

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910-6333

FOR: DISTRIBUTION

MEMORANDUM FROM: James Kelley
Chairperson, NOAA Aviation Safety Board

SUBJECT: Quarterly Aviation Safety Board, 2nd Quarter FY 07

The Quarterly Aviation Safety Board was called to order by the Chairperson of the board at 1305 Hrs, 8 February 2007.

Members Present:

James Kelley	Aviation Safety Program Manager	Chairperson
CAPT Rick Brown	NMFS Primary	Member
Craig Gillis	NOAA Safety Alternate	Member
CAPT Brian Taggart	NOS Primary	Member
LCDR Ralph Rogers	OAR Primary	Member
CAPT Wade Blake	OAR Alternate	Member
Gary Eisenbraun	Aviation Safety Program	Recorder (Non-Voting)

Members in Teleconference:

Celso Barrientos	NESDIS Alternate	Member
Jay Kennedy	NMFS Alternate	Member
Dave Withrow	NMFS Alternate	Member
Freddy Peters	NWS Primary	Member
Jamie Johnson	Workforce Management Primary	Member (Non-Voting)

Members Absent:

CDR Michele Finn	AOC Primary	Member
Lt Nick Toth	AOC Alternate	Member
Nancy Briscoe	General Counsel Primary	Member (Non-Voting)
Andy Poppen	NOAA Safety	Member
John Pierson	NOAA Safety Primary	Member
Craig Gillis	NOAA Safety Alternate	Member
Helen Hurcombe	AGO Primary	Member (Non-Voting)
Joel Perlroth	AGO Alternate	Member (Non-Voting)
M.E. Rolle	General Counsel Alternate	Member (Non-Voting)
CAPT Scott Kuester	PPI Primary	Member (Non-Voting)

SUBJECT: Quarterly Aviation Safety Board, 2nd Quarter FY 07

Additional Non-voting members Present:

Paul Parsons	OMAO Safety and Environmental Compliance Division
CAPT Ed McNerney	AOC Flight Medicine (teleconference)
Jon Dixon	Aviation Life Support Equipment Technician (teleconference)

OLD BUSINESS.

Jim Kelley opened the meeting with a role call.

Gary Eisenbraun provided a review of the last meeting minutes.

AGENDA ITEMS.

Medical Screening Testing, Contract, & Issues. Jim Kelley briefed that over 400 people have applied using the on-line feature with about 40 persons requiring additional assistance from the Aeromedical examiners. There have been no denials at this time. (Action - Jim Kelley; Suspense - none; Status - Closed)

ALSE Delivery and Status. Jon Dixon Briefed that all the ALSE Equipment has been issued. All items have been accounted for. Trade-ins for sizing differences in the "Mark-10" exposure suit is allowed by the manufacturer (Mustang) and has already occurred with some line units. Mr. Dixon was prompted by the board to supply a spreadsheet depicting the distribution of the ALSE. Mr. Dixon will prepare a "Master Listing" for ASB use and also generate a set of instructions detailing the procedures for trade-in of the suits. Jim Kelley requested line offices submit a request for special ALSE to his office by the 1st of March with a copy to Jon Dixon. (Action - Mr. Dixon; Suspense - next meeting; Status - Open)

Awards Program. Gary Eisenbraun presented the board with the proposal for the establishment of a Safety Awards Program to allow the recognition of individuals who have demonstrated an exemplary contribution to the Safety Program within NOAA. The starting program would provide the ASB with recommendations "from the field" for recognition certificates. These certificates would be awarded during the Aviation Safety Conference in April. The board voted unanimously to authorize the program with a call for nominees to be submitted by 1 March (send to Mr. Eisenbraun). Those nominees will be forwarded to the ASB for voting/selection. Mr. Eisenbraun will prepare the details and distribute the "call for submissions". (Action - Mr. Eisenbraun; Suspense - next meeting; Status - Open)

Charter Acquisition Services Support. Jim Kelley briefed that the Aviation Safety Office needed help and requested members send copies of existing contracts that contain language specifying aviation services. The particular focus is the "statement of work". The Aviation Safety Office has not been successful in recruiting an aviation contracts specialist and will attempt to provide support to the line offices in the interim. The issue has been scheduled as a topic for the Aviation Safety Conference. (Action - Board Members; Suspense - next meeting; Status - Open)

Aviation Safety Board Communications to/from Field Units and LOs. The Board was queried about any possible conflicts in the dissemination of safety related information. The issue was prompted by a negative response to the publication of the Aviation Safety Conference information. Board members

SUBJECT: Quarterly Aviation Safety Board, 2nd Quarter FY 07

reiterated the need to be able to send information directly to the "user level" but also requested that the ASB members be used as a "conduit" for the flow of information. This would keep the ASB members abreast of all issues concerning Aviation Safety. (Action - Mr. Eisenbraun; Suspense - none; Status - Closed)

HEED Training Equivalents. Gary Eisenbraun presented the board with a change in the training requirements for the HEEDs devices. It had become apparent that a "scuba" equivalent to the HEEDs specific training was not applicable. Mr. Eisenbraun proposed a change that would only recognize actual HEEDs specific training to fulfill that training requirement. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to authorize the change to the training requirements. Mr. Eisenbraun will submit the changes to the website. (Action - Mr. Eisenbraun; Suspense - none; Status - Closed)

"Fly-Along" Programs. Jim Kelley briefed the Board that a recent "Fly-Along" program prompted several inquiries over the application of the NAO in regards to the passengers involved. Board members were informed that NAO 209-124 does apply to the passengers of those programs unless the individual(s) have been identified as an "observer". (Action - Jim Kelley; Suspense - none; Status - Closed)

Aviation Safety Conference. Mr. Eisenbraun briefed the board on the proposed agenda and facilities for the conference. Members were reminded to submit their request for rooms/attendance for the conference. With the conference only 2 months away, the members were urged to send in their request for rooms. (Action - Gary Eisenbraun; Suspense - none; Status - Closed)

NEW BUSINESS

A Board member raised the question: Who is the approving authority for "observer" status? Jim Kelley responded that the person who would be responsible for the training of the individual would be the one who would authorize the observer status. (Action - Jim Kelley; Suspense - none; Status - Closed)

Upon the request of a board member, Gary Eisenbraun reviewed the E-Learning procedures and the printing of the completion certificates. (Action - Mr. Eisenbraun; Suspense - none; Status - Closed)

The question was raised concerning the required Egress Video. Gary Eisenbraun stated that the DVDs were to serve as an annual "refresher" to the hands-on training that the individual received "in-the-pool". The members were informed that if they had a video that they wanted to submit for evaluation as an equivalent, that those should be sent to the Safety Office for review. (Action - Mr. Eisenbraun; Suspense - none; Status - Closed)

The meeting ended at 15:08 hours.