**Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC)**

**Rotorcraft Issues**

**Meeting Minutes**

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| **Date:** | February 24, 2008 |
| **Time:** | 5:00 p.m. CST |
| **Location:** | George R. Brown Convention Center<br>West Building (Room W221C)<br>Houston, Texas |

The Assistant Chair, Mr. John Swihart, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. All attendees introduced themselves and respectively signed the attendance sheet (**Attachment 1**). Mr. Scott Horn, the Assistant Executive Director then read the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) statement, which detailed the conduct of the meeting.

Mr. Swihart referenced this meeting's agenda (**Attachment 2**), which had been published in the Federal Register on January 25, 2008, and then gave an overview of the meeting's objectives.

Working group presentations and status reports were conducted as described below:

**Working Group Status Report**

**Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structure**

Mr. Swihart gave a brief review of the history of the proposed regulatory package concerning Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structure which had been discussed at the Rotorcraft Issues Group meeting in March of 2007. He stated that it related to a tasking record that was issued on February 28, 2000, which asked for a look into the possibility of rules changes to include revisions to Advisory Circular (AC) material.

He further stated that in 2007 the working group had completed the assigned tasking, except for the finalization of the associated AC material, which at the time was still awaiting a preliminary legal review. Mr. Swihart recounted for everyone that the RIG had agreed upon and voted for acceptance of that regulatory package but was waiting on the completion of the stated legal review, so the entire package could then be submitted to the FAA. Mr. Swihart stated that the AC material was now completed and that he would propose that the RIG vote on the acceptance of that material during this meeting.

Mr. Swihart then asked Ms. Sharon Miles (FAA) to briefly discuss the status of this AC package. Ms. Miles shared that the tasking statement that ARAC received from the FAA in 2000 had asked for a review of the proposed changes to part 27 and part 29 and the respective advisory circular (AC) materials. Mr. Swihart stated that the tasking had also asked ARAC for a review of

AC 20-107A (Composite Aircraft Structures), and he inquired of Ms. Miles as to the status of that AC. Ms. Miles confirmed to Mr. Swihart that AC 20-107A was presently being worked as a separate effort by an active FAA working group. Ms. Miles also stated that the working group (for AC 20-107A ) was aware of the specific activities of the RIG relative to the regulatory and advisory materials for Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structure. Mr. Swihart asked Mr. Bob Wardlaw (Bell Helicopter) if he wished to add anything else to Ms. Miles' discussion, to which Mr. Wardlaw responded that he did not.

Mr. Swihart then stated that the AC material to be voted on during this RIG meeting would relate directly to the proposed regulatory material (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) and would not add to, or take away anything from that material. He then asked Mr. Wardlaw if he concurred with that assessment, and Mr. Wardlaw responded that he did.

Mr. Swihart stated that copies of the regulatory and advisory materials had already been provided to ARAC RIG members in advance of this meeting. He then asked if anyone else attending this meeting had any questions or comments relative to a vote on the material. There were no questions or comments from anyone in attendance (there were no participants by teleconference). Mr. Swihart said that after a vote, the regulatory material along with the completed AC material would be submitted to the FAA for rulemaking. He further informed all that in the course of the rulemaking process, there would be ample opportunity for the public to review and comment on the proposed rulemaking and AC materials during the appropriate public comment period.

Mr. Swihart then asked the committee if anyone within the voting membership had any objections to voting on the advisory material and then submitting the complete regulatory material and advisory package to the FAA. There were no dissenting opinions.

Mr. Swihart then signed the cover letter to the package, thereby releasing the complete regulatory and advisory material package as ARAC's recommendation to the FAA for Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structure. The package was given to Mr. Nic Davidson (FAA) to be hand carried to the FAA Office of Rulemaking for processing.

In responding to a member of the RIG as to the future status of the package, Mr. Davidson responded that a letter would be drafted to the Assistant Chair for the RIG on behalf of the FAA, to acknowledge receipt of the ARAC recommendation. He further stated that once signed, that acknowledgement letter would be available on the ARAC Website. Mr. Davidson also stated that any rulemaking activities that result from the ARAC recommendation would be made available for public review.

## FAA Status Reports

### Performance and Handling Qualities Requirements Final Rule

Mr. Swihart stated that he understood the Performance and Handling Qualities Requirements for Rotorcraft final rule had been signed by the Acting Administrator. He added that it was expected that the Acting Administrator was going to speak at a Heli-Expo forum the day following this RIG meeting, and that more information regarding that rulemaking was to be released.

