



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, September 12, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Two years ago, our Nation was attacked. Although I was not part of the NTSB team at the time, I know that the NTSB team's hard work and dedication to service were critical to helping our Nation heal and rebuild. The NTSB's skills, talents and expertise were essential, and many of you were there to serve.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to each of you for your unselfish service to the country, and thank you for all that you do each day to keep our Nation's multi-modal transportation system safe.

As we reflect on the lives lost on

September 11, 2001, let us continue to be mindful of our mission and the ability to make a difference in saving lives. Let us remember that every accident that we investigate, and that every safety recommendation we issue has the potential to prevent future transportation disasters and related deaths.

On behalf of Vice Chairman Rosenker, Members Goglia, Carmody and Healing, thank you for all that you do. We are proud to work with each of you.

Ellen G. Engleman

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for
Safety Outreach
Activities

This week at the NTSB...

- ◆ There were 41 aviation accidents, including 4 that were fatal, resulting in 4 fatalities and 7 serious injuries.
- ◆ **Bob Benzon** presented a class on NTSB accident investigation procedures at Mesaba Airlines.
- ◆ Transportation Disaster Assistance (TDA) concluded a three-day Family Assistance During Transportation Disasters Course. It was attended by 65 professionals from the international and domestic aviation industry, railroad emergency planners and airport authorities, the American Red Cross and the FBI.
- ◆ The Academy began its comprehensive Basic Accident Investigation Course.
- ◆ TDA fielded 14 calls from families, 21 calls from industry and 12 calls from other government agencies.
- ◆ **Dr. Gerald Weeks** represented NTSB at FRA's new RSAC Working Group on Passenger Equipment Standards and Emergency Preparedness. The group has a broad charter to review existing passenger safety needs and programs and recommend actions to advance the safety of passenger rail service. .

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES

NTSB Participates in Airline Disaster Drill



Chairman Ellen Engleman meets with Delta representatives during their safety drill.

Chairman Engleman, **Brenda Yager**, and **Erik Grosof** participated in the Delta Airlines Disaster Drill in Atlanta, Georgia. While there, the NTSB met with Delta safety representatives to discuss airline safety issues and family assistance issues.

On the Hill...



The NTSB continued to work with Congressional staff on FY 2004 funding needs. In addition, the FY 2005 budget submission was delivered simultaneously to the White House Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Congress.

NTSB CFO's Office Supports Electronic Government Initiatives

FY 2005 BUDGET – For the first time, the NTSB provided its budget submission electronically on a CD. The CFO's office plans to follow a similar strategy for the publication of the FY 2003 financial statements in January 2004 and the Congressional budget submission in February 2004.

Closing the Safety Loop — State Outreach Activities

National Safe Kids Campaign Meeting on PFD Legislation – **Steve Blackistone** met with National Safe Kids Campaign representatives, and the leader of the National Recreational Boating Coalition to urge that the Campaign's state coalitions actively work to seek enactment of PFD use requirements. The Campaign was receptive to the request, and will be contacting its Virginia (and other) state coalitions. Additionally, Mr. Blackistone was able to facilitate a meeting between the Campaign and the PFD Manufacturers Association.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources to Propose PFD Bill – The Indiana boating law administrator has persuaded the Department to propose legislation to the Natural Resources Legislative Summer Study Committee that would require PFD use by children under age 13 on all state waters. Currently, Indiana has no PFD use requirement for children. This study will give the proposal greater support in the legislature. Staff is now working with Indiana officials to determine next steps.

Pennsylvania DWI Legislation – The House and Senate continue to negotiate final provisions of the pending impaired driving bill. Steve Blackistone spoke with Governor Rendell's Legislative Director, urging that a comprehensive bill, including high BAC and treatment provisions be enacted. The key obstacle now appears to be the occupational license and ignition interlock provisions. Staff also responded to an urgent request from the Pennsylvania House staff for information regarding state blood alcohol laws.