

1997-2020 Update to *FAA Historical Chronology: Civil Aviation and the Federal Government, 1926-1996* (Washington, DC: Federal Aviation Administration, 1998)

1997

January 2, 1997: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued an airworthiness directive requiring operators to adopt procedures enabling the flight crew to reestablish control of a Boeing 737 experiencing an uncommanded yaw or roll – the phenomenon believed to have brought down USAir Flight 427 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1994. Pilots were told to lower the nose of their aircraft, maximize power, and not attempt to maintain assigned altitudes. (See August 22, 1996; January 15, 1997.)

January 6, 1997: Illinois Governor Jim Edgar and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley announced a compromise under which the city would reopen Meigs Field and operate the airport for five years. After that, Chicago would be free to close the airport. (See September 30, 1996.)

January 6, 1997: FAA announced the appointment of William Albee as aircraft noise ombudsman, a new position mandated by the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-264). (See September 30, 1996; October 28, 1998.)

January 7, 1997: Dredging resumed in the search for clues in the TWA Flight 800 crash. The operation had been suspended in mid-December 1996. (See July 17, 1996; May 4, 1997.)

January 9, 1997: A Comair Embraer 120 stalled in snowy weather and crashed 18 miles short of Detroit [Michigan] Metropolitan Airport, killing all 29 aboard. (See May 12, 1997; August 27, 1998.)

January 14, 1997: In a conference sponsored by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security and held in Washington, DC, at George Washington University, airline executives called upon the Clinton Administration to privatize key functions of FAA and to install a nonprofit, airline-organized cooperative that would manage security issues. Participants recommended funding these changes with user fees instead of the, then-current, ticket tax. (See July 17, 1996; February 12, 1997.)

January 15, 1997: FAA issued a fact sheet announcing plans for a two-year evaluation, beginning in 1999, of new air traffic management concepts and technologies for application in Alaska and Hawaii. The goal of the Ha-laska free flight demonstration project was to show that existing technologies could support the "free flight" concept. (See April 16, 1998.)

January 15, 1997: As part of the continuing review stemming from the accidents near Colorado Springs (1991) and Pittsburgh (1994), Vice President Al Gore announced FAA would require operators to retrofit existing Boeing 737 rudder control systems with four newly developed components. (See January 2, 1997; March 14, 1997.)

January 15, 1997: FAA praised the Department of Defense (DOD) for making its global digital terrain elevation database available for civil aviation use, stating that the action would help prevent a danger known as controlled flight into terrain. (See March 29, 1996.)

January 16, 1997: FAA announced that the new display channel complex rehost (DCCR) computer system had begun operations, ten months ahead of schedule, at the Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC). (See April 1, 1996.)

January 21, 1997: FAA issued an airworthiness directive requiring operators to re-inspect and repair wiring leading to fuel tank booster pumps numbers 1 and 4 in the inboard main fuel tanks of 747 airplanes produced prior to 1980. The inspections had to be completed by May 20, 1997. (See November 26, 1997.)

January 29, 1997: FAA selected Raytheon to build the integrated terminal weather system (ITWS) and to install and maintain it at 34 sites covering 45 airports. ITWS would combine sensor and radar data from FAA and National Weather Service and present predictions on potentially hazardous weather to air traffic control personnel via easily-understood graphics and text. (See May 23, 1994.)

January 29, 1997: FAA announced steps to provide aviation safety data to the public: beginning February 1, it would issue press releases on all new enforcement actions that sought civil penalties of \$50,000 or greater; effective, February 28, it would create an Internet page providing safety information, including some data previously available only through Freedom of Information Act requests, to consumers; and by March 31, it would add a public education portion to the Internet page to help travelers better understand the aviation safety record and safety systems.

January 29, 1997: A federal judge in Colorado selected the auditorium at FAA's Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center to host the families of victims of the Oklahoma City federal building bombing who wanted to watch a close-circuit broadcast of the criminal trials.

February 1, 1997: Barry L. Valentine followed Linda Hall Daschle as acting FAA administrator, effective at midnight. Monte Belger continued as acting deputy administrator. (See November 9, 1996; December 19, 1997; August 4, 1999.)

February 5, 1997: A series of incidents and developments began involving U.S. Air Force (USAF) and U.S. commercial aircraft. Two USAF F-16 fighter jets reportedly were involved that day in a near midair collision with a Nation's Air Express 727 off the New Jersey coast. *February 7*, an American Eagle pilot reported that four Air Force jet fighters came close to his aircraft off the coast of Maryland; the Air Force temporarily halted all

training operations off the East Coast as a precaution; FAA asked controllers at three air route traffic control centers and the military controllers at the Virginia Capes station to review procedures regarding the military areas off the East Coast. *February 10*, two more, relatively minor, incidents became known and the USAF widened the suspension to include the Gulf of Mexico. *February 11*, the training resumed after the USAF informed pilots on the dangers of close encounters with airliners. *February 19*, the media reported that the USAF had concluded that although the pilot in the Nations Air incident had broken no rules, in the future, its pilots would query controllers before intercepting unknown aircraft detected in flight. *February 26*, the Navy stated that a military controller's failure to follow proper procedures had caused the Nations Air incident.

February 6, 1997: Invision Technologies announced installation of the first two CTX 5000 SP explosives detection systems at Chicago O'Hare and New York Kennedy airports. (See December 23, 1996; February 12, 1997; May 6, 1997.)

February 12, 1997: In compliance with Executive Order 13015, the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security (Gore Commission) released its final report to President Clinton. Its recommendations included: reducing the aviation fatal accident rate by a factor of five within ten years, requiring installation of enhanced Ground Proximity Warning Systems on all civil and military passenger aircraft (see November 6, 1996), expanding the aging aircraft program to cover non-structural systems, passing legislation to protect employees who report safety/security violations, ending the exemption of passengers younger than age two from restraint systems, and requiring smoke detectors in the cargo holds of all passenger aircraft. Air traffic control recommendations included: national airspace system (NAS) modernization by 2005, stronger leadership in global positioning system (GPS) implementation, requiring NAS users to fund its development and operation, and identifying the frequency spectrum needed for air traffic control. Security recommendations included: federal funding for a major security improvement, new FAA standards for baggage matching and passenger profile screening, U.S. Post Office examination of all packages over one pound, and a U.S. proposal for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to begin verifying international security compliance. The commission also recommended measures designed to improve response to aviation disasters. Responding to the Gore Commission report, FAA and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced a joint initiative, in partnership with DOD and industry, to reduce aircraft accident rates five-fold within ten years. (See January 14, 1997; January 15, 1997; February 6, 1997; December 15, 1997.)

February 15, 1997: President Clinton used his powers under the Railway Labor Act to stop a strike by American Airlines pilots a few minutes after it began. An emergency board was established to try to find an acceptable compromise during a 60-day cooling-off period. *March 19*, American and the Allied Pilots Association stated they had reached a tentative agreement on a new contract. *April 4*, the union's board voted in favor of the contract, which included higher pay than previously offered. *May 5*, union members voted to approve the new five-year contract.

February 17, 1997: Rodney E. Slater became Secretary of Transportation. Outgoing Secretary Federico Peña had been nominated to be Secretary of Energy, but his appointment had not yet been confirmed. (See December 20, 1996.)

February 18, 1997: The Jacksonville ARTCC became the last of 21 centers to implement the voice switching and control system (VSCS). *May 21*, FAA formally dedicated the VSCS. (See June 30, 1995; August 27, 2012.)

February 19, 1997: FAA and National Weather service launched an experimental aviation digital data service, via the Internet, to provide weather information to the aviation community.

February 21, 1997: FAA and Interior Department announced a delay in implementing aspects of a rule, announced on December 31, 1996, on flights over the Grand Canyon. Most of the rule's provisions would be implemented as planned on May 1, 1997; however, a restructuring of the park airspace and air routes would not be implemented until January 1998. (See May 12, 1997.)

February 27, 1997: Department of Transportation and DOD announced an agreement to provide a second frequency for its GPS, and guarantee uninterrupted availability of the L2 frequency for civil users in the interim. The development of a second frequency was consistent with a recommendation by the Gore Commission. (See March 29, 1996; March 30, 1998.)

February 28, 1997: President Clinton signed legislation reinstating certain aviation taxes from March 6 through September 30. Included were the 10 percent airline ticket tax, 6.25 percent domestic air freight tax, an international departure tax of \$6 per ticket, and excise charges on non-commercial aviation fuel. The law also gave the Treasury Department authority to transfer aviation tax revenue to the Aviation Trust Fund.

February 28, 1997: FAA released an independent 90-day assessment, as mandated by the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-264), to assess the scope of its financial needs through 2002. The assessment, performed by the Coopers & Lybrand consulting firm, concluded FAA had no system to account for its costs, and that FAA managers generally could not manage money properly. This assessment was similar to other studies that concluded that FAA needed to institute a fundamental change in the way it made decisions, and that those who funded the agency, as well as those who used its services, had to afford it greater flexibility in how it did business. In response, FAA stated that the report showed the need for reform to bridge the gap, over the next six years, between its projected responsibilities and its anticipated resources. (See September 30, 1996.)

March 5, 1997: Department of Transportation Secretary Slater announced U.S. airlines had recorded a third straight year of strong growth. The announcement followed release of FAA's annual commercial aviation forecast.

March 13, 1997: FAA announced that it had installed two new systems, the telecommunications processor and the interim situation display, at the New York and Oakland ARTCC. These installations would benefit flights over the Pacific and Caribbean.

March 14, 1997: FAA formally accepted, ahead of schedule, the display system replacement (DSR) system. (See April 27, 1995; January 20, 1999.)

March 14, 1997: FAA published two proposed airworthiness directives requiring retrofit of Boeing 737 rudder components. (See January 15, 1997; January 13, 1999.)

March 19, 1997: FAA published a rulemaking proposal to update and clarify regulations regarding the licensing of commercial space launches. (See November 15, 1995; May 22, 1997.)

March 20, 1997: FAA published an interim final rule establishing fees, effective May 19, 1997, for providing air traffic and related services to aircraft that overfly the United States but do not land or takeoff from U.S. territory. (See May 19, 1997.)

March 21, 1997: FAA announced that, with 33 of 39 commuter air carriers now in compliance, the aviation industry had successfully implemented the commuter rule. Adopted by the government in December 1995, the rule required airlines operating aircraft with 10 to 30 seats to meet the same, or equivalent, safety standards as the major airlines. (See December 14, 1995.)

