

## MILITARY AIRPORT CONVERSION UNDERWAY

### From US Dept. of Transportation

■(WASHINGTON) Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena announced Monday the selection of four former military airfields to participate in a federal program to help airfields closed under the Base Closure and Realignment program convert to civilian use.

Funds from the Federal Aviation Administration's Military Airport Program (MAP) are being provided to help local communities adapt to military base closures while preserving jobs, spurring economic development and increasing the capacity of the national airport and airspace system, the secretary said.

Some \$26 million in MAP funds is available to selected military airfields in fiscal year 1996.

The MAP is designed to add airport system capacity in or near major metropolitan areas. Converting the military airfields to civilian use enhances air traffic control system capacity and reduces flight delays.

The four military air bases selected to be eligible for MAP funds in fiscal 1996, and

the grant totals, are:

- Williams Gateway Airport, a former Air Force pilot training base in Phoenix, \$5.7 million.

- Austin Bergstrom Int. Airport on the former Bergstrom Air Force base in Austin, Tex., \$5 million.

- Millington Municipal Airport, a former Naval Air Station in Memphis, Tenn., \$1 million.

- Homestead Regional Airport on the former Homestead Air Force Base in Homestead, Fla. — While this airport will be designated for the MAP this fiscal year, it is not requesting funds under the program until fiscal year 1997.

The MAP was mandated by Congress in the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990. Airports currently participating in the MAP are: Pease International Tradeport, Portsmouth, NH; Laredo International Airport, Laredo, Tex.; San Bernardino International Airport (Norton Air Force Base), San Bernardino, Calif.; and Smyrna Airport, Smyrna, Tenn.

## AMERICORPS RURAL FIRE PROJECTS SAVE PROPERTY AND MONEY

### From US Dept. of Agriculture

■(WASHINGTON) U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced Monday that rural fire protection projects implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps national service program have protected property from destruction and will save rural homeowners in four states an estimated \$48 million in one year.

Total governmental cost for the

AmeriCorps fire protection projects — including construction materials and education awards for the AmeriCorps members — was \$1.7 million. The projects will return \$27 to rural homeowners yearly for every dollar spent on the program by the government

Dry fire hydrant projects were implemented in Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Vermont. Dry fire hydrants are special hooks-ups that allow rural fire departments to obtain water for fire fighting in areas that do not have existing water mains to provide adequate pressure. The installation of such dry fire hydrants has saved homes and commercial properties from destruction and is helping an estimated 312,000 rural homeowners reduce their insurance rates. Some homeowners will have their rates reduced by up to \$250 yearly. The rates are lowered by insurance companies as a result of an improvement in fire classification ratings in the counties or fire districts where the dry fire hydrants are installed.

The AmeriCorps dry fire hydrant projects are jointly sponsored by Resource Conservation and Development Councils, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Corporation for National Service, and local fire departments.

## TEXAS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ADA

### From US Dept. of Justice

■(WASHINGTON) Builders in Texas who follow state building codes can be assured they are complying with federal guidelines as well, now that the Justice Department has certified Texas codes as being in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Texas is only the second state in the nation to receive such certification. Washington state codes were certified in March 1995.

"Everyone in the state of Texas — builders, architects, business owners, and the general public — will benefit from Texas' new accessibility standards," said Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval L. Patrick. "Certification makes it easier to comply with the law."

Under the ADA's Standards for Accessible Design, newly constructed or altered public and commercial facilities must be built to be accessible to people with disabilities. States may now apply for certification by the Justice Department if their building codes are equivalent to the federal guidelines. Builders will benefit from this new process because it ensures that construction which meets state codes meets the requirements of the ADA. Builders will also have additional legal protection in ADA lawsuits if they build in compliance with the certified code.

Currently, the Department is reviewing requests for certification from the states of New Mexico, Utah, Florida, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Maryland.

### Managed Care Task Force Meeting Oct. 2, 1996

Legislative Information Network/Capitol Network News will cover the Oct. 2 meeting of the Managed Care Task Force being held in Tulsa.

Look for a story about the meeting in the Thursday, Oct. 3 edition of Capitol Network News and on the Oct. 3 Legislative Information Network storyboard.

Also, LIN/CNN staff will collect all materials distributed at the Wednesday meeting and will make those available to our subscribers as requested. You may call 524-2833 or e-mail SHAWN to request the materials beginning Thursday.

