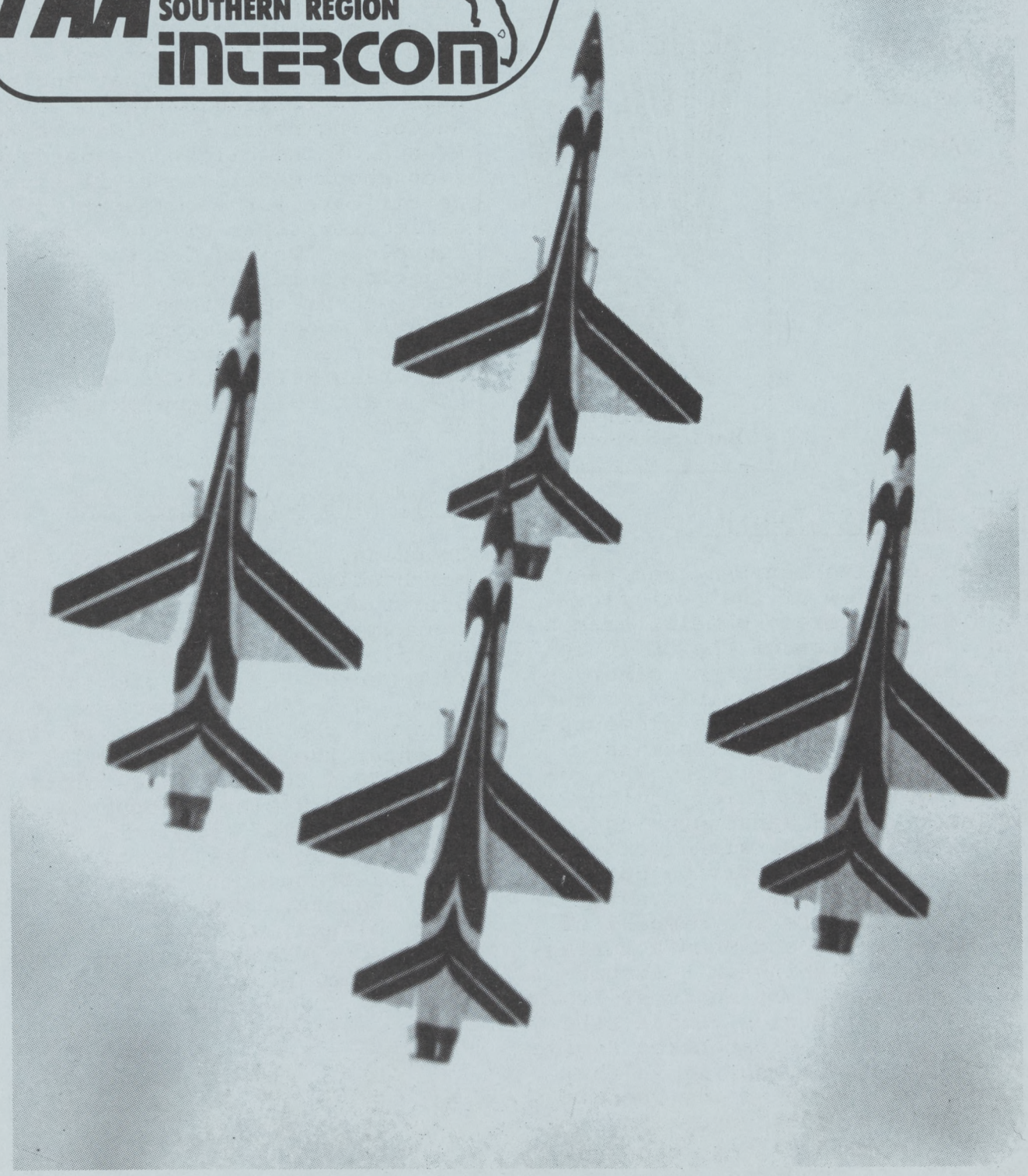
ASO 78-18 May 4, 1978

APA-54

FAA SOUTHERN REGION INTERCOM



FEATURED THIS MONTH

IS THE

1978 SAVINGS BOND

CAMPAIGN.

SIGN UP EARLY!



LIFTING THE WORLD ??

They say that if you have a long enough lever, you can move the world. Well, Goodyear Aerospace Corp., may not be trying to move the world, but they are thinking about constructing an aircraft that can move buildings and maybe whole towns. Goodyear engineers have been talking to the Great Lakes Region Engineering and Manufacturing Branch of the Flight Standards Division about getting a civil type certificate for a combination helicopter/super blimp. The "envelope" or bag for the proposed vehicle would be 2.5 million cubic feet, about ten times the size of today's Goodyear blimp. This would be attached to four S-64 Sikorsky Sky Crane Helicopters, enabling the craft to lift approximately 75 tons.

