

## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Friday, October 8, 2004

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It was another very busy week at the NTSB as I traveled cross country to visit representatives from the general aviation community. Beginning with the opening remarks at the GAMA conference in Wichita, Kansas on Tuesday, I stressed the importance of our involvement and relationships with the general aviation community -- our biggest accident focus considering our investigation of 1732 accidents last year which involved 351 fatalities. From there I visited three of the major general aviation manufacturers in Wichita; Bombardier, Raytheon and Cessna. Watching an airplane being built is both educational and thrilling -- especially seeing firsthand the attention to detail and safety. Lastly, visiting the hardworking members of our Los Angeles office, I was able to personally hear of their challenges and needs. With only one Regional Director, eight aviation investigators and four rail investigators, these great NTSB folks investigated 348 accidents last year. Throughout my many discussions, the continued attention to our focus on safety was always the number one topic.

*Ellen Engleman Connors*

### Board Meeting October 13th

The NTSB will hold a public Board meeting on October 13th in its Washington, DC headquarters to discuss two items. The first involves the July 13, 2003 engine failure and subsequent ditching of an Air Sunshine Cessna 402c near Great Abaco Island, Bahamas in which two people died after evacuating the aircraft. The second will discuss the explosion and fire of a ConocoPhillips diesel storage tank in Glenpool, Oklahoma which caused the evacuation of nearby schools and residences.

The meeting will be webcast and can be viewed by accessing the NTSB website at [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov).

### Vice Chairman Addresses Aviation Award Winners

NTSB Vice Chairman Mark Rosenker addressed the Interagency Committee for Aviation Policy (ICAP) in Washington, DC, during their Aviation Awards Ceremony on September 28th. The ICAP was established by the GSA in 1989 at the direction of the Office of Management and Budget. Federal agencies that own or hire aircraft are members of the ICAP, which advises the GSA on policy issues for federal aviation management. The Vice Chairman spoke about safety issues affecting operations of agency these and other public use aircraft, such as cockpit imaging recorders and oversight and training of maintenance facilities and personnel.



Vice Chairman Mark Rosenker makes remarks to aviation policy group.

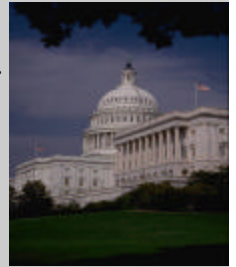
## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



The National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2003, Section 4, provided authority for the Board to enter into agreements or contracts for investigations without competition, if necessary, to expedite investigations. This authority was utilized on two occasions during fiscal year 2004. It was used to expedite testing on several pieces of tank car wreckage in support of an accident investigation in Texas and the testing of natural gas piping in support of an accident investigation in Pennsylvania. This special authority was effective in allowing the NTSB to expedite important contract support for accident investigations.

### On the Hill...

On October 4, the Senate passed S. 2273, the Rail Security Act of 2004. S. 2273 is a bill designed to provide increased rail transportation security. The bill includes language that would legislate the NTSB's recommendations from the 2002 Minot, North Dakota accident in which 31 cars carrying hazardous materials derailed. Five cars ruptured, creating a poisonous vapor plume that covered the accident site and surrounding area. The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for consideration.



## Highway Launches to Arkansas Bus Accident



Investigators from the Office of Highway Safety (OHS) launched to the scene of a motor coach accident near Turrell, Arkansas on October 9th. The coach, carrying 30 passengers to Mississippi on a gambling charter from Chicago, drifted off of Interstate-55 and overturned. The accident killed 14 passengers and injured 16, some seriously. Investigator-in-charge Gary Van Etten is leading the team of eight, which includes five investigators and an evidence recovery team.

*Recovery crews remove wreckage from an Arkansas motor coach accident.*

## NTSB Participates in Air Safety Conference

Chairman Engleman Conners delivered the opening remarks to the General Aviation Manufacturers Association/General Aviation Air Safety Investigators (GAMA/GAASI) conference in Wichita, KS on October 6th. GAMA represents 51 companies involved in the manufacture of general aviation aircraft and equipment. The 120 participants in the conference's Advanced Technical Workshop represented air safety investigators from around the country, including NTSB Director of Regional Operations **Jeff Guzzetti**, and investigators **Kristi Dunks**, **Frank McGill**, **Bob Swaim** and **Brian Rayner**.

The NTSB investigated 1864 civil aviation accident in 2003, with 1732 of those in general aviation. General aviation accidents accounted for 351 of the 695 aviation fatalities in that year. There are 43 aviation investigators in 10 regional offices throughout the country, averaging 40 investigations each per year.



Learjet Airworthiness Manager Jim Tidball and Chairman Engleman Conners during a tour of the Bombardier Aerospace facility in Wichita, KS.