



Presidential Travel by Train and Operating Perspectives

Radford Jones

Biographic Information

Rad Jones has been a model railroader since 1955 and currently models in N scale. His freelanced *Move It On* (MIO) Railroad System, Hillsdale Division a New York Central connector, duplicates many locations he visited during a 21 year career with the U. S. Secret Service. Rad retired from the Secret Service as the Agent in Charge of the Michigan Division. During his Secret Service career he was responsible for a number of dignitary advance security arrangements, including several by train. Upon retirement he became the manager of global Fire and Security Operations, Ford Motor Company and is now an instructor in the School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University. He is involved with the Department of Homeland Security in community emergency preparedness and teaches a graduate course in criminal justice. He has given a number of presentations at regional and national NMRA events and around the US on Presidential train travels.

Model Railroad Presidential Train Operating Concepts:

Pre-Advance Train – Travels Presidential train route to remove any hazardous material cars in close proximity to the track and/or to determine if fixed security may be required at the location. This may be accomplished several days prior to the visit.

Advance Train - An engine and crew traveling the route in advance of the Presidential train to verify that hazardous material and other security concerns in close proximity to the track have been removed or appropriate security is in place.

Pilot Engine – Proceeds Presidents train by approximately 30 minutes and contains several passenger or baggage type cars.

President's Train

Engine

Baggage Car(s)

Commutations Car

Press Car

Coach(s)

Staff and other dignitaries

Presidential Car – Vestibule

Follow-up Train – Follows Presidential train by 15 minutes to provide rear security and availability in case there is difficulty with the Presidential train.

Engine

Coaches

Situational Cards – Possible threat or hazard along route to slow up or stop President's train

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The president's travel started out with an uncomfortable horsedrawn carriage and has escalated to a giant Boeing 747 jumbo jet with all the amenities of the White House. Today the only conflict with the president's transportation is the price. He traveled in excess of 60,000 miles. When Truman was president, his train could speed up to 105 miles per hour, but he asked the engineer to slow it to 80 miles per hour. One mode of travel that never became popular was the presidential yachts. Many people were angry to see luxury beyond what they thought should be enjoyed by an American president. Presidential transportation has indeed increased the president's ability to communicate within the country and improve our relations with other countries. 4 pages, 1557 words.