TIRE BLOWOUTS STUDIED

A special five-man FAA team has begun a review of the certification of the tires, wheels, brakes, and landing gear of the DC-10 to determine if a design or other deficiency is responsible for the recent increase in tire blowouts on the aircraft. The team is headed by Edward Griffin, who recently retired as Chief of the Engineering and Manufacturing Branch of the Central Region's Flight Standards Division but agreed to take the assignment. Also included are two members of the Engineering and Manufacturing Division at Washington Headquarters, a flight test engineer from the Northwest Region, and a tire expert from the Great Lakes Region. Meanwhile, the agency is in the process of upgrading its Technical Standard Order governing tires to demand higher standards than are now required.

N. Y. ATCS GOLF TOURNEY SET

Trophies, gift certificates and merchandise will be awarded as prizes at the First Annual Golf Tournament to be hosted by air traffic controllers at the New York Center and the Common IFR Room. All FAA employees nationwide and their guests are eligible to enter the event which will take place June 20-22 at the Colony Hill Country Club, Hauppauge, L.I., site of the 1977 LPGA Pinter Classic. An entry fee of $60 pays for all green fees, electric cart, and banquets. For more info and entry blanks, write to New York ARTCC, Crew 3B Golf, Johnson Ave., Ronkonkoma, N. Y. 11779.



FAA SOUTHERN REGION INTERCOM

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Cover Story...Thunderbirds (See below)

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COVER STORY..."Up we go"...or "It's Air Show time again." As the winter weather abates, and the warm, lazy days of Spring and Summer wrap themselves around the Southland, you can be sure that the sound around many airports is that of airplanes doing their stuff -- showing the world that flying can be fun. Featured on our cover are the world-famous U. S. Air Force Thunderbirds "doing their thing" during the recent annual Boca Raton Academy Air Show at Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport, April 15-16.

MORE ABOUT PROPOSED CSC REFORM

The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, as presented by the White House to the Congress for legislative action includes several proposals which will impact on present and future employees. Among the proposals being considered are:

Provision of equal appeal rights for non-veterans and veterans;

Reduction-in-rank would no longer be an "adverse action" unless the employee's salary was reduced by more than the equivalent of one step in his or her grade, or by more than 3 per cent.

Disabled veterans would retain veterans' preference indefinitely. Other veterans would receive five-point preference on Civil Service Commission competitive examinations but would have no competitive level preference over non-veterans in reduction-in-force (RIF) situations after he or she had worked for three (3) years as a federal employee. After three (3) years, a veteran would receive five (5) additional retention points in case of RIF, but would be in the same competitive grouping as all other employees.

A Senior Executive Service for managers in grades above GS-15 would be established. Special compensation, promotion, and retention rules would apply to this group.

Managers and supervisors in grades GS-13, 14, and 15 would not necessarily receive the full, annual cost-of-living pay increases. Merit pay adjustments, based on job performance, would dictate just how much of each annual pay increase a GS-13, 14, or 15 manager/supervisor would get.
(continued on page 4)

ENGINEERING TRAINEE PROGRAM

On Feb. 26, 1978, Patrick Marable, Technical Inspection Group, Airway Facilities Div., became the first participant of the Engineering Student Training Program to convert to the Occupational Code 855, Electronic Engineer. Prior to entering the Engineering Student Trainee Program in August 1976, Patrick was a radar and communications systems watchstander at Savannah, Ga. The Airway Facilities Division established the Engineering Student Trainee Program in the Fall of 1975 for the purpose of providing experienced engineers for Airway Facilities. Since implementation of the program, 26 technicians have been selected for the program. The trainees function as part of the Technical Inspection Group, receiving on-the-job training in selected engineering assignments in conjunction with formal college or university training during other than duty hours. The trainee is provided an opportunity to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology at Southern Technical Institute. Trainees attend school and perform facility technical inspections on an alternating school quarter basis. One quarter is spent attending classes either on or off campus while working a full 40-hour week. Class attendance is either after normal work hours or through an adjusted work schedule. Non-school quarters are spent performing facility technical inspections on communication, radar, navigational aid, and air traffic control facilities throughout the region. See photo on page 5.

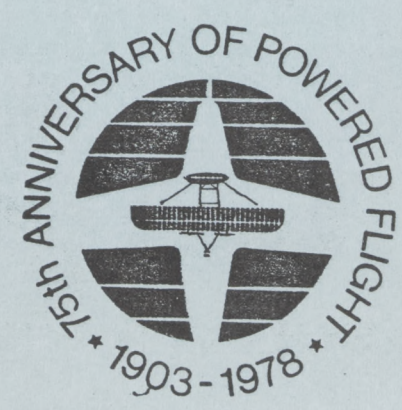
CSC REFORM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

The Act would eliminate salary steps for GS-13, 14, or 15 managers/supervisors, setting a minimum and maximum for each grade instead. Increases toward the maximum would be dependent upon how well the manager/supervisor performs and the resultant evaluation of his or her performance by higher-level management.