### Fatigue Tolerance Evaluation of Metallic Structures proposed NPRM and AC package

Mr. Swihart then asked Ms. Sharon Miles (FAA) to provide the FAA status report on Fatigue Tolerance Evaluation of Metallic Structures and its associated AC package. Ms. Miles stated that this rulemaking package was undergoing internal coordination within the FAA and was presently in the Preliminary Team Concurrence phase.

In response to a question regarding how long the rulemaking process for this rule would take, Mr. Davidson stated that it was difficult to predict how long that process would take. He added that due to the required processes, the NPRM draft phase of this rulemaking could take anywhere from six months to much longer.

## Other Business

Mr. Swihart shared that during the last Executive Committee meeting in December 2007, there was a discussion involving a part 147 tasking for Aviation Maintenance Technician Schools and Curriculums, and that there was an active working group for that tasking. He further stated that anyone desiring further information about that subject could refer to the Executive Committee minutes from December 5, 2007 meeting, which are now available on the ARAC web site.

## Future Meetings

Mr. Swihart stated that the submittal of the "Composites" regulatory and advisory material package to the FAA marked the completion of all tasks assigned to the RIG, and that there would not be another meeting. Mr. Swihart further stated that in accordance with new Executive Committee (EXCOM) procedures, he expected that the ARAC RIG would now be placed in an inactive status. This inactive status, he stated, would mean that any tasks that may arise in the future would be handled through the EXCOM. Mr. Swihart said that one person from the RIG would remain on the Executive Committee and that person would be, theAssistant Chair for the RIG.

Mr. Swihart also stated that this was his last meeting as Assistant Chair of the RIG, and that Mr. Dave York (Helicopter Association International) would be his recommended replacement for that position. Mr. Swihart was commended for his work during his 12 year tenure as Assistant Chair for the Rotorcraft Issues Group, and was presented a letter of appreciation, signed by the

Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

**Attendance:**

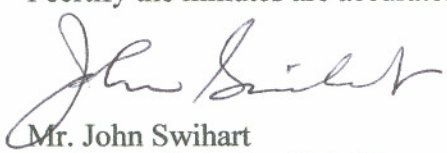
Eleven people including committee members, alternates, and government employees, attended the February 24, 2008 Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee meeting on Rotorcraft Issues.

**Public Notification**

The Federal Register published an announcement of the meeting on January 25, 2008 (73 FR 4667).

**Approval**

I certify the minutes are accurate.



Mr. John Swihart
Assistant Chair for ARAC Rotorcraft Issues

Issued: MAY - 2 2008

Attachments

**AVIATION RULEMAKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

***ROTORCRAFT ISSUES GROUP***
***Sign-In Sheet***

***February 6, 2008****

*This is a reconstructed roster, the original has been misplaced.

| *NAME* | *MEMBER* | *NONMEMBER* | *ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION* | *E-Mail Address* | *Telephone No.* | *Fax No.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| John Swihart | | | Assistant Chair | | | |
| David York | | | Helicopter Association Intnl. (HAI) | | | |
| W. Barbini | | | | | | |
| Griffen Marr | | | | | | |
| Paul Trese | | | | | | |
| Scott Horn | | | FAA | | | |
| Sharon Miles | | | FAA | | | |
| David Downey | | | FAA | | | |
| Nic Davidson | | | FAA | | | |
| Larry Kelley | | | FAA | | | |
| Jeff Trang | | | FAA | | | |

# AGENDA

**ARAC RIG Meeting**
**George R. Brown Convention Center**
Houston, TX
**February 24, 2008, 5:00PM, CST**

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| **Call to Order** | **Mr. John Swihart** |
| **Self Introduction** | **All Present** |
| **Administrative Guidance** | **Mr. Scott Horn** |
| **Working Group Status Reports:** | |
| **Discussion and Approval of Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structure (proposed advisory circular material package)** | **Mrs. Sharon Miles** |
| **FAA Status Report:** | |
| **Performance and Handling Qualities Requirements Final Rule** | |
| **Fatigue Tolerance Evaluation of Metallic Structures proposed NPRM and AC package** | **Mrs. Sharon Miles** |
| **Other Business** | **Mr. John Swihart** |
| **Future Meetings** | **Mr. John Swihart** |
| **Adjourn** | **Mr. John Swihart** |

**Minutes of this meeting will be available on the FAA web site at:**
**http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/rulemaking/committees/arac/**