



## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

February 27, 2004

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Congratulations are in order for the NTSB Aviation Safety and Research and Engineering groups. Their presentation of the final report on Air Midwest flight 5481 was an extraordinary example of the good work that the NTSB does on behalf of safety. Hard work by almost 50 staff members dedicated over 16,000 hours to this investigation. In just over a year since the accident occurred on January 8, 2003, they delivered an excellent report to the Board that resulted in the issuance of 21 new safety recommendations.

The final report included excellent animation tools and was web cast on the NTSB website so that others throughout the country could see and hear the NTSB staff presentations and Board discussion. This report exemplified how the NTSB will continue to increase its focus on delivering professional results in a timely manner for our accident investigations.

*Ellen Engleman Conners*



The NTSB's next public board meeting will be Tuesday, March 9th, at 9:30 AM, in the NTSB Board Room and Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC. There are two items on the agenda:

1. **Railroad Accident Report** - On January 18, 2002 a Canadian Pacific freight train derailed 31 of 112 cars near the city of Minot, North Dakota.
2. **Marine Accident Report** -- On December 30, 2002, the U.S. passenger vessel Panther sank near Everglades City, Florida.

\* Live web cast available at [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov) \*

## A New Partnership Begins with HENAAC A Focus on Human Capital Initiatives



Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners and HENAAC Chairman Ray Mellado after signing the NTSB/HENAAC MOU.

The National Transportation Safety Board has entered into a partnership with the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC) to provide internships to Hispanic American students. This partnership will provide Hispanic American students the opportunity to work along with NTSB staff while gaining professional experience in engineering and science.

“We are pleased to have entered into this partnership which will provide training opportunities for these students with NTSB professionals at our headquarters and in our regional offices,” said Ellen Engleman Conners, NTSB Chairman.

The NTSB has regional offices in Parsippany, New Jersey; Miami, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Arlington, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Seattle, Washington; Anchorage, Alaska; and Los Angeles, California that will participate in this program. The focus will be to provide opportunities for college, graduate and post graduate students from across the nation. Potential programs include but are not limited to developing outreach and education programs for key safety issues such as primary seatbelt laws and child safety protection, hardcore drinking, and teen driving. Additional opportunities will include laboratory analysis, software engineering and animation technologies. “We hope this program will become a permanent part of our NTSB Academy,” said Chairman Engleman Conners.

# National Transportation Safety Board

## NTSB Assists Bosnia and Herzegovina



The Raytheon (Beech) Super King Air 200 that was carrying the Macedonian President.

Chairman Engleman Conners has named **Richard Rodriguez** as the U.S. Accredited Representative to assist the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the investigation into the crash of a Raytheon (Beech) Super King Air 200 that killed all nine persons aboard including Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski. The accident occurred on Thursday in Bosnia at 8 a.m. local time (2 a.m., EST). The FAA and Raytheon Aircraft Company (Beech) also sent representatives to assist in the investigation.

## On the Hill...



**Robert MacIntosh, Nora Marshall and John Delisi** from Aviation Safety, **Elaine Weinstein** from Safety Recommendations, **Jim Cash** from Research and Engineering, and **David Clark** from Government and Industry Affairs joined the Aviation Safety Alliance at their annual legislative/congressional conference. The NTSB partnered with ASA to deliver an in-depth look aviation accident investigations. Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners was on-hand to deliver the keynote speech.

The Chairman also met with key congressional staff members from the House Subcommittee on Aviation.

## Board Focuses on Maintenance and Weight & Balance



The Office of Research and Engineering developed an animation to demonstrate the flight path of Air Midwest Express Flight 5481. To view the animations from the public board meeting, please go to [www.nts.gov/events/2003/AM5481/board\\_meeting\\_presentations/presentations.htm](http://www.nts.gov/events/2003/AM5481/board_meeting_presentations/presentations.htm)

The NTSB determined that the probable cause of an airliner crash in Charlotte, NC, last year was the airplane's loss of pitch control during takeoff. The loss of pitch control was the result of incorrect rigging of the elevator control system compounded by the airplane's center of gravity, which was substantially aft of the certified aft limit.

Chairman Engleman Conners noted that 47 NTSB staff members were assigned to all or part of the Safety Board's investigation of this crash. "We devoted more than 16,000 hours of staff time to this investigation in order to complete it in just over a year. I think this was a model for what I hope will be shorter major investigations in the future when circumstances permit."

Thank you to the investigation team for its hard work — **Lorenda Ward, Tom Haueter, Bill English, Ken Egge, Paul Misencik, Dr. Evan Byrne, Dr. Bill Bramble, Bob Swaim, Mike Hauf, Pierre Scarfo, Deepak Joshi, Bob Gretz, Clinton Crookshanks, Cindy Keegan, Courtney Liedler, Nora Marshall, Stephen Carbone, Kevin Petty, John Clark, John**

**Delisi, Karen Stein, Karen Bury, Kristen Sears, Dan Bower, Doug Brazy, Jim Cash, Dennis Crider, Erin Gormley, Abdullah Kakar, Joe Kolly, Alice Park, Kevin Renze and Christy Spangler.** Special thanks also to the Offices of Public Affairs, Safety Recommendations and Transportation Disaster Assistance.

### Did You Know?

The Office of Aviation Safety (AS) has 130 total employees. There are approximately 40 accident investigators in the headquarters office, and another 40 working in ten regional offices. Last year, AS initiated nearly 2,000 accident investigations.