National Transportation Safety Board

The Role of NTSB in Improving Transportation Safety

Robert L. Sumwalt, III

Houston Transportation Safety Day

NTSB

Our greatest virtues:

Independence

Credibility

The Board

Earl Weener

Robert Sumwalt

Chris Hart

Mark Rosekind

Our biggest strength:

Our experienced staff

The Staff

NTSB

Our mission:

Prevent Accidents

Reduce Injuries

Save Lives

The Anatomy of an NTSB Accident Investigation

Breaking News: A plane has crashed.

NTSB Response Operations Center

Anatomy of an accident investigation

NOTIFICATION + 2 HOURS

The Launch

EXIT
NTSB
NTSB
NTSB

NTSB
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
DURABLE

Arrival on Scene

Boots on the Ground

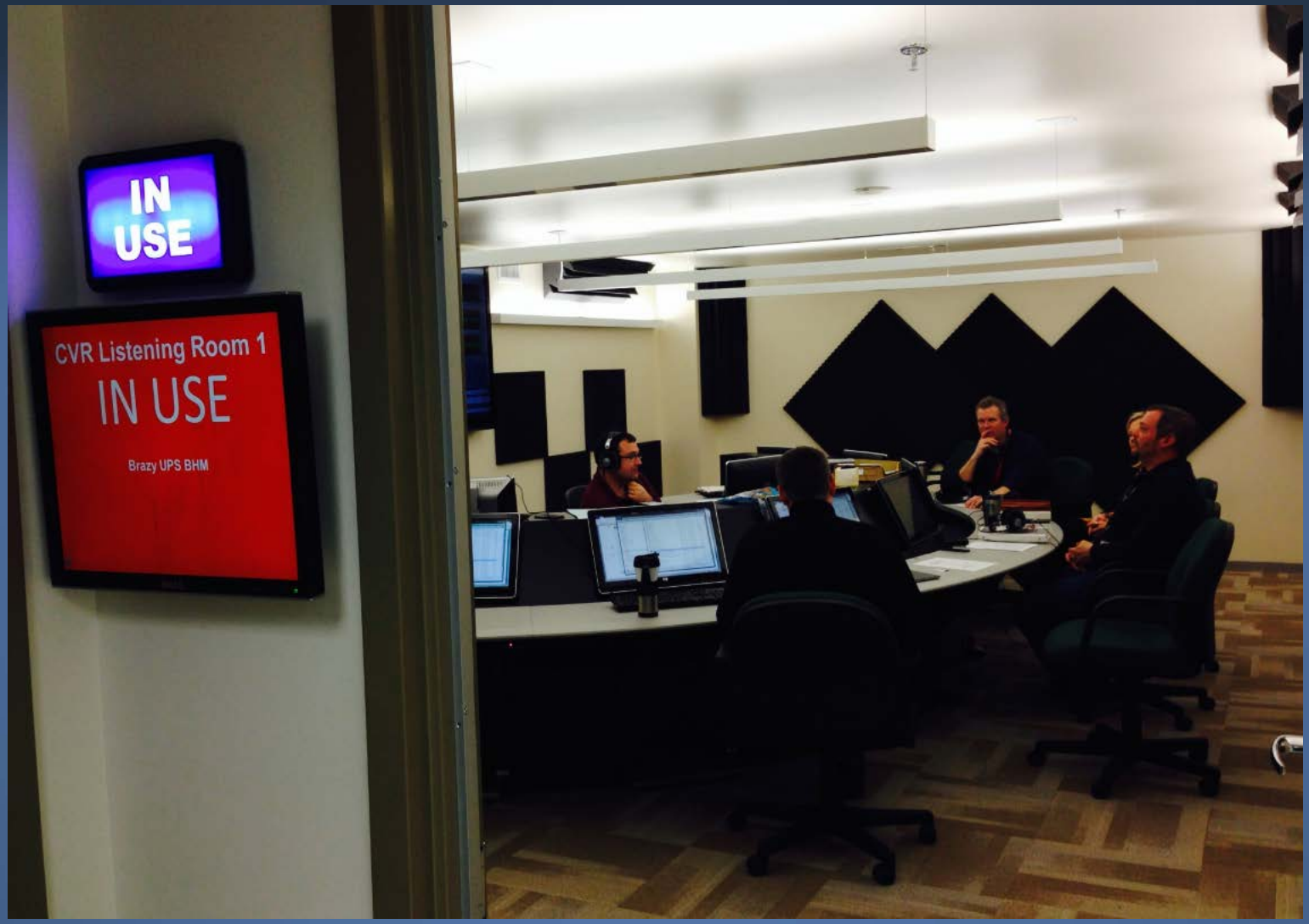
Boots on the Ground

NTSB

The Hunt for …

The “Black Boxes”

IN USE
NTSB
NTSB
NTSB


IN USE
CVR Listening Room 1
IN USE
Brazy UPS BHM