March 27, 1997: Although a section of a wing flap fell off of Delta Boeing 767 near Dallas, the plane landed with no passenger or crew injuries. *April 2*, FAA ordered inspections of flaps for all 767s with at least 25,000 hours or 10,000 flights.

March 27, 1997: FAA initiated phase 1 of reduced vertical separation minima (RVSM) procedures in the North Atlantic. Reducing separation from 2,000 to 1,000 had major implications for capacity and fuel efficiency in oceanic operations. This was the first reduction of separation over the Atlantic in 40 years. (See April 9, 1997.)

April 1, 1997: A groundbreaking ceremony for the world's first full-scale airport pavement test facility took place at FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center. FAA and Boeing partnered to build the facility. (See May 20, 1996; April 12, 1999.)

April 3, 1997: Unofficial reports began circulating that the Clinton Administration would nominate Acting Highway Administrator Jane Garvey for the post of FAA administrator and George Donohue, currently FAA associate administrator for research and acquisitions, as her deputy. (See June 11, 1997.)

April 5, 1997: The new Washington National Airport air traffic control tower began operating. Rising 201 feet, the state-of-the-art facility was 114 feet taller than the tower

that had been in use since the airport's opening in 1941. Transportation Secretary Slater dedicated the new tower on May 12, 1997.

April 7, 1997: In response to North Korea's opening of its airspace to routine international flights, the U.S. government lifted its prohibition on paying overflight fees to North Korea. *April 24*, FAA cited such factors as North Korea's military rules of engagement as justification, however, for publishing a special federal aviation regulation (SFAR) prohibiting certain U.S. flights in the area.

April 9, 1997: FAA established requirements affecting the operations of U.S.-registered aircraft in designated RVSM airspace. This designation referred to airspace between flight level (FL) 290 and FL 410 – in which a minimum of 1,000 feet separation, rather than the 2,000-foot minimum separation generally required above FL 290, had to be maintained between aircraft. These regulations required operators and their aircraft to be properly qualified and equipped – as well as to obtain approvals certifying these conditions – to conduct flight operations while separated by 1,000 feet. RVSM was to be applied only in designated areas, and the first such area was to include certain flight levels in the North Atlantic minimum navigation performance specifications airspace. (See March 27, 1997; February 24, 2000.)

April 15, 1997: The tail of a German-made BK-117 helicopter reportedly broke off in flight, causing the aircraft to crash into New York's East river, killing one occupant and injuring two. *April 25*, FAA issued an airworthiness directive requiring operators of certain models of helicopters manufactured by Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH to inspect the tail booms for cracks before the craft would be permitted to fly. *April 26*, FAA grounded all 132 of the BK-117s in the United States pending checks for cracks in certain key components.

April 22, 1997: FAA published a proposal to accept applications, beginning December 1, for participation in an airport privatization pilot program established by the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-264). (See April 24, 2017.)

April 23, 1997: FAA issued an airworthiness directive requiring visual inspections to detect stress and replace any faulty ball bearings in GE90 engines on five Boeing 777s. The directive followed ball bearing failures on two British 777s.

April 24, 1997: FAA unveiled its inflight aircraft icing plan, based on recommendations from international experts. The plan was the final phase of a three-phased program that FAA had announced in 1994. (See October 31, 1994.)

April 28, 1997: FAA selected Hughes Information Technology Systems, a unit of Hughes Aircraft Company, as its integration-services contractor to support the national airspace system infrastructure management system (NIMS) program. The contract was estimated to be worth \$100 million over seven years. (See June 15, 1998.)

May 2, 1997: FAA announced the \$12.2 million purchase of additional trace detection security equipment for use at the nation's busiest airports. (See February 12, 1997; September 25, 1998.)

May 4, 1997: FBI Director Louis Freeh announced the evidence in the TWA Flight 800 crash pointed to mechanical failure and emphasized the need to bring the investigation to a close. (See January 7, 1997; December 8, 1997.)

May 6, 1997: Airlines began a two-week test of matching bags with passengers at selected airports nationwide. (See February 6, 1997; February 12, 1997; May 17, 1997.)

May 12, 1997: FAA announced its selection of the FAA/NASA Joint University Program for Air Transportation to receive the first Excellence in Aviation Research award.

May 12, 1997: FAA proposed an airworthiness directive requiring ice detector systems on Embraer 120 aircraft. (See January 9, 1997.)

May 12, 1997: FAA proposed converting two flight-free zones over the Grand Canyon into new flight corridors. The agency stated that one of these was to be an "incentive corridor" for quieter aircraft, and the other was intended to address Native American concerns by preventing overflights of their cultural properties and sacred sites. (See February 21, 1997; May 19, 1997.)

May 14, 1997: FAA awarded a contract worth up to \$250 million for computer support services to the Department of Agriculture's National Information Technology Center. The center would establish the integrated computing environment - mainframe and networking (ICE-MAN) system, a follow-on to the computer resource nucleus contract. *May 20*, due to questions raised by industry about this controversial government-to-government award, the FAA associate administrator for research and acquisitions suspended work on the ICE-MAN contract. FAA's ICE-MAN acquisition team and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) officials reviewed the original contract, and determined that the program met OMB's A-76 guidelines. *June 10*, FAA lifted the suspension of the contract and formally announced resumption on June 20, 1997. Agriculture delayed resumption of work until the deadline for appeals had passed.

May 14, 1997: FAA issued an airworthiness directive requiring operators to check an engine fire switch override button on Boeing 777s.

May 14, 1997: The Air Transport Association stated that its members would begin a program to install fire suppression systems in cargo holds of passenger planes. The first of these could be installed by the last quarter of 1997. The program would take five years to complete. (See November 14, 1996; June 10, 1997.)

May 17, 1997: As part of the aircraft hardening program, FAA and British aviation authorities set off four simultaneous explosions in the cargo hold of an old Boeing 747 at Leicester, England. (See May 6, 1997; May 4, 1998.)

May 19, 1997: Under an interim final rule, FAA began collecting fees for overflight services, as scheduled – having, on the previous Friday, turned down requests from the International Air Transportation Association and the Air Transportation Association of Canada for a 90-day delay. A U.S. Court of Appeals decision in January 1998 determined FAA's calculation of fees was inconsistent with the statute and prohibited the collection of the fees. (See March 20, 1997; June 5, 2000.)

May 19, 1997: Department of Transportation and Interior Department established a National Park Overflights Working Group to develop a plan to ensure preservation of natural quiet in the parks. The group would exist for 100 days after the date of its initial meeting, scheduled for May 20-21, 1997. Its membership included representatives of the aviation industry, parks, and conservation groups. (See May 12, 1997.)

May 21, 1997: To allow commercial airlines to benefit from technological improvements, FAA published a rule permitting commercial aircraft pilots to activate their autopilot at less than 500 feet above ground level during takeoff and climb. Such actions, however, would have to be authorized by the FAA administrator and would have to be performed as required in the carrier's operating specifications.

May 22, 1997: FAA issued its second privately-operated spaceport license to Spaceport Florida for the Cape Canaveral Spaceport. (See March 19, 1997; December 19, 1997.)

May 28, 1997: The National Civil Aviation Review Commission, lead by Norman Mineta, held the first of two public hearings regarding the financing of certain FAA services. Seventeen organizations testified. *September 25*, the commission made its "Preliminary Finance Report" available to the public. *October 28*, a second, and final, public hearing was held. *December 11*, Mineta issued the commission's final report, "Avoiding Aviation Gridlock and Reducing the Accident Rate: A Consensus for Change," which noted airline passengers were doomed to massive airport congestion and more dangerous skies unless FAA received a radical overhaul. The 21-member panel called on lawmakers and the White House to improve FAA management and finances. It urged a partial privatization of the agency and steps to shield aviation regulation from partisan budget battles. The proposed reforms would allow FAA to beef up funding for the air traffic control system and airports to accommodate a rise in air traffic. (See September 30, 1996.)

May 28, 1997: FAA sent a letter to Raytheon indicating its concern about delays in the Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS) project. FAA proposed to elevate STARS software development to high risk status because of delays in meeting project milestones. (See September 16, 1996; September 11, 1997.)

May 30, 1997: FAA grounded the MD-900 Explorer helicopter until further notice following the discovery of a broken adjustable collective drive link during a McDonnell-Douglas post-flight inspection on May 8.

May 30, 1997: FAA selected the firm of Booz-Allen & Hamilton to perform a congressionally-mandated review of the agency's new acquisition system. (See April 1, 1996.)

June 10, 1997: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that would require the installation of fire detection and suppression systems in the sealed cargo holds of all commercial aircraft. The airline industry would have three years from the time the rule became final to meet the new standards. According to the agency, the new rule would affect approximately 3,000 passenger aircraft and another 300 cargo planes. Most long-range passenger aircraft, such as the new Boeing 777 jetliners, already met the new standard. (See May 14, 1997; February 12, 1998.)

June 11, 1997: President Clinton announced his intention to nominate Jane Garvey as FAA administrator and George Donohue as her deputy. (See April 3, 1997; July 31, 1997; February 9, 1998.)

July 1, 1997: The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), reporting on a commuter plane collision in which most passengers survived the impact but died in a subsequent fire, recommended that FAA find ways to fund fire and rescue protection at small airports served by small planes. NTSB said the collision of a United Express Beechcraft 1900 with a private twin-engine Beechcraft King Air at Quincy, Illinois, on November 19 took place because the pilots of the King Air failed to monitor properly a common radio frequency on which the United Express pilot repeatedly reported her position and intention to land. Although finding the King Air crew primarily responsible, NTSB presented a list of other safety issues, including a radio transmission by a novice pilot that probably confused the United Express crew, the inability of surviving passengers to open jammed emergency exits, and a lack of fire and rescue capability at the airport.

July 3, 1997: The Federal Trade Commission decided not to block the merger between the Boeing Company and McDonnell Douglas Corporation. The newly strengthened Boeing would control two-thirds of the world's airplane market. *August 1*, the two companies formally merged. (See December 15, 1996.)

July 19, 1997: A Cessna 172 and Beech Bonanza mid-air collision near Chicago's Meigs field killed all seven onboard the two aircraft. The accident resulted in a safety review of FAA's contract tower program.

July 31, 1997: The U.S. Senate confirmed Jane Garvey as FAA administrator. *August 4*, Garvey was sworn in as the 14th FAA administrator, the first to be appointed to a five-year term. (See June 11, 1997.)

