



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

intercom:

Office of Public Affairs
Alaskan Region
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July 1986

86-13

50 year celebration continues



Cover story

The cover photo is a shot of the interior view of the communications station at Northway, Alaska in 1949.

Thanks to Allan Hall, FAA retiree, who lives in Sequim, Washington, for providing information regarding the cover photo on the June issue of Intercom. The woman sitting at the Kliensmith perforator is Myrna Stewart. The story on Myrna: "She was good looking, she was an excellent continuous wave operator, and no matter what the season or climatic conditions she was always smartly dressed." Also, the room was not an air traffic control room, but was the communications station, now known as a flight service station.

Thank you, Allan Hall, for taking time to share.

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INTERCOM is published for the employees of the Alaskan Region by the Public Affairs Office. Articles and photographs are welcomed.

If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please call the Editor at 271-5293.

EGATS working

The electronically generated and transmitted SF-52 (EGATS) system, which was created by FAA folks in the Alaskan Region, had a productive first year. There were 1,901 SF-52s initiated during this time, and not one of them was lost nor was any data scrambled (that is not saying the minds of some people learning the system were not scrambled). The system was installed in five regions and three of those regions are using the system in at least one organization.

Reunite in Vegas

The 1986 Detroit ARTCC reunion will be held September 28 and 29 at the Imperial Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. If you have had any affiliation with the Detroit Center, now is the time to reunite with former co-workers. For details contact Jim Holtsclaw, FTS 983-2019; or 213-378-8201 (home). Mailing address is 320-D Calle Miramar, Redondo Beach, California 90277.

Savings of \$ 119,348

As of June 6, 1986, the Cost Hotline Program Report has provided a savings of \$119,348 to the FAA.

If you have a suggestion of how to save money for FAA on supply items, report overpriced items by calling the hotline at FTS 8-749-COST or (405) 686-COST. You may also use FAA Form 4680-1 (Depot Customer Service Evaluation Report) and send it to the FAA Depot (AAC-400), P.O. Box 25082, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125.

What's happening

**** LETTERS OF APPRECIATION ****

Bill Allen, electrician, AAL-463.P

**** ON-THE SPOT AWARDS ****

Cal Hoggard, frequency management officer, AAL-464

Jimmie Tvrdy, operations specialist, AAL-464

Leah Berg, air traffic control specialist, Fairbanks ATCT

**** 35-YEAR SERVICE PINS ****

Clark Horton, contract specialist, AAL-55B

**** 30-YEAR SERVICE PINS ****

Joseph Curry, electronics technician, North Alaska Sector Field Office

Ron Way, Murphy Dome electronics technician, North Alaska Sector

Ed Flower, electronics technician, ZAN AF

**** 15-YEAR SERVICE PINS ****

Gene Matthews, computer program analyst, AAL-422

Richard A. Ericson, programs officer, Anchorage FSS

**** 3-YEAR SERVICE PINS ****

Norman Ruutila, maintenance worker, AAL-463.P

**** RETIREMENTS ****

Ed Jones, AAL-463P, retired after 30 years of government service

**** TRANSFERS/MOVES ****

Chris Wittwer, clerk typist, Word Processing Branch, transferred to FSDO-63, Anchorage as an aviation clerk; other new aviation clerks at FSDO-63 are Debra Roberts and Jeanne Overall

Valerie Aron, new operations inspector at FSDO-63, Anchorage

John Colelli, air traffic control specialist, Fairbanks FSS, returned to the Eastern Region

Mariann Halstead, personnel staffing assistant, AAL-14A, moved to Michigan

Carol Moore, air traffic assistant, Anchorage ATCT, moved to Toledo, Ohio

Sandy Slate, air traffic assistant, Anchorage ATCT, moved from Alaska

**** WEDDINGS ****

Anne Burt, printer, AAL-52A, married Robert (Bob) L. Lewis in Wichita, Kansas, on June 12

Sis Williams, acting manager, AAL-50, and Ken Hill, former maintenance operations officer, Fairbanks International, were married at the FAA picnic on June 28

**** DEATHS ****

The wife of Airway Facilities technician Jim Oliver, Juneau FSS

"Real world" learned

The Juneau Flight Service Station staff received a "Letter of Appreciation" from the coordinator of the Southeast Region Rural Student Vocational Program for their "generous assistance and support of the program." The "students enjoyed learning what it's actually like to work in the 'real world' and live in the 'big city.'"

