

THE MAY 24 ISSUE OF FOCUS FAA WILL BE A SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY EDITION.

We'd like to use this issue to remember those Americans who fought for this country, but are no longer with us.

We'd like to hear from FAA employees about family members who fought for our country, but were either killed in wartime or have since passed away. The stories can be related to the current war in Iraq, or about earlier conflicts. They could be about specific incidents, or general



reminiscences. They can be about grandparents, parents, brothers or sisters, husbands or wives, children, cousins, aunts or uncles, nephews and nieces.

We're looking for remembrances of 50 words or so. If you need to write more, feel free. Focus FAA will edit stories for style and space considerations, if necessary.

Photos will be considered for publication. Make sure that you provide a caption.

Send your story to jim.tise@faa.gov. Keep in mind your Lotus Notes must be activated in order to use this address. If you have any problems with sending your comments, copy the email address and paste it in the “To:” line of a new email message.

The deadline for submissions is May 13.

Following are emails to Focus FAA. If you have comments about these

letters, stories in the issue, or other subjects, email jim.tise@faa.gov.

TIME TO FOCUS ON TECH OPS

It's nice to see that the FAA is hiring controllers, but when it comes to technicians it does not seem to be as important. Who is going to maintain and repair the equipment that they use? Every place I know of across the nation is short on techs. Most of the ones that are being hired come from Tech schools and it takes them from three to five years before they are competent enough to maintain most of the systems that the FAA uses. Then there is the pay discrepancy. I have been with this agency for over 17 years and have been to over 100 courses to be proficient at my job. Our training never stops. When new equipment hits the field, back to school we go. Yet my pay is substantially lower than a controller's. They may have the flying public bamboozled about how high the stress level is on their job, but I know better. Don't get me wrong. I love my job and make good money doing it, but with all the training I have to get it makes me a little angry to see controllers paid substantially more than me.

They can try and contract our jobs out if they want to, but I don't think it will work. The equipment we work on is too specialized. On top of all that most of the guys that I work with or around are near retirement age, so we have the same problem that the controller work force has and it seems that nothing is being done to remedy the situation.

Dearryl Rabb

Western-Pacific Region

MUSHROOMS

Sorry, I was expecting information on the FAA and the re-organization in progress. We still are like "mushrooms" out here in the field with no information coming down from headquarters.

I know that I am in the Western Service Area, but other than that there has been very little information available.

Chuck Gilmore

Alaskan Region

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