August 6, 1997: A South Korean Boeing 747 jetliner crashed in rugged jungle terrain while attempting to make an early-morning landing on the South Pacific island of Guam, killing more than 200 people. At least 35 of those aboard survived the fiery crash. The

crash occurred as Korean Air Flight 801 approached Won Pat International Airport in darkness and heavy rain with 254 passengers and crew aboard.

August 7, 1997: FineAir Flight 101, a DC-8, crashed on takeoff from Miami after improperly secured cargo slid. The excess weight in the rear portion of the aircraft caused a severe aft center of gravity condition, rendering the crew unable to lower the aircraft's nose. The airplane stalled, crashed into a field, and slid across busy 72nd Avenue into a strip-mall parking lot.

August 14, 1997: The Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis dismissed a standing protest by Wilcox Electric against FAA for having awarded the then-\$500 million wide area augmentation system (WAAS) contract to Hughes Aircraft. FAA had terminated the Wilcox contract on April 26, 1996, claiming Wilcox, the original prime contractor, had failed to live up to provisions of the contract. FAA subsequently awarded Hughes Aircraft a sole-source award for WAAS development. (See March 29, 1996; September 23, 1997.)

August 18, 1997: A final rule requiring that digital flight data recorders (black box) collect more information went into effect. The number of specific areas of flight information, called data parameters, increased to 88 for newly manufactured aircraft and increased from 11 to 17 or 18 for older aircraft. (See July 16, 1996; May 3, 1999.)

August 19, 1997: NTSB ruled that all parties, including FAA, executive boardrooms, and the "shop room floor," shared some culpability for the crash of ValuJet Flight 592. The aircraft probably would not have crashed into the Florida Everglades on May 11, 1996, if FAA had followed a decade-old recommendation to require fire detection and suppression systems in aircraft cargo holds. NTSB also listed as "probable causes" the failure of the maintenance contractor SabreTech to properly "prepare, package, identify and track" hazardous oxygen generators improperly placed in the cargo hold, and ValuJet's failure to oversee SabreTech. In addition, NTSB said FAA's failure to adequately monitor ValuJet's maintenance program and its maintenance contractors, the failure to respond adequately to prior oxygen generator fires, and the airline's failure to train its employees about handling hazardous material also contributed to the causes of the tragedy. (See May 11, 1996.)

August 25, 1997: FAA awarded Harris Corporation a contract to replace the current system by which flight service stations provide crucial information such as emergency assistance and weather briefings to pilots. Under the operational and supportability implementation system (OASIS) program contract – valued at more than \$110 million, including options – Harris would provide flight planning and weather information to general aviation pilots nationwide. FAA planned to modernize up to 61 flight service stations over the next ten years. (See July 1, 2002.)

September 11, 1997: Representative Connie Morella, chair of the House Science Subcommittee on Technology, met with the administrator to discuss installing the STARS in the Washington National Airport terminal radar control (TRACON) facility.

FAA committed to making a decision in four to six weeks on whether it would be possible to deploy an interim solution at a select few major terminal facilities, like Washington National Airport, that would provide STARS hardware operating in tandem with existing software. This would provide controllers an improved operational capability, including color displays, until the STARS software was ready to meet mission requirements. The schedule called for STARS to be ready for initial operation at the airport in September 2000. (See May 28, 1997; October 30, 1997.)

September 22, 1997: Bombardier Aerospace announced FAA had granted final certification of Learjet's Model 45, the world's first business jet designed and manufactured entirely by computer. The aircraft was Learjet's first all-new jet in 30 years and its third aircraft to be certified since the company was acquired by Bombardier Inc., in 1990.

September 23, 1997: FAA sponsored a demonstration flight into Tijuana International Airport showing the benefits of the WAAS. The agency called this the first big step toward establishing a seamless air navigation system across North America. (See August 14, 1997; October 1, 1997.)

September 23, 1997: FAA announced the selection of a team of universities to serve as the FAA Center of Excellence for Airworthiness Assurance. (See October 1992; January 28, 2004.)

October 1, 1997: Testifying before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Aviation, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Department of Transportation Inspector General Kenneth Mead criticized FAA management of the WAAS program. He stated, "We found that FAA did not use a consistent method for cost estimating. An April 1994 cost benefit analysis for WAAS reflected an estimated total life-cycle cost through the year 2014 at \$1.4 billion. Program documentation in July 1997, reflects an estimate of total life-cycle costs for WAAS, through the year 2016, at over \$2.4 billion. Our analysis of this showed that FAA has been slow to fully recognize all life-cycle costs of systems . . . In our opinion, FAA's efforts to include life-cycle cost estimates for all satellite related systems and supporting activities will establish an understanding of the financial requirements and greatly facilitate decision making. Once established, these projected life-cycle costs should be integrated into FAA's plan to ensure effective transition to the new technologies." (See September 23, 1997; October 20-22, 1997.)

October 1, 1997: FAA implemented a new cost accounting system, with research and acquisitions personnel at Washington, DC, headquarters serving as a pilot for the system. The labor distribution module of the system was a key component of the effort.

October 6, 1997: FAA commissioned the first precision runway monitor at Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. The system allowed simultaneous independent instrument landing system (ILS) approaches to parallel runways spaced less than 4,300 feet apart.

October 14, 1997: John Denver, a licensed pilot who had a home near Monterey, California, was killed when his fiberglass plane crashed about 100 yards offshore shortly after having taken off at Monterey Airport.

October 20-22, 1997: FAA and Italy's Ente Nazionale Di Assistenza Al Volo conducted flights at Ciampino Airport near Rome to test the capabilities of the WAAS to function in European airspace. A FAA Boeing 727 used signals from both the U.S. national Satellite Test Bed and Italy's Mediterranean Test Bed to complete the test flights. (See October 1, 1997; October 15, 1998.)

October 22, 1997: FAA began collecting fees, effective this date, for the production of certification-related services pertaining to aeronautical products manufactured or assembled outside the United States.

October 29, 1997: The Task Force on Assistance to Families of Aviation Disasters, co-chaired by Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and NTSB Chairman James Hall, issued 61 recommendations to ensure the families of the victims of aviation disasters received prompt and compassionate assistance.

October 30, 1997: National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) President Michael McNally told the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Aviation, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure that "NATCA has made it very clear to FAA that there are problems with" STARS "that must be rectified before it can be a workable product within the terminal environment." At the urging of Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA), FAA agreed to work with the Inspector General in an attempt to resolve the dispute with NATCA over STARS. Wolf asked FAA to report by December 15 on progress in resolving cost, delay, and human factors issues. (See September 11, 1997; April 26, 1999.)

November 20, 1997: FAA awarded a four-year contract to Lockheed Martin with a potential value of up to \$1 billion, to modernize the air traffic control system. The initial four-year national airspace system implementation support contract (NISC II) contract was worth approximately \$350 million with as many as three two-year extension options. Under the terms of the NISC II contract, Lockheed Martin would supply engineering, planning, automation, environmental analysis, and other services to FAA.

November 26, 1997: FAA proposed two airworthiness directives asking airlines to find and fix potential ignition sources in or near the central fuel tanks of Boeing 747 aircraft. (See January 21, 1997; December 12, 1997.)

November 27, 1997: Department of Transportation Inspector General Kenneth Mead issued a report in which he stated that some FAA inspectors assigned to check airplane maintenance and electrical systems had not been trained. Mead found some employees took no training courses before they joined the agency or after they were hired. And, workers who had been trained may not have taken additional courses to learn about changes in the systems they were inspecting.

December 8, 1997: NTSB began hearings on the crash of TWA Flight 800 in Baltimore, Maryland. (See May 4, 1997.)

December 12, 1997: FAA issued an airworthiness directive (AD) expanding the inspection and replacement of the Teflon wire coating used in the stainless steel wire conduits on Boeing 747 fuel boost pumps and the pumps used in jettisoning fuel. The AD immediately superseded the December 23, 1996, AD requiring inspections and replacements for Boeing 747 airplanes that used aluminum conduits. (See November 26, 1997; December 19, 1997.)

December 15, 1997: FAA and the Air Transport Association announced a new partnership to eliminate controlled flight into terrain. Air Transportation Association member airlines would voluntarily equip 4,300 of their aircraft with advanced terrain awareness warning systems, such as the enhanced ground proximity warning system. Installation of the system was expected to be substantially complete during 2003. (See February 12, 1997; March 29, 2000.)

December 16, 1997: President Clinton signed into law the Foreign Air Carrier Family Support Act requiring foreign carriers to file a plan by June 15, 1998, addressing the needs of families of victims of an aviation disaster in the United States.

December 19, 1997: Top FAA and NTSB officials, often at odds over aviation safety issues, agreed to move forward aggressively with plans to make Boeing 747 fuel tanks safer. The agreement between FAA Administrator Jane Garvey and NTSB Chairman Jim Hall followed board hearings on the crash of Trans World Airlines Flight 800 off the coast of Long Island on July 17, 1996, which killed 230 people. Investigators determined that the plane's center fuel tank exploded and split the plane apart, but did not yet know what sparked the explosion. (See December 12, 1997; April 7, 1998.)

December 19, 1997: Barry Valentine stepped down as acting FAA deputy administrator and retired from the agency. (See February 1, 1997.)

December 19, 1997: FAA issued a launch site operators license to Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority to operate a space launch facility at Wallops Island, Virginia. (See May 22, 1997; February 10-11, 1998.)

December 28, 1997: A powerful blast of air turbulence sent a United Airlines jumbo jet with 393 people aboard into a sudden 1,000-foot drop over the Pacific Ocean, killing one passenger and injuring 110 others. The Boeing 747 (United Flight 826) was about 1,100 miles east of Japan after leaving Tokyo for Honolulu when it encountered the turbulence. December 31, 1997: During Calendar Year 1997 public agencies collected \$1.2 billion in passenger facility charge revenue.

1998

January 8, 1998: FAA ordered immediate visual inspection of the tail sections of 211 late-model Boeing 737s after investigators determined that a crash in Indonesia might have been the result of missing fasteners in the tail. Within the 24 hours prior to issuing this order, the agency had checked horizontal stabilizers on aircraft being built or prepared for delivery at Boeing's Renton, Washington, factory. No major problems were noted, but the inspectors found a loose fastener on one in-service aircraft. All U.S. carriers with 737s manufactured after September 20, 1995, in their fleets were required to inspect the horizontal stabilizer portion of the tail section within 24 hours, or five flight segments, for missing fasteners.

