



Friday, February 11, 2005

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This week, the NTSB saw 17 of our investigators deployed to two high profile accidents. The accidents in New Jersey and Afghanistan illustrate some of the different environments that our investigators must work in. When **Bill English** and his team responded to a crash in New Jersey, **Bob Benz** and his team were halfway around the world assisting the Government of Afghanistan with their investigation into the crash of a commercial airliner in the hostile terrain near Kabul.

Our two new aviation investigators, **Craig Hatch** and **Tim LeBaron**, will be encountering scenarios like this throughout their careers. They both bring an enormous amount of education and experience with

them, and I know they will be great assets to the Board. Welcome to both of you.

With our international activities continuing, the launch of the Spanish language version of our website, which was developed as part of the Board's response to the President's Management Agenda e-government initiative, proves more valuable. As we saw during the investigation of the crash of American Airlines flight 587 in New York, there is a great need for this kind of service for our Spanish speaking citizens. Thank you to **Lyn Donaldson**, **Candy Murphy**, **Ruben Payan** and **Yvette Torres Delgado** for their great work in the development of this very important outreach tool.

Ellen Engleman Conners

NTSB Teams Launch to Two Accidents

The NTSB launched teams to two recent aviation accidents in New Jersey and Afghanistan. On February 2nd, a corporate jet taking off from Teterboro, NJ ran off the end of the runway and struck a fence, two cars and a warehouse. The pilot, co-pilot and a passenger in one of the cars sustained serious injuries. **Bill English** is leading the team of 13 in the investigation of this accident. Member **Debbie Hersman** acted as the Board's spokesman during the on-scene portion of the investigation

The NTSB also sent a team to Afghanistan to assist in the investigation of the February 3rd crash of a Kam Air Boeing 737-200.



Wreckage from the Kam Air 737 crash near Kabul, Afghanistan. *Photo courtesy of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)*

The airliner was flying from

Herat to Kabul when it went down with the loss of all 104 passengers and crew, after reportedly being diverted from Kabul airport due to a snowstorm. The five-person team will be led by senior Safety Board investigator **Robert Benz** who has been designated the United States' Accredited Representative to the investigation.

The United States - as country of manufacture for the aircraft - is participating in this investigation under the terms of Annex 13 of the articles of the International Civil Aviation Organization. All information on the progress of the investigation will be released by the aviation authorities of Afghanistan.



A Canadair Challenger CL-600 corporate jet that ran off the end of the runway in Teterboro, New Jersey.

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



NTSB Annual Awards Ceremony

The NTSB's Annual Awards Ceremony will be held in the Board's Conference Center on Tuesday, March 15th at 2:00pm.

This ceremony will recognize the recipients of awards in eight major categories, as well as special recognition awards for employees who will be recognized for an extraordinary achievement, service, act or contribution.

Please mark your calendars!

On the Hill...

This week, the Office of Government and Industry Affairs (GIA) completed its 2006 Budget handout to be used in conjunction with Hill briefings. **Dan Campbell, Steve Goldberg, David Mayer** and the GIA's **Cheryl McCullough** met with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff to discuss the NTSB's 2006 Budget.



Also, the NTSB 2004 Academy Report was completed and sent to Members of Congress and Hill staff.

NTSB Website Offers Information in Spanish

As part of the response to the President's Management Agenda for electronic government (e-government), the National Transportation Safety Board recently unveiled a version of its website in Spanish. The e-government initiative is designed to make better use of information technology investments in order to improve government services to citizens. Spanish language information currently available on the website includes the history and mission of the Safety Board, details about the Board's investigative process, information on the Federal Family Assistance Plan for Aviation Disasters, detailed descriptions of the Board's products and services and contact information for NTSB Headquarters and regional offices.

The Spanish language information can be accessed through a link on the NTSB's homepage at <http://www.nts.gov>. In addition, a press release announcing this achievement is available in English or Spanish at <http://www.nts.gov/Pressrel/2005/050211.htm>.

Board to Hold Symposium on Positive Train Control

The National Transportation Safety Board will hold a symposium to discuss an automated system to prevent train collisions known in the industry as positive train control (PTC). The two-day symposium will be held on March 2-3 at the NTSB Academy in Ashburn, VA, and will focus on providing participants with the most current information regarding the development of PTC systems in the United States.

The program will consist of presentations by the rail industry, suppliers and government organizations highlighting their perspectives. It will also include discussion sessions with NTSB Board Members, participants on technical panels and other attendees. NTSB staff will lead technical panel discussions that will examine each major aspect of positive train control systems including safety, efficiency and operational issues. PTC has been on the Board's "Most Wanted" list of transportation safety improvements since its inception in 1990.

A detailed agenda, list of forum participants and registration information can be found on the NTSB website at www.nts.gov/academy.