

X 15



ALASKAN REGION

# INTERCOM

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

March 14, 1980



# 2 COVER PHOTO

Though Alaska's spring breakup is around the corner, winter flying conditions still persist--and will for several weeks--as this airport scene with magnificent mountain background reveals.

## **Minority Designation**

MINORITY GROUP STATUS RECORDED. The Civil Rights Staff is required to inform all employees annually that a minority group designation is recorded in the Personnel Management Information System (PMIS), the computerized record of information on agency employees. Upon request, a person may find out how he or she is identified in the PMIS--black, caucasian, American Indian, etc. The designation in the PMIS is based entirely on visual observation and, as a result, mistakes have been made. If you want to check your designation, submit a request in person or via mail to Chief, Civil Rights Staff, AAL-9, or call 271-5289. If you cannot provide suitable identification, you will be required to sign a statement asserting your identity and attesting that you understand that knowingly and willfully seeking or obtaining access to records about another individual under false pretense is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$5,000. A signed notarized statement of identity may be required. Information requested by mail will be sent via sealed envelope marked "TO BE OPENED BY ADDRESSEE ONLY."

## **Alaska Fourth in Nation in Airports**

Alaska has 734 airports, heliports and seaplane bases--the fourth largest number in the nation--according to figures just released by Headquarters.

The Alaska total includes 512 airports, 39 heliports and 183 seaplane bases, as well as four airports having runways over 10,000 feet: Anchorage International, Cold Bay in the Aleutians, and Elmendorf and Eielson Air Force Bases.

The updated FAA report lists Alaska as having 38 airports certificated to receive scheduled air carriers and 55 others holding limited certificates providing for irregular or unscheduled air services. Nationally, scheduled air carriers are serving 477 locations and 256 locations are being served by unscheduled carriers.

States preceding fourth-ranked Alaska in terms of the total number of landing sites include Texas, first, with 1,332; Illinois, second, with 891 and California, third, with 819.

The Alaskan Region INTERCOM is published weekly for Alaskan Region employees of the Federal Aviation Administration of the Department of Transportation by the Public Affairs Office, AAL-5, telephone (907) 271-5296. The deadline for pictures is noon Thursday the week before publication; copy is due by noon Tuesday the week of publication. March 14, 1980

# **MPP Selections**

Corrections

80-019	ATCS/S, GS-2152-11 ANC FSS/IFSS	Earl Sheneman Claude Welch, Jr. Timothy E. Leary
--------	------------------------------------	--

Cancellations

79-377	Elect Eng, GS-855-12 Eng Br, Elect Eng, ANC
79-379	Elect Tech, GS-856-11 AFD, PIng/Est Br RE: 80-039
79-380	Maint Mech, WG-4749-10 AFD, AKN Sec
80-058	Maint Mech, WG-4749-10 AFD, FAI-C
80-067	ET, GS-856-12 AF, Deadhorse
80-076	ET, GS-856-9/11 AFD, FAI
80-077	ET, GS-856-11 AFD, Tanana Sec

SELECTIONS

79-341	ET (Relief), GS-856-12 ANC ARTCC	Edwin Flower
79-376	Maint Mech, WG-4749-10/11 AFD, AKN	George Korol
80-031	ET, GS-856-9/11 AFD, Kodiak Sec	Thomas Mickey
80-059	Supv Gen Eng, GS-801-15 Eng Br, AFD, ANC	Dennis Worth
80-062	Elec Tech, GS-856-9/11 AFD, King Salmon Sec Cold Bay	Antonio Sanchez
80-079	Elec Tech, GS-856-4/5/7/9 AFD, ANC ARTCC	Darlene Cooper
80-084	Accounting Tech, GS-525-5/6 AAL-20	Ora Runestad