Media Briefings

Meeting with Elected Officials

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Anatomy of an accident investigation

MONTH 3 - 4

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Investigative Hearing

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Anatomy of an accident investigation

MONTH 12

Sunshine Meeting

Two Predominate Themes

- Failure of Leadership
- Complacency

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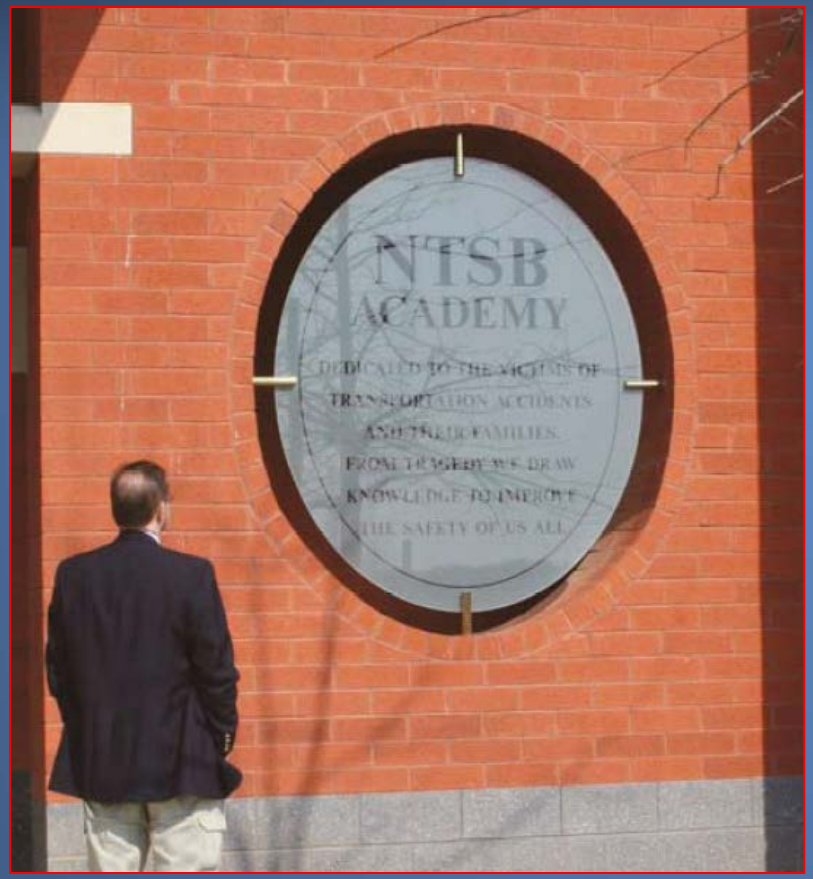
From Complacency to Catastrophe

- Crew engaged in almost continuous conversation throughout flight
  - Conversation mostly extraneous to flight operations
- Conversation preempted timely performance of flight-related duties
  - Approach briefing, descent checklist, approach checklist



"From tragedy we draw knowledge to improve the safety of us all."

National Transportation Safety Board