



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, April 25, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This week has been an exciting week as the Chairman's office focused on meeting some of the key NTSB stakeholders -- members of the press. Special thanks to **Ted Lopatkiewicz** for setting up a series of courtesy meetings with the reporters who cover the NTSB beat. It is enlightening and gratifying to find out the depth of knowledge that our media contacts have about our work, our mission, our successes and yes, even some of the, shall we say, less shining moments. Their continuing message however, was one of respect and support for the NTSB. Throughout these interviews, I was honored to express my pride in the NTSB employees who continually dedicate their knowledge and expertise to safety in America and the world. I've listed some of the

common questions that arose and ask each of you -- how would you have responded?

Please email your thoughts as to how you would have answered these questions to me at ellen.engleman@ntsb.gov.

Ellen G. Engleman

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Messages...

How would you respond?

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| 1. What is your vision for the NTSB? | 5. How do you plan to address "cost" issues in your safety recommendations? |
| 2. What impact do you see on the Board with three new members? | 6. What is the role of the new NTSB Academy? |
| 3. How are you going to improve the NTSB? | 7. How are you going to manage the budget at the NTSB? |
| 4. What changes do you plan to make at the NTSB? | |

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN OPEN SEASON

The TSP Open Season began on **April 15, 2003** and runs through **June 30, 2003**. During this period of time, employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) may elect to begin contributing to TSP, change the amount that they are contributing to TSP, or stop their TSP contributions

(without losing the right to begin contributing again at the next TSP open season).

FERS employees may elect to contribute up to **13%** of the basic pay they earn each pay period to TSP and employees covered by CSRS may elect to contribute up to **8%** of the basic pay they earn each pay period.

Submit your election

through the Employee Express System (www.employeeexpress.gov) or by submitting your completed election form (TSP-1, dated 08/2002) to HR or to your Regional/Field Administrative Assistant.

The new Catch-up Contributions for TSP Participants Age 50 and Older will begin July 2003. The new Catch-up

Contribution Election Form, TSP-1-C is used for civil service and TSP-U-1-C is used for uniformed services. These forms will be available on-line at www.tsp.gov and www.employeeexpress.gov July 2003. The election will be effective no earlier than the first pay period in August 2003.

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



Some of you may notice a change in the address printed on your Leave and Earnings Statements (LES.) Our payroll service provider, the National Business Center, has procured software from the U.S. Postal Service that will be used to print the LES. In addition to printing the information, this software will change addresses, where appropriate, to

fit standard Postal Service formats, validate and correct zip codes, and apply standard address abbreviations. This is just to expedite the mailing of your LES; your official address as stored in the personnel/payroll system will not change until we receive a request from you.

Implementation of this software is not expected to prevent or delay the delivery of mail to any employee; however, if you have a concern about a change or an LES delivery problem, please contact the Payroll Information Line at (303) 969-7732 or 1-800-662-4324.

On the Hill...

Chairman Engleman is scheduled to meet with several members of congress next week.

They include Senator Richard Durbin, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Senator Bill Nelson, Senator Patty Murray, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Congressman John Mica, Congressman Frank Lobiondo, Senator Robert Bennett, Senator Gordon Smith, and Congressman Bob Filner. The Chairman plans to discuss the NTSB's reauthorization.



ACADEMY TO HOST LARGEST CLASS

On Wednesday April 30, Chairman Engleman will kick-off the *Aviation Industry Training Program* in the board room. This will be the largest Academy class to date. 75 high-level aviation managers are expected to attend the day-and-a-half day course. The class is a nut-and bolts discussion about what to expect during a major aviation accident investigation -- from the go-team launch to the final report.

STATE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Texas—On Tuesday, April 22, 2003, Vice Chairman Rosenker testified before the Texas House Transportation Committee on legislation to extend the age at which children can move from child restraints to seat belts, commonly referred to as booster seat legislation. Vice Chairman Rosenker provided information on the importance of booster seats for children, who have outgrown traditional child safety seats. He presented the Safety Board's recommendation, H-96-14, and encouraged the Committee to act favorably on House Bill 2602, which would require children to use child restraints until they are 8 years old or 57 inches tall. The bill sponsor anticipates that the Committee will not vote on the bill until at least next week.

Wisconsin—On Thursday, April 24, 2003, Member Healing testified before the Wisconsin Assembly Transportation Committee on legislation to allow for primary enforcement of Wisconsin's mandatory seat belt law. Member Healing explained the importance of using seat belts and the benefits of primary enforcement laws, which substantially increase seat belt use among the population. By a vote of 8 to 4, the Committee passed Assembly Bill 90, which will now go before the Rules Committee for scheduling.

My thanks to **Danielle Roeber** who accompanied Vice Chairman Rosenker and Member Healing and to the Safety Advocacy Division staff who supported both these efforts.