatization is studying the feasibility of turning over various governmental enterprises, including ATC, to private industry and is scheduled to have a report out by March 1.

* The agency will establish Airport Radar Service Areas (ARSAs) at five additional locations on Jan. 14. They are Abilene, Amarillo and Dyess AFB, all in TX; Lexington, KY; and Roanoke, VA. That will make 98 ARSAs with three more set to go into effect on Feb. 11, pushing the total over the 100 mark.



Red Bluff FAAers Have Fun In the Sun

Red Bluff Flight Service Station and Airway Facilities Sector Field Office once again hosted the annual local FAA picnic. Over 150 FAA employees, families and friends attended the event at Brandy Creek campground, Whiskeytown Lake, Redding, Calif.

The guests started arriving Friday afternoon with tents and motor homes, and by evening a bonfire was roaring and music was in the air.

The morning activities shifted to the beach and picnic areas. It was a wonderful day with light winds and temperatures in the mid 90's, as picnic-goers enjoyed swimming, water-skiing, canoeing, sun bathing, volleyball, fishing, horseshoes and just plain relaxing.

After a lunch of barbecued pork, chicken, main dishes, salads and desserts, the group retired to the campground for another raging bonfire and a late chicken dinner. There were more swimming and waterskiing on Sunday morning, but by early afternoon, everyone had packed for the journey home.

Participation this year was outstanding, and even more is expected next time. So, if you were not able to attend in 1987, be sure and plan on it in '88. Remember you get all this food and fun for a mere \$7.50 per person with kids 12 and under free.

Photos: Top--Gerald Enos, Red Bluff AFS, checks out the fixin's.

Next -- In charge of barbecuing are (from left) Frank Urriolagiotia from Red Bluff AFS and Ron Tener from the FSS with his friend.

Next -- Just plain relaxing are (from left) Bob Young, Sacramento AFS; Ben Marcelo, Sacramento FSS; and Bob Lamora, Sacramento AFS.

Below -- Enjoying a spot of shade are (from left) Audry Campbell from Sacramento AFS, Rick Frank from Redding Tower, along with their friends.

Photos by Hiam Tener.



Dulles Turns 25

There's still time to send a belated card to Dulles International Airport which recently marked its 25th anniversary serving the Nation's Capitol, most of that time under FAA management.

Dulles was dedicated by then President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 17, 1962, and opened for business two days later. Labeled a "white elephant" for many years, Dulles really took off with de-regulation and now is one of the fastest growing airports in the country.

FAA ran the airport, along with Washington National, until both were transferred in June to a new regional authority, staffed largely by ex-agency employees who also made the transition.

New Security Rule

Effective Dec. 19, FAA is requiring a positive bag/passenger match on all international flights by U.S. airlines in another move designed to thwart world terrorists.

What the new rule means is that no piece of checked luggage can be put on an aircraft in international service unless there is a passenger on the plane to go with it. The reasons are obvious.

The new rule conforms to a recommendation issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). FAA has had the same requirement in effect for selected international flights since the summer of 1985.

Ski Fest Registration Open



Denver Air Route Traffic Control Center is organizing Ski Fest '88 at Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for February 22 - 27, 1988. The Ski Club will mail registration packets to all who attended last year. Other FAAers who would like to get on the mailing list may send a name and address to Denver Center Ski Club; Attn: Dan Mawhorter; 22112 17th Avenue; Longmont, Colo. 90501.

In Memoriam

Thomas S. Hall

We are saddened to report the death of FAA retiree Thomas S. Hall. Tom passed away after a lengthy illness.

Tom had been with the CAA/FAA since 1940 where he served in Washington, D.C. He transferred to the regional office in Seattle and remained there until 1953. He moved to Los Angeles and retired from the Airway Facilities Division in 1969.

Condolences may be sent to Tom's son, Roger Hall, 6521 West 81st Street, Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.

Erwin A. Russell

Friends of Erwin "Russ" Russell will be saddened to learn of his death on November 5. Russ died at age 86 of heart failure.

Russ was one of the first chiefs of Seattle Air Route Traffic Control Center and also served as a Branch Chief prior to his retirement.

Our condolences to his family and friends.

Cost Hotline Saves \$\$\$

The FAA Depot in Oklahoma City reports that its "Cost Hotline" has saved FAA (and the U.S. taxpayers) well over \$400,000 since going operational two years ago. Depot officials said \$26,696 of that total are one-time savings and another \$395,988 represent over charges that will be avoided on a yearly basis.

During the two-year period, the Depot received 419 reports on potentially overpriced items of which 106 actually proved to be available at lower costs. The agency's Southern Region has been the leading purveyor of cost savings suggestions with 18.9 percent of the total, followed by the Aeronautical Center with 17.4 percent and Great Lakes with 16.2 percent.

Controller Recruiting Campaign In Full Swing

Although the Air Traffic Control Specialist (ATCS) recruitment announcement has been continuously open for the past year, the register for Western-Pacific Region is becoming depleted through hiring and normal candidate attrition. In order to meet the Region's FY-88 recruiting goal of approximately 500 ATCS's, we need to reach over 100,000 candidates. Through a cooperative effort of the people in the Human Resource Management Division, the Air Traffic Division, the Civil Rights Office, and other interested FAA employees, a campaign will be waged from January through April to find those candidates.

