

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Friday, October 22, 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Guests listen to comments during the NTSB Academy dedication.

Special thanks to the over 250 NTSB staff and guests who attended the NTSB Academy dedication ceremony this week. It is important that we honor and remember the victims of transportation accidents and their families as the inscription at the entrance to the NTSB Academy reminds us.

This same week brought a harsh reminder that our work is never-ending as NTSB teams launched on five accidents — a commuter flight accident in Missouri, a helicopter crash in Florida, and three general aviation accidents, one each in Georgia, Arkansas and North Dakota. Each accident left families without loved ones and the anguished cry of “Why?” It is the hope of all at the NTSB that our new Academy will help find the answers.

Ellen Engleman Conners

NTSB Academy Dedicated to Accident Victims and Families

The National Transportation Safety Board officially dedicated its training academy in Ashburn, Virginia to the victims of transportation accidents and their families. Secretary of Transportation **Norman Y. Mineta** gave the keynote address at the dedication, noting, “It should come as no surprise to anyone that the courses offered here are taught by some of the best and brightest investigators in the business, the Safety Board employees themselves. The relentless pursuit of safety has a home at the NTSB Academy.” Congressman **James L. Oberstar**, Ranking Democratic Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, also addressed the large crowd of transportation safety experts and Board employees. During her remarks, NTSB Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners drew attention to the inscription on the front of the Academy that reads, “From tragedy we draw knowledge to improve the safety of all.” She then added, “Out of tragedy, good must come.”



Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta and other dignitaries and Board Members participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony at the NTSB Academy dedication.

Former NTSB Chairman **Jim Hall**, **Charles H. Simpson**, Acting Chairman of the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, and The George Washington University President **Trachtenberg** addressed the audience as well. They joined **Jim Hurd** and **Hans Ephraimson-Abt**, representing family members of victims of transportation accidents, Chairman Engleman Conners, Vice Chairman **Mark Rosenker**, and Board Members **Carol Carmody**, **Dick Healing**, and **Debbie Hersman**, in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The NTSB Academy opened its doors on the Virginia campus of George Washington University in Ashburn in September 2003. The Academy provides training for NTSB investigators and others from the transportation community along with hosting safety symposiums and safety advocacy outreach.

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES

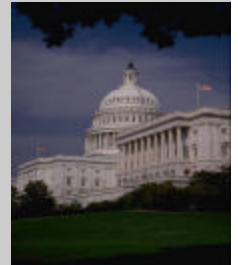


TSP Open Season

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season began on October 15, 2004 and runs through December 31, 2004. During this open season, participants covered by FERS may elect to contribute to the TSP up to 15% of the basic pay they earn each pay period; participants covered by CSRS may elect to contribute up to 10% of the basic pay they earn each pay period. If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Goins at X6236 or by email at goinsp@ntsb.gov.

On the Hill...

The Office of Government and Industry Affairs (GIA) was pleased to host Congressman Jim Oberstar and staff at the dedication of the NTSB Academy to the families of victims of transportation accidents.



The Offices of GIA and the CFO are working with the Board Members' Offices to prepare the NTSB's annual report on travel to Congress.

Aviation Safety Launches to Commuter Aircraft Accident



The flight data recorder from the Jetstream 32, which crashed near Kirksville, MO.

The NTSB launched a Go Team to investigate the crash of a twin-engine commuter aircraft in Kirksville, Missouri on October 19th that killed 13 people. The British Aerospace Jetstream 32, operating as American Connection flight 5966, crashed on approach to the Kirksville Regional Airport. The aircraft, which was on a scheduled flight from St. Louis, was carrying a crew of two and 13 passengers.

Senior NTSB Investigator **Richard Rodriguez** is leading the NTSB team of approximately a dozen investigators. NTSB Member **Carol Carmody** accompanied the team and served as principal spokesperson for the on-scene investigation. **Keith Holloway** traveled with the team as press officer, and representatives of the Board's Office of Transportation Disaster Assistance provided on-scene coordination and family assistance.

NTSB to Meet on Final Report of New York Crash

The National Transportation Safety Board will hold a public Board meeting on Tuesday, October 26 in its Washington, D.C. headquarters.

The Board will meet to deliberate on the crash of American Airlines flight 587, an Airbus A300-600, in Belle Harbor, New York on November 12, 2001. The plane crashed minutes after taking off from John F. Kennedy International Airport on a flight to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. All 260 people aboard the plane and five on the ground were killed.



An American Airlines A-300, the same type that crashed in Belle Harbor, NY.

The public is invited to observe the meeting, which is expected to last a full day. A live and archived web cast of the proceedings will be available on the Board's website at www.ntsb.gov. A summary of the Board's final report, which will include findings, probable cause and safety recommendations, will appear on the web site shortly after the conclusion of the meeting. The entire report will appear on the web site several weeks later.