February 6, 1998: President Clinton signed legislation into law renaming Washington National Airport the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

February 9, 1998: George Donohue, FAA associate administrator for research and acquisitions withdrew his nomination to be FAA deputy administrator and informed Department of Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater that he planned to leave the agency. (See June 11, 1997.)

February 10-11, 1998: FAA held its first annual Commercial Space Transportation Forecast Conference. (See December 19, 1997; April 21, 1998.)

February 11, 1998: President Clinton signed into law the FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-155). The bill mandated FAA establish a program to fund undergraduate and technical colleges, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions, to perform research on subjects of relevance to FAA. The legislation also required the agency to assess immediately the extent of the risk to its operations that could be identified up until the year 2000 and to develop contingency plans to reduce or avoid the risk.

February 12, 1998: Department of Transportation issued a rule mandating, beginning the upcoming fall, airlines must collect the full names of all passengers traveling on international flights and be prepared to make a passenger manifest available within three hours of a crash. The rule was one of several Department of Transportation actions issued on the first anniversary of the publication of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security report.

February 12, 1998: FAA issued a final rule requiring fire detection and suppression systems in aircraft cargo compartments. (See June 10, 1997; March 19, 2001.)

March 30, 1998: Vice President Al Gore announced that two new civilian global positioning system (GPS) signals would be provided by the U.S. free of charge. The announcement fulfilled a pledge made by the Department of Defense and Department of

Transportation in March 1997 to reach a decision on a second civil frequency within a year. (See February 27, 1997; June 3, 1998.)

April 7, 1998: Federal aviation investigators probing the explosion of TWA Flight 800 urged inspections of the wiring in fuel monitoring systems of hundreds of Boeing 747s and possibly other Boeing jets. In a letter to FAA Administrator Jane Garvey, National Transportation Safety Board Chairman (NTSB) Jim Hall noted that his organization had found damaged wiring on the "fuel quantity indication systems" of the crashed aircraft and three other 747s. While not directly linking them with the explosion of Flight 800's fuel tank, the letter described the conditions as "potentially hazardous." Also, sources close to the investigation said the letter was not intended to indicate that the board was any closer to determining the cause of the fuel tank's violent explosion. The problems with the 747 fuel systems had been revealed earlier, and had been discussed at hearings on the crash held the previous year in Baltimore. (See December 19, 1997; May 10, 1998.)

April 14, 1998: The Clinton Administration unveiled its Safer Skies initiative, an aviation safety agenda consistent with one announced earlier by the aviation industry. Designed to reduce the commercial aviation accident rate by 80 percent over the next decade, the initiative included mandatory equipment and training to prevent pilots from flying mechanically fit aircraft into the ground or water. It also contained programs to encourage cabin safety. Safer Skies concentrated FAA resources on the most prevalent causes of aircraft accidents and used special teams of technical experts to identify the leading causes of aviation disasters and recommend safety advances.

April 15, 1998: FAA leased the Atlantic City International Airport to the South Jersey Transportation Authority. FAA and the authority signed a 50-year lease and cooperative agreement transferring 2,000 acres of land, including airport runway and taxiway systems.

April 16, 1998: RTCA's Free Flight Steering Committee recommended FAA adopt its proposed free flight program to implement six technologies at selected air route air traffic control centers. The technologies included: traffic management advisory (TMA), passive final approach space tool (pFAST), user request evaluation tool (URET), collaborative decision making (CDM), controller-pilot datalink communications (CPDLC), and surface movement advisor (SMA). (See January 15, 1997; September 30, 1999; February 4, 2000; March 30, 2000.)

April 21, 1998: FAA published a final rule on licensing requirements for the launch of expendable vehicles from federal sites. (See February 10-11, 1998; August 26, 1998.)

May 4, 1998: FAA announced plans to introduce computer-based training for security screening personnel at the nation's busiest airports. The training would be a module in the screener proficiency evaluation and reporting system (SPEARS) being developed by the agency to select, train, evaluate, and monitor the performance of employees who operated the X-ray screening checkpoints. FAA awarded Safe Passage International an \$11 million

contract on this date to install the SPEARS computer-based training workstations and train instructors to use it at up to 60 airports. (See May 17, 1997; August 21, 1998.)

May 10, 1998: FAA ordered all older Boeing 737s temporarily grounded until mechanics inspected high-voltage fuel tank wiring for problems that could cause a fire or explosion. FAA gave airlines seven days to complete the inspections. The action came after United Airlines mechanics found evidence of electrical arcing on wiring removed from a 737. Thomas McSweeney, FAA director of aircraft certification, stated nearly every one of the first 13 aircraft inspected prior to the order exhibited some level of chafing on the insulation that separated the wiring from the metal conduits carrying the wiring through the fuel tank to fuel pumps. *May 14*, FAA expanded the order to include somewhat newer 737 planes and added a set of wires exempted from the original inspection. In some cases, when mechanics performed inspections of newer planes already in the shop for major repairs, they found chafed high-voltage wires. (See April 7, 1998; July 23, 1998.)

May 13, 1998: FAA unveiled a new, data-driven air carrier inspection program called the air transportation oversight system (ATOS) to enable FAA inspectors to spot safety trends and catch problems before they could lead to an incident or accident. (See October 1, 1998.)

May 15, 1998: FAA commissioned the country's 34th terminal doppler weather radar (TDWR) at Newark International Airport. It also commissioned an airport surveillance radar (ASR-9) there. The ASR-9 replaced the ASR-7, providing a clearer picture of weather and aircraft than the older system.

June 2, 1998: The Department of Transportation Inspector General issued a report which stated despite the fact that adverse weather conditions had caused or contributed to nearly 25 percent of aviation accidents in the last decade, FAA had failed to provide leadership in aviation weather programs.

June 3, 1998: Department of Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater announced a contract to Advanced Management Technologies, Inc., to provide expertise in the adaptation of GPS to civil aviation needs. The contract was worth \$27 million over three years, with four one-year options that could bring the full potential contract value up to \$62 million. Under the contract, the company would provide technical engineering and program management support for current and future satellite and satellite augmentation systems for FAA. (See March 30, 1998; January 29, 1999.)

June 5, 1998: FAA ordered the retraining of 10,000 airport tower air traffic controllers nationwide. Two specific incidents and a general increase in controller errors nationwide prompted the action. An April 3 incident had not been revealed earlier to the public, but shortly before the order was released, an Air Canada Airbus A320 jet, taking off from La Guardia, flew directly over a US Airways DC-9 jet as it broke off a landing. The two passenger jets came as close as 20 feet from colliding and the incident was widely reported.

June 5, 1998: Effective on this day, a FAA reorganization (see October 1, 1996; January 2001) took place that:

- Abolished two offices
 - The Office of the Associate Administrator for Administration
 - The Office of Business Information and Consultation
- Established four offices
 - Assistant Administrator for Financial Services/CFO
 - Assistant Administrator for Financial Services/Director of Budget
 - Assistant Administrator for Human Resource Management
 - Assistant Administrator for Region/Center Operations
- Moved two offices
 - Office of Flight Oversight became Flight Standards Service under the Office of the Administrator for Regulation and Certification
 - Moved the Washington Flight Program Office (Hangar Six) became the Aviation Systems Standards Office within the Airway Facilities organization
- Transferred the duties of two offices
 - The duties of the Freedom of Information Act Office were assumed within the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Region/Center Operations
 - The duties of the Headquarters Facilities Management Office were assumed within the Office of Acquisitions under the Associate Administrator for Research and Acquisitions

June 15, 1998: Transportation Secretary Slater and National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) President Michael McNally announced a new labor agreement between FAA and NATCA. *September 9*, NATCA members voted to approve the new contract. *August 28*, FAA and NATCA formally signed the new five-year pact in which a federal labor union negotiated wages, for the first time, with a government agency. (See January 7, 2003.)

June 15, 1998: FAA completed construction of its national airspace system (NAS) infrastructure management system (NIMS) facility located in Reston, Virginia. The facility would be used to evaluate human factors, validate various commercial-off-the-shelf products and interfaces that comprise NIMS, and to develop, verify, and refine initial operational procedures. (See April 28, 1997.)

June 16, 1998: NTSB reported that the probable cause of the crash of Fine Air Flight 101 onto a Miami street was a combination of the actions of an inexperienced crew and the effects of an improperly loaded cargo. Investigators said both the airline and FAA shared responsibility for failing to correct numerous safety problems. NTSB also highlighted the crash to address broader problems in FAA oversight of all airlines, drawing parallels to the 1996 fatal crash, also attributed to hazardous cargo, of a ValuJet DC-9. Several NTSB members suggested FAA should clean house at its flight standards office in Miami, the headquarters for five major all-cargo companies. NTSB's official report on the crash said the Miami office knew of deficiencies in Fine Air's operations, but did not correct them.

June 17, 1998: FAA unveiled a step in its congressionally authorized personnel reform efforts – a test of a new compensation plan for about 1,200 agency employees. The new plan replaced the traditional grade and step base pay method with a structure of pay bands whose value was determined by comparison with similar jobs in government and private industry. The program linked compensation with performance. (See April 1, 1996.)

June 1998: FAA established a formal safety risk management policy in Order 8040.4. The new policy provided for a formal, but flexible, approach for managing safety risks associated with high consequence decisions.

July 23, 1998: FAA proposed new measures to reduce potential ignition sources in Boeing 747 center wing tanks. The proposed airworthiness directive would require operators of Boeing 747 aircraft registered in the U.S. to take the following actions:

- Inspect the center fuel tank to detect damage, disbonding or incorrect installation of wiring and components.
- Test to ensure the electrical bonding of center fuel tank components to the aircraft's structure is within limits, reworking it if necessary.
- On certain 747s, measure the insulation resistance of the fuel quantity indication system (FQIS) to ensure it is within limits. Also on certain aircraft, operators would have to replace FQIS components with new hardware, and replace silver-plated FQIS wires with new nickel-plated wiring.
- In certain airplanes, install a flame arrestor into the inlet line of the scavenge pumps of the center fuel tank.

Under the proposed rule, replacement of the FQIS components and wiring would have to be done within 24 months, or 20 years from the date the plane was built, whichever would be later. All other actions would have to be accomplished within 24 months. The rule required operators to report inspection results to Boeing within ten days. (See May 10, 1998; August 11, 1998.)