FAA on schedule

The FAA is on schedule to meet its controller work force goal of 14,480 by the end of the current fiscal year (FY) and 15,000 by the end of FY 1987, Associate Administrator for Air Traffic Walter Luffsey told Congress on June 12. In May, the work force increased by 132 to a total of 14,168.

On the whole, he noted the staffing of terminals has gone well, with FAA achieving 103 percent of the controller staffing standard of 5,988.

In the harder-to-staff en route centers, he noted the FAA now has 84 percent of the staffing standard of 5,519. He cited the "cross-option" program of transferring volunteers from terminals to selected centers as one means for increasing en route staffing.

Luffsey firmly rejected the idea of hiring fired controllers to meet the requirements of hard-to-staff facilities. "At this juncture," he said, "I would emphasize that rehiring controllers who were terminated for striking is not a consideration, nor, for that matter, will it be."

Exemptions granted

The FAA is now allowing Associate Administrators, Regional/Center Directors and equivalent officials to grant exemptions to the hiring and overtime freezes that have been in effect since April 15. Previously only the Deputy Administrator could approve these exemptions.

The new policy, which was signed June 20 by the then Deputy Administrator Dick Jones, permits the designated officials to approve exemptions for certain overtime requests and for filling vacancies that will not require a permanent change of station move.

Check points busy

Almost one billion people passed through security check points at U.S. airports in 1985, resulting in the detection of nearly 3,000 firearms and other weapons, according to FAA's latest "Semiannual Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of the Civil Aviation Security Program."

The report also notes that there were four hijacking attempts against U.S. airliners in 1985 with TWA Flight 847 the only successful one. In 1984, there were five such attempts with four successful.

Since the screening program began in January 1973, almost seven billion persons have been screened and more than eight billion pieces of carry-on luggage checked. The result has been more than 34,000 firearms detected with over 14,000 related arrests.

"Stomp" in September

The FAA Retiree Amateur Radio Net, known as the "Winestompers," will hold its annual "stomp" at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden, Nevada, on September 11 and 12. Featured are a banquet Friday night, side trips and resort activities. Reservations may be made with the Carson Valley Inn, P.O. Box 2560, Minden, Nevada 89423 (about 15 miles south of Carson City on US-395). Recreational vehicles are welcomed. More information may be obtained from Roy Post, 2207 Sweetwater Trail, Coll, California 95614; (916) 885-8367.

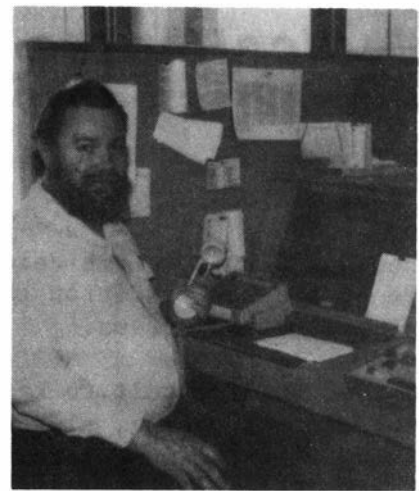
This non-profit, no-dues, organization was started in the 1960s by CAA hams. It got its name when several met at one of the ham's vineyard in Oregon to help him pick grapes. Not many grapes were picked, but the stomping, tasting and partying was so enjoyable the name "Winestompers" seemed appropriate.



Ruben Jackson (center), formerly a cartographer, at Anchorage Center, receives a Special Achievement Award for Sustained Superior Performance from Mike Hessler (left), acting manager, and Doug Cook, supervisor.



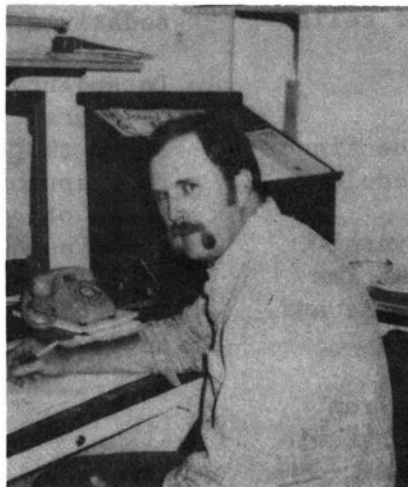
Robert Wilson (right), manager, South Alaska Sector, presents Beverly Lavy, secretary, Field Maintenance Support Unit, technical support staff, with a Special Achievement Award in connection with the utilization of the AT&T computer.



