



## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, July 21, 2003

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

NTSB advocacy efforts are achieving significant results. Special thanks are due to each of the Board members who have participated in state outreach activities. Additional appreciation to **Elaine Weinstein** and her team of dedicated professionals.

The NTSB recommendations are a key aspect of our safety mission. Since its inception, the NTSB has issued 12,053 recommendations with an overall acceptance rate of 81.8%, depending on the mode of transportation.

Issuing these recommendations is not enough — implementation is the key. The NTSB team must continue to coordinate its advocacy efforts to support its safety mission and close the safety loop. As we close the safety loop, we support our safety mission and ensure that public confidence in our national transportation system remains high.

*Ellen G. Engleman*

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For Important  
All Hands  
Messages

### Successful NTSB Advocacy Activities Include:

#### 1. Delaware Primary Enforcement Law Takes Effect

– Delaware's law establishing primary safety belt enforcement took effect on July 16. Delaware is the second state to enact a primary enforcement law this year, bringing the total to 20 (plus D.C.)

#### 2. Board Meeting Results –

**Steve Blackistone** distributed a summary of the Board meeting on the Henrietta, Texas and Randleman, North Carolina 15-passenger van accidents to about 20 state legislators and others who have expressed interest.

#### 3. National Recreational Boating Safety Coalition Meeting –

**Steve Blackistone** and **Rob Henry** (MS-30) participated in the coalition's July 14 meeting. Mr. Henry briefed the coalition on the *TAKI TOO* investigation. Mr. Blackistone briefed the coalition on recreational boating safety legislation in the states.

#### 4. Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration –

**Steve Blackistone** met with and briefed the Administration's Deputy Administrator on Safety Board recommendations. The

MVA has been a strong proponent of highway safety initiatives so much of the meeting was spent developing strategies for working together in the 2004 legislative session.

**5. Road Safety Day** — The World Health Organization has designated safe roads as the issue for World Health Day on April 7, 2004. The UN is developing a world report on road traffic injury prevention for release in April. SR is coordinating with NHTSA on the Board's involvement in any events scheduled for April 7.

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



**Preview of NTSB Academy Rescheduled**—Due to the installation of furniture and some additional services at the Academy, we reschedule the Academy preview **August 14**. *All other details remain the same.* Please RSVP on the new date to: [peter.knudson@ntsb.gov](mailto:peter.knudson@ntsb.gov).

**Do you have an Academy Idea?**—Our staff is our greatest resource for ideas about courses, workshops, forums and symposia that could be offered at the Academy. To streamline the process from idea to assessment to realization, **Debbie Bruce** (RE-10) has designed a form complete with examples of how to best communicate your proposal. It can be found on the intranet in the **Forms** directory ([http://inside/forms/ACAD\\_Course\\_Event\\_Proposal\\_Form.pdf](http://inside/forms/ACAD_Course_Event_Proposal_Form.pdf)) Thanks to Debbie for her excellent work.

**Calling Headquarters On Our "Toll Free" Telephone Lines**—We provide toll free telephone lines for our staff to call the Communications Center or to dial into our computer network. Although these lines are indeed toll free to the calling party, we incur a per-minute cost to receive calls on these lines. If you are calling the Communications Center or the computer network from a location in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., local calling area, please use the appropriate local number: Communications Center 202-314-6297, computer network 202-863-1223. Also, regardless of where you are in the United States, please use 202-314-6297 if you are calling the Communications Center from your NTSB office telephone or an agency-issued cellular phone.

**NTSB Visitor Badges**—The NTSB Headquarters implemented a new Visitor Badge system in order to better protect our staff and property. A red laminated and numbered badge has replaced the temporary stick-on labels that were previously provided to our guests. All visitors are now required to produce a Government Issued Photo Identification for the FPS Officer at the 6th Floor Reception Desk, who will secure the identification and issue the new red Visitor Badge. Upon completion of the visit, the NTSB staff member will escort their visitor back to the 6th floor Reception desk, return the Visitor Badge, and the visitor will retrieve their personal identification. This system will provide a more effective way to manage the accountability of our visitors.

**TSP Catch-Up Contribution Election**—Eligible Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participants may submit elections to make TSP Catch-Up contributions during the year 2003. TSP Catch-Up contributions are supplemental tax-deferred employee contributions, which are in addition to regular contributions. The elections will be effective the first full pay period in August 2003. After July, eligible participants may make elections whenever they desire; they are not limited to the TSP open seasons. Employees may participate in the TSP Catch-Up contribution program if they are currently employed and in a pay status or age 50 (or 50 by year end) and older. Contributing either the maximum TSP percentage and/or dollar amount allowed by his or her retirement coverage, and contributing an amount that will cause the employee to reach the yearly Internal Revenue Service (IRS) elective maximum deferral limit by the end of that year. Look for a more detailed email message from **Pam Goins**.

**US Savings Bond Campaign**—This year's campaign begins July 22 and ends August 1, 2003. There's no time like today to begin saving to provide for a secure tomorrow. U.S. Savings Bonds can help you achieve your goal. Starting this year all materials, forms and information will be in electronic format. HR will not be providing printed brochures, enrollment cards, posters or any other materials associated with the Savings Bond Campaign. For more information, visit [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov). If you have any questions, please contact **Elaine Jefferson** on 202-314-6213.