AIRPORT LEGISLATION STUDIED

The agency will hold a consultative planning conference June 1 in Washington, D.C., to discuss legislative options for continuing FAA's Airport Development Aid Program. An FAA-directed task force currently is studying various alternatives for amending or replacing the Airport and Airways Development Act. Originally enacted in 1970, the law was amended in 1971, 1973, and 1976. In addition to the Airport Development Aid Program (ADAP), the ACT also authorizes funds for FAA's Planning Grant Program, the Facilities and Equipment Program, maintenance of air navigation facilities, and certain research and development activities. Together, these programs account for one-third of FAA's operating budget. ADAP is the largest of these, with more than $540 million authorized for airport development grants in the current fiscal year. Additional information on the meeting can be obtained by calling (202) 426-3912.







DALE McDANIEL HONORED...
Dale McDaniel (center) Logistics Specialist, Memphis ARTCC, receives the Field Logistics Specialist of the Year Award for 1977 from Airway Facilities Division Chief Bill Rucker, left, and Logistics Division Chief Bill Barfield.. The award which reads, 'For dedication, personal initiative and efficiency,' was presented during an AF/LG seminar held in Atlanta on April 12-14, 1978.



A REASON TO SMILE...
Patrick Marable, Technical Inspection Group, Airway Facilities Division, has a reason to be smiling as he cuts cake presented to him recently. *See story page 4.*

NEWS FROM 'ROUND THE REGION

BALBOA...Elec. Tech. Larry Aiu, Radar Unit, represented Airway Facilities at Balboa High School Career Counseling Day, April 13... Controller Niles Higgins, Tampa Tower, selected for ATCS position in Center/RAPCON, with reporting date of May 22...Controller J. L. DeVoll, Anchorage Center, also selected for ATCS position in CERAP with reporting date of July 2... Balboa CERAP Secretary Mary Ann Guardia recently elected to the Board for newly-established alumni chapter, University of Illinois in the Zone and Panama. Her son, Roberto, also recently earned his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from that institution...Congratulations also to ATCS Bill Delaney who was recently presented his 25-year career service emblem... Miami -- Elec. Tech. Kenneth E. Loveless placed third in his age category in 13.2 mile AAU-sponsored mini-marathon race, held here on April 22...Fort Lauderdale/Opa Locka -- Some 180 authorized inspectors attended annual Certificate Renewal Meetings at which Flight Standards Div. Chief Jim Purcell was guest speaker. A number of AI's expressed their appreciation for his interest and his subject matter. Meetings also attended by former FS Director Dick Skully...Atlanta -- On April 15-18, four Atlanta ACDO inspectors participated in Delta's survey flight from Atlanta - London (Gatwick Airport) and return, in preparation for Delta's inaugural flight on April 30. Inspectors report that the operation was quite satisfactory...April 16 marked Southern Airways' last scheduled flight using Martin M-404 equipment. Southern is the last Part 121 operator to use piston-type planes ...Winston-Salem -- Civil Aeronautics Board has notified Piedmont Airlines that they will be granted authority to serve Boston from Greensboro, Winston-Salem, High Point, Richmond, New York and Newark...Atlanta -- Congratulations to Harold K. Robertson, Chief Management Systems Div., who was presented his 35-year career service emblem by Director Swatek during recent Staff Meeting...Al Waldin, International Aviation Affairs Officer, reports FAA has made good progress working with Venezuelans on Spanish Language problem. Copies of FAA's Spanish Language training material are now available and his office is working on logistics for setting up a meeting in Venezuela...Lexington -- Tower Chief Howard Martin reports that "Operation Raincheck" began long run at Lexington Tower on April 15-16 with 27 pilots attending. This was the first of at least six consecutive weekends the program will be presented to accommodate over 200 pilots already scheduled and requests for the course are still coming in...Greensboro -- ATCS Percy Sudsbury recently honored by TV Ch. 8 as their "Citizen of the Week." Sudsbury was featured on their 6 p.m., show, April 21... Winston-Salem -- Tower Chief Mary Krause reports facility's hours of operation will be extended to 12 midnight, effective June 1.

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Changes to FAA Order 3110.13C, Executive Development Program, are now being coordinated with Region/Center Directors and Office/Service Heads. Employees interested in applying for the program are advised that the announcement will open in the summer.