

# THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Friday, September 17, 2004

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This week, the National Transportation Safety Board reviewed the Most Wanted list of safety improvements by the States. The 10 recommendations on this list asked the States and District of Columbia to take 486 separate actions to reduce deaths and injuries from highway crashes and recreational boating accidents, which result in over 90 percent of all transportation fatalities in the United States. During this meeting, it was noted that 173 of those actions have been successfully completed. This is why it is a privilege to serve at the NTSB. We are able to save lives through our work. Saving lives. Nothing else matters.

I want to thank the presenters for a great job at this Board meeting: **Stephanie Perkins, Steve Blackistone, Kevin Quinlan, Danielle Roeber, Bill Gossard, Joe Osterman and Jennifer Bishop.**

*Ellen Engleman Conners*

### Closing the Safety Loop

As of September 17th the NTSB has 815 open safety recommendations. This is the lowest number of open recommendations since 1975. In the last 18 months, 435 safety recommendations have been closed.

Since March 2003, the NTSB has held 30 SWAT (Safety-With-A-Team) meetings with 12 different agencies. So far, 349 safety recommendations have been discussed, with the Board unanimously closing 49. There are 85 more proposed to close.

## Five Member Board Unanimous on 13 Votes for States MWL



The National Transportation Safety Board met this week to update its list of Most Wanted Safety Improvements by the States. The Board said that State governments can do more to ensure the safety of travelers on their highways and waterways, noting those instances where States have failed to implement the suggested safety enhancements. There are currently 10 recommendations to State governments that comprise the six issue areas on the Board's list. During the meeting, the Board removed three recommendations and added a new issue area - *Improve School Bus/Grade Crossing Safety* - to the list.

Established in 1990, the Board's Most Wanted list is a way for the Safety Board to focus attention on needed safety improvements in all modes of transportation. The list highlights recommendations that the Safety Board believes will have a significant impact on reducing deaths and injuries.

NTSB Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners said of Tuesday's Board action, "Implementation of these recommendations by the States would reduce the types of accidents that result in over 90 percent of all transportation fatalities in the United States. Every year we lose thousands of our citizens who could otherwise be saved by some basic safety measures."

Safety Maps and tables providing details on a State-by-State basis on each of these recommendations may be found on the home page of the Board's website at [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov).

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES

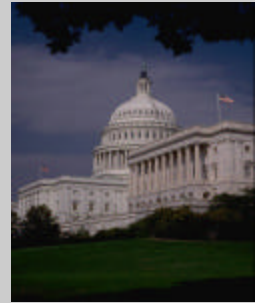


### Academy Courses

The NTSB Academy will be conducting two courses over the next two weeks. The first, on September 24th, will cover Advanced Accident Site Photography. The second is titled Investigating Human Fatigue Factors, and will be held on September 28th & 29th. For more course information, visit the NTSB Academy website at: <http://www.nts.gov/Academy/academy.htm>.

### On the Hill...

This week the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up the FY 2005 Transportation and Treasury Bill. H.R. 5025, the FY 2005 House Transportation Appropriations Bill, was also brought to the floor and passed.



## NTSB to Participate in 2004 Federal Human Capital Survey

Next week, the NTSB will be participating in the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) 2004 Federal Human Capital Survey. This is an annual survey to assess leadership and management practices that contribute to agency performance and employee satisfaction. In 2002, twenty-four agencies participated in the survey, which established a baseline for ongoing Human Capital assessments in the Federal government. The results of that survey can be found at: <http://www.fhcs.opm.gov/reports.asp>.

NTSB employees who are chosen to participate will receive an email from OPM that will assign an individualized login, password, the OPM Customer Service/Helpdesk contact information and instructions. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Your response is voluntary, confidential and will be submitted directly to OPM. The survey will help the NTSB define future improvements in the way we manage people, and will be a benchmark for setting our Human Capital goals. OPM will combine and analyze responses across the Government and will provide data to the participating agencies.

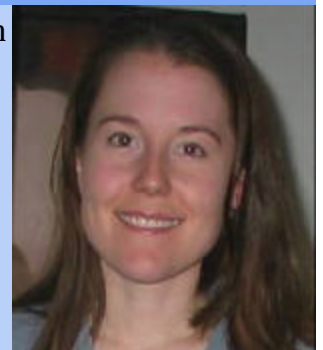
If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact **Emily T. Carroll** at [carrole@nts.gov](mailto:carrole@nts.gov) or 202-314-6233.

## Aviation Safety Welcomes New Investigator

The Office of Aviation Safety swore in **Kristi Dunks** as an Air Safety Investigator with the NTSB's Southwest Regional Office in Gardena, California on September 17th.

Kristi has worked as an intern and Co-op for the Southwest Regional Office since September 2002. Kristi has worked as a flight instructor in San Diego, California, and in operations with Skywest Airlines in Butte, Montana. Kristi is a dual-rated commercial pilot in airplanes and helicopters with over 600 hours. She is also a flight instructor in single and multi-engine airplanes and instrument flying.

Kristi holds a BS degree from Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah in Aviation Operations. She has recently completed her Masters Degree in Aviation Science with specializations in Aviation Safety and Human Factors from Embry-Riddle University.



*Investigator Kristi Dunks*