Lowell North, area supervisor, Fairbanks FSS, recently received a Letter of Commendation for the many hours volunteered in working with Operation Raincheck from Timothy Rahmn, acting air traffic manager.



Pat Edwards (left), air traffic control specialist, Anchorage ARTCC, receives a Letter of Commendation from his supervisor, Jerry Jones, for a recent flight assist.



John Maxwell, evaluation proficiency developmental specialist, Fairbanks FSS, recently received a Letter of Commendation for volunteering his time several evenings to video tape the Operation Raincheck programs for the FSS from Timothy Rahmn, acting air traffic manager.



Les Kleider (left), electronics technician, Cold Bay Sector Field Office, receives a Special Achievement Award for sustained superior performance from Herbert Gray, manager.

Medical notes - June 21st solstice

by: Pat Sanders
AAL-300

The June 21st solstice celebrations are an Alaskan tradition that are unique for many of us.

We find it difficult to keep regular schedules of eating, sleeping and waking when the sun is shining brightly at midnight. After several weeks of being off schedule we may note excessive fatigue and lowered resistance.

Eating, sleeping, waking and other regular activities are such common human experiences as to need no description. Such functions are usually thought of as being regulated by external or environmental factors; however, it is a well-established fact that these and, indeed, all bodily functions are coordinated and regulated by discrete groups of cells in the brain that comprise the so-called biological clocks.

Because these internal clocks continue to run on their accustomed schedules, problems arise when a person's activities are displaced by several hours, such as crossing several time zones, enjoying late hour sunshine and lightness, and shift change.

Such people are said to suffer from desynchronization, dyschrony, dysrhythmia or jet lag. The most prominent symptom is fatigue, but symptoms also include indigestion, confusion, irritability, sluggish mentality, various aches and pains, insomnia or drowsiness, and a general restlessness.

These problems are rooted in the relationship of almost all living things to the light/dark cycle attendant on the earth's rotation.

In humans, the wake/sleep cycle and the internal body temperature cycle are synchronized or phase related.

When no time cues exist, as in prolonged lightness, the wake/sleep and body temperature cycles lose their relationship or dissociate.

Dietary regimes have been proposed as strategies in coping with changes in our daily rhythms and adjustment processes. There is evidence certain food components act directly on the biological clocks.

Travelers are advised to alternate light and heavy meals several days prior to flight, to fast during the flight and to eat breakfast upon arrival at the destination.

It is further recommended that travelers eat a high protein and carbohydrate breakfast and a low protein dinner if they are anticipating eastward flights.

In no case should stimulant drugs, such as amphetamines, be used to enhance wakefulness, nor should sedatives be used for sleep induction.

Dependency or addiction can develop, of course, but one should also be aware that drug effects can wear off at inappropriate times and leave one worse off than might be the case had drugs not been used.

Strict abstinence from alcohol is also advised when traveling.

Work appreciated

The staff at the Cold Bay Sector Field Office recently received praise from the National Weather Service on their "fine support and cooperation." Stuart Bigler, director, NWS, cited the two most recent examples, which "were above and beyond the normal call of duty," in his letter. Mike Rutledge, a temporary maintenance worker at Cold Bay, performed both tasks. Way to go, folks.

FAA picnic a success

Sunny skies, excellent food and a great group of people combined to make the 1986 FAA picnic one of the best! Winners of the annual horse shoe pitching contest were Charlie Brenton, Air National Guard, and Willie Edwards, Anchorage FIF0 (1st place); and Jim King, Air Traffic Division and Diana Larson, Financial Management Division (2nd place).

Thanks to Paul Steucke, Public Affairs Officer, AAL-5, for donating two of his prints for door prizes. Herb Heck, retired FAA, AAL-420, and Keith Anderson, son of Ray and Vivian Anderson, Airway Facilities, were the lucky winners. Thanks also go to Terry DeMarco, Anchorage ARTCC, who prepared the three beautifully decorated cakes. The chairpersons for the picnic, Willie Edwards and Hilda Elias, are to be congratulated for a job WELL DONE. Many thanks to them and to everyone who helped make this a great success!

Statement of Work

The FAA has received OST approval to solicit industry comments on a draft Statement of Work for a pilot program to test the cost effectiveness of contracting out additional maintenance of selected ATC equipment and facilities.