New recruiting posters are being mailed to all Air Traffic facilities. Assistance is sought to get these posters up in apartment complexes, markets, stores, credit unions, unemployment offices, technical and trade schools, churches, military and other government bulletin boards, and into the hands of the movers and shakers in your social and professional organizations. Take them to career days, to pilot meetings and to professional gatherings - if everyone could post just one!

New Office of Personnel Management

(OPM) ATCS announcements are also being printed that will include an SF-5000A/B card. These will also be distributed widely as soon as we receive them.

Candidates who scored less than 70 percent may retest. Candidates who have taken the test competitively (through OPM), passed the test, and wish to retest for a higher score may not retest for 18 months.

Volunteers from all disciplines are also being solicited to serve as test monitors and test examiners on Saturdays, January through April, funds permitting. One or two volunteers for each category will be needed in the Los Angeles Basin, Phoenix, Las Vegas, San Diego, Reno, Tucson, and the Bay Area. Candidates for test examiner especially need to be responsible, organized and articulate. AWP-14 has requested managers refer candidates to Sonya Hall in AWP-14 at FTS 984-1306. Training for both groups will be scheduled through OPM as soon as funding permits.

If you are interested in helping with this effort, please notify your local Air Traffic facility manager. In the Regional Office, materials will be available in AWP-570, AWP-14 and AWP-9.

On-Time Arrivals Improve

The nation's 14 major carriers improved their on-time performance in October with better than 80 percent of their flights arriving within 15 minutes of the published schedules. That compares with 77 percent in September, which was the first month the airlines had to report this data to DOT.

American Airlines again had the best record with 86 percent of its flights arriving on time. Others with 80-percent-or-better records were Southwest, Continental, Piedmont, Eastern and United. Pacific Southwest had the worst record with only 60.3 percent.

In other performance categories, Delta Airlines had the fewest passengers, and Northwest was tops in mishandled baggage.

Cash Those Government Checks

A new time limit for cashing of Government checks and for filing claims for lost checks was recently established by Congress. Public Law 100-86, signed by President Reagan on August 10, states that Treasury checks issued on or after the effective date of the legislation must be negotiated within 12 months after the date on the check. Currently, U. S. Treasury checks are payable forever.

The one-year time limit also applies for claims of non-receipt, lost or stolen checks. In addition, Treasury checks issued before the effective date of the legislation must be negotiated within 12 months after the effective date. The effective date of the law will be determined by the Treasury before the end of the year.

Editor's Note:

To understand the Administrator's letter to this third grade teacher, you need to know a little background. Lori LaQuaglia Aquilino is an Airworthiness Inspector at the Oakland Flight Standards District Office. She is also a volunteer Aviation Education Facilitator/Counselor.

Suffice it to say that Lori has taken special care to ensure that her own son Marshall is not lacking in his aviation education. So ...when Marshall was criticized by his third grade teacher for using the terms "757" and "767" instead of "747", the incident was fresh in Lori's mind and relayed to the Administrator at the FAA meeting as an example of the need for FAA people to do a better job in educating teachers. The Administrator asked Lori for the name and address of that teacher. This is the result.

You should also know that when the surprised teacher received the Administrator's letter, she was very impressed and immediately got in touch with Lori for materials, tours of FAA facilities -- and, of course, a trip to the airport to observe firsthand Boeing 757 and 767 aircraft.

In the righthand corner of this copy is an endorsement from Dick Merriman, Oakland FSDO Manager, saying "Good Show, Lori!" We couldn't agree more. If you are interested in joining the volunteer Aviation Education team in furthering the Administrator's Impact 88 initiatives, get in touch with Lori LaQuaglia Aquilino at Oakland FSDO -- or Barbara Abels in Public Affairs.



US Department
of Transportation
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Office of the Administrator

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Washington, D.C. 20591

NOV 18 1987

Ms. Lori Morelli
Marshall Elementary School
20111 Marshall Street
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Dear Ms. Morelli:

Recently at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., I participated in an awards ceremony that recognized one of the top aviation/aerospace educators in the Nation--Dr. Paul Whelan of Parks College, Cahokia, Illinois.

Following the ceremony, I had the privilege of meeting and discussing aviation education with one of FAA's aviation education counselors, Lori LaQuaglia Aquilino--whose son, Marshall Smith, is in your third-grade class.

She indicated that you have an interest in aviation topics that arose from a discussion you had with her son regarding two new aircraft--the Boeing 757 and 767--which are currently being acquired by commercial airlines as they update their fleet of aircraft.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to work with Lori in developing a strategy for infusing aviation content into the basic core curriculum of your class and school. In this way, you can enhance the learning process of your students by exposing them to the excitement of aviation and space activities, and Lori could help you develop a strategy to achieve this--by sharing her knowledge and experience as an inspector in our Flight Standards District Office.

We feel strongly that by aviation helping education today; education can and will help aviation tomorrow.

Good luck in all of your educational endeavors. Please convey my best wishes to Lori, her son Marshall, and all of his classmates.

Sincerely,

T. Allan McArtor
Administrator

cc: Lori LaQuaglia Aquilino

Good Show, Lori!

