

I regret being unable to attend the conference today. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) commends the JIAAC and its efforts to promote aviation safety by hosting this most important event. The NTSB as it celebrates the agency's 50th anniversary looks forward to making transportation safer for the next 50 years and beyond. The NTSB has investigated more than 145,000 aviation accidents and issued more than 14,500 safety recommendations. The staff of over 400 professionals, including roughly 130 specialists dedicated to aviation safety, the agency administers its activities based on the core values of "*Integrity, Transparency, Independence and Excellence*". In addition to its domestic program that includes the investigation of all US civil aviation accidents and certain public (State) aircraft accidents, the agency participates in the investigation of aviation accidents and serious incidents outside the US in accordance with the Chicago Convention of ICAO to implement the provisions of Annex 13 to the Convention.

Transportation technologies continue to advance, and it is critical that the NTSB remains aligned with changing trends. Recent innovations in the transportation industry, such as commercial space transportation, solar-powered planes, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and new recording technologies make it increasingly important to remain up-to-date on emerging developments and techniques in mitigating, preventing, and investigating transportation accidents.

For example, the agency will develop a comprehensive and organized plan for technical procedural training for staff members who participate in various facets of UAS investigations. Specialists must be available to support all of aspects of UAS accidents and incident investigation in a similar manner that we cover major investigations. Training will focus on specific technical areas including, but not limited to air traffic procedures and technologies, vehicle performance, recorded data logging, battery technology, operational training, and maintenance.

The NTSB endeavors to use the most advanced tools in analyzing transportation accidents and over many years, has made a significant number of recommendations to regulators, manufacturers, and operators to develop and deploy new technologies to enhance safety and prevent future accidents. The NTSB through its Most Wanted List to highlight specific recommendations that could significantly reduce transportation accidents, deaths, and injuries has identified safety issues, including (1) prevent loss of control in flight in general aviation (2) reduce fatigue-related accidents, (3) end alcohol and other drug impairment in transportation, (4) require medical fitness, (5) eliminate distractions, (6) strengthen occupant protections, and (7) expand recorder use to enhance transportation safety.

The NTSB continues to implement the agency's activities toward accomplishing its goals and objectives, including contributing to the aviation safety community by joining our international partners and stakeholders to make transportation safer globally.

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