July 1998: FAA's new Sexual Harassment Accountability Board began operations. The Board had responsibility for providing timely response to complaints while making senior officials accountable for their workplace environments. (See July 2000.)

August 11, 1998: NTSB urged mandatory inspections of the fuel-pump control shaft on about one-third of all commercial jet aircraft engines – including those in most Boeing 727s and 737s and McDonnell Douglas DC-9s and MD-80s. Several incidents – including one on September 6, 1997, in which a Boeing 737 was destroyed on takeoff from Najran, Saudi Arabia, as well as a Delta Airlines in-flight problem – prompted the letter from NTSB Chairman Jim Hall to FAA Administrator Jane Garvey. In the Saudia incident, the crew noticed a control panel light indicating the right engine's exhaust was dangerously hot. When the pilot tried to throttle back, the engine remained at a high power level, the board said. (See July 23, 1998; September 21, 1998.)

August 21, 1998: Law enforcement and transportation officials in the U.S. capital adopted tighter security measures, and increased patrols at tourist attractions, federal buildings, and in the 95-mile subway system. Military installations across the region also increased security, causing backups at some bases as military police conducted stricter-than-normal identification checks at gates. FAA announced officers and bomb-sniffing dogs would conduct more sweeps at U.S. airports and increase scrutiny of passengers. Security personnel were instructed to use hand-held devices to screen randomly passengers for traces of explosives. The District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Park Police, and the U.S. Capitol Police all increased patrols in key areas of the District and ordered officers to be more aware of their surroundings. The agencies declined to say how many more officers were on patrol. (See May 4, 1998; September 25, 1998.)

August 21, 1998: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that would ban, in certain air carrier operations, the transportation of devices designed to generate oxygen chemically. The ban would include older devices that had been charged and discharged as well as newly manufactured devices that had yet to be charged. (See December 30, 1996.)

August 21, 1998: FAA issued Advisory Circular 150/5220-22, Engineered Materials, which contained standards for the planning, design, and installation of engineered materials arresting systems (EMAS) in runway safety areas. FAA and Engineered Arresting Systems Corp. (ESCO), a division of Zodiac Aerospace, developed EMAS, under a cooperative research and development agreement. EMAS, which consisted of a layer of crushed concrete positioned at the end of runways, slowed and stopped aircraft in runway overruns. John F. Kennedy International Airport installed the first EMAS in 1998. (See May 8, 1999.)

August 26, 1998: FAA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* implementing financial responsibility and insurance coverage requirements for space launch activities it regulated. This action codified practices required under the federal government's commercial space launch licensing procedures. The new regulations required a launch licensee to obtain insurance or otherwise to demonstrate financial responsibility to protect itself, the customer, the U.S. Government, and contractors and subcontractors against claims for third-party losses and federal property damage resulting from the licensed launch activities. The agency would set insurance requirements according to a risk-based determination of the maximum probable loss that might result from the licensed activities. Launch participants, whether from industry or government, were required to enter into reciprocal waivers of claims in which each party agreed to absorb certain losses it might sustain as a result of the licensed activity. In addition, subject to the funds being appropriated, the U.S. Government agreed to pay successful third-party claims in excess of the required insurance, up to \$1.5 billion s adjusted for inflation. The final rule was effective 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register* to allow those subject to the rule to change existing practices covered by it, although the rule did not substantially change those practices previously carried out through license orders. (See April 21, 1998; September 8, 1998.)

August 27, 1998: NTSB attributed the deaths of 29 people killed in a Comair commuter plane crash in a field near Detroit in the winter of 1997 to FAA's failure to heed decades of information about the effect of icing on aircraft performance. NTSB also said that Comair and its pilots contributed to the crash, and the crew must share some responsibility for operating in poor weather conditions at a speed too low to provide a margin of safety. (See January 9, 1997.)

September 2, 1998: A Swissair jumbo jet en route from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York to Geneva with 228 people on board crashed off the southern coast of Nova Scotia late at night while trying to make an emergency landing. Canadian aviation officials said the three-engine McDonnell Douglas MD-11 had been diverted to Halifax International Airport, located about ten miles to the north of the Nova Scotian capital, after its flight crew reported smoke in the cockpit or passenger cabin about two hours after take-off. (See November 12, 1998.)

September 8, 1998: The 100th commercial space launch licensed by the U.S. took off from Vandenberg Air Force Base. (See August 26, 1998; September 24, 1998.)

September 24, 1998: FAA issued a space launch site operator's license to the Alaska Aerospace Development Corp. The license allowed commercial rocket launches on the southern tip of Kodiak Island. Alaska joined California, Florida, and Virginia as states with FAA-licensed state or commercially operated space launch facilities. It was, however, the first spaceport not co-located with a federally operated launch range. FAA earlier issued commercial space launch site licenses for the operation of spaceports on leased property at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California; Cape Canaveral Air Station, Florida; and at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia. (See September 8, 1998; March 15, 1999.)

September 24, 1998: FAA awarded a \$14.2 million-dollar contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation to develop equipment to provide warnings of hazardous wind shear and microburst events to air traffic controllers and pilots. Called the weather systems processor (WSP), it forecast the arrival of wind gust fronts and tracks storm motion, providing a complete picture of current and projected hazardous weather conditions which might impact runway and airport usage. Intended be used in conjunction with airport surveillance radar model-9, WSP would be a low cost detection system suitable for installation at medium and high air traffic density airports. Its functional capability would be similar to the terminal doppler weather radar; a legacy system which FAA was then deploying at 45 major airports subject to heavy thunderstorm activity. (See April 25, 2001.)

September 25, 1998: FAA announced the implementation of a final rule requiring employment background investigations and criminal history checks for airport security checkpoint screeners and screener supervisors. The new rule responded to a mandate in the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996, and had been recommended by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. The rule also required airport

operators and air carriers to audit employment history investigations. (See August 21, 1998; November 20, 1998.)

September 28, 1998: FAA ordered airlines to inspect, within 60 days, fuel boost pump wiring on Boeing 737-100 through -500 series aircraft with 20,000 to 30,000 flight hours. The directive also required the addition of a layer of Teflon sleeving to protect the fuel pump wires. (See August 21, 1998; October 1, 1998.)

September 30, 1998: FAA announced a \$932,613 contract to Sensis Corporation to develop an identification system for transponder-equipped aircraft operating on airport taxiways and runways. The airport target identification system would give airport controllers detailed information about aircraft and vehicles operating on the ground, including position, speed, and aircraft identification.

October 1, 1998: FAA, which had launched its original aging aircraft program after an Aloha jetliner lost part of its roof in 1988, announced a companion program, the aging transport non-structural systems plan, to help ensure that aircraft systems, such as those for wiring and fuel, did not fail as they grew older. The program, which grew out of the investigation of the in-flight explosion of Trans World Airlines Flight 800 that killed 230 people in 1996, included stepped-up inspections of wiring, a long-term research program, and a model-by-model assessment of each aircraft type together with other items. (See October 28, 1991; September 28, 1998; December 3, 1998; August 16, 2001.)

October 1, 1998: FAA implemented the air transport oversight system (ATOS), an air carrier oversight process that advocated a systems approach to FAA certification and surveillance oversight. The new process would combine system safety techniques with risk management principles to ensure air carriers had built safety considerations into their operating systems. (See May 13, 1998; April 8, 2002.)

October 8, 1998: FAA, with assistance from the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference, implemented the world's first instrument flight rules (IFR) grid system in the Gulf of Mexico. FAA designed this navigational route structure, completely independent of ground-based navigation aids, to facilitate helicopter IFR operations to offshore destinations. The grid system was defined by over 300 offshore waypoints located 20 minutes apart (latitude and longitude). These waypoints had five-letter identifiers systematically based so operators and controllers could visualize the relative location. To simplify flight planning inflight data input and navigation, these waypoints were integrated into the computer database within the GPS receivers. Both flight crews and controllers used the grid system, which assisted them by: allowing for more direct routing; reducing the manual workload that controllers performed to provide separation from other helicopters; and reducing delays.

October 9, 1998: FAA Administrator Jane Garvey and NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin signed an agreement establishing a new partnership in pursuit of improved aviation safety, airspace system efficiency, and aircraft environmental concerns. The agreement created an executive board comprised of senior managers from both agencies

who would monitor progress and ensure complementary aviation and commercial space transportation goals were achieved through a coordinated planning effort.

October 14, 1998: FAA announced within six months it would develop a new test specification for aircraft insulation to increase fire safety. When available for use, the new test standard would be required for use in the manufacture of all applicable aircraft. (See August 11, 1999.)

October 15, 1998: A FAA Boeing 727 receiving signals from both U.S. and European satellite navigation networks performed successful flight tests at Iceland's Keflavik Airport. The aircraft performed a series of category I precision approaches to the runway using onboard equipment receiving signals from FAA's national satellite test bed, a forerunner to WAAS, and the United Kingdom's Northern European Satellite Test Bed. (See October 20-22, 1997; December 9, 1998.)

October 28, 1998: FAA recommended that pilots not take impotence drugs within six hours of flying because it could affect their ability to distinguish between the blues and greens found in cockpit instrument and runway lights.

October 28, 1998: FAA officials told a public hearing in Rockville, Maryland, a federal plan to consolidate four of their region's air traffic control facilities would lead to an overall reduction in airplane noise, but it also might aggravate the problem for some local communities. Under the plan, FAA would close the terminal radar control (TRACON) facilities at Dulles International, Reagan National, and Baltimore-Washington International airports and Andrews Air Force Base and open a combined center in Loudoun County or Fauquier County. (See January 6, 1997; January 7, 1999.)

November 6, 1998: President Clinton dedicated the new Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport in Highfill, Arkansas. He told the audience his administration was working to make the national aviation system better able to handle the anticipated 50-percent increase in global air travel in the coming seven years. He added FAA and other agencies were working together "... to convert our air traffic control system to satellite technology, to change the way we inspect older aircraft, and most important over the long run, to combat terrorism with new equipment, new agents, and new methods."

November 12, 1998: Reacting to concerns raised by the September 2 crash of Swissair Flight 111, FAA ordered airlines to inspect two lighting dimmer switches that could overheat and emit smoke when installed in the cockpits of McDonnell Douglas MD-11 aircraft. McDonnell Douglas had issued a service bulletin three years earlier recommending replacement of the switches. One of the problems reported by the crew of Flight 111 before it crashed was smoke in the cockpit. (See September 2, 1998; December 9, 1998.)

