

Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board

News-At-A-Glance January 2001

501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 3200, Long Beach, CA 90802
Voice (562) 980-3445 Fax (562) 980-3448

KathreneHansen@CompuServe.com FEB Web Site: www.losangeles.feb.gov

This publication is prepared by the staff of the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board. Its content is extracted from information received in the FEB Office and gleaned from public information sources. Please forward your agency newsletter or "news items" to the FEB Office for inclusion in future FEB News-at-a-Glance editions.

Baby Delivery: All in a Day's Work

Senior **Border Patrol** Agent Rudy Ruiz and Detention Enforcement Officer Patricio Cobos understand that, if you work for the **INS**, you never know what your work day may bring. In patrolling a desert area east of Indio, agents learned a group of 10 undocumented migrants had left behind a pregnant woman.

Immediately searching the area, the agents found the 22-year-old mother-to-be in labor. Driving her to the hospital, Ruiz had to stop on the highway median to deliver the child in the back of the **Border Patrol** Expedition. Arriving on the scene, DEO Cobos assisted. Shortly after the baby was born, Ruiz and Cobos were happy to see medical personnel and California Highway Patrol officers approaching to relieve the **INS** employees of their birthing duties and transport mother and child to JFK Hospital in Indio.



Our Greatest Achievements

Have you ever wondered what the federal government's 50 most important achievements in the last 50 years are? In this era of government-bashing, it is heart-warming for federal careerists to learn that Paul Light conducted a study on the subject, which prestigious Brookings Institution published.

Building on other research, Light first identified over 500 major laws and winnowed down the choices based on the government's involvement in them. Next, 450 (out of over 1000 contacted) college professors, members of the American Historical and the American Political Science Associations, completed mail surveys. The report stated that, though not the ideally diverse sample, this group represents "the dominant views of just what constitutes importance, difficulty and success in America's college and university classrooms. This sample offers an important glimpse of how future generations will judge the greatest achievements of the 20th century." The following are the top-ranked federal accomplishments:

1. Rebuild Europe after World War II.
2. Expand voting rights.
3. Promote equal access to public accommodations.
4. Reduce disease.
5. Reduce workplace discrimination.
6. Ensure food and drinking water safety.
7. Strengthen highway system.
8. Increase older Americans' health-care access.
9. Reduce budget deficit.
10. Promote financial retirement security.
11. Improve water quality.
12. Support veterans' readjustment and training.
13. Promote scientific and technological research.
14. Contain communism.
15. Improve air quality.

Light concluded, "Looking back from the edge of a new millennium, it is difficult not to be proud of what the federal government has tried to achieve these past 50 years." Remembering this study as we fulfill our daily responsibilities may keep us aware of how important our work really is & inspire us to contribute to the most important achievements of the millennium we began this month.

ZIGGURAT

Definition: n. 1. a temple of Sumerian origin in the form of a truncated pyramid presenting the appearance of a series of terraces. 2. the Chet Holifield (a Southern CA Congressman) Federal Building in Laguna Niguel, workplace of 1,000 INS Western Regional Office and Western Service Center employees, 800 IRS employees, National Archives and Records Administration staff, Social Security Administration workers, and GSA personnel, as well as the location of two child-care centers, two credit unions, and a cafeteria.

What do four films that involve the sinister harvesting of body parts, a race featuring pedestrians being run down, the selling of high-tech military equipment to South America dictators, and the challenge to defeat a deadly Ebola-type virus in the U.S. have in common? All were filmed in part at the seven-story, 1.22 million square-foot Holifield ziggurat, completed in 1972. The movies are "Coma," "Death Race 2000," "The Deal of the Century," and "Outbreak."

As part of its colorful history, the building was the target in the mid-80's of pipe bombs, which fortunately failed to detonate.

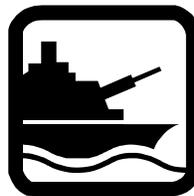
Even by California standards the 58-acre parking lot has enough spaces; it holds 6000 cars. In the mid-80's, no one wanted to buy the building for more than \$22.2 million, so GSA held onto it. GSA Building Manager, Jane Rodgers, noted recently, "It would be hard to estimate the selling price today with the current property values in the area. I'm sure there are a few people regretting the bids they made in 1984."



Navy Pioneers Quiz

If you get these all right, you deserve a million! Answers are on the last page.

