

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

ISSUED: May 16, 1972

Adopted by the NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
at its office in Washington, D. C.
on the 16th day of February 1972

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

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS A-72-56 & 57

The National Transportation Safety Board's letters to you, dated June 1, 1970, and July 30, 1970, made several recommendations regarding cockpit voice recorder (CVR) installations.

One of these recommendations concerned underwater recovery of cockpit voice recorders. Following our initial recommendations, engineers from the Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration met with the officials of the Navy diving school to determine the best method of locating CVR and the flight data recorders (FDR). They suggested that the installation of an acoustic beacon (pinger) on the units would greatly facilitate underwater recovery. They further suggested that if acoustic beacons could not be installed, conspicuity markings should be put on the case even though it had been their experience that conspicuity markings would not appreciably improve the chances of underwater recovery unless visibility was good.

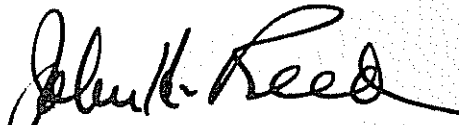
As the result of our conversations with Navy diving school and Naval Research Laboratory personnel, and our experience in attempting to recover recorders from underwater and mud, the Safety Board recommends that:

1. The Federal Aviation Administration initiate rulemaking action to require installation of underwater locating devices on new CVR's similar to those now required on FDR's by section 121.343 of the Federal Aviation Regulations.
2. The Federal Aviation Administration encourage operators of large aircraft to affix reflective tape to the cases of FDR's and CVR's until they can be equipped with underwater locating devices.

If we may be of further assistance, please let us know.

These recommendations 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; Laurel, McAdams, Thayer, and Burgess, Members, concurred in the above recommendations.


By: John H. Reed
Chairman

72708

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION
SAFETY BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Washington, D.C. 20591

Official Business

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION
SAFETY BOARD