November 20, 1998: FAA proposed to require foreign air carriers flying to and from the United States to implement security measures identical to those required of U.S. air carriers serving the same airports. (See September 25, 1998; November 23, 1998.)

November 23, 1998: FAA certified the eXaminer 3DX 6000 system manufactured by L-3 Communications as the second explosives detection system to meet the agency's certification requirements. (See November 20, 1998; March 31, 1999.)

December 3, 1998: In an emergency airworthiness directive, FAA ordered all Boeing 747 operators to carry more fuel in the center wing tank to ensure the pumps remained immersed in fuel when operating. (See October 1, 1998; March 3, 1999.)

December 9, 1998: FAA issued an airworthiness directive ordering inspection and possible replacement of electrical wiring above the forward passenger doors of McDonnell Douglas MD-11 aircraft. The order required a one-time visual inspection within ten days to detect problems such as nicks, fraying, or chafing in the wiring above the left and right forward passenger doors. As part of the inquiry into the Swissair 111 crash off Nova Scotia in September, FAA learned damaged electrical wires were found near the forward passenger doors of an MD-11 during regularly scheduled heavy maintenance. Further examination showed, when the doors were raised to the open position, sliding panels above the doors moved inward and could have chafed the electrical wiring in those areas. The condition, if not fixed, might lead to an electrical fire in the passenger cabin. (See November 12, 1998; January 28, 1999.)

December 9, 1998: FAA and Chile's Director General of Civil Aeronautics completed the first test flights in Chile demonstrating the capabilities and benefits of the WAAS installed at Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport. (See October 15, 1998; January 5, 1999.)

December 15, 1998: Department of Transportation Secretary Slater announced flights of all U.S. carriers, both domestic and international, must be completely smoke-free. (See May 7, 1996.)

December 16, 1998: FAA issued a notice to airmen advising all civil aircraft operators that hostilities had begun in the airspace over Iraq and might also occur in the airspace over nearby nations and waters in the Arabian Peninsula, including the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea. FAA advised operators flying in the area should strictly comply with aircraft identification procedures and monitor international emergency frequencies.

December 17, 1998: FAA's small airplane directorate issued the first U.S. type certificate for a Russian type design, clearing the way for import into the United States. The type certificate was issued at a ceremony at the Ilyushin plant attended by senior Russian officials and by U.S. Ambassador James Collins. An all-metal, two-seat propeller-driven aircraft powered by a single 210 HP Teledyne Continental Motors IO-360ES engine with a Hartzell propeller, the Ilyushin IL-103 was issued certificate number A45CE. It was certified in the utility category.

December 21, 1998: FAA Administrator Jane Garvey announced a new streamlined administrative action process to reduce paperwork and shorten the time it took to resolve certain violations that did not pose a serious threat to aviation safety. At the time, it took

an average of 75 days to resolve an administrative violation. Under the new program, FAA hoped to cut that delay to as little as seven days in some cases. Inspectors could use the new process to deal with alleged violations that did not require extensive investigation. (See July 15, 1999.)

1999

January 5, 1999: FAA announced it would revise the implementation schedule for the wide area augmentation system (WAAS) to allow more time to complete development of a critical software safety package that would monitor, correct, and verify the performance of the system. FAA rescheduled the original July 1999 commissioning date for phase 1 of WAAS to September 2000. (See December 9, 1998; January 29, 1999; April 6-9, 1999.)

January 7, 1999: FAA announced the selection of Vint Hill Farms Station, a former military intelligence base in Fauquier County, Virginia, as the site for a \$93 million consolidated air-traffic control facility. FAA officials said the move would put controllers handling planes approaching, Dulles International, Reagan National, and Baltimore-Washington International airports, and Andrews Air Force Base under one roof to improve air safety and streamline costs. (See October 28, 1998; March 6, 2000.)

January 11, 1999: FAA issued final airworthiness directives (AD) calling for operators to limit the payloads of Boeing 727 aircraft. The directives placed restrictions on 727s converted from passenger to all-cargo operations until the floor structures were reinforced or they were re-qualified to carry higher payloads. FAA expressed concern that converted aircraft had design features, including under-strength cargo floors, did not meet FAA certification safety requirements for cargo carriers. The ADs required operators either to reduce payloads to 3,000 pounds per container or to adhere to interim operational limitations that would permit them to carry individual containers of up to 4,800 pounds. Operators had 90 days from the effective date to make the appropriate revisions to the airplane flight manuals, supplements to them, and airplane weight and balance supplements. If individual operators failed to complete modifications within 28 months, their allowed payloads would be permanently reduced to 3,000 per container.

January 13, 1999: FAA proposed mandatory tests for potential cracks in valves in some 737 rudder power control units (PCUs). The notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) entailed an airworthiness directive that would apply to all Boeing 737-100 through -500 series aircraft. This AD was proposed in response to the PCU supplier's discovery of cracks in a component of a valve assembly. In addition, cracks had been found by operators before they installed valves in their aircraft. The proposed rule would order operators to perform tests on their PCUs to detect cracks in a joint in the servo valve that regulated the intake of hydraulic fluid to the PCU. Analysis had shown that a single crack in one leg of the component was not in itself an unsafe condition. A crack in both legs, however, could cause the component to break apart and jam the valve assembly. If a crack was found during the test process, the AD required the operator to replace the defective valve with a modified valve. (See March 14, 1997; May 3, 1999.)

January 20, 1999: Department of Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater and FAA Administrator Jane Garvey dedicated a new, first-of-its-kind air traffic control system, the display system replacement (DSR), at the air route traffic control center in Auburn, Washington. The DSR replaced equipment that had been in service for 20 to 30 years with upgraded displays, and computer hardware and software. (See March 14, 1997; July 14, 2000.)

January 28, 1999: FAA ordered inspections of wiring and insulation in the cockpit and cabin on the entire U.S. commercial fleet of McDonnell Douglas MD-11s. The AD had been under development prior to the January 11 recommendation of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on MD-11 wiring. It followed discussions with the Canadian Transportation Safety Board and NTSB, which resulted in a December 22, 1998, Canadian Transportation Safety Board safety advisory letter suggesting a closer look at the wiring in the MD-11 fleet. Several MD-11s were examined as part of the Swissair accident investigation. Based on the wiring discrepancies found, the directive required U.S. operators to perform the inspections, and make any necessary repairs, within 60 days and report findings to FAA. (See December 9, 1998; April 20, 1999.)

January 29, 1999: FAA announced findings that, with some anticipated improvements, an augmented global positioning system (GPS) could serve safely and reliably as the only navigation system installed in aircraft and the only navigation system provided by FAA. The findings were taken from an independent assessment of GPS capabilities conducted by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory for FAA, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and the Air Transport Association. Features of WAAS and the local area augmentation system (LAAS), both under development, were expected to provide improved accuracy, integrity, and availability of GPS signals. (See June 3, 1998; January 5, 1999; April 2, 1999; April 6-9, 1999.)

February 3, 1999: Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater announced the Clinton Administration would propose legislation to promote competition at large airline hubs dominated by one airline. The draft legislation would state that before they could raise passenger fees, the operators of such facilities would be required to explain how they intended to promote competition. The bill would also include a proposal to charge fees for use of the air traffic systems and would require a "performance based-organization" to be created to provide for air traffic control within FAA. Aspects of these proposals proved controversial and ran into stiff opposition in Congress and in portions of the aviation community. (See April 5, 2000.)

February 9, 1999: Working in partnership with the aviation industry, FAA announced it had reached an agreement with pilots and airlines regarding procedures affecting the conduct of land and hold short operations (LAHSO). The agreement dealt with runway surface and weather minima, training, visual aids, landing distance, and rejected landings. Highlights included:

- Air carriers would conduct LAHSO only on dry runways until such time as the manufacturers had provided actual demonstrated landing distance figures on wet runways for the aircraft in question.

- FAA would issue a flight standards handbook bulletin specifying before an air carrier could conduct LAHSO, it must provide a pilot training program for the LAHSO procedure.
- Use of LAHSO would not be authorized on a runway lacking electronic or visual vertical guidance (i.e., an improved LAHSO lighting configuration).
- For each type of aircraft with LAHSO, the runway landing length would be the greater of the simultaneous operations on intersecting runway category length or FAA-approved aircraft flight manual distance plus 1000 feet.

To ensure that the appropriate level of safety was maintained, only LAHSO configurations which did not require a rejected landing instruction, or for which a rejected landing instruction was published, were to be used by air carrier aircraft. (See July 14, 2000.)

March 3, 1999: In an airworthiness directive effective March 18, FAA ordered operators of certain Boeing 737-100, -200, -300, -400 and -500 aircraft to inspect and correct any chafing of float switch wiring found in the center fuel tank. The float switch, powered by direct current, automatically closed the fueling valve to prevent the fuel tank from being overfilled. Chafed wiring associated with this device, however, could provide an ignition source inside the tank. The agency required each aircraft's float switch be removed or deactivated and inspected for evidence of chafing – such as electrical arcing or worn insulation – either within 30 days of the AD's effective date, or before the aircraft could accumulate 30,000 total flight hours. Under the terms of the AD, operators could install protective Teflon sleeving and wiring, allowing reuse of the float switch, or they could install a new float switch with the necessary Teflon sleeved wiring. Alternatively, operators might deactivate the float switch and paint a "caution" sign adjacent to the aircraft-fueling panel to indicate a mandatory reduction of the maximum fuel capacity with associated modified fueling procedures to minimize the possibility of fuel spills. (See December 3, 1998, October 28, 1999.)

March 8, 1999: FAA released the National Airspace System (NAS) Plan, version 4.0. The update extended the agency's modernization strategy through 2015.

March 11, 1999: Department of Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater and FAA Administrator Jane Garvey dedicated the newest FAA air traffic control computer system in a ceremony at the New York Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC). They dedicated the host and oceanic computer system replacement (HOCSR), a key component of the national airspace system (NAS) infrastructure modernization program and FAA's Year 2000 (Y2K) compliance effort. The new system was more than four times faster and orders of magnitude more reliable than its predecessor – while occupying only an eighth of the floor space of the system it replaced. The New York ARTCC's HOCSR, the first in the nation, went online February 24. (See September 30, 1999).

