



Friday, August 13, 2004

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I was pleased to hear U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta announce that the highway fatality rate and the total number of people killed on our roadways decreased significantly last year. We know that strong laws and high visibility enforcement work!

The National Transportation Safety Board has worked closely with the Department of Transportation, as well as our partners at AAA, the Airbag and Seat Belt Safety Campaign, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, The Century Council, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, MADD, and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, to ensure that significant new highway safety laws have been enacted across the country and we will continue to do so.

Far too many people continue to be injured or killed in highway crashes - the leading cause of death for people under age 34. And 56% of those killed in passenger vehicles were not wearing their seat belts.

A reduction in highway deaths is very good news but our work is still not done. We must continue to promote state legislation to enhance the driving skills of teenage drivers and to ensure that children under 12 are buckled up in child safety seats and booster seats in the back of the car. And we must remove drinking drivers from our roads as drunk drivers still account for 20% of highway deaths.

Most importantly, we must enact primary enforcement seat belt laws in the remaining 29 States who have not chosen to adopt the single greatest life-saving measure available. It is critical to raise our seat belt use rate to levels comparable to those in Australia, Canada, and many European nations. America's leadership in highway safety is not yet established but we're going in the right direction.

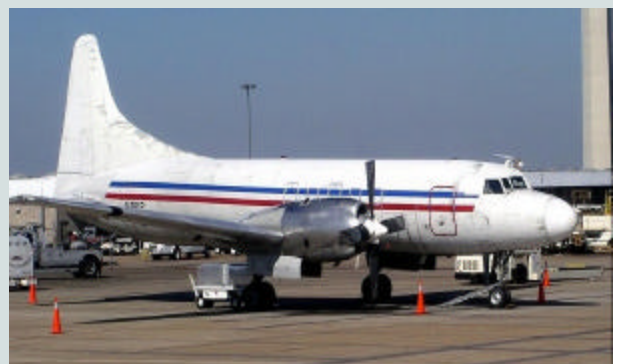
Ellen Engleman Conners

Team Launches to Cargo Aircraft Accident

An NTSB go-team launched to the crash of a cargo aircraft that occurred on the morning of August 13th. Preliminary reports indicate that, at 12:50 a.m. Friday, an Air Tahoma Convair 580 reported engine trouble before crashing onto a golf course short of runway 36R at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. The flight was arriving from Memphis, Tennessee. One crewmember was killed in the crash; the other was reported to be in serious condition.

Joseph Sedor is the Investigator-in-Charge of the accident. He is accompanied by a team of nine investigators. NTSB Member **Carol Carmody** is accompanying the team and will serve as principal spokesperson for the on-scene investigation.

Paul Schlamm is the NTSB press officer, and two members of the Board's Office of Transportation Disaster Assistance will provide logistical and family affairs support.



A Convair 580, similar to the type involved in a crash near the Cincinnati/ Northern Kentucky Airport.

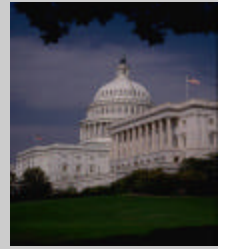
NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



Several network outages have affected communications at the NTSB Headquarters and Regional Offices over the past few weeks. We appreciate your patience while we troubleshoot the problems. The Office of Research and Engineering (RE) has been working hard to restore internet connections and e-mail service during the outages. **Chris Stephens** and the IT staff in RE are constantly monitoring system status and will update you on changes. If you think an IT issue needs attention, contact Chris at **x6621**.

On the Hill...

The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 became Public Law 108-293 on August 9th after being signed by the President. The Senate Appropriations Committee, Transportation, Treasury and General Government Subcommittee is tentatively scheduled to mark-up the 2005 Appropriations Bill on Thursday, September 9th. Congress will be back in session on September 8th.



NTSB Members' Offices Visit ATC Facilities



Jack Orlando, April Adams, Gina Kocher, Member Dick Healing and FAA Assistant Air Traffic Manager Alan Hendry at the Potomac TRACON facility.

On August 10th, Member **Dick Healing** and four Members' staff visited Air Traffic Control (ATC) facilities in the Washington, DC area. The group traveled to the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport control tower and the Potomac Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) facilities for tours and briefings on ATC operations.

Accompanying Member Healing were: **Jack Orlando** from Member Carmody's office; **April Adams** from Vice Chairman Rosenker's office; NTSB Student Intern **Gina Kocher**; and Assistant to the Chairman **Patrick McCarthy**. More orientations are planned in the future.

TDA Holds First Responders Course at NTSB Academy

The NTSB Office of Transportation Disaster Assistance held a three-day course at the NTSB Academy this week titled *Transportation Disaster Response – A Course For Emergency Responders*. The course was designed to give emergency responders and planners the concepts needed to effectively manage a major transportation disaster. Participants included local fire department personnel, law enforcement officers, NTSB staff, coroners, emergency management staff, airport operations management, representatives from TSA and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel. Course attendance included 49 participants from 19 states. A five member panel, which discussed real-world response to major transportation events, closed the course. Panelists included representatives from American Airlines, Transportation Security Administration, American Red Cross, DOT Aviation Enforcement and the FBI Office for Victim Assistance. Special thanks to our NTSB presenters: **Jim Arena, Sharon Bryson, Erik Grosf, Jeff Guzzetti, Bruce Magladry and Paul Sledzik**.



FBI Specialist Paula Ernst briefs first responders about the equipment and methods used in surveying an accident site.