



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, December 12, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year! This has been an extraordinary year – three major marine accidents, three new Board members, significant emphasis on highway safety and an aggressive focus on cleaning up the record on open safety recommendations. Each of the 429 NTSB family members has been dedicated and results oriented and our success is the direct result of our hard work.

The astounding accomplishment of reducing the total number of open safety recommendations to less than 1,000 is a perfect example of showing that a

performance based, results oriented focus will succeed. I am proud of everyone involved and ask that you continue to focus on this important task in 2004 and beyond. Our goal for the NTSB is to ensure that we aggressively pursue safety in all modes, and I thank my fellow Board members for their partnership in this effort.

On a personal note, I am getting married on December 13th and thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes. I look forward to our new year together.

Ellen G. Engleman

Happy Holidays
to all of you!

Look for the
next edition of
the Chairman's
Corner after the
New Year.

CLEANING UP OUR RECORD

NTSB REPORTS LOWEST NUMBER OF "OPEN" RECOMMENDATIONS SINCE 1975



Staff from the Office of Safety Recommendations.

For the first time since 1975, the number of "open" safety recommendations on the National Transportation Safety Board's books has dipped below 1,000. The Office of Safety Recommendations, in conjunction with the modal offices, reduced the number of open safety recommendations to 989.

One of Chairman Engleman's strategies for closing the open recommendations is to use the "SWAT" Team approach. SWAT, or *Safety With A Team*, includes frequent meetings with U.S. Department of Transportation leaders to address open recommendations. "Open safety recommendations mean that the safety loop is not complete," said Chairman Engleman. "The NTSB will continue to work with its partners in safety to address open recommendations."

Since its inception in 1967, the Safety Board has issued more than 12,100 safety recommendations and has recorded a success rate of almost 82% -- meaning that the vast majority of its recommendations have been implemented by federal agencies, state and local government, and the transportation industry. Of the 989 open recommendations, 335 relate to aviation, 339 to highway, 125 to marine, 113 to rail, and 47 to pipeline, and 30 intermodal.

Safety recommendations are issued by the NTSB as a result of the investigation of transportation accidents and other safety problems. Recommendations usually identify a specific problem uncovered during an investigation or study and specify how to correct the situation. The Board's Safety Recommendation Office tracks the recommendation from its development until it is closed.

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NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



Flexible Spending Account Program —

The maximum contribution that employees can elect under the Health Care Flexible Spending Account Program for Federal Employees (FSAFEDS) has increased from **\$3,000 to \$4,000**. In addition, to allow employees more time to consider how much to elect, the FSAFEDS Open Season has been extended until **December 15th**. Note also that the maximum annual contribution for a Dependent Care FSA for 2004 is **\$5,000**. Enrollment is not automatic. Employees must elect a health care and/or dependent care FSA account each year, if they wish to participate in this important program. Enrollments do not carry over from year to year. To enroll, visit www.FSAFEDS.com and click on "Enroll Now", or call **1-877-FSAFEDS (1-877-372-3337)** to speak with any Benefits Counselor. If you have any additional questions, contact **Pam Goins** at (202) 314-6236 or by email at goinsp@ntsb.gov.

NTSB HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



A special **Thank You** to all who helped make this year's Holiday Celebration a huge success!



Board Advocacy and State Outreach



Vice Chairman Rosenker at a quarterly child safety seat fitting station event held recently in Rockville, Maryland.

Accompanied by **Tom Doyle** and **Danielle Roeber**, Vice Chairman **Mark Rosenker** attended a child seat inspection at Fitzgerald Auto Mall on December 4th. The Vice Chairman observed technicians checking seats and educating parents on how to properly restrain their children.

Board Member **Richard Healing** was presented the 2003 Vanguard Trophy "For Outstanding Contributions to Aviation Safety," following his speech to students in the aviation and engineering programs at St. Louis University.



Member Healing is presented with 2003 Vanguard trophy.

New Course at NTSB Academy



Bob MacIntosh delivers a presentation to attendees at the *Managing Communications During an Aircraft Disaster* course.

On December 3rd & 4th, the NTSB Academy, in partnership with Airports Council International, offered the "Managing Communications During an Aircraft Disaster" course for the first time. The course was developed jointly by the NTSB

Office of Public Affairs and Airports Council International as a way to bring airport public information officers (PIO's) together with representatives of the NTSB, airline officials, and disaster response professionals to provide a detailed look at effective accident communications. Twenty-three representatives from airports, airlines, or other aviation related disciplines attended the two-day course. The instructors' first-class work was evident in the quality of the presentations as well as the energetic and engaging interaction with the course attendees.