March 15, 1999: FAA announced it had issued a launch license to a Boeing-led international consortium to conduct a first-of-its-kind demonstration space launch, targeted for March 2, from a sea-going platform in the mid-Pacific. The 40 percent

Boeing-owned partnership would use a Ukrainian-built Zenit booster rocket and a Russian-built upper stage in the demonstration. The launch platform, a converted self-propelled oil drilling platform, would be accompanied to the launch site by an assembly and command ship designed and built by Kvaerner Maritime of Norway, another partner in the undertaking. (See September 24, 1998; April 21, 1999.)

March 31, 1999: FAA announced plans to purchase more than 150 additional security devices for the nation's airports, continuing to implement a recommendation by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. The purchase of 21 FAA-certified explosives detection systems and 135 trace explosives detection devices added to the multi-year deployment of airport security equipment. FAA purchases to date included 95 FAA-certified explosives detection systems, 20 automated dual-energy X-ray machines, two quadrapole resonance devices, and 462 trace explosives detection devices. The trace explosives detectors were being deployed primarily at airport security checkpoints for screening carry-on bags. The other machines were bulk explosives detectors used to examine checked baggage. (See November 23, 1998; April 15, 1999.)

April 1, 1999: President Clinton signed Public Law 106-6, Interim Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act.

April 2, 1999: FAA announced an agreement to join with Raytheon Systems and Honeywell Inc. in the development of the LAAS. Raytheon and Honeywell would provide funding for the development, and FAA would provide the LAAS specifications and expertise on development and certification. (See January 29, 1999; August 13, 1999.)

April 6-9, 1999: Raytheon completed the first of three major system integration milestones for WAAS. Called stability build, the test showed the ability of WAAS to provide augmentation to the U.S. GPS system. During the test, the system operated continuously for 72 hours using WAAS ground and space components. In monitoring the test, Raytheon and FAA examined data from several locations, including Denver, Oklahoma City, and Dayton. The next system integration milestone, the full functionality build, would be followed by the performance build, the final software build designed to show the system was ready to enter formal system testing. (See January 5, 1999; August 24, 2000.)

April 12, 1999: FAA commissioned the National Airport Pavement Test Facility. (See April 1, 1997.)

April 15, 1999: FAA proposed a rule to strengthen security of checked baggage in the domestic aviation system. The proposal would require airlines to apply additional security to the checked baggage of some passengers. The rule directed the use of automated screening procedures, but provided options for airlines that chose to apply additional security to all passengers. The computer assisted passenger screening program (CAPS) would replace manual programs. CAPS used data from existing airline reservation systems to select baggage randomly or through preprogrammed criteria. The

proposed rule would require CAPS for scheduled operations on any aircraft with 61 seats or more. (See March 31, 1999; November 2, 1999.)

April 20, 1999: FAA ordered operators of 45 McDonnell Douglas MD-11s registered in the U.S. to verify the installation of a wire harness support bracket and clamp in the lower center cargo compartment. A missing bracket and clamp might cause a wire bundle to contact the insulation blanket and rub against the fuselage frame, producing a possible fire source. The emergency airworthiness directive affected MD-11s equipped with a 72-inch cargo door. Operators of the affected aircraft were required to perform inspections, verify the installation of the bracket and clamp, and repair any damaged wires within five days. All findings had to be reported to FAA within ten days after completion of the inspections. (See January 28, 1999; September 29, 1999.)

April 21, 1999: Following industry review of applicable safety guidelines, FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for reusable launch vehicle and reentry licensing regulation and continued to work with industry to develop a regulatory program to address public safety issues. (See March 15, 1999; June 21, 1999.)

April 26, 1999: FAA ordered operators to inspect for and correct possible fatigue cracks in the aft pressure bulkheads located near the tails of certain Boeing 737 aircraft. Stemming from reports of fatigue cracks on the components in some Boeing 737-200 models, the airworthiness directive applied to Boeing 737-100 through -500 aircraft. In some cases, to comply with the AD, operators had to perform a low-frequency eddy current inspection from the rear of the pressure bulkhead. In other instances, visual inspections from the front of the bulkhead were deemed sufficient.

April 26, 1999: FAA, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), and Professional Airways Systems Specialists (PASS) jointly announced a revised implementation plan for the standard terminal automation replacement system (STARS). The plan focused on developing the full STARS as soon as possible while simultaneously meeting short-term requirements for controller displays at a small number of FAA facilities. Under the revised plan, the first STARS would go into the terminal radar control (TRACON) facilities in Syracuse, New York, and El Paso, Texas. Initially, the sites would receive the early display configuration of STARS. In parallel, development would continue on the full STARS, which would include a new computer system. Once STARS had the capability to handle the needs of higher-level facilities, it would be deployed throughout the country. (See October 30, 1997; August 3, 1999.)

May 3, 1999: FAA, responding to pressure from federal safety officials, announced it would require a major upgrade of aircraft flight data recorders and cockpit voice recorders to provide better information after accidents. In particular, FAA would require new on-board sensors to determine movements of the Boeing 737 rudder, which had been listed as the probable cause of two crashes. Administrator Jane Garvey revealed these plans during a panel discussion at a NTSB symposium on flight recorders in which NTSB Chairman Jim Hall criticized FAA for not responding quickly enough to his agency's

recommendations. (See August 18, 1997; January 13, 1999; January 8, 2000; September 14, 2000.)

May 6, 1999: FAA announced it had reached an agreement with NATCA to tighten the rules for its liaison and familiarization training program. This program authorized agency employees to sit in the cockpit during commercial flights, listen to air traffic control communications, and observe pilot procedures. The program was intended to promote better understanding of the pressures facing flight crews.

May 8, 1999: The engineered materials arresting system installed at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport successfully stopped a Saab 340 commuter aircraft that overran the runway. (See August 21, 1998; May 30, 2003.)

May 22, 1999: FAA ordered inspections on more than 1,000 Boeing 727 jetliners registered in the United States. A FAA spokesman said the emergency airworthiness directive was sent after mechanics found severe wear on wires and holes in the tubing on two 727 cargo jets. Signs of electric sparking around the wires also were discovered. "This condition, if not corrected, could result in ignition of fuel vapors in a fuel tank, and a fuel tank explosion," read the FAA's telegram to 727 operators. *May 24*, FAA ordered operators of Boeing 727 aircraft to inspect, and if necessary, replace electrical wires running through fuel tanks. The agency previously announced it would follow its May 22 order for Boeing 727 fuel tank leak checks with a more comprehensive order for wiring inspections. The airworthiness directive required that operators remove and inspect wire bundles carried in conduits (tubes) through 727 fuel tanks. If chafing were found, the wires had to be replaced. The AD also required all the wires be wrapped with an additional protective layer of Teflon. This had to be done immediately if the Teflon wrapping was available, otherwise at the next scheduled maintenance check. (See August 16, 2001.)

May 24, 1999: FAA released to industry a new computer tool designed to reduce the disk failure rate in turbine-powered jet engines. The computer tool complemented the actions announced earlier by FAA Administrator Jane Garvey that required enhanced inspections of engine fan disks to detect cracks that were potential precursors to uncontained disk failures. The disk design and life management tool, called design assessment of reliability with inspection, allowed engine manufacturers to improve disk structural integrity. Engine manufacturers could run the code, along with their other design systems, on a computer workstation, to comply with a planned advisory circular on disk life management.

May 28, 1999: FAA and PASS, a labor union representing approximately 7,600 employees, announced an agreement to resume contract negotiations with the help of a mediator. (See January 11, 2000.)

June 3, 1999: A twin-engine McDonnell Douglas MD-80 carrying 139 passengers and six crew members, crashed at Little Rock National Airport as violent thunderstorms and winds swept through the region. Survivors said the plane swerved out of control almost

immediately after making contact with the runway, slid off the end of the 7,200-foot runway at a high speed, and crashed into a steel tower. (See October 23, 2001.)

June 14, 1999: The media reported some FAA lawyers planned to join a union. When Congress released FAA from many civil service rules, it had said that unionized workers could bargain with management over salaries. It also gave FAA the option of lowering salaries of unorganized workers via a core compensation plan. Air traffic controllers, who already were unionized, were the first FAA employees to bargain for salaries.

June 16, 1999: FAA proposed to revise and strengthen federal rules for maintenance performed at domestic and foreign repair stations. The proposed regulation would ensure certified repair stations were held responsible for all maintenance work that was outsourced to contractors. (See March 28, 2005.)

June 21, 1999: Effective this date, FAA amended its commercial space transportation licensing regulations. The changes provided applicants and licensees' greater specificity and clarity regarding the scope of a license, and codified and amended licensing requirements and criteria. (See April 21, 1999; November 9, 1999.)

July 10, 1999: FAA and an industry group conducted the first large-scale test of automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B), a technology designed to enhance safety by giving pilots and air traffic controllers more information about aircraft locations. Done in partnership with the Cargo Airline Association, the Wilmington, Ohio, tests evaluated how well ADS-B could help pilots be more aware of aircraft in their vicinity. Using an aircraft's GPS sensor, ADS-B equipment sent very accurate position information, along with speed and identification data, to other similarly equipped planes and ADS-B ground receiving stations. During the test, participating flight crews monitored aircraft in their area using a special cockpit display. Air traffic control facilities received combined radar and ADS-B target information for evaluation. Ground receiving stations in Wilmington and Louisville, Kentucky, provided coverage throughout the 500-square-mile test area. Approximately 25 planes participated. This ADS-B operational evaluation was the first in a series of tests planned for the next three years under FAA's Safe Flight-21 program. (See October 26-28, 2000.)

July 13, 1999: Former FAA Administrator Donald Engen died in the crash of a glider fitted with a small motor. A distinguished U.S. Navy and test pilot who retired as a vice admiral, Engen was 75.

July 15, 1999: FAA announced a new streamlined administrative action process to deal with violations that did not warrant serious legal enforcement action or pose a serious threat to aviation safety. This new way to resolve minor violations officially commenced on August 30. Using the new process, an inspector would discuss the problem with the alleged violator, fill out a data entry form with all pertinent information, return to the office to check the person's history, enter the information into a database, and mail an automated warning notice to the individual. The violator would have an opportunity to provide additional information for FAA's consideration. Previously, all administrative

actions involved a burdensome process that often entailed multiple letters of investigation and extensive files. (See December 21, 1998.)

