



## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, April 23, 2004

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On April 15th, I had the opportunity to attend a public briefing for the citizens of Minot, North Dakota, to discuss the Board's report on the derailment of a Canadian Pacific freight train. The derailment, and subsequent release of anhydrous ammonia killed one person, had an immediate effect on 11,000 of Minot's citizens, and ultimately affected the entire population of 35,000. During our visit, it was obvious that the City of Minot is a very close and proud community. We had a chance to meet some of the citizens and first responders and heard them tell remarkable stories of what happened that night. Their heroic actions were an inspiration to all who were at the briefing.

This report comprises one of the most extensive rail investigations in the NTSB's history. The Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations (RPH) spent 12,700 man-hours investigating this accident. Since the Minot accident occurred, the same office investigated 56 additional accidents and completed reports for 43 others. All this with only 13 rail accident investigators for the entire country. This report is an example of the quality work we do on a daily basis, and the

dedication to the mission we have at the NTSB.

Congratulations to Bob Chipkevich and the RPH staff for their thoroughness and accuracy in the development of this report.

*Ellen Engleman Conners*



**Bob Chipkevich (RPH)**, Chairman **Ellen Engleman Conners** and Federal Railroad Administrator **Allan Rutter** in Minot, ND

### Member Healing Promotes Recreational Boating Safety



**Bill Gossard**, Representative **Shirley Gomes**, Governor **Mitt Romney**, **Member Dick Healing** and Colonel **Richard Murray**

**Member Richard Healing** and **Bill Gossard** (SR-30) met with Massachusetts Governor **Mitt Romney**, State Representative **Shirley Gomes**, and Massachusetts Environmental Police Colonel **Richard Murray** to discuss the proposed mandatory recreational boating safety education bill. The meeting was held on April 13, 2004 in the Massachusetts State House. Massachusetts is one of 13 states that does not mandate boater education. Enhancing recreational boating safety is on the NTSB's Most Wanted List for action by the states. Currently, 17 Massachusetts legislators have signed as co-sponsors to this bill.

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season began on April 15, 2004 and runs through June 30, 2004. The open season is the perfect time to give your TSP account an annual checkup and make any adjustments needed to secure or preserve your financial health. If you have any questions, please contact **Pamela Goins** (HR) at [goinsp@ntsb.gov](mailto:goinsp@ntsb.gov).

### On the Hill

Chairman Engleman Conners, **Bob Chipkevich, David Clark, Terry Williams and Patrick McCarthy** participated in a community briefing at the requests of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation and the Governor of North Dakota. The topic was the January 2002 Canadian Pacific train derailment in Minot, North Dakota.



### NTSB Participates in Coast Guard Oil Spill Exercise



A diagram of the simulated oil spill near California

The NTSB participated in the 2004 Spill of National Significance (SONS) Executive Seminar in Washington, DC this week. Special Assistant to the Chairman **Patrick McCarthy** attended the seminar, which was held to familiarize policy makers and agency heads with the response to a catastrophic spill event. The three day exercise simulated two simultaneous oil releases off the coast of Southern California, and the subsequent impact on the coastline.

The U.S. Coast Guard hosted the event in conjunction with the State of California, the American Petroleum Institute and the Government of Mexico. The purpose of the exercise was to validate large-scale emergency preparedness across all levels of government and industry.

### NTSB Investigators Receive Safety Awards

Thirteen NTSB investigators have been awarded *Safety Accomplishment Certificates of Appreciation*, by the Safety Proposal Review Board (SPRB) following its March meeting. The SPRB awards certificates to investigators who demonstrate they went above and beyond their routine duties to complete a safety improvement. The SPRB meets regularly to review safety recommendation suggestions from investigators in the field and Headquarters and safety accomplishments submitted by investigators from all modes of transportation.

The SPRB was formed under Board Order 72-A to recognize staff who, during the course of investigative work, improve safety without the need for formal safety recommendations.

The Safety Proposal Review Board awarded certificates to the following investigators:

- **Al Yurman**, Southeast Regional Aviation Office
- **Corky Smith**, Southern Regional Aviation Office
- **Ed Malinowski, Mitch Gallo, and Katherine Brand**, North Central Regional Aviation Office
- **Arnold Scott, and Dave Bowling**, Central Mountain Regional Aviation Office
- **Tom Little**, Northwest Regional Aviation Office
- **Scott Erickson**, Alaska Regional Aviation Office
- **Mitch Garber**, Office of Research and Engineering
- **Malcolm Brenner**, Human Performance Division, Office of Aviation Safety
- **Dave Kirchgessner and Bill English**, Operational Factors Division, Office of Aviation Safety.