



Friday, May 7, 2004

## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The importance of the media's role in promoting safety was emphasized this week in two distinctly different ways. First, over 25 press representatives attended the NTSB Academy's media day on Tuesday. Coming from as far away as Miami, television, radio and print reporters toured the new facility and interviewed students and staff. The impression was "wow" as they were inspired by the new capabilities the NTSB has to promote safety advocacy.

In the same week the drama of the importance of safety was vividly shown in coverage of the crash of the NBC news helicopter in New York. Cameras brought instant images of the mangled helicopter, as the NTSB immediately sent a safety investigator from our Regional Office in New Jersey to be on scene.

Another day in the life of the NTSB? Pretty much so. The NTSB investigates over 2000 accidents each year in all modes. Not all of them receive national media coverage -- but to the families of those

involved -- each is a unique and important story. Our job is to find the answers to prevent the accident from happening in the future.

*Ellen Engleman Conners*

See More About  
the Academy  
Press Event on  
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### NTSB Investigates New York Helicopter Crash



Wreckage of an NBC News helicopter is removed from a rooftop in New York for examination by NTSB investigators

**Luke Schiada**, (Northeast Regional Office) is investigating the May 4, 2004 accident involving an NBC News Aerospatiale AS-350BA helicopter which impacted residences in Brooklyn, New York. The pilot and a reporter sustained serious injuries, and a newly hired pilot who was observing the flight sustained minor injuries during the crash, which was caught on tape by another news helicopter.

The aircraft was hovering at low altitude, when it began to yaw to the left and became uncontrollable. It descended and struck the roof parapet of one building before coming to rest on the roof of another building.

The helicopter was moved to nearby Floyd Bennett Airfield where it continues to be examined.

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



There is still time to sign up for the Highway Vehicle Electronic Data Recorders symposium on June 3rd and 4th. The NTSB Academy, along with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) is conducting the symposium, which is open to NTSB staff and SAE

members.

For more information about this and other courses, visit the Academy website at:

[http://www.nts.gov/Academy/sched\\_courses.htm](http://www.nts.gov/Academy/sched_courses.htm)

### On the Hill...

The Office of Government and Industry Affairs (GIA) received questions for the record from the House Sub-committee on Transportation Appropriations and is working with Office Directors to respond.



In addition, Government Affairs is finalizing a plan to deliver a report to Congress on the status of all 2003 accident investigations

## Office of Marine Safety Clears the Deck

Congratulations to The Office of Marine Safety which recently completed two accident investigations in less than one year. The staff of 14 spent approximately 1300 man-hours on each of these reports in addition to the six major investigation that are currently underway.

The first report involved the grounding and sinking of the U.S. passenger vessel Safari Spirit in Kisameet Bay, British Columbia, Canada on May 8, 2003. The vessel was carrying 10 passengers and a crew of 6 on a voyage from Seattle, Washington to Juneau, Alaska, when it grounded on a charted submerged rock and sank shortly after the vessel was abandoned. There were no injuries.

The second report involved a fire in the engine room on the U.S. passenger vessel Columbia in Wrangell Narrows near Wrangell, Alaska on May 28, 2003. The Office of Aviation Safety's Alaska Field Office in Anchorage assisted in the on-scene portion of this investigation.

## NTSB Holds Press Day At The Academy



NTSB Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners is interviewed by a crew from WJLA in Baltimore during the recent Press Day at the Academy

On Tuesday, May 4th, Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners and the NTSB's Office of Public Affairs hosted a Press Day at the NTSB Academy in Ashburn, Virginia. Journalists were able to tour the state-of-the-art training facility, including the Living Laboratory, which houses the reconstruction of a 93-foot section of TWA 800. The laboratory is used to enhance training courses given to crash investigators and provides additional space for investigation and storage of accident materials.

**Ted Lopatkiewicz, Paul Schlamm, Lauren Peduzzi and Keith Holloway** from the Office of Public Affairs escorted the reporters and crews on tours of the facility.

The event was developed in response to requests from the media, and included nearly 25 interviews of Chairman Engleman Conners by reporters from television, radio and print media.