The Eastern, Great Lakes and Southern Regions have been selected for the program, and specific locations are expected to be announced within 90 days.

Under the program, contract maintenance would be limited to facilities at low-activity airports with VFR (nonradar) towers or no tower at all. Contractors would maintain a variety of communications and navigation equipment if a costs-benefits study showed it was in the government's best interest.

Approximately 500 full-time equivalent AF positions could be involved, but the agency plans to offer reassignment to all affected employees. AF management has said it will take every possible action to assure continued FAA employment opportunities for displaced technicians.

The target date for awarding a contract is the fall of 1987, but the impact will not be felt in the field until mid 1988 because of the lead time required for the contractor to recruit and train personnel. The program is expected to run several years with the results used to define the future role of contract maintenance.

Penalty free

You have until October 1, 1986, or two years from date of hire, to complete your deposit for Post-1956 military service penalty free. A penalty of 13 percent for the period October 1, 1985, through December 31, 1985, and 11.125 percent for the period January 1, 1986, through September 30, 1986, will be charged on any unpaid balance on October 1, 1986.

If you were hired after September 30, 1982, you must make the deposit for Post 1956 military service to have the time credited toward eligibility for retirement or included in the computation of your annuity.

If you were under the Civil Service Retirement System before October 1, 1982, you have the option of making the deposit or not. However, by making the deposit you avoid the potential of undergoing an annuity reduction for Post-1956 military service at age 62.

For information and/or forms please contact Jean Pershall, AAL-14D, 271-5816.



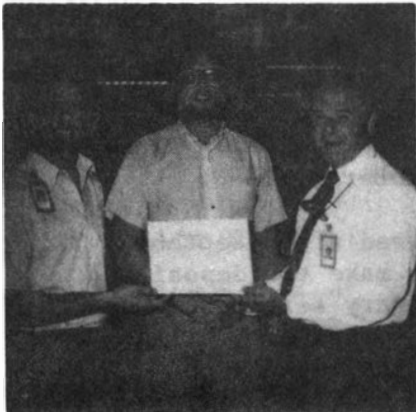
Margaret Moore, staffing clerk, AAL-14D, was selected as the Alaskan Region's Outstanding Handicapped Employee of the Year. She began working for FAA in February 1985. Her "dedication, loyalty and conscientiousness" have made her a great asset to the agency. Director Frank Cunningham presented the award.



James Burger (left), electronics technician, Anchorage ARTCC, was presented with a Special Achievement Award for his sustained superior performance by assistant sector manager Allen George.



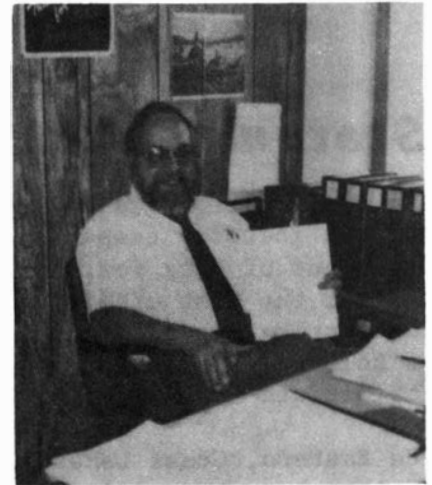
Robert Wilson (left), manager, South Alaska Sector, presents Stephen Ruks, proficiency development specialist, program support staff, with a Special Achievement Award for sustained superior performance.



Randy Benson (center), air traffic control specialist, Anchorage ARTCC, received a Special Achievement Award for sustained superior performance from area supervisor Steve Palmer (left) and acting Air Traffic manager Mike Hessler (right).



Agatha (Puggy) Eubanks, secretary, Fairbanks ATCT, receives a Special Achievement Award for her administrative expertise and dedication to duty. Derril Bergt, manager, presented the award.



Al Nowland, area supervisor, Fairbanks FSS, recently received a Letter of Commendation for his efforts in developing the FSS's Station Orders Manual from Timothy Rahmn, acting air traffic manager.



Experience credited

from: AAL-14
Employment Branch

Do not lose valuable credit for experience you have gained while being detailed to another position. This experience may be creditable when bidding for a new position and should be reflected in your Official Personnel Folder (OPF) and on your Application for Federal Employment (SF-171).

In addition, experience and training gained in religious, civic, welfare, military service and organizational activities is also valuable. It can be considered in determining qualifications regardless of whether or not any compensation was received.