4



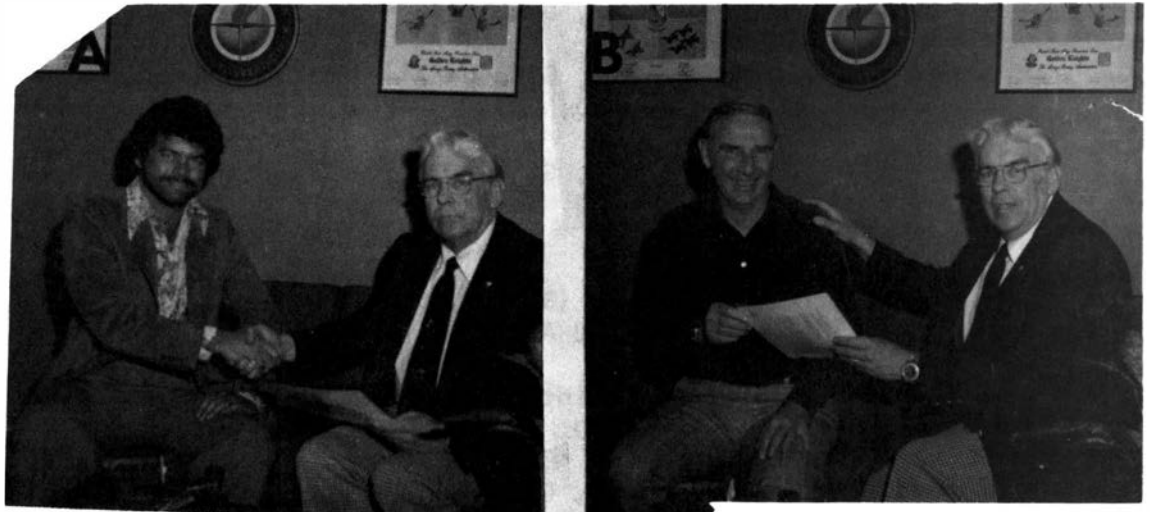
# Hats Off to...



For performance of duties, Programs Officer James Lockard (left), recently received a QWIG from Anchorage FSS/IFSS Chief Jerry Ball.



← Upon retirement, William J. Creasman (left) was presented a gold pan and strip marking pen by A. J. Kulikowski, Anchorage ARTCC Chief.

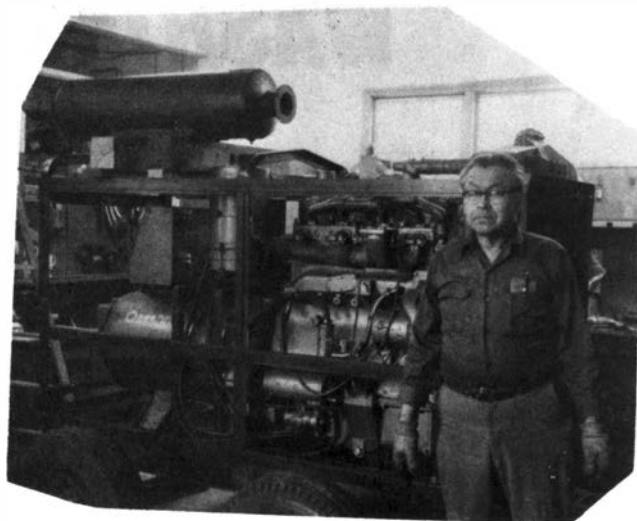


Sid Stone (right in A, B and C) presents a QWIG to Pete Beckner (A) and Vic Gadbois (B) and an Outstanding Performance Award to Shirley Rodger (C)





For his contribution to aviation on January 26, when he helped inspect aircraft for wind damage, ATCS Dave Campbell, Anchorage FSS/IFSS, is presented a Letter of Appreciation by GADO's Tom Carter (right).



Turn an idea or problem over to Juneau Sector's "Jack of all trades," Dudley Clark, Electric Engineer Mechanic, and he'll see to it that something is done. Dudley is shown standing in front of a portable power plant he recently put together single-handedly.



A. J. Kulikowski (left), Chief, Anchorage ARTCC, recently presented a Certificate of Retirement to Efficiency and Proficiency Development Officer Ernest Roque, for his 30 years of federal service.

Efficiency and Proficiency Development Specialist Sam Rich (right), Anchorage ARTCC, was recently presented a Letter of Commendation by Ernest Roque, Efficiency and Proficiency Development Officer, Anchorage ARTCC.



