



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, November 14, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

NTSB safety advocacy and outreach continue with significant activities throughout the board. The NTSB Academy continues to develop its courses and expand its reach to stakeholders. In addition, reconstruction of TWA 800 is nearing completion. This addition to the living laboratory at the Academy will be a tremendous tool for safety instruction.

This week, the board members and staff met with many of our international safety partners who were in town for the Flight Safety Foundation Annual Meeting. The NTSB continued to lay the groundwork for safety partnerships in training and accident investigations.

Next week, the board will hold its meeting to address the Most Wanted List of federal safety recommendations. In addition, the board will meet on the crash of an Aviation Charter, Inc., Raytheon King Air A100, that claimed the life of Senator Wellstone. The aviation safety staff has been working extremely hard to complete this report near the one year anniversary of the accident.

These two meetings will be broadcast live on the web, and can be accessed by visiting www.nts.gov.

Ellen G. Engleman

See page 2
for
NTSB Outreach
Activities

NTSB ACADEMY OFFERS FIRST COURSE TO AVIATION MEDIA



On October 14-15 the NTSB Academy, in partnership with the Aviation Safety Alliance, offered the *Inside the NTSB Investigative Process* course for the first time. The course was developed by the NTSB and the Aviation Safety Alliance as a way to give members of the aviation media a detailed look at the Safety Board's aviation accident investigation process and to review some of the technical processes and activities that are part of an investigation. Fifteen members of our regular aviation media attended the day and a half course and by all accounts, and their course evaluations, the course was a huge success.

Bob Benzon, John DeLisi, Jeff Guzzetti, Mark George, and Jim Cash each presented a segment in their technical specialty. Because this was the first time the course was presented, instructors had to do a great deal of work developing their presentations. The instructors' first-class work was evident in the quality of the presentations as well as the energetic reception of the audience. The Academy anticipates offering this course on a yearly basis.



NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



The Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season —The FEHB Open Season began November 10th and ends December 8, 2003. Each employee enrolled in the FEHB program will be mailed a new 2004 health plan brochure from their current health plan carrier. New enrollments, changes to current enrollments, and changes to premium conversion elections made during open season generally will become effective the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2004. Starting this open season, OPM no longer prints and distributes any FEHB comparison guides. In recent years, Federal employees have been accessing open season materials from their web site in increasing numbers. All of the FEHB comparison guides are available on the

FEHB web site and there is also an OPM-created interactive web tool that allows individuals to find the health plans that service their area. You can make side-by-side comparisons of the costs, benefits, and quality indicators of the plans. Users can also access plan brochures and there are links to other health care web sites. If you have additional questions, please contact Pamela Goins on (202) 314-6236 or by Email at goinsp@ntsb.gov.

NTSB OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

National Junior College Athletic Association Publishes 15-Passenger Van Piece – The article, drafted by **Pat Cariseo**, appeared in JUCO Review, which is distributed to junior college athletic departments nationwide. This is the first publication to publish it. We have been advised by about another dozen organizations that they plan to publish our article.

Maryland Impaired Driving Coalition – **Danielle Roeber** participated in the Coalition's November 5th meeting in Annapolis, at which coalition participants agreed on priorities for Maryland's 2004 legislative session. The group will focus its efforts on establishing separate penalties for high BAC offenders and establishing judicial penalties for test refusal.

Nebraska Graduated Licensing Testimony – **Member Healing**, accompanied by **Danielle Roeber**, testified before the Nebraska Senate Transportation and Telecommunications Committee on November 14, regarding the Safety Board's graduated driver licensing recommendations. While in Lincoln, they also met with Speaker of the Legislature Curt Bromm, and a variety of highway safety advocates. This appearance came at the request of Sen. Nancy Thompson, who is sponsor of a passenger restriction bill.

Maryland 15-Passenger Van Presentation – **Steve Blackistone** and **Jennifer Bishop** (HS) briefed a group of senior Maryland program officials who operate 15-passenger vans on the Safety Board's investigations and recommendations. The briefing was arranged by Delegate Adrienne Mandel (D-Montgomery). For several years, she has sponsored bills to prohibit the use of these vehicles by schools and day care centers.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ASSOCIATION

Top officials from safety boards in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand met with NTSB staff at the NTSB Academy on Monday to discuss strengthening the International Transportation Safety Association (ITSA), a group representing 11 independent accident investigation agencies. They included Kym Bills, Chairman of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau; John Britton, Executive Director of the New Zealand Transport Accident Investigation Commission; and David Kinsman, Executive Director of the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. The group also toured the Academy and viewed progress on the reconstruction of the TWA 800 forward fuselage. At Headquarters, Mr. Bills and Mr. Britton met with Chairman Engleman and several office directors to learn about current accident investigations and how the NTSB operates. Next week, Chairman Engleman will be meeting with Canadian Safety Board Chairman Camille Theriault and Mr. Kinsman.