Unpaid experience is given just as much credit as paid experience if it is valuable and pertinent to the position. As a rule, the experience to be qualifying must have been progressively responsible, with increasingly complex, difficult and important duties.

Credit for experience is given on the basis of the regular 40-hour workweek. Part-time experience is credited on a percentage basis to the full work week, but can not exceed a full work week. That is, eight hours of volunteer work is credited as one-fifth work week for experience.

You are responsible for updating your application for your personnel file if you have gained any additional experience and/or education.

Remember to review your OPF periodically. You will be asked to provide identification to the records clerk before seeing the file.

Instructors' reunion

The third annual ATC instructors' reunion will be held October 10 and 11 in Oklahoma City. Past and present ATC academy instructors, retirees, friends, and anyone interested in knowing more about the academy are invited. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive more details as they become available, please write or call Laurie Tester, 112 Chickasaw Lane, Yukon, Oklahoma 73099; (405) 354-2216.

AIRWAY PIONEER here

The Society of Airway Pioneers has advised that the 1986 AIRWAY PIONEER has been mailed to all members. This 156-page book contains articles on the activities of FAA employees and retirees and a directory of members.

The prime function of the Society is to publish annually the AIRWAY PIONEER which provides past and present employees information on the activities of their friends and former colleagues. Membership is open to employees and retirees who have a minimum of 20 years service with the CAA/FAA or NWS. For further information contact the Personnel Office or The Society of Airway Pioneers, 28719 Blythewood Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, California 90274.

Copies of the 1984, 1985 and 1986 AIRWAY PIONEER are available for your review in the regional Public Affairs Office, AAL-5.

Jones resigns

Deputy Administrator Richard Jones resigned from the FAA on July 15 and has returned to the private sector. Jones came to the agency as deputy administrator two years ago. Before that he was an Eastern Airlines captain and a senior partner in a prominent law firm.



SUCCESSFUL CAREERS SELDOM HAPPEN BY CHANCE

It is frequently difficult for individuals to understand or accept barriers to career progression. How many times have you heard someone say, "That person was just at the right place at the right time - some people have all the luck!" or, "I wonder who he/she knows?"

Usually it takes a great deal more than that. Many factors enter into the selection process. A good question to ask yourself is, "Have I done everything I can to increase my chances of success?"

Personnel Specialists know that there are some things you can do to help yourself submit a winning bid next time. They know because they see it happening all the time. A great deal depends on up-to-date personnel records.

Another avenue to assist in career development is the FWPC Career Advisors. The intention of the FWPC Career Advisors is to supplement the staffing in the Personnel Management Division and to act as a point of assistance for employees who desire a one-on-one discussion on career alternatives prior to seeing a specialist in AAL-17 or AAL-14.

The essence of the Federal Women's Program Committee is helping employees help themselves. In this effort, the Career Advisors were established and are committed to providing assistance to employees who want to establish career goals or change career fields.

The following provides an overview of the Career Advisory Program:

1. Employee selects a career advisor.
2. The employee and advisor meet to discuss the employee's career interests.
3. During the second interview, the employee and advisor discuss the career progression opportunities in the field of work identified.
4. The advisor will attempt to arrange for an onsite interview/orientation with personnel in the field(s) identified.
5. Once the career field is firmly chosen, the advisor would assist the employee in completing a list of present work experience, education, and training.
6. With the above information completed the advisor would set up an appointment for the employee with a staffing specialist to discuss qualifications for the particular field of work selected. The employee would learn about the kinds of work experience needed to qualify and what should be emphasized on his/her SF-171.
7. After the interview with a staffing specialist, the advisor would assist the employee in researching possible education/training courses that can be taken to further prepare him/her for the new field of work.
8. Upon completing a list of possible education/training courses, the employee would take the information to a training specialist for review and advice on courses available through the agency.

If you are ready for a change, the Career Advisory Subcommittee is here to help. Contact the following career advisors today:

Rosetta Francis-Robinson, AAL-9, 271-5289
 Norma Bonewitz, AAL-14, 271-5755
 Barbara Lapsley, AAL-500a, 271-5464
 Fay Lauver, AAL-420, 271-5829
 Pat Strickland, AAL-700, 271-3606

Melissa Berry, SAAFS, 266-8521
 Don Joy, ZAN AF, 269-1141
 Susan House, Anchorage FSS, 263-6555
 Perrin Love, ZAN AT, 269-1103