

'Tough Acts...'

David Millett, MD, recently retired, and in January 2007, the FAA Office of Aerospace Medicine and all of you waved farewell to two other colleagues as they moved on to the next phase in their lives: **Joel Dickmann, DO**, and **Doug Burnett, MEd**. These three gentlemen have accumulated more than 74 years of federal service.

DAVID MILLETT, MD



David came to the FAA in 1990, having served around the world as a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force and as the medical director for Eastern Airlines, so he came to us with a wealth of aviation experience. He was hired as the Regional Flight



Surgeon for the Southern Region, and it was immediately apparent that he really “knew the business,” so all of us looked to him for advice and counsel. He is a Fellow and active member of the Aerospace Medical Association where he has received many awards and accolades, and he is a recognized leader in both the Civil Aviation Medical Association and the Airlines Medical Directors Association. Whenever I needed some help or a volunteer for a special project, Dave was always there with his “hand up.” He especially loved to make presentations, and his resonant voice, which he honed as a radio announcer when he was a young man, made him a very effective speaker.

JOEL DICKMANN, DO

Joel Dickmann also arrived on the FAA scene in 1990 when he was hired as the Assistant Regional Flight Surgeon for our Northwest Mountain Region. He was appointed Regional Flight Surgeon for our Central Region in 1992.



Joel was a pharmacist before attending medical school, and he came to us from private practice where he also served as a flight surgeon for the Army National Guard. Joel's broad experience, coupled with his “can do” attitude, made him the person I could

always call on in a pinch. On more than one occasion, Joel volunteered to spend several months in Oklahoma City to help the Certification Division when they were short of staff. Somehow, even though he was several hundred miles away from his home office, he managed to keep his region running smoothly; indeed, a real tribute to his skill as a manager and leader.

DOUGLAS BURNETT, MEd



Doug Burnett joined the FAA in 1987. He came to us from the U.S. Postal Service, where he was a manager in their Technical Training Institute. One of his responsibilities as the manager of our Aviation Medical Examiner Program was making the arrangements for all of the seminars that you have attended over the years.

On some occasions, the hotels we contracted with did not live up to their agreements, but we could always count on Doug to “recover.” He had a smile and a good word for everyone, and he could magically find a solution to every problem.

As you can see, all three of these gentlemen have been major contributors to the Office of Aerospace Medicine's success, and we will miss them a lot. Selfishly, I tried my best to get each of them to stay around until after I retired, but they all said, “It was their time.”

We have already filled in behind Joel with **Larry Wilson**, who was a member of our certification staff in Oklahoma City, and we will be filling the other two positions in the near future.



However, all three of them will be tough acts to follow and difficult to replace. I know you will all join me in wishing them success, happiness, and a safe journey.

—Fred

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