



## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, July 2, 2004

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

July 1st represents a new environment for highway safety issues for many who live in the Washington, DC metro area. Tough and comprehensive DUI legislation is now law in Virginia. With 25 individual bills comprising an aggressive safety package to combat DUI offenders, Virginia is taking a leadership role in helping to eliminate hard-core drunk drivers from our nation's highways.

In Washington, DC, new laws address issues of driver distraction -- including the use of cell phones, personal grooming, reading and interaction with pets while driving.

Eliminating driver distraction factors and removing hard-core drunk drivers will help reduce the over 43,000 national highway deaths each year. The NTSB will aggressively pursue and support such highway safety measures through our continued safety advocacy and implementation of our safety recommendations in all modes.

The Fourth of July weekend is a good place to start. Drive safely and enjoy our nation's Independence Day in safety.

*Ellen Engleman Conners*

### Board Recognizes Virginia Lawmakers



Delegate Albo, Delegate Bell, Chairman Engleman Conners, Member Hersman, Delegate McDonnell, and Senator Stolle at the Virginia Checkpoint Strikeforce Awards.

The NTSB presented safety awards to Virginia state lawmakers during the June 29th kickoff of Checkpoint Strikeforce - the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Mid-Atlantic campaign to reduce drinking and driving. Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners and Member **Debbie Hersman** presented State Safety Leadership awards to the legislators responsible for passing 25 new DUI bills in May.

The awards were presented to Senator Thomas Norment, Senator William Roscoe Reynolds, Senator Kenneth Stolle, Delegate David Albo, Delegate Robert Bell, and Delegate Robert McDonnell in honor of their outstanding leadership in promoting and adopting new laws to reduce fatalities in Virginia involving hard-core drinking drivers. Virginia Assistant Motor Vehicle Commissioner Vincent M. Burgess also received a State Safety Leadership award in recognition of his counsel and assistance in getting Virginia's drinking and driving legislation passed. Reducing hard-core drunk driving is on the NTSB's Most Wanted List.

### NTSB Investigators Launch to Texas Train Collision



IIC Jim Remines (l) speaks with a reporter.

The NTSB's Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations launched a team of investigators to the collision of a Union Pacific (UP) freight train and a Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) freight train, which killed three people on June 28th. The accident, which occurred about 14 miles west of San Antonio, Texas, caused the release of chlorine gas and ammonium nitrate.

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) **Jim Remines** is leading the nine-member team, which includes experts in the areas of railroad operations, track, survival factors, mechanical factors, human performance, signals, and hazardous materials.

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES

### Assistant Receives Promotion



Congratulations to **Derrek Hofrichter** in Member **Dick Healing's** office for his recent promotion from Confidential Assistant to Special

Assistant. Derrek has been with the Safety Board since October 2003.

### Chinese Delegation Meets with NTSB

A delegation from the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) met with NTSB Members and staff at the NTSB's Washington, DC Headquarters on June 17th and 18th. The group was in Washington to study air safety management in the United States. The delegation received briefings on safety data activity involving incidents and accidents, NTSB safety studies and aviation accident data collection systems. They also received a tour of the NTSB laboratory and the NTSB Academy, and met with Vice Chairman **Mark Rosenker** and Member **Carol Carmody**.

*In the photograph are (l-r) Mr. Ma Hui, Data systems engineer; Mr. Liu BaoShu, Director of Training; Vice Chairman **Mark Rosenker**; Member **Carol Carmody**; Mrs. LIAO Heju, Director, Safety Information Division; Director General Huang SuiFe, Office of Aviation Safety; Mrs. Liu HongBo, Safety Information Analyst; Mrs. Xu Minim, Safety Information Analyst and Interpreter, and **Robert MacIntosh**, NTSB Chief Advisor for International Affairs.*

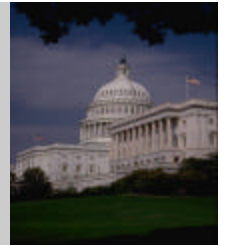
## Twelve Investigators Receive Safety Certificates

Twelve NTSB investigators have been awarded *Safety Accomplishment Certificates of Appreciation* from the Safety Proposal Review Board (SRPB) following its June meeting in Washington, DC. Congratulations to **Ed Malinowski, Mitch Gallo, Bob Gretz, Steve McCreary, Debra Eckrote, Wayne Pollack, Kristi Dunks, Nicole Chamon, Leah Yeager and Butch Wilson** from our Regional Offices, and **Frank Zakar and Bill English**, who work out of our Washington, DC Headquarters.

The SRPB awards *Accomplishment Certificates* to investigators who demonstrate that they went above and beyond their routine duties to complete a safety improvement. The SRPB meets regularly to review safety recommendation suggestions from investigators in the field offices and at Headquarters and safety accomplishments submitted by investigators from other transportation agencies.

### On the Hill..

Government and Industry Affairs visited with staff from the Offices of Members on the House Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines this week to discuss the NTSB's human fatigue and hours of service recommendations. Special thanks to **Bruce Magladry** from the Office of Highway Safety and **Dr. Jana Price** from the Office of Research and Engineering for their assistance in briefing staff.



The Office of Government and Industry Affairs also welcomes summer intern **Byron Washington** to the team. Byron is from Connecticut and attends Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina.



A delegation from the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China meets with Vice Chairman Rosenker and Member Carmody, accompanied by Bob MacIntosh.