



POSTAL NEWS

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POSTMASTER GENERAL APPLAUDS LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR AVERTING FLORIDA TRAGEDY

LAS VEGAS – Postmaster General John E. Potter Tuesday saluted the law enforcement community that helped to free Miami area letter carrier Tonya Mitchell after she was released unharmed by the individual who kidnapped her and hijacked her delivery vehicle last Friday.

At a meeting of the Postal Board of Governors here, Potter thanked the Miami-Dade Police Department singling out its commander Jim Timoney, “for peacefully ending this very public abduction, the professionalism and patience of the police officers can only be admired.”

Mitchell was abducted at gunpoint and forced to drive her captor through the streets and highways of Florida’s Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. Law enforcement officials remained close behind her vehicle at all times. The chase, broadcast live on television throughout the nation, ended with her captor being taken into custody unharmed.

“I also want to complement Ms. Mitchell for her composure during that frightening time,” he added. “It was scary and life-threatening. I was relieved when I saw that Tonya was safe.”

The Board was meeting in Las Vegas to review postal operations that support the nation’s fastest growing city.

Columbia Astronaut Condolences

Potter also extended the thoughts and prayers of the nation’s 750,000 member postal family to the families and friends of the Columbia Astronauts and NASA.

“Everyone in the Postal Service shares the sorrow and pain the families and friends of the astronauts feel.” He said. “We also join with NASA and its scientists, technicians, and employees in their time of loss.”

The check gets through the mail... quicker

In other activity, Potter discussed results from the Phoenix-Hecht Postal Survey™. The Survey independently measures the average time it takes remittance mail that is deposited among 170 cities to reach approximately 130 sites in 36 cities. It is a leading mail delivery time survey that is followed closely by the treasury management industry.

The October 2002 survey reported that nationally, 92% of sites showed improvement to represent an average site reduction delivery time of six hours when compared to the same time last year. When mailing regionally, Phoenix-Hecht reported that 86% of the sites improved. When mailing locally, 56% of sites improved.

(more)

Corporate Flats Strategy

In other activity, Senior Vice President, Operations, John Rapp presented the Postal Service's near and long term strategy for processing flat mail.

The Corporate Flat Strategy calls for bringing flat mail -- newspapers, catalogs, magazines and other periodicals -- up to the same level of sophistication that letter mail processing provides today. That is, automate sorting down to the order that letter carriers deliver their routes.

Between 1993 and 2001, letter mail processing productivity increased 83 percent. Following deployment of 534 Automated Flat Sorting Machine 100s just two years ago, flat mail processing productivity jumped 78 percent.

To continue this success Rapp said the Postal Service must continue to find ways to increase customer involvement. He said it entails involving the customer in developing rate structure incentives, mail make-up requirements, bar coding more mail, and making sure customers understand the importance of providing correct bar codes and readable addresses.

He also outlined the delivery vision to sequence letters and flats into a system that will provide one "package" of mail for each address. Rapp said two options are being explored. The first hinges on the feasibility of a Delivery Point Packager (DPP) R&D effort. Equipment is expected to be available for testing during the 2005-2006 timeframe.

Labor Scheduler

The Board also approved funding to deploy the labor scheduler software tool for the Postal Service's mail processing operations. This tool will assist local managers in determining the optimal staffing for a processing facility and therefore, provide a roadmap for repositioning employees to obtain maximum efficiencies.

The software considers operating plans, available mail processing equipment, workload, mail flows and all scheduling requirements of our labor agreements.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that makes deliveries to about 140 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$66 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 43 percent of the world's mail volume - some 203 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.