1. What U.S. **Navy** warship was the first to be commanded by a woman? a. Jarrett, b. The Sullivans, c. Eisenhower, d. San Antonio
2. What California-recruited, California-educated **Navy** commander was the first woman to command a **Navy** warship? a. Patricia Tracey, b. Jacqueline Barnes, c. Kathleen McGrath, d. Barbara McGann
3. The first U.S. record of women at sea occurred when women were war nurses in a. 1775, b. 1812, c. 1863, d. 1917
4. The first woman to fire Tomahawk cruise missiles from a warship in combat was a. Lt. Erica Niedermeier in 1996, b. Lt. Kendra Williams in 1998, c. Lt. Bonnie Potter in 1991, d. Lt. Kathleen McGrath in 1985
5. In what decade was Lt. Judith Neuffer the first military aviatrix? a. 1960's, b. 1970's, c. 1980's, d. 1990's
6. The first woman rear admiral in 1972 was a. Erica Niedermeier, b. Alene Duerk, c. Darlene Iskra, d. Bonnie Potter
7. The first women entered the Annapolis naval academy in a. 1968, b. 1976, c. 1982, d. 1990
8. In 1994, which combat ship was the 1st with women in its crew? a. Jarrett, b. Eisenhower, c. Opportune, d. Enterprise
9. In 1990, what Lt. Cmdr. was the first woman to command a **Navy** ship? a. Kathleen McGrath, b. Bonnie Potter, c. Jacqueline Barnes, d. Darlene Iskra
10. In what year did women first serve on **Navy** support vessels? a. 1994, b. 1986, c. 1978, d. 1969
11. What ship has the largest number of women crew members? a. Jarrett, b. Enterprise, c. The Sullivans, d. Eisenhower
12. How many Navy ships have women crew members? a. 1/10, b. 1/5, c. 1/2, d. 2/3



Drug War Coup

"It's the largest Ecstasy ring in the world that we know of, and we took them down," said LA **FBI** Special Agent Matthew McLaughlin. The designer drug, also called MDMA, may cause depression and significant brain damage in chronic users. LA was the end of the pipeline of the cartel, headquartered in Santa Monica. A partnership of LA **FBI**, **DEA**, and **Customs Service** agents, assisted by state and local law enforcement, led the effort, which culminated in dozens of arrests and huge seizures of drugs, cash and weapons, starting with a December 1999 Customs confiscation.

"In the 21st century, there are no borders any more - law enforcement agencies can now coordinate, investigate and pursue major drug traffickers around the globe," said **DEA** Special Agent in Charge, Michele Leonhart, in LA. "This is the first time we have seen such an international syndicate, and one worked by so many international law enforcement agencies."

Stephen Wiley, LA Assistant **FBI** Agent in Charge, called *Operation Red Tide* "one of the most significant cases, in terms of the involvement of different law enforcement agencies, that the bureau has ever had."

Applause For

U.S. Port of Entry, Calexico, CA for winning one of nine Presidential Awards for Design Excellence from President Clinton. After winning one of 35 Federal Design Achievement Awards, the Port was selected for the top honor by a jury of private-sector design experts. The competition, the only government-wide design excellence recognition, is administered by a partnership of **GSA** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

U.S. Postal Service for handling one and a half times the normal daily volume of 100 million pieces of mail, from Thanksgiving to Christmas, 2000, the busiest holiday season on record, with a 3% increase over 1999.

LA **FBI** for their Pacoima Middle School Adopt-A-School Program. **FBI** employees volunteer as instructors and mentors during the school year. On 11-8-00, students became Jr. Special Agents at a Swearing-In Ceremony led by Assistant Director in Charge, James DeSarno.

After a four-year hiatus, **Edwards Air Force Base** successfully landed seven astronauts in the space shuttle *Discovery*, when dangerously high winds prevented a Florida touchdown. During the 13-day mission (the 100th space shuttle flight), the astronauts had readied the international space station for its first, full-time residents.

Applause For

San Pedro **Coast Guard** officials on commissioning the newest member of the fleet, the state-of-the-art cutter *George Cobb*, named after a nationally-decorated lighthouse keeper in the Bay area around 1900. The 175-foot *Cobb*, 14th coastal buoy tender of the Keeper-class, has a crew of only 18, reduced from 50, thanks to automated controls and computerized navigation and communication. Keeper-class cutters are the first having Z-Drive propulsion, with two 360-degree-rotatable propeller housings instead of the standard propeller/rudder configuration. With unmatched maneuverability, the vessel will service over 200 navigational aids along the CA coast and can be outfitted for oil removal in an spill emergency.

