



## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, May 30, 2003

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Traveling to my first accident site was a significant milestone in my education and understanding of the role and mission of the NTSB. I want to thank all the staff members, including **Investigator-in-Charge Bob Ford**, as well as **Member Carol Carmody**, for their insight and teaching at this event.

The accident aboard the SS Norway, which now has seven fatalities and over a dozen serious injuries, illustrates the importance of the Board's mission in ALL modes of transportation. More than 3000 people were aboard this vessel when the boiler room explosion occurred dockside. The potential for disaster was enormous and the need for safety intense.

The American traveling public is counting on us, the NTSB, to ensure transportation safety across all modes. We cannot do this job alone, and I was pleased to note the professional courtesy and support given to the NTSB by the US Coast Guard, the FBI, the ATF and the Miami-Dade Police on site.

We will aggressively pursue our safety mission in all of the modes during my tenure as Chairman. The bar must be raised so that rail, pipelines, passenger cruise ships, boating, aviation and highways receive our constant attention and resources, our expertise and our commitment to safety.

*Ellen G. Engleman*



Chairman Engleman discusses safety training and evacuation procedures for passengers and crew with cruise ship industry representatives.

See page 2  
for  
NTSB Successes

### NTSB INVESTIGATES TWO ACCIDENTS OVER HOLIDAY WEEKEND

The Memorial Day Weekend for the NTSB began with an accident involving 100 vehicles.

On May 23rd, NTSB IIC **Pete Kotowski** assisted with the multi-vehicle accident on interstate 68 in Garrett County, Maryland. Mr. Kotowski will investigate various issues surrounding this accident including the use of collision warning systems.

On May 25, the NTSB was called upon again. NTSB IIC **Bob Ford**

led a 10-member team to investigate the fire aboard the cruise ship *NORWAY* in Miami, Florida. The Norwegian Cruise line vessel experienced an engine room fire, fatally injuring 7 crewmembers and seriously injuring 15, while moored in the Port of Miami.

**Member Carol Carmody** served as the spokesman and **Keith Holloway** and **Paul Schlamm** were on hand from media affairs. Chairman Engleman also

accompanied the launch team. This will allow the Chairman to enter the Go-Team rotation for future launches.

**"The Safety Board continues to aggressively pursue efforts to increase highway safety especially during this Holiday weekend,"** said Chairman Engleman. **"Safety comes first, and no cargo is more precious than our family."**

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



There are a limited number of spaces available for interested NTSB staff to attend *Transportation Disaster Response: A Course for Law Enforcement Officials*. The two and a half day class will be held at George Washington University's Ashburn Campus, June 10-12.

Interested staff should obtain supervisor approval and complete the staff application (ACAD\_Staff\_Application located at <http://inside/forms>) and e-mail it to **Phoung Callaway**. There is no charge to staff attending the course.

### On the Hill...

Chairman Engleman was one of the guest speakers at Congressman LaHood's District fly-in. Over 100 key business leaders from Illinois attended the event. The Chairman spoke about primary seat belt legislation, hard core drinking drivers and the need for safety across all modes of transportation.



## NTSB PARTNERS WITH MADD TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL GOALS

Chairman Engleman met with Wendy Hamilton, National President of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, to discuss how MADD and NTSB could join forces to address their mutual goals to reduce hard core drinking drivers and increase seat belt use. Chairman Engleman said, "The drunk driving issue will be one of my top priorities during my tenure at the Board."

They agreed to develop a 12-month plan to target states with high drunk driving-related fatality rates and high numbers of hard core drinking drivers. They also agreed to identify Governors and legislators in target states with whom both the Board and MADD can work to save lives.



Chairman Engleman, Kevin Quinlan, David Clark, and Elaine Weinstein met with Wendy Hamilton and Karen Sprattler.

## NTSB ACADEMY

This week **Coast Guard Commander Joanna Nunan** joined the Academy team through the USDA Executive Potential Program. She will be working with the Academy staff to establish partnerships with other Federal agencies with which the Academy might contract out available classroom space.



Julie Beal, Vern Ellingstad, John Clark, Linda Harradine, Chris Stephens, Lyn Donaldson, Ray Smith, Jim Cash and Bill Eisenrauch tour the new Academy building to assess audio-visual and information technology needs for the facility.

## NTSB SUCCESSES

### Safety Recommendations Staff Cuts Response Time in Half

Thanks to the hard work of **Jim Rosenberg, Ed Pacchetti, Jeff Marcus, Ted White, Barbara Grider and Julie Harbold-Perrot**, the average response time for letters received

during the first 5 months of 2003, is now at 50 days. The average time had been over 100 days.

