

Field Equipment Technicians - Back row from left: Sean Dunning, Steve Mendoza, Dennis Sanford, Herbert Lewis and Juan Gamino. Front row from left: James Badgett, Joe Williams, Winston Buchanan, George Perez, Jose Dagostino and Manny Zaragosa. Not pictured: Tommie Davis and Richard Daniels.



PHOTO BY ADRIENNE S. BLYTHE

Fleet Management and Support Services Host Luncheon to Honor Field Equipment Technicians

By LISA HUYNH

(Dec. 9, 2003) Fleet Management and Support Services held an appreciation luncheon, Friday afternoon, to thank the thirteen Field Equipment Technicians (FET's) for their hard work and dedication in maintaining the buses during the 35-day strike.

"The Field Techs not only worked very long hours, but adjusted their schedule within a short notice," says Equipment Maintenance Manager Hector Rojas. "During the strike, many of them were on a 12-hour schedule with no days off."

These non-contract employees were dispatched to all the bus maintenance divisions to repair and maintain the buses to ensure state of readiness once the strike was over.

"The Field Techs are the backbone of our system," Managing Director of Operations Alex Clifford. "These guys never complained, even though they had to endure shift changes and the cancellation of their vacations. It's incredible the kind of things they've done for MTA."

Simultaneously with the strike, some Field Techs were called upon to escort several buses full of firefighters to the San Diego and Hesperia fires.

The Field Techs' primary job is to repair disabled buses and do quick troubleshooting on the road.

"They've done a lot for us," says Rojas. "Friday's luncheon was to show our appreciation for their hard work. We are deeply honored to have them as part our team."

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