July 16, 1999: John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, were killed when their small aircraft crashed into the Atlantic Ocean. Kennedy, a relatively inexperienced pilot, was flying a Piper Saratoga, a moderately complex plane he bought the previous April. He took off without incident just after 8:30 p.m. from Essex County Airport in Fairfield, New Jersey. *July 6, 2000*, NTSB released its final report on the crash and stated the probable cause of the accident was "the pilot's failure to maintain control of the airplane during a descent over water at night, which was a result of spatial disorientation. Factors in the accident were haze and the dark night."

August 3, 1999: The early display capability, or EDC, version of STARS entered its operational test and evaluation. The tests were scheduled to run through October 4. If STARS passed the series of tests, it would enter an initial operational capability phase at El Paso, Texas, in December 1999 and at Syracuse, New York, in January 2000. (See April 26, 1999; December 20, 1999.)

August 4, 1999: Due to provisions in legislation passed the previous year by Congress, Monte Belger returned to his position as FAA associate administrator for air traffic services. The legislation, called the Vacancies Reform Act, was designed to limit the amount of time an executive in any federal agency could act in a position requiring presidential appointment and confirmation by the Senate. The FAA administrator had no plans to name another executive as acting deputy pending nomination by the White House of a candidate for the position. Monte Belger, however, still continued to perform significant management functions, because, under agency procedures, in the absence of a confirmed candidate, the associate administrator for air traffic services assumed the deputy administrator's duties. The air traffic services organization continued to be managed by Steve Brown, as deputy associate administrator. (See February 1, 1997; November 8, 1999.)

August 5, 1999: An agreement by major U.S. airlines to assess the safety of their foreign partners represented a major step in a long-term trend toward exporting U.S. aviation safety standards around the globe. The assessments took place as part of a growing worldwide arrangement among airlines called "code sharing," in which U.S. airlines shared flight numbers with foreign airlines. (See December 5-7, 1999.)

August 11, 1999: FAA Administrator Jane Garvey ordered operators of 699 aircraft to replace insulation blankets covered with metalized Mylar within four years. FAA strongly encouraged operators to accomplish the insulation replacement during the earliest practical maintenance check. The announcement followed eight months of extensive testing in support of the development of a new test standard for aircraft insulation. (See October 14, 1998; May 25, 2000.)

August 12, 1999: FAA agreed to take a series of steps to reduce air traffic control delays. In particular, FAA planned to strengthen the decision-making authority of its command

center, allowing the Herndon, Virginia, facility to assert more authority over large portions of the air traffic control center network.

August 13, 1999: FAA, UPS, and the Air Transport Association conducted flight tests of FAA's prototype LAAS at the William J. Hughes Technical Center. Researchers studied the benefits of integrating a pseudolite into the existing LAAS prototype. A pseudolite was a ground component, installed at an airport that appears to an aircraft's navigation system to be the equivalent of a GPS satellite. (See April 2, 1999; May 1, 2003.)

September 29, 1999: FAA banned installation of in-flight entertainment systems on all McDonnell Douglas MD-11 aircraft registered in the U.S. An agency review concluded incompatibilities between the electrical power switching technologies of the entertainment systems and the design concept of the MD-11 airplane limited a flight crew's ability to respond to a smoke or fumes emergency. (See April 20, 1999.)

September 30, 1999: With the installation at the Honolulu ARTCC, FAA completed installation of the host and oceanic computer system replacement (HOCSR) systems at all 23 of its air traffic and oceanic centers. The availability of HOCSR completed the network providing the main computer and processor that produced and processed information on aircraft movements throughout domestic and oceanic airspace. The improved technology was more than four times faster and more reliable than its predecessor, while occupying only an eighth of the floor space of the systems it replaced. (See March 11, 1999.)

September 30, 1999: FAA announced it had chosen Lockheed Martin Air Traffic Management to continue development and deployment of the user request evaluation tool (URET). Also called a conflict probe, the URET software gave controllers a strategic 20-minute look ahead to detect potential conflicts when considering pilots' requests for altitude and route changes. The system would be deployed and available to controllers in late 2001 through 2002. (See April 16, 1998; December 2001.)

October 6, 1999: FAA selected the Societe Internationale Telecommunications Aeronautiques to provide standing data link communications services (the future air navigation system, or FANS) to the Oakland, New York, and Alaska ARTCCs. Previously, FAA paid for data link communications services on a per message basis.

October 9, 1999: President Clinton signed the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2000. At the signing, however, he noted concerns "about the funding level provided in the bill for FAA operations and capital programs." For example, he said the bill provided "\$144 million less than my request for FAA operations. This reduction will slow hiring for safety and security positions and postpone implementation of needed efficiency and management improvements. The bill also constrains funding for the modernization of the air traffic control system, including needed modernization and improvement of the Global Positioning System. These reductions may increase air travel delays and ill-position the FAA to meet the growing challenges of the future."

October 26, 1999: A Learjet, without a pilot in control, flew for almost four hours from Orlando, Florida, to a swampy grassland area in South Dakota. The Learjet was shadowed by United States Air Force (USAF) and Air National Guard jet fighters, whose pilots reported the aircraft's windows were frosted over, suggesting that it had lost pressurization. USAF pilots also reported the Learjet meandered from as low as 22,000 feet to as high as 51,000 feet, but never strayed from a northwest heading. Pentagon officials said the military began its pursuit of the aircraft at 10:08 a.m., when two Air Force F-16 fighters from Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida on a routine training mission were asked by FAA to intercept it. The F-16s did not reach the Learjet, but an USAF F-15 fighter from Eglin Air Force Base in Florida got within sight of the aircraft and stayed with it from 11:09 a.m. to 11:44 a.m., when the military fighter was diverted to St. Louis for fuel. Fifteen minutes later, four Air National Guard F-16s and a KC-135 tanker from Tulsa were ordered to try to catch up with the Learjet, but got only within 100 miles. Two other Air National Guard F-16s from Fargo, North Dakota, intercepted the Learjet at 12:54 p.m., reporting the aircraft's windows were fogged with ice and no flight control movement could be seen. At 1:14 p.m., the F-16s reported the Learjet was beginning to spiral toward the ground. Professional golfer Payne Stewart was killed in the crash.

October 28, 1999: Building on information gathered since the in-flight explosion of TWA Flight 800 three years earlier, FAA proposed a mandatory design review of fuel tanks on more than 90 percent of the U.S. commercial aircraft fleet. One of the largest such orders ever contemplated, the proposal covered a total of about 6,000 aircraft – applying to all commercial aircraft, whether driven by jet power or propellers, that carried 30 or more passengers. The impact of the proposal, if adopted, was expected to be felt worldwide. (See March 3, 1999; February 22, 2000.)

October 31, 1999: Egypt Air Flight 900 crashed and killed all 217 onboard. The voice and data recorders from the aircraft revealed, just before the tragedy, one of the pilots, apparently alone in the cockpit, turned off the autopilot and then uttered a short prayer. The cockpit voice recorder tape also contained sounds similar to a door opening and closing more than once, sources said. This evidence led investigators to question whether one of the pilots left the cockpit, which would have given the other pilot the opportunity to take some action that could have led to the crash. (See March 21, 2002.)

November 2, 1999: FAA announced it had awarded a contract worth up to \$75 million to L-3 Communications to purchase up to 60 of its explosives detection systems. L-3 Communications was the second manufacturer to offer a system that met FAA's rigorous certification standards. Under the contract, FAA could purchase up to 60 eXaminer 3DX 6000 explosives detection systems over three years. (See April 15, 1999; December 21, 1999.)

November 8, 1999: President Clinton announced his intention to nominate Monte Belger to be FAA deputy administrator. He submitted Belger's name to the Senate for confirmation on November 10. (See August 4, 2000; August 2, 2002.)

November 9, 1999: FAA announced it had signed a memorandum of understanding with NASA concerning the future of space transportation research activities, especially the development of reusable launch vehicle technology. (See June 21, 1999; October 19, 2000; June 18, 2012.)

December 3, 1999: Runway 8/26 opened at Philadelphia International Airport.

December 5-7, 1999: Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater hosted the Aviation in the 21st Century–Beyond Open Skies “ministerial” in the same hotel where, fifty-five years before, the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation produced recommendations for practices and procedures that had thereafter guided world aviation. This new ministerial, attended by more than 900 persons from ninety-three nations, explored challenges and opportunities in the aviation system of the 21st century. On the last day of the conference, Slater announced FAA would require airlines to conduct safety assessments of their foreign airline partners. U.S. agencies, would not, however, directly assess the safety of any foreign airline, even if U.S. passengers were flying that carrier on a code-share ticket. (See August 5, 1999.)

December 8, 1999: FAA issued an AD ordering inspection of backup generators on Boeing 777-200 and -300 airplanes and requiring their operators to replace, within 14 days, any found to have sheared shafts.

December 19, 1999: FAA informed U.S. carriers reserve rest requirements for pilots must be fully implemented. The decision to no longer offer exceptions to the policy was welcomed by the Air Line Pilots Association, who said U.S. carriers had known about the requirement since June 1998 and had no excuse for asking for further extensions. A spokesperson for the union also said it would be unfair to airlines already implementing the reserve rest requirement, as well as the public, if non-conforming airlines were granted exceptions. The reserve rest rule stipulated that airlines must give pilots who are on reserve duty at least nine hours of rest before placing them on reserve or “on call” status.

December 20, 1999: FAA started controlling arriving and departing air traffic in El Paso, Texas, with the new STARS air traffic controller workstations. This was the first component to become operational as part of a phased strategy to deploy the system nationwide. Controllers and technicians at this West Texas TRACON facility successfully integrated the new workstations, featuring high-resolution color monitors, with the existing automation system. (See August 3, 1999; January 12, 2000.)

December 21, 1999: FAA tightened security at the nation's airports in response to the arrest, the previous week, of a man allegedly trying to smuggle explosives into the United States. FAA announced it would make more use of devices that checked airline passengers for trace amounts of explosives. Also, more bomb-sniffing dogs and uniformed police would begin patrolling airports, both inside and outside. The measures came amid concern about the possibility of acts of terrorism in the United States and abroad during the holidays. (See November 2, 1999; January 5, 2000.)

December 21, 1999: FAA made the surface movement advisor (SMA) available to the Dallas-Ft. Worth, Chicago O'Hare, Newark, and Teterboro airports ten days ahead of schedule. SMA provided aircraft arrival information to airline ramp towers and operation centers. The information included aircraft identification and position in terminal airspace, details that could be used to compute estimated time to touchdown to better manage gates and other ground operations. Staff at Northwest Airