

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: October 18, 1972

Adopted by the NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
at its office in Washington, D. C.
on the 27th day of September 1972.

FORWARDED TO:)
Honorable John H. Shaffer)
Administrator)
Federal Aviation Administration)
Washington, D. C. 20591)

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION A-72-199

The National Transportation Safety Board conducted an investigation of an approach accident involving an airplane which was inbound to the Spirit of St. Louis Airport, Chesterfield, Missouri, on December 26, 1971. There was no record of the air/ground communications exchange which preceded the accident since there is no requirement for such recordings at privately owned and operated airports.

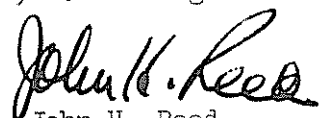
We are aware that the Federal Aviation Administration does not regulate or set forth policies for the operations of non-Federal air traffic control towers. However, the great value of recorded communications at Federal facilities as an instrument of operational quality control as well as a postaccident investigative tool is widely recognized.

Therefore, to enhance the safety of operations at non-Federal air traffic control towers, the Board recommends that:

The Federal Aviation Administration encourage operators of private towers to record all tower/aircraft radio transmissions.

This recommendation will be released to the public on the issue date shown above. No public dissemination of the contents of this document should be made prior to that date.

Reed, Chairman; McAdams, Burgess, and Haley, Members, concurred in the above recommendation. Thayer, Member, was absent, not voting.


By: John H. Reed
Chairman