

Battalion Classifieds

FAA asks airlines to pair pilots more responsibly

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration called on airlines Thursday to avoid teaming inexperienced pilots in the cockpit, citing concern about the experience level of the pilots in the crash of a Continental Airlines jet in November.

The agency also announced tighter restrictions on aircraft maintenance and released year-end statistics showing a 26 percent increase in the number of near-collision reports — 1,056 compared with 840 the previous year — filed by pilots in 1987. Reports of near-collisions involving at least one commercial aircraft — jetliner or commuter — jumped 40 percent from last year. Of about 900 incidents investigated, 18 percent were found to have been "critical," with the aircraft having flown within 100 feet of each other, FAA officials said.

FAA Administrator Allan McArthur discussed the issue of pilot experience, airline maintenance and the

near-collision statistics at a meeting with reporters.

Later, during a speech to the National Aviation Club, he said "we are witnessing a crisis in public confidence in flying" but maintained that the airways are "safe and healthy" despite some areas of concern.

McArthur told reporters that the FAA has asked the airlines "to stress the importance of not putting two pilots in the same cockpit if they both have relatively little experience in the airplane they are flying. The warning, which McArthur suggested could turn into a requirement if not heeded, grew out of the Continental accident Nov. 15 at Denver's Stapleton International Airport that killed 28 of the 82 people aboard a DC-9, including both pilots.

The accident attracted FAA concern over how airlines team their flight crews because both crewmen had relatively little experience flying DC-9s — 198 hours for the captain and 36 hours for the 26-year-old co-

pilot, who was at the controls. The FAA advised air carriers to schedule their flight crews to team pilots with little flight on an aircraft. Furthermore, the agency said airlines should assign the senior officer to fly takeoff and landings if the co-pilot has less than 100 hours of flying time on the plane.

Meawhile, McArthur said FAA has directed airlines to take steps that would reduce the number of deferred maintenance items by making repairs promptly.

FAA officials said they traced a recent airline accident that was traced to failure to repair an item on the so-called "minimum equipment list" — an item where maintenance can be deferred. Some safety experts have suggested carriers are deferring work on many such items in order to get planes aloft.

The FAA's tighter rules on such repairs to be made promptly

Neglected child receives money from community

GARY, Ind. (AP) — Stuffed animals, balloons and money poured in Thursday for a 9-year-old girl with severely frostbitten feet and ankles, while her mother was charged with felony neglect for locking the child in a freezing attic.

The child, Darlwin Carlisle, has been hospitalized since she was discovered Sunday by a construction worker.

"The phone is ringing off the hook this morning," said spokesman Mary Fetsch of Chicago's Wyler Children's Hospital, where the girl was scheduled to undergo surgery to amputate her legs at the midcalf Thursday afternoon. "They want to know how she's doing and where they can contribute."

Addie Goudeaux, principal of Daniel Webster School, where Darlwin attended third grade, said call-

ers there had offered clothing, toys and cash.

Lake County Prosecutor Jack F. Crawford filed a formal felony charge alleging neglect of a dependent against the mother, Darlwin Britt, 24, of Gary. Court Commissioner T. Edward Page said prosecutors believe the child's life may still be at risk.

Britt was scheduled to appear in Lake Superior Court Friday. If convicted, she could face a prison term ranging from six to 20 years.

The principal said pupils at the school were shocked by the news of their classmate.

"They've been so quiet and so unusual," she said. "Today the children have been coming up to me in the hall and they say, 'Oh, have you heard what happened?' They're going to cut her legs off," is the way they put it."

Patients bring soap to raise hygiene level

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — There is a serious shortage of medical supplies in Belgrade, and patients have started bringing their own soap to the level of hygiene, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The *Vecernje Novosti* said the shortages were caused by a financial squeeze affecting the city's state-run health services.

"The lack of drugs and medical supplies, including soap, antiseptics and alcohol, has also affected the work of dental clinics, X-ray departments, paper said.

"Hygiene has fallen to the lowest possible level, and even disposable items have to be sterilized for multiple use," the report said. With a 170 percent inflation and a \$19 billion foreign debt, Yugoslavia is suffering the economic crisis in its history.

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