

Members of Blue Ribbon Panel on Aerial Wildland Firefighting

The Panel was commissioned by Chief of U.S. Forest Service and Director of Bureau of Land Management to identify facts and key issues pertaining aviation safety and operational performance in support wildland firefighting on August 15, 2002.

James E. Hall (co-chair)

Jim Hall is a leading expert on transportation safety and security, crisis management and government relations, having served government and private clients for more than 35 years.

He served as counsel to the Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations and a member of the staff of U.S. Senator Al Gore, Sr. He joined the administration of Tennessee Governor Ned McWherther as a member of the governor's cabinet and served as director of the state's Planning Office for five years. He returned to Washington, D.C. to serve as chief of staff for Senator Harlan Mathews. President Clinton nominated him to serve as a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, in 1993 and was named N.T.S.B. chairman from 1994 to 2001.

As N.T.S. B chair, Hall oversaw a period of unprecedented activity as the N.T.S.B. investigated numerous major aviation, rail, pipeline and maritime accidents in the U.S. and assisted in many international accident investigations. Under his leadership, the safety board issued landmark safety studies on commuter airlines, the air tour industry, the performance and use of child restraint systems, the dangers to children from passenger-side airbags in automobiles, personal watercraft, transit bus operations and railway passive grade crossings. In 1996, President Clinton named Hall to the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. Hall is currently serving on the National Academy of Engineering's Committee on Combating Terrorism and the Aviation Institute Advisory Board of George Washington University.

James B. Hull (co-chair)

Jim Hull is the State Forester and Director of the Texas Forest Service in College Station, Texas. He is a 36-year veteran of the Texas Forest Service, having graduated from the School of Forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He has extensive experience in all areas of forestry, especially forest management, policy, wildfire protection and administration. In 1996, Mr. Hull was selected by The Texas A&M Board of Regents to become the 7th State Forester of Texas. The Texas Forest Service was established in 1915 as part of this Land Grant Institution. As Director of Texas Forest Service, the Texas Legislature made him responsible for all matters pertaining to forestry in Texas.

Mr. Hull provides leadership on numerous forestry boards and organizations at the state, regional and national level. He serves as chair of the Fire Protection Committee of National Association of State Foresters and as the NASF representative on the National Wildland Fire Leadership Council. He was elected as a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters in 1988 and has received a number of other prestigious honors and awards throughout his career.

KEN JOHNSON

KEN JOHNSON received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of British Columbia and later qualified as a Certified General Accountant. He qualified as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force and gained advanced flying experience as a civilian pilot and in the Air Force reserve which included arctic surveillance, transport, search & rescue and fighter duties. In 1967 he joined the Department of Transport as a civil aviation inspector. In 1972 he became the planning manager for the Department's Central Region in Winnipeg. Following an assignment as a policy advisor with the Arctic Transportation Agency, in 1975 he became Regional Manager, Airports, Pacific Region, responsible for the operation and development of twenty-five airports, including Vancouver International. In 1978 he became Director of Airport Policy, Planning /Programming at headquarters in Ottawa.

In 1982 he became the Director of the Department's Aviation Safety Bureau. In 1984 he was appointed Executive Director of the new, independent Canadian Aviation Safety Board. He led that organization as its senior public servant and contributed to the conceptual planning for a multi-modal safety board to encompass the air, marine, rail and pipeline modes of transport. In 1990 he was appointed Executive Director of the newly established Transportation Safety Board of Canada. He was the TSB's chief operating officer as it developed national and international capabilities in safety investigation until his retirement from the public service in 2001. He has an airline transport pilot's licence and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Transport.

Earl H. McKinney JR

Earl McKinney of Bowling Green, Ohio, is an Assistant Professor in the Business School at Bowling Green State University. Prior to assuming that position, he served in the United States Air Force. His military career included 2500 hours of flying time as an aircraft commander and instructor pilot in T-37, T-38, F-4, and TG-7 aircraft. He also attended Air Force Safety School and served as a Wing Flying Safety Officer. He has an undergraduate degree from the Air Force Academy, a Masters of Engineering from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas. He served on the faculty of the Air Force Academy for 9 years.

Dr McKinney has published a number of articles on aviation safety. He has examined the role of flying experience on crisis decision making, the impact of the familiarity of pilots on crew performance, and the role of communication on early flightdeck team development. He received a grant to study flightdeck communication and performance from the Air Force Air Mobility Command, riding with crews flying refueling missions during Red Flag exercises at Nellis Nevada. He continues to fly, holding a commercial license. Dr McKinney's has consulted on a number of aviation projects. He has worked on extending Crew Resource Management training to ground controllers for a major carrier. He also contributed to a multi year Air Force study that considered employment options for new technologies such as Uninhabited Air Vehicles (UAVs).

William B. Scott

William B. Scott is the Rocky Mountain Bureau Chief for Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine, based in Colorado Springs, CO. In 18 years with Aviation Week, he also has served as

Senior National Editor in Washington, and in Avionics and Senior Engineering Editor positions in Los Angeles. Focusing primarily on advanced aerospace technology, business, flight testing and military operations, he has written more than 2,500 stories for the magazine, and has received ten editorial awards.

Scott is a Flight Test Engineer graduate of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School and a licensed commercial pilot with instrument and multi-engine ratings. In 12 years of military and civilian flight testing--plus evaluating aircraft for Aviation Week--he has logged approximately 2,000 flight hours on 53 types of aircraft. Scott holds a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from California State University-Sacramento.

Consultant to the Blue Ribbon Panel

Albert C. Hyde

Al Hyde is a senior staff consultant on public management innovation for the Brookings Institution's Center for Public Policy Education. Mr. Hyde led Brookings' management consulting and training efforts for an agency wide major reengineering and reorganization effort with the U.S. Customs Service (1993-1994), and has worked on reengineering projects with the National Library of Medicine, the National Park Service, and the National Security Agency (1995-1997). Currently he is working with the U. S. Forest Service on several projects involving strategic thinking for Fire & Aviation Management.

As a private sector consultant in the early 1980's, he has over a decade of experience working with petrochemical, construction, and engineering firms designing quality, customer service, and performance measurement systems both in the United States and Germany. His academic career includes being a visiting professor at the American University's Department of Public Administration, in Washington, D.C from 1992 to 1997. Previously, he was the chair of the Policy and Public Management Departments at the University of Pittsburgh and at San Francisco State University, and has held faculty appointments at the University of Colorado at Denver and the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Prior to his academic career, he was a foreign-service officer in the U.S. Department of State and a senior program evaluator with the New York State Legislative Commission on Expenditure Review.

Mr. Hyde received his Ph.D. in political science from the State University of New York at Albany.