



# Minutes of the NOAA Aviation Safety Board Meeting



March 17, 2008

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Minutes of the Aviation Safety Board (ASB) Meeting

Date: Monday, March 17, 2008

Time: 13:30 (EST)

**Membership Required by Charter:**

Chairperson: NOAA Aviation Safety Program Manager

Voting Members:

- Chairperson
- Aircraft Operations Center (AOC)
- NOAA Safety Office
- NMFS
- NOS
- NWS
- OAR
- NESDIS

Observers:

- NOAA General Counsel (GC)
- NOAA Acquisitions and Grants Office (AGO)
- NOAA Workforce Management Office (WFM)
- NOAA Program Planning and Integration (PPI)

Board Members/Observers present:

- Jim Kelley, Aviation Safety Program Manager (Chairperson)
- Craig Gillis, SECO (NOAA Safety Office)

Board Members/Observers in Teleconference:

- Dave Withrow, NMFS
- Matt Pichett, NMFS
- Fred Peters, NWS
- Terry Brisbin, NWS
- CDR Harris Halverson, OAR
- Sharon Wilgus, WFM

Board Members/Observers absent:

- AOC
- NOS
- NESDIS
- GC
- AGO
- PPI

Additional Non-voting members Present:

- Geoffrey Fuller            OMAO SEC
- Ken Langert                (Recorder)
- Jon Dixon                    ALSE Technician, AOC (Teleconference)



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## Agenda Items discussed:

1. Jim Kelley welcomed the members and opened the ASB meeting at 1335 EST with a roll call. Old business included the reassignment of Ken to support the PSOD and Small Boat Programs. All correspondence, questions, and concerns should be addressed to Jim. Geof Fuller took over for Paul Parsons in SEC here in OMAO. Also, Jim mentioned that there are 3 egress dunker slots paid for and open to members for Survival Systems in Groton, CT.
2. Jim covered the ICAP agenda items to include that OMAO could no longer provide transportation or sponsorship funds to the June FedFleet event in Dallas; however, members are strongly encouraged to attend. The conference will satisfy requirements to gain ICAP Federal Aviation Safety Officer Certification.
3. Next agenda item was the proposed definitions in the NAO. Fred Peters (NWS) provided insightful comments on the proposed changes in the NAO and urged the Board to fully evaluate the strength of training requirements and to make sure everyone was comfortable with the new requirements. (The revised definition of Transportation would not require training for personnel who use air transportation exclusively for point to point travel. ASB members present for this meeting agreed more discussion was warranted for the Transportation definition and associated lack of training requirements. Fred expressed the concern that smaller Charter aircraft may not provide a level of safety that is acceptable without making training requirements mandatory. Making the training mandatory would close any loopholes and justify spending money required for safety training.  
  
Dave Withrow mentioned his office provides more training and ALSE than the minimum required by the NAO and brings up the question if teachers are getting training. This is a key point in that not everyone and all situations can be covered in a document and the LO has to take some level of responsibility to ensure mission specific parameters are looked at and evaluated. Jim will research and benchmark other agency training requirements for transportation flights and other NAO component changes. (Action Item – Jim Kelley, Open)
4. The final discussion points were about using risk assessments to qualify when additional training may be needed. The problem surfaced that the manning and level of effort required for this is not supported outside of AOC. Also, Jim addressed any web site issues and mentioned the Aviation Health Module is now available on the CLC under: AviationHealthMar08 -- Once in the CLC go to NOAA --Search, AviationHealthMar08 -- scroll on the window that lets you pick "exact phrase" -- the certificate will log in "My Transcript" once completed.
5. Additional remarks: Researching if Egress Video may be allowed on the web site; call Jim if you need a copy for loan. Also, RADM Bailey wanted to emphasize that the Observer status is still one flight per year until the NAO gets approved.
6. The next ASB meeting will be at 1330 on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2008. This meeting was adjourned at 1445.

NOAA has a responsibility to provide a safe working environment for its workforce, and for partners who are exposed to the risks associated with flying on aircraft owned or operated by NOAA.