



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER *50th Issue*

Performance and Results - A Progress Report

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

During the last 16 months, the NTSB's advocacy efforts have had tremendous success in "closing the safety loop" on our safety recommendations. We have held **Safety With A Team (SWAT)** meetings on 208 outstanding safety recommendations, closing 75 and changing 12 of those from "Unacceptable" to "Acceptable" status. Since March 2003, we have now closed a total of 396 recommendations and issued 190 new safety recommendations. Current open recommendations are now below 840 - the lowest since 1975!

In addition, we testified on our recommendations 37 times in 18 different state legislatures. NTSB safety recommendations resulted in 33 new laws in 25 different states in the areas of: Hard-core drinking driving; Primary seat belt legislation; Child passenger safety; Graduated driver licensing & passenger restriction; and Recreational boating. We have also participated in 140 advocacy events including 65 meetings, 31 conferences, 13 presentations and 31 media events.

This is the **50th issue** of the Chairman's Corner, and it is dedicated to sharing more NTSB performance results with you.

Ellen Engleman Conners

Successful E-Gov Initiatives

Development of our E-Government initiatives continues. Since March 2003, our successes include:

- Board events are now webcast, including Board meetings, hearings, symposia and forums with 13 Board events webcast to date.
- Satellite uplinking service is now available for Board hearings and meetings.
- Significant improvements to the website search engine (<http://www.nts.gov/>) have supported over six million visits, including downloads of over 450,000 PDF publications. Self-serve aviation reports - preliminary, factual and briefs of accident reports - are now available on the website.
- All NTSB press releases and safety recommendations are now delivered via ListServ.
- A Virtual Tour of the NTSB Academy has been developed.
- The NTSB Academy outreach effort, E-News, is delivered via ListServ.
- A new web-based recruitment and job application system, **SafetyJobs**, has been implemented for staff positions at the NTSB.

Accident Investigation and Report Statistics

The NTSB has supported over **2,600** accident investigations in all modes over the last 16 months. Investigators and staff from the Offices of Marine, Highway and Aviation Safety and the Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations have:

- Launched on **449** accidents.
- Published **20** accident reports.
- Released **3,088** accident briefs.
- Opened the public dockets on **3,081** reports.

Fiscal Oversight Reinvests \$500,000

Since March 2003, the NTSB has saved nearly \$500,000 by reorganizing procurement procedures, consolidating purchases and cutting wasteful spending. The savings so far in FY 2004 is \$223,000, realized from reviewing and eliminating unnecessary costs in business reply mail, telephones, utilities, security and parking. This money has been reinvested in our employees by providing additional training, increasing outreach efforts and purchasing more efficient equipment.

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



The Acquisition Division will be providing training for an improved automated acquisition system (IDEAS) the week of July 26th. The improved system will allow key personnel to access real time status of their procurement requirements and will include the NTSB's new Purchase Requests procedures, to be implemented during the training. Questions about the class can be directed to **Kowanna Parran**, ext. 6353 or **Donna Dennis**, ext. 6223.

On the Hill...

Chairman Engleman Conners, **Vern Ellingstad**, **Cheryl McCullough** and **David Clark** met with the House Subcommittee on Aviation to discuss H.R. 2632, the **Safe Aviation and Flight Enhancement Act**. The bill legislates the NTSB's recommendations for combination CVR and FDR recorders, requiring one each in the fore and aft sections of the aircraft. The bill also calls for use of deployable recorders, on which the NTSB has not taken a position.



Government and Industry Affairs Outreach Improved

- A monthly report detailing general aviation accident reports that are scheduled to be released by the NTSB has been developed. This report is organized by state, and now sent electronically to every Member of the House and Senate to support constituent communication efforts.
- Members of Congress have each been provided with an update on all 2003 NTSB accident investigations in all modes via CD-ROM. The report also included all NTSB major publications, including published accident reports for major investigations and safety studies.
- Over 150 meetings have been held with Congressional staff and Members of Congress to provide briefings on NTSB issues and safety recommendations.



New Initiative: NTSB Partners With FBI in Airport Training



Florida's Jacksonville International Airport

Erik Grosop of the NTSB's Office of Transportation Disaster Assistance (TDA) and Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners presented the "Airports Assistance Program" to 30 attendees at the Jacksonville International Airport. The program is designed for first responders and discusses how to facilitate immediate, coordinated response to relatives of victims following an aviation disaster.

Attendees included emergency personnel from the Jacksonville Airport Authority and the surrounding communities. The briefing, which discusses NTSB and FBI activities during the initial response to an aircraft accident, is being conducted in partnership with the FBI Office for Victim Assistance and the FBI Civil Aviation Security Program.

NTSB Academy Inspires Students and Visitors



Students fill the classroom during a recent investigation course at the NTSB Academy.

The NTSB Academy is providing an inspirational educational environment for students, instructors and special events participants at its Ashburn, Virginia location. The state-of-the-art, 72,000 square foot facility and the Living Laboratory, which houses the reconstruction of a 93-foot section of TWA 800, has:

- Offered 19 courses with eight more scheduled for this year. 12 additional courses are currently in development for 2005.
- Enrolled 937 students, including 80 students from 37 countries.
- Hosted the Cargo Safety Forum and the Event Data Recorder Symposium. An additional forum is scheduled for August 25th.
- Provided an alternative location for the NTSB during the Forward Challenge '04 continuity of operations (COOP) exercise.

NTSB Investigative Responsibilities Extend Throughout the World

Under Annex 13 to the ICAO Convention on International Civil Aviation, the NTSB is the U.S. Accredited Representative for accidents involving aircraft of American manufacture, design, registry or ownership. In keeping with these responsibilities, during the last 16 months, NTSB investigators have launched to, or assisted in, nearly 25 international accident investigations, including:

- Rome, Italy - pylon fire on a Blue Panorama 767.
- Tocuman, Panama - crash of a Westwind 1124.
- Colombia - DC-10 air cargo landing accident.
- Mostar, Bosnia - King Air accident that killed Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski.
- Ontario, Canada - Cessna 208 crash into Lake Erie.
- Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt - Flash Air 737 crash into the Red Sea.
- Cotonou, Benin - UTA 727 takeoff accident.
- Mitu, Colombia - DC-9 air freighter crash.
- Mt. Kenya, Kenya - SA-226 accident that killed 12 US citizens.
- Port Sudan, Sudan - Sudan Airways 737 accident.



The recent engine fire on a Blue Panorama Boeing 767 in Rome, Italy

Human Capital Initiatives Help Develop Leadership Skills

The NTSB's participation in government leadership intern programs has helped enhance the progress of our human capital initiatives. Since March 2003, the NTSB has provided more than 30 interns, from throughout the federal government, the opportunity to work alongside NTSB senior staff. These future executives have been able to gain experience and develop skills from within nearly every office at the Board. The exchange of best practices and the long-term relationships that have been developed have proven valuable to NTSB operations.

Interagency Relationships Strengthened

Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) have been or are being developed to support areas of responsibility and strengthen the NTSB's relationships with other agencies in the federal government. Agreements between the NTSB and the United States Coast Guard, the FBI, and the Transportation Security Administration will help define roles and allow cooperation in future events. In addition to these MOUs, the NTSB has participated in numerous joint training exercises in the last 16 months, including:

- The USCG's Spills of National Significance exercise.
- Preparation for the nuclear weapon accident training exercise Diligent Warrior '04.
- The TSA's Operation Heartland terrorist exercise.