**THE NEWS IN BRIEF**

The agency has purchased three more ARTS II units from the Burroughs Corp., bringing the total number on order to 90. To date, approximately 60 ARTS II systems have been delivered and 45 commissioned with additional units coming on line at a rate of about three a month. The three new ARTS II units will be installed in Mansfield, Ohio; Bismarck, N.D.; and Florence, S.C..... The retirement last month of NTSB Public Affairs Chief Edward Slattery will be noted as much by FAA accident investigators as by those who work for the Board. During his 38 years with NTSB and its predecessor, CAB's old Bureau of Air Safety, Slattery served as the official government spokesman on hundreds of aircraft accidents, dating back to the January 1942 crash near Las Vegas that claimed the life of actress Carole Lombard. He plans to do some writing in retirement..... The FAA has awarded a contract to Sangamo Weston, Inc., EMR Telemetry Division, for upgrading seven Low Level Wind Shear Alert Systems (LLWSAS), which were initially produced as prototypes and were operationally tested and evaluated at Tampa, Atlanta, Oklahoma City, Houston, Denver, Boston and JFK airports. Under the current contract, the systems will be upgraded to meet present operational and reliability performance standards. All work is to be completed in six months..... The FAA Liaison Office in Buenos Aires was officially closed on January 31 as an economy measure. Functions of the office are being assumed by the FAA representative's office in Rio de Janeiro..... A new survey by the Air Transport Association shows that 65 percent of all adults in the U.S. now have flown

on an airliner. In 1972, only 54 percent of the population had flown and in 1962 the figure was a scant 30 percent..... The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association is now distributing the 1980 edition of the AOPA Handbook for Pilots. The pocket-sized aviation encyclopedia contains an updated list of flight service station numbers, an aviation calendar of major conventions and air shows as well as a host of other information.

**ICAO HAS JOBS**

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has the following assignments available: DAKAR--Air Transport. Gross salary is \$19,040, with a tax-free net of \$14,149 without dependents and \$15,096 with. MONTREAL--Language Officer, gross salary is \$23,910 and tax-free net of \$16,978 without dependents and \$18,193 with. For further information, see Agency Order 3330.6B, Chapter 7, or contact Marilyn R. Fobbs on 202/426-3178.

**VARNADO NAMED DIRECTOR**

Arthur Varnado has been promoted from Deputy Director of the New England Region to Director of the Rocky Mountain Region. Varnado, who is a 20-year ATC veteran, joined the agency in 1956 as an Airway Operations Specialist. Later, he became deputy chief of the air traffic control tower at Newark, N.J.; chief of the tower at JFK International Airport in New York and chief of the tower at Standiford Field, Louisville, Ky. An Air Force veteran, he has received numerous awards, including the FAA Administrator's Award for Special Achievement and the Secretary of Transportation's Award for Excellence in Equal Employment Opportunity.

## **CIVILRIGHTS GAINS NOTED**

The latest statistics from the Office of Civil Rights show that the number of females and minorities in professional FAA jobs continues to increase, particularly in the air traffic control field. From September 1975 to January 1980, the number of female controllers increased from 796 to 1,640 and minority controllers from 1,826 to 2,116. During the same period, female electronics technicians jumped from 35 to 171, engineers from 37 to 51 and Flight Standards inspectors from 15 to 34. Minorities registered similar gains in these areas with ETs increasing from 1,010 to 1,149, engineers from 229 to 287 and Flight Standards inspectors from 92 to 107. At the end of January, females accounted for 13.6 percent of total FAA employment and minorities 10.9 percent.

## **FAA FOUND LIABLE**

The U.S. Court for the Central District of California found recently that the United States was 40 percent responsible for the deaths of an instrument instructor pilot and her student when their aircraft had a radio failure and crashed into the side of a mountain near Chatsworth, Calif., in April 1978. The U.S. was found partially liable because an FAA controller in the Burbank TRACON failed to provide lost-radio communication procedures to the pilot while vectoring her off airways toward higher terrain, as required by a Western Region Air Traffic Control Manual supplement. The court also ruled that the instructor was 60 percent responsible for the crash. This is the first time that the agency has been found responsible and has paid damages because of the special rules in the Western Region supplement.

## **GAO CRITICIZES FAA BUT LAUDS "NEW CLIMATE"**

The General Accounting Office has told FAA that it needs to "improve its management of efforts to identify and address safety hazards," such as midair collisions, fuel fires, wind shear and stalls of general aviation aircraft. Prepared at the request of Reps. Harold Johnson and Elliott Levitas of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, the GAO report examined 16 specific safety areas and concluded that FAA "has not adequately marshaled its forces to deal with safety problems quickly and effectively." In reply, FAA noted that the GAO study was conducted "amidst a major change in the structure and philosophy of the FAA and, therefore, does not accurately reflect the way the agency currently is functioning." It pointed out that Administrator Bond has instituted a number of organizational changes over the past 18 months to improve management of safety-related programs, including the establishment of an Associate Administrator for Aviation Standards. The GAO report itself noted that the agency already has taken steps to improve its system for hazard identification and analysis, observing that a "new climate" appeared to exist at FAA.

