

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910-3282

MAY 16 2006

FOR:

DISTRIBUTION



MEMORANDUM FROM:

Lieutenant Commander Debora Barr, NOAA
Chairperson, NOAA Aviation Safety Board

SUBJECT:

Quarterly Aviation Safety Board, 3rd Quarter FY 06

The Quarterly Aviation Safety Board was called to order by the Chairperson of the board at 1300 Hrs, 16 May 2006.

Members Present:

LCDR Debora Barr	Aviation Safety Program Manager	Chairperson
LCDR Karl Mangels	NMFS Alternate	Member
John Pierson	NOAA Safety Primary	Member
CDR Brian Taggart	NOS Primary	Member
CDR Matt Pickett	NOS Alternate	Member
LCDR Ralph Rogers	OAR Primary	Member
Nancy Briscoe	General Counsel Primary	Member (Non-Voting)
CDR Todd Stiles	PPI Primary	Member (Non-Voting)
Gary Eisenbraun	Aviation Safety Program	Recorder (Non-Voting)

Members in Teleconference:

CAPT Mark Finke	AOC Primary	Member
CDR Michele Finn	AOC Alternate	Member
Celso Barrientos	NESDIS Alternate	Member
Terry Brisbin	NWS Primary	Member
Kathleen Carlson	Workforce Management Alternate	Member (Non-Voting)

Members Absent:

LTJG Amanda Bittinger	NESDIS Primary	Member
CAPT Rick Brown	NMFS Primary	Member
Jay Kennedy	NMFS Alternate	Member
Craig Gillis	NOAA Safety Alternate	Member
CDR Wade Blake	OAR Alternate	Member
M.E. Rolle	General Counsel Alternate	Member (Non-Voting)
Helen Hurcombe	AGO Primary	Member (Non-Voting)
Joel Perlroth	AGO Alternate	Member (Non-Voting)
Jamie Johnson	Workforce Management Primary	Member (Non-Voting)
Neil Christerson	PPI Alternate	Member (Non-Voting)

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Additional Non-voting members:

Paul Parsons	OMAO Safety and Environmental Compliance Division
Dave Withrow	NMFS Alternate
Tom Altwater	NOAA Safety Alternate

The minutes of the 3rd Quarter FY06 Aviation Safety Board were approved by the Council.

OLD BUSINESS.

LCDR Barr briefed the board on the current NOAA Aviation Safety Program. The presentation is included as attachment #1. The following comments were made by LCDR Barr (except as noted) and pertain to that briefing:

Slide #2 - The Aviation Safety Program office is developing the Qualified Non-crewmember Safety Program for safety board approval. Qualified non-crewmembers will be issued a flight qualification card indicating the types of flight operations the individuals have been trained to participate in with training expiration dates. (Action - LCDR Barr; Suspense - none; Status - Info)

Slide #4 - Remaining action item - ASP will work with AGO & NOAA GC to draft language for website. (Action - LCDR Barr; Suspense - 22 Aug 06; Status - Open)

Slide #6 - NAO 209-124 being routed for signature; still needs to clear NOAA GC, PA&E, DUS, COS and the Undersecretary. (Action - LCDR Barr; Suspense - none; Status - Info)

Slide #7 - The Policy becomes effective October 1st, 2006; still operating under interim guidance memo. (Action - LCDR Barr; Suspense - none; Status - Info)

Slide #11 - Medical screening database expected to be accessible 1 September. Several board members expressed concern about the short time-frame for all medical screening to be accomplished (by 1 October 2006). (Action - LCDR Barr; Suspense - 1 Sep 06; Status - Open)

Slides #12&13 - A question was raised by a board member about clearance to use other government aircraft. LCDR Barr stated that government aircraft will not be listed in the data base but are approved by the exception in NAO 209-124 Section 6, Paragraph .02d. (Action - LCDR Barr; Suspense - none; Status - Info)

Slide #16 - Concern was expressed about Line Office (LO) personnel being trained by 1 October, 2006, when LO's have not budgeted for this training. A question was raised about the cost associated with this training: the ASP will provide cost info on website for training vendors. (Action - Mr. Eisenbraun; Suspense - 1 Jun 06; Status - Open)

Slide #17 - LCDR Barr emphasized that line office reps to safety board need to communicate with LO personnel to ensure med screening & training will be accomplished before 1 October 2006. The question was raised about estimated percentages of personnel currently trained. NMFS believes approximately 75% currently trained. (Action - LCDR Barr; Suspense - none; Status - Info)

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Slide #18 - LCDR Barr will work with OR&R and other emergency responders to develop procedures for quick waiver request review. (Action - LCDR Barr; Suspense - 1 Oct 06; Status - Open)

Mr. Eisenbraun briefed the board on the progress of the water survival training. The presentation is included as attachment #2. The board discussed the merits of using the full cockpit trainer for initial training and decided that line office managers will decide the appropriate trainer to be used based on mission and risk assessment. (Action - Mr. Eisenbraun; Suspense - none; Status - Closed)

The board reviewed and unanimously approved the training standards as proposed in Mr. Eisenbraun's briefing. The standard of training will be posted on the website along with a list of training vendors that meet the approved standards. A spreadsheet listing the approved vendors is included as attachment #3 . (Action - Mr. Eisenbraun; Suspense - 1 Jun 06; Status - Open)

NEW BUSINESS.

LCDR Barr presented Gary Eisenbraun to the board. Mr. Eisenbraun will serve as the new Aviation Safety Program Analyst. (Action - LCDR Barr; Suspense - none; Status - Info)

LCDR Barr introduced a proposal to create a "Limited Flight" category that would allow up to two flights on mission operations flight that would not require aviation safety training. Board discussion centered on the possibility that the introduction of new terminology not currently listed in the NAO would create confusion. It was thought that a revision to the definition of "Observer" program might allow for the same outcome. The board decided that no change to current policy would be made while the NAO is being routed for signature but that the issue may be raised again in the future. (Action - LCDR Barr; Suspense - none; Status - Closed)

The meeting ended at 1430 hours.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 22 August 2006.