



Honorable Robert L. Sumwalt

NTSB Acting Chairman/Designated Vice Chairman

Robert L. Sumwalt was appointed 37th Member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in August 2006, whereupon President George W. Bush designated him as Vice Chairman of the Board for a 2-year term. In November 2011, President Barack Obama reappointed Mr. Sumwalt to an additional 5 year term as a Board Member. He was designated Vice Chairman by President Donald Trump on March 31, 2017.

Since joining the Board, Vice Chairman Sumwalt has been a fierce advocate for improving safety in all modes of transportation, focusing especially on teen driver safety, ending impaired driving, and eliminating distractions in transportation, as well as on several aviation and rail safety initiatives.

Before joining the NTSB, Mr. Sumwalt was a pilot for 32 years, including 24 years with Piedmont Airlines and US Airways. He accumulated over 14,000 flight hours. During his tenure at US Airways, he worked on a special assignment to the flight safety department, and also served on the airline's Flight Operational Quality Assurance (FOQA) monitoring team. Following his airline career, Mr. Sumwalt managed the corporate aviation department for a Fortune 500 energy company.

In other notable accomplishments, Mr. Sumwalt chaired the Air Line Pilots Association's Human Factors and Training Group, and co-founded the association's critical incident response program. He also spent 8 years as a consultant to NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS) and has written extensively on aviation safety matters.

Vice Chairman Sumwalt earned his undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina and his Master of Aeronautical Science (with Distinction) from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, with concentrations in aviation/aerospace safety systems and human factors aviation systems.



Safety Day 2017



Captain Craig T. Hoskins

Airbus

Captain Hoskins is currently the Vice President of Technical Services and Product Safety for Airbus Americas, Inc. He is responsible for the coordination of Airbus activities and interests related to safety, security, regulation and certification standards, human factors and operational matters in the Americas. He and his team work closely with customer airlines, the FAA, the NTSB, ICAO and other governmental and industry groups. With over 35 years of aviation/human factors experience, he is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Aviation Safety Officer Course, University of Southern California Aviation Safety Certificate Program, NASA-Ames Fatigue Countermeasures Course and holds a M.S. Degree in Training and Leadership.

Craig has also developed and conducted numerous training courses/seminars on Aviation Maintenance, Crew Resource Management, Threat and Error Management, Human Factors, Fatigue Countermeasures, and Team Building/Process Improvements for military operations, government organizations, and airlines world-wide.



Safety Day 2017



Russ Lawton
Director of Safety
Air Charter Safety Foundation

Russell Lawton is Director of Safety and ASAP Program Manager for the Air Charter Safety Foundation. He is responsible for the Air Charter Safety Foundation's ASAP program for participating FAR 91 and 135 companies, as well as the ACSF Industry Audit Standard for charter operators and fractional aircraft ownership companies.

Lawton is also responsible for developing and implementing SMS programs for member companies of the National Air Transportation Association (NATA), and has served on the FAA SMS aviation rulemaking committee.

Lawton has held key safety roles during 38 years in aviation and system safety. Prior to joining the Air Charter Safety Foundation, he served as Director of Operations at Wyvern Consulting and was Wyvern's lead safety auditor. He was in the first group of accredited auditors for the International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations (IS-BAO). He has assisted the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration on various safety initiatives.

He has served as an active member of the NBAA Safety Committee for more than 10 years. He has also served as editorial consultant to the Flight Safety Foundation and Editor-in-Chief of IFR Refresher Magazine.

Lawton holds a master's degree in safety from the University of Southern California and a bachelor's degree in air commerce from the Florida Institute of Technology. Lawton spends his off-hours as an active ATP and flight instructor.



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Michael Huhn
NTSB Western Pacific Regional Air Safety Investigator

Michael has 23 years in aviation safety/accident investigation and is currently an Air Safety Investigator for the NTSB in the Western Region. He previously held the position of Air Safety Investigator for the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) for 13 years.

Michael has a BS in Aeronautical Engineering, and has 15 years in engineering design, aerodynamics, and flight test positions, with the following companies; Douglas Aircraft (commercial airliners), Northrop Aircraft (F-18), and Rockwell International (Space Shuttle).

Michael holds a Private Pilot certificate with Instrument rating, as well as a Mechanic's certificate and A&P rating. Additionally, he is an owner and operator of a Cessna 182.



Safety Day 2017



David Karalunas

David is the Policy Lead for the FAA’s Flight Standards Service (AFS) Compliance Philosophy (CP) Focus Team. The team was created to maintain a consistent, ongoing leadership emphasis and oversight of CP alignment, policy and training development, and implementation within AFS, and also to serve as the CP focal point for related work in coordination with or on behalf of the Aviation Safety Organization (AVS) and FAA in general.

David was born and raised inside the Lake Hood Seaplane Base traffic pattern in Anchorage, Alaska. He first learned to fly in a PA-14-150 on floats when he was about 9 years old and started attending safety seminars in 1980. A commercial pilot, A&P mechanic/IA, and former Huey crew chief, QC inspector, ISO auditor, and director of maintenance, he’s been involved full-time with aviation maintenance since 1987. David’s worked equally in fixed and rotary wing operations, with both large and small scheduled and on-demand Part 135 operators, as well as large and small repair stations and contract civilian and military helicopter maintenance. He’s chaired the boards of a flying club and federal credit union, served as a borough land use planning commissioner, and briefly taught at a Part 147 aviation maintenance technician school.

David joined the FAA in 2001, where he’s worked as a Principal Maintenance Inspector, Airworthiness Safety and FAAS Team Program Manager, FSDO unit supervisor, Regional FAAS Team Manager, Technical Branch Manager, Air Carrier Whistleblower Investigator, report author for the Future of Flight Standards Steering Group, and on policy development details to the General Aviation and Commercial Division and (currently) the AFS Director’s office.



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