## **MAINTENANCE MEET SCHEDULED**

The 14th Annual Mid-South Aviation Maintenance Seminar--the nation's largest--will convene at the Metropolitan Nashville Airport, March 25, 26 and 27. The seminar is jointly sponsored by FAA and the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Bureau of Aeronautics and is open to all persons employed in general aviation maintenance-related fields.

# 8 STRICKLAND NEW AIRPORTS CHIEF

Robie B. Strickland recently was appointed chief of the Region's Airports Division.

Strickland formerly was chief of the Airports Engineering Branch at FAA Northwest Region headquarters in Seattle.

A native of Goldsboro, North Carolina, Strickland graduated from Goldsboro High School and obtained his degree in civil engineering from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.

Strickland joined FAA in July, 1961 as an Airways Engineer at Charlotte, N.C. Since then, he has served in increasingly more responsible FAA positions as Jackson Miss.; Charlotte, Atlanta, Oklahoma City, Helena, Montana and Seattle.

Strickland and his wife, Carol, have three children--Robie, Jr., 16, Darron, 14 and Damon, 4. The family resides on Midora Street in Anchorage.



**ROBIE B. STRICKLAND**



For his performance in a supervisory training course, Bill Schmidtman (left), Compensation Branch, AAL-15, is presented an award for being a distinguished graduate by Regional Director Robert L. Faith.



Carl Wittfeld (right), FIDO, was recently presented his 25-year service pin by Director Robert L. Faith.



# PROFICIENCY PROGRAM LAUNCHED 9

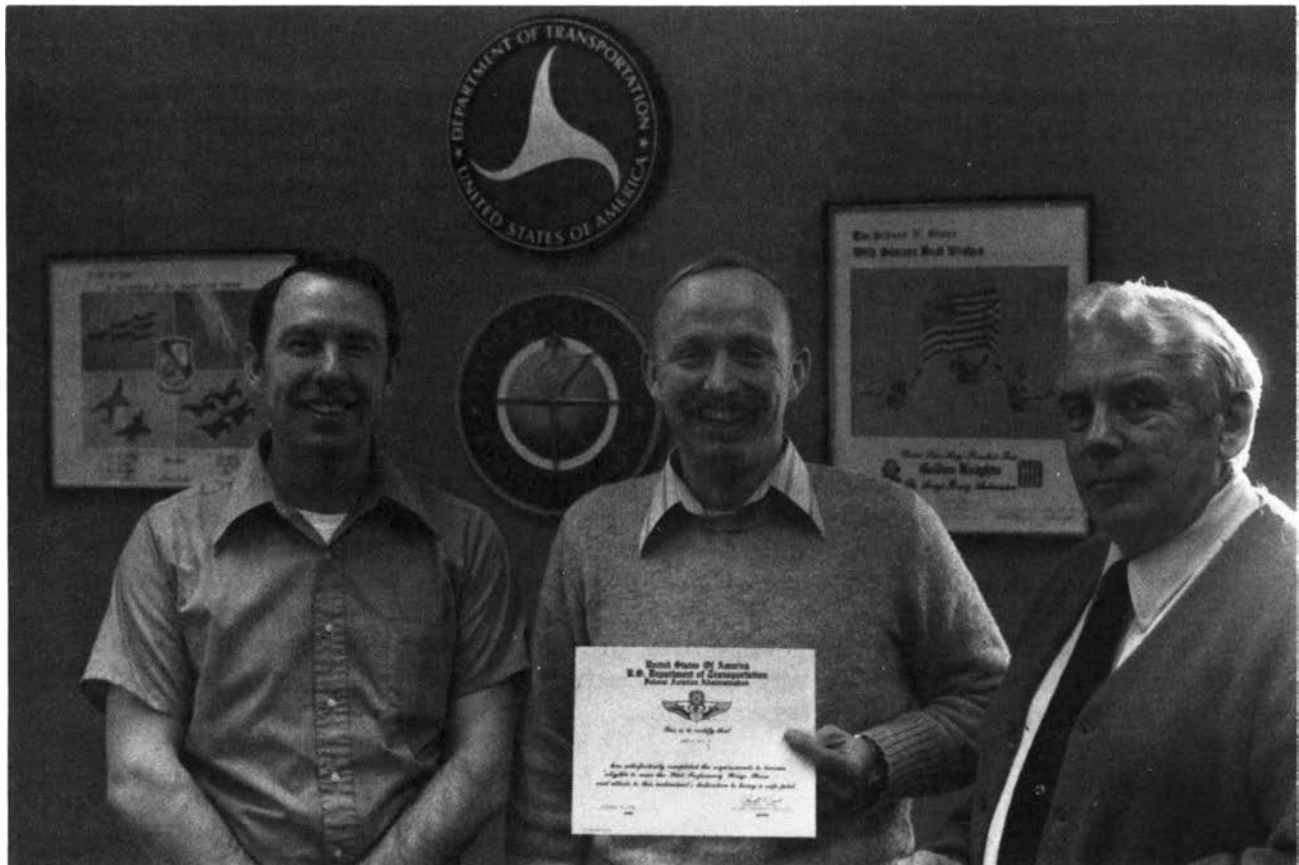
In the words of DOT Secretary Neil Goldschmidt: "The FAA Pilot Proficiency Program aims at the avoidance of accidents through continuing pilot education and training."

