



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, September 5, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In the past two weeks, I had the privilege to see personally the positive impact that the NTSB team had on the Space Shuttle Columbia accident investigation. In my meeting with Admiral Harold Gehman, Chairman of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, the Admiral thanked the NTSB staff for its unparalleled expertise and talent in helping to support the Columbia Accident investigation.

Earlier this week, Vice Chairman Mark Rosenker, **Bob Benz**, **Clint Crookshanks**, Tom Doyle, David Clark and I joined NASA Deputy

Administrator Fred Gregory at the Kennedy Space Center to view the reconstruction of the Columbia. There I saw first-hand the work of the NTSB team. NASA officials showed us how the NTSB assisted in creating the two dimensional grid used to reconstruct the Columbia, the analysis of the flight data recorder, the process by which the pieces of the Columbia were collected, and wreckage trajectory analysis.

It was a proud moment for me as the Chairman of the NTSB. Each member of the team should be equally proud that our expertise, skills and talent were

able to assist NASA and the Nation during a time of national tragedy. Thank you to each of you for your dedication to service.

Ellen G. Engleman



Chairman Engleman is briefed by NASA officials on the Columbia's Flight Data Recorder.

NTSB COMMENDED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH COLUMBIA INVESTIGATION

On August 26th, Admiral Gehman, Chairman of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident investigation board (CAIB), met with Chairman Engleman to discuss the final accident report and to commend the NTSB staff who helped with the *Columbia* investigation. 48 NTSB staff, from the Offices of Aviation Safety, Research and Engineering and Public Affairs helped with the *Columbia* investigation. The NTSB assisted with the wreckage



Chairman Engleman and Admiral Gehman pictured with Frank Hildrup, Terry Williams, Abdullah Kakar, Dennis Crider, Doug Brazy, Dan Bower, Jana Price, Bob Benz, Jim Cash, Jim Wildey, Joe Kolly, Scott Dunham, Kevin Petty, John Clark, Greg Phillips, Alice Park, Vern Ellingstad, Jim Skeen, and Tom Haueter.

trajectory analysis, wreckage reconstruction and recovery, radar data analysis, weather analysis, victim identification, failure sequencing, served as advisors to the CAIB and provided operational support.



How has your NTSB job changed for the better in the last 5 to 30 years? We'd like to know, so we

can quote the most interesting comments in a new agency publication that will mark the 30th anniversary of legislation that made the agency independent from the Department of Transportation. Email your comments to **Pat Cariseo** (carisep@ntsb.gov).

Chairman Supports “Kids Are Safer In The Back Seat” Campaign

On August 27, Chairman Engleman joined the Air Bag and Seat Belt Safety Campaign as well as other industry safety partners to remind parents of the importance of properly restraining children in the back seat. The Chairman was also featured on the CBS Early Morning Show on Labor Day discussing the issue. Since 1997, car seats and boosters in the back seat have saved 1700 lives, or one child’s life each day.



“Parents take time to child safety proof their homes. Shouldn’t we work to safety proof their cars as well?” said Chairman Ellen Engleman on the CBS Early Morning Show.

Members Briefed on Composite Materials

Vice Chairman Mark Rosenker, Member John Goglia and Tom Doyle visited the American Airlines maintenance facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma to be briefed on the superstructure and engineering of the composite vertical stabilizer, horizontal stabilizer, elevator and rudder assembly of the Airbus 300 aircraft.



Vice Chairman Rosenker is briefed by American Airlines Captain Delvin Young.

Rail Staff First To Use NTSB Academy Facilities



From left to right: The NTSB Railroad staff held the first technical review at the NTSB Academy. Pictured Richard Hipskind, Ted Turpin, Jim Remines, Ruben Payan, Cy Gura, Dave Watson, Meg Athey, Ron Hynes, Jim Southworth, and Joe Kris.

NTSB Hosts International Safety Partners

The NTSB Academy hosted its first official event: The International Society of Air Safety Investigators (ISASI) tutorial program. Over 150 aviation accident investigators from around the world attended one of two tutorials, Fire Investigation and Recorded Data.



Jim Cash in the Recorded Data Tutorial.

Never in ISASI's history have so many people attended the tutorial program. Special thanks to our NTSB presenters, **Jim Cash** and **Erin Gormley**.

Studying Weather-Related General Aviation Accidents

Loren Groff and **Jana Price** will co-manage a safety study seeking to determine what sets an accident flight apart from similar flights under similar weather conditions that were successful. Identifying combinations of weather, pilot experience, aircraft equipment, and situational demands associated with increased accident risk will allow the Safety Board to issue recommendations most likely to reduce the number of such accidents in the future. The study is an example of a collaborative Board effort, combining the expertise of the Safety Studies Division, regional air safety investigators, and the Operational Factors Division.