

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Friday, October 15, 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In early September, President Bush proclaimed the 30 days between September 15th and October 15th to be National Hispanic Heritage Month. While the NTSB is dedicated to outreach activities year-round, we are taking this opportunity to celebrate our minority outreach programs with an issue highlighting these successes. During the last year, our outreach efforts have resulted in an MOU with HENAAC (see article), which will assist our efforts to identify and recruit minority interns. But it doesn't stop there - our work continues. The Office of Research and Engineering is expanding our website to include translations in Spanish AND French. More cooperative agreements are currently under development. We will also be providing Spanish translators for families attending the October 26th Board meeting, which will discuss the American Airlines Flight 587 accident. Finally, in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, we are publishing two editions of The Chairman's Corner - our normal edition in English, and another special edition in Spanish.

Ellen Engleman Connors

MOU Encourages Partnership

The NTSB and the Hispanic Engineer National Achievements Award Corporation (HENAAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) earlier this year, which has helped create a mutual vision and coordinated effort to enhance opportunities for Hispanic Americans in science related fields. The NTSB is providing internship positions to Hispanic American students to enlighten them about the NTSB mission, capabilities and operations, and help prepare them for responsible positions in engineering and science. The agreement will also help colleges and universities provide science and engineering education to these students and give the NTSB access to a world-class and diverse pool of talented individuals.

NTSB Supports Hispanic Engineering Group

The NTSB participated in the Hispanic Engineer National Achievements Award Corporation's (HENAAC) Career Conference and Awards Show on October 8th and 9th in Pasadena, California, as part of our Hispanic outreach efforts. HENAAC is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the promotion of achievement and education in the fields of education, science and technology. Chairman Engleman Connors presented a HENAAC Outstanding Technical Achievement Award to Aaron Diaz during the ceremony. Mr. Diaz received the award for his work on low-frequency ultrasonic inspection devices, which locates and identifies the contents of sealed containers.

The NTSB also had a presence at the Career Fair event, featuring a booth manned by NTSB Staff **Hector Casanova**, **Ruben Payan**, **Mary Arnold** and **Jim Arena**. From this Career Fair, the NTSB was successful in collecting resumes from 100 highly qualified individuals in the fields of engineering, science and computer technology, who will be considered for the NTSB's intern program.



The NTSB's Ruben Payan (r) speaks with students at the HENAAC Career Fair. Hector Casanova and Mary Arnold are visible in the back.

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



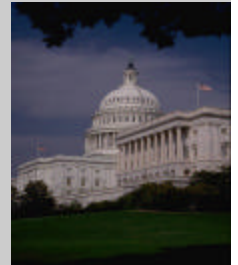
CFC Kick-off

The NTSB will hold a Charity Fair for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) on Tuesday, October 19th from 11:00am to 12:30pm in the NTSB Conference Center. The Fair will include raffles, door prizes and a team scavenger hunt contest, with proceeds going to one of the numerous CFC charities.

For more information about this event, please contact Marquee Holmes in HR at 6268.

On the Hill...

Government and Industry Affairs staff worked with Members and staff on a motorcoach accident that occurred near Marion, Arkansas, which claimed the lives of 14 people. In addition, staff is working on an aviation accident that occurred early this morning near Jefferson City, Missouri that claimed two lives. Staff is also working with Members on the Academy Dedication.



NTSB Meets to Discuss Two Accidents

The National Transportation Safety Board met in its Washington, DC Board Room on October 13th to determine the probable cause of two accidents that occurred last year. The first involved the crash of an Air Sunshine Cessna 402c off of Great Abaco Island, Bahamas, in which two people were killed after evacuating the aircraft. The Board determined that the probable cause of the July 13, 2003 ditching was the in-flight failure of the right engine and the pilot's failure to adequately manage the airplane's performance after the engine failed. The Board said the engine failure resulted from inadequate maintenance that was performed by the operator's maintenance personnel during an undocumented maintenance procedure.



The right engine of the Air Sunshine Cessna 402c, which ditched in the waters off of the Bahamas.

The second accident involved a fuel storage tank explosion and fire in Glenpool, Oklahoma. The Board determined the probable cause of the April 7, 2003 accident was the ignition of a flammable fuel-air mixture within the tank caused by a static electricity discharge. ConocoPhillips Company was also cited for the improper manner in which they conducted tank operations. Contributing to the extent of the property damage and the magnitude of the impact on the local community was the failure of American Electric Power (AEP) employees to recognize the risk the tank fire posed to nearby power lines and the lack of effective emergency action taken.

Aviation Safety Hires New Investigator



Jose Obregon is sworn in at the NTSB's Southeast Regional Office in Miami.

The Office of Aviation Safety (AS) recently swore in **Jose Obregon** as a Regional Air Safety Investigator with the NTSB's Southeast Regional Office in Miami, FL. Jose was converted from a co-op student with the NTSB to his new position, and will be based in our Miami Office.

Jose comes to the Board with tremendous technical experience, having served in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft maintenance Crew Chief on tactical fighter aircraft (F-4s & F-16s), and then as a licensed FAA Airframe and Power plant mechanic working for Midway Airlines, IBC Airways and Iberia Air Lines in Miami, FL. His commercial aircraft maintenance experience includes numerous Boeing, McDonnell-Douglas and Airbus aircraft.