



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, February 25, 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Congratulations go to **George Petterson** of the NTSB's Southwest Regional Office in Gardena, California. George has been honored by Aviation Week for his investigation into the 2002 in-flight wing failure of a U.S. Forest Service C-130 firefighting aircraft. He will receive a 2005 Aviation Week and Space Technology Laureate Award for this effort. Additionally George is being honored by the FAA with the Charles Taylor "Master Mechanic" award. These awards reflect the dedication of all NTSB employees to their chosen safety mission. Congratulations!

Our investigators are used to the various challenges that transportation accidents offer, but this week we were able to get a glimpse into the extremes of these challenges. When **Gary Van Etten, Robert Accetta, Mark Bagnard, Ron Kaminski, Pete Kotowski, Paula Sind-Prunier** and **Larry**

Yohe arrived on the scene of a recent tanker truck accident in Florida, they were faced with gathering evidence from a vehicle that was so badly burned it was nearly unrecognizable. And **Bob Benzon, Deepak Joshi** and **Tom Jacky** were at the top of an 11,000 foot mountain helping the Government of Afghanistan in their investigation of a commercial plane crash.

Ironically, Bob was flown to the crash site by a Turkish helicopter pilot who was also a student in an NTSB course that Bob taught. As we see, the courses and symposiums that we offer at the NTSB Academy are paying great dividends all around the globe.

Ellen Engleman Conners

Aviation Investigator Wins Two Awards

The NTSB is pleased to announce that one of its safety investigators has received two significant aviation awards. **George Petterson**, of the NTSB's Southwest Regional Office in Gardena, California, has received an Aviation Week and Space Technology Laureate Award for his investigation into the 2002 in-flight wing failure of a U.S. Forest Service C-130 firefighting aircraft. The NTSB determined that the probable cause of the wing failure was metal fatigue in an area hidden by a doubler. The findings of this crash, and two others attributed to fatigue failure, led to the U.S. Forest Service grounding the air tanker fleet.

In addition to this, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will present George with the Charles Taylor "Master Mechanic" award on March 18th. He will be recognized for his 52 years in aviation maintenance as well as his work in providing presentations to FAA sponsored mechanic refresher seminars.



Senior Aviation Safety Investigator **George Petterson**.

NTSB Works Afghanistan Crash



NTSB investigators are continuing work on the February 3rd crash of a Kam Air Boeing 737 in the mountains near Kabul, Afghanistan. Four investigators were deployed to assist the Afghan government in their investigation of the crash, which occurred at the top of an 11,000 foot mountain 10 miles east of Kabul.

Deepak Joshi (wearing glasses) and **Bob Benzon** join Afghan nationals at the scene of a Kam Air plane crash. Not shown are **Tom Jacky** and **Ron Price**.

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES

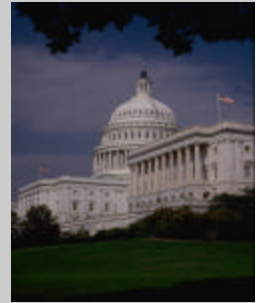


Positive Train Control Symposium Reminder

The NTSB Academy is hosting a Positive Train Control (PTC) symposium on March 2-3 at its Ashburn, VA facility. The symposium has been developed in conjunction with the NTSB's Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations, and will focus on providing participants with the most current information regarding the development of PTC systems, including safety, efficiency and operational issues. More information can be found on the NTSB Academy website at: <http://www.nts.gov/Academy>.

On the Hill...

This week the Office of Government and Industry Affairs (GIA) was busy coordinating the monthly aviation report to Congress. This report is a state-by-state review of all domestic aviation accidents during the past month.



Congress has returned to their states and districts this week for the President's Day Recess.

Highway Investigators Launch to Florida Crash



The remains of a gasoline tanker truck that crashed in Davie, FL.

The Office of Highway Safety (HS) launched to the crash of a tanker truck in Davie, FL on February 11th. The truck, loaded with 9,000 gallons of gasoline, overturned on an exit ramp transitioning from I-595 onto the Florida Turnpike. A 2001 Mercury Sable station wagon, which was pinned beneath the tanker during the accident, caught fire when gasoline from the truck ignited, killing the four occupants. The truck driver also received severe burn injuries in the crash.

The team of seven is being led by Senior Highway Investigator **Gary Van Etten** and includes **Robert Accetta, Mark Bagnard, Ron Kaminski, Pete Kotowski, Paula Sind-Prunier** and **Larry Yohe**.

TDA Course Gets High Marks

The Office of Transportation Disaster Assistance (TDA) received high marks from attendees to their latest course at the NTSB Academy. The three day course, titled "*Transportation Disaster Response - Family Assistance*", covered issues surrounding families of victims of transportation disasters. The 63 domestic and international transportation specialists who attended the course gave it the highest marks of any Academy course so far, with an average score of 4.8 out of 5.0 for course content and usefulness, and instructor knowledge. This is the tenth Academy course delivered by TDA, with over 320 students trained.



Sharon Bryson teaches attendees at the family assistance course.

Thanks to **Sharon Bryson, Erik Grosf, Brian Fiffick, Paul Sledzik** and the entire NTSB Academy staff for their hard work in offering this well received course.