OPM's USAJOBS by Email

feature which enables Feds to focus their job search on up to 3 job types and to receive e-mail linked to current openings. **OPM** Director Janice Lachance said, "I am proud of USAJOBS, and I am very proud of this update, (which) gives people a new tool to help find the career they want." To register, go to www.USAJOBS.opm.gov and click USAJOBS by Email. Provide your search criteria, name and e-mail address. For intern program information, contact agency human resource offices about specific vacancies.

PARTNERING

"We want residents of all ages, especially the children, to feel confident that their safety is one of **ATF's** highest priorities in Southern CA," said **ATF** LA Special Agent in Charge, Donald Kincaid, on the occasion of 3 local cities joining the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII). Long Beach, Anaheim and Santa Ana joined LA, in the program since 1999.

LA **ATF** Inspector Cindy Boyku described the four-year old program as aiming to reduce youth gun violence by tracing guns recovered in crimes committed by youths to identify illegal firearm traffickers and owners, like children and criminals. The gun serial number identifies the link from manufacturer to dealer to original buyer. A CA system, used by local police for most gun traces, identifies handgun buyers in CA. Participating cities forward recovered crime gun information to the **ATF** National Tracing Center.

www.atf.treas.gov has 1999 program reports on over 64,000 recovered guns. Youths under 18 account for proportionally more crime gun traces than adults, 10%



of the total. Forty-three percent of all crime guns came from people under 25.

LA's traced crime guns were 72% handguns. LA's traced guns were 46% semi-automatic pistols. Twenty percent of LA's traced guns had a time-to-crime of under three years.

Kincaid concluded, "ATF is committed to combating firearms violence and the illegal possession and trafficking in firearms in our community."

Presidential Fast Facts

As we transition to a new administration, recent Presidential history may be of interest to us.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

George Santayana

★ When Truman was President during and after World War II, the largest growth in gross domestic product, the lowest Misery Index (inflation plus unemployment), and the lowest inflation occurred.

★ When Kennedy was at the helm in the early 1960's, the largest growth in industrial production occurred.

★ With Johnson in charge, the biggest increase in personal disposable income after taxes and the biggest rise in hourly wages occurred.

★ The largest job growth occurred when Carter was President.

★ The largest deficit reduction occurred during Clinton's presidency.

Answers: **Navy Pioneers Quiz:**

1. a. 2. c. 3. b. 4. a. 5. b. 6. b.
7. b. 8. b. 9. d. 10. c. 11. d. 12. c.

CITIZEN E-GOVERNMENT EXPECTATIONS

GSA's Office of Intergovernmental Solutions (OIS) in partnership with the IAB (Intergovernmental Advisory Board under the Federation of Government Information Processing Councils) surveyed program managers in federal, international, state, and local governments for best practices and lessons learned in soliciting citizen input for their electronic governmental initiatives, such as Internet portals (firstgov), e-procurement, call centers, and automated e-mail programs.

- Governments that actively include citizens in their planning, development, and implementation of electronic government initiatives will be the most successful in meeting ever-rising "citizen expectations."
- Government should not assume citizens want 24/7 access and should focus limited resources where citizen feedback recommends.
- Although limited in scope, a quick informal questionnaire distributed in a mall, or posted on a web site is a low-resource way to get some feedback.
- If resources permit, focus groups or studies generating statistically significant results give more reliable data.
- All approaches are encouraged to overcome the distance and alienation from government felt by 64% of citizens surveyed.
- The U.S. Mint, the Bureau of Public Debt, and Social Security Administration all heard citizen concerns about Internet privacy and security.
- New electronic initiatives may not succeed if security/privacy issues are not addressed up front.
- A top-down approach without obtaining insight into the requirements and expectations of citizens served is unlikely to be effective.

"As public awareness and Internet usage increase, the demand for on-line Government interaction and simplified, standardized ways to access Government information and services becomes increasingly important."

President Clinton, December 17, 1999

<http://policyworks.gov/intergov>

Reports & Presentations

http://www.ctg.albany.edu/resources/htmlrpt/e-government/what_citizens_want.html for M. Cook's "What Citizens Want from E-Government"

<http://policyworks.gov/org/main/mg/intergov/linksframe.html> for Council for Excellence in Government "trust in government" survey report