

Dennis DeGaetano Remarks
First Annual Research Symposium
National Center of Excellence for Aviation Operations Research
November 15, 1997

I am delighted to help welcome one of FAA's newest research partners, and to celebrate the first year of operations of the Air Transportation Center of Excellence in Operations Research. Without partnerships such as the one the FAA has with this Center, we would not be able to do the research and develop the necessary technologies to ensure safety in this age of increasing growth and decreasing resources. The FAA has long had a successful partnership with the nation's academic research community, working with U.S. colleges and universities to foster research by both faculty and students. These partnerships have resulted in significant contributions to the advancement of aviation science and technology. And, this research has provided the agency and the industry a high return on investments.

In this era of reduced budgetary constraints this Center offers an incredible opportunity to leverage scarce FAA resources by:

- dollar-for-dollar matching funds;
- tapping the great intellectual resources represented by the COE; and
- listening to the "street smart" industry partners for their advice and guidance.

It only makes sense in this day of shrinking budgets and scarce resources that we work collectively on operational issues of mutual interest and concern.

Through the Centers of Excellence program, the FAA enhances internal research efforts and accesses academic research, striving to hasten the application of this work to benefit the aviation community and the flying public. Our goal in creating these Centers, is to create a union of the private sector, public sector, and academic institutions--a world class consortium--able and ready to address the needs of the National Airspace System.

By establishing major research centers throughout the country to advance aviation-related technologies, the agency, academia, and industry also take a proactive part in:

- creating a pool of technical professionals trained in aviation-related research areas;
 - helping finance graduate education;
 - fostering cooperative FAA-university/industry research and development programs;
- and,
- ultimately, as mentioned earlier, improving the national airspace system.

Last year we selected this team of universities--the University of California at Berkeley, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Maryland and Virginia Polytechnic Institute to lead the Center of Excellence for Operations Research because we found them the best group able to serve as the "core" of this Center. This core team has

had a phenomenal year - gaining support from other universities and the aviation industry to help carry out its work.

As you will hear today, the research undertaken by the universities associated with this Center of Excellence focuses on the development and use of operations research--a focused blend of applied mathematics, computer science, and engineering aimed at finding optimal solutions to complex problems.

This Center offers an exciting opportunity for all who participate, and I want to reaffirm that the FAA is committed to its long term success.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who participated in making this symposium a reality--the FAA team, the Berkeley team, and our academic and industry partners. Without your hard work and dedication, we would not be able to usher in this new era of aviation research and development.