The program, started in 1977, in the Central Region, has now gone national and is dedicated to a significant reduction in general aviation accidents.

Commenting on the program, Administrator Langhorne Bond stated: "The FAA recognizes that ongoing pilot education is a key factor in improving aviation safety. A voluntary program of seminars, clinics and now the Pilot Proficiency Program has proven a most effective means of emphasizing FAA's message: Safety Is No Accident."

Under the Pilot Proficiency Program, a tie tack or lapel pin and a certificate of competence is granted those pilots who complete the specified refresher training in the form of a three-hour "mini-flight course" of dual instruction. The training profile chosen represents phases of operation for each category of aircraft that have been identified from accident reports as most likely to produce accidents.

Among the first to qualify in Alaska were James M. Hill of Anchorage and George T. Gray and Gary D. Porter, both of Fairbanks.



Among first winners of certificates in the agency's "Pilot Proficiency Program" is James M. Hill, II of Anchorage (center). Hill is shown with Anchorage GADO Chief Sid Stone (right) and Accident Prevention Specialist Tom Carter.



CERTIFIED PREVARICATOR--Warren Runnerstrom, whose intriguing tall tales of the Alaska bush country often grace these pages, soon may be nationally-certified as a prevaricator--he's been nominated for membership in the world-famous Burlington, Wisconsin Liars Club. The nomination was on the basis of a TRAPLINE article written by Runnerstrom concerning his being besieged by dive-bombing mosquitoes. William E. Branen, publisher of the Burlington Standard-Press, writes: "Thanks for sending this light-hearted material to us. The article on Alaska mosquitoes will be turned over to the Liars Club. Congratulations." Runnerstrom, take a bow.

\* \* \* \*

FORTY-TWO PILOTS HIRED--Oil, fishing, and mining activity in southeast Alaska have spurred the need for helicopter pilots, and Ketchikan FSS Chief, Buddy Bayeur reports that one major fixed base operator plans to hire 42 pilots between now and May 15 for summer work. Bayeur is providing this and other operators with training sessions on the Special Rule FAR Part 93 applying to operation of these aircraft.

\* \* \* \*

GOLD RUSH--BY AIR--Richard Mathews, Chief of the Gulkana FSS reports that after the State of Alaska released geological information concerning a promising "gold district" in the Eureka-Nelchina area about 60 miles west of Gulkana, several helicopters buzzed in and the occupants busily began staking claims. Light aircraft also brought bonanza-seekers into Glennallen to meet the deadline for filing. Mathews thinks it's possible air activity generally will increase as development begins.

\* \* \* \*

DOC'S A HOOP STAR--Aviation Medical Chief, Dr. Jack Hepler, believes in taking his own advice about the importance of exercise for physical fitness. Doc is a member of the Anchorage Barrett's basketball team, 1 of 14 teams which recently participated in the Valdez Winter Carnival. How did Doc's team do? Says Gary L. Near, Chief, Valdez CS/T: "They did all right in the early rounds but got beat out in the late. I wouldn't say they were the oldest team there--they just had a lot more experience than any of the other teams." Gary, stand in line for a job with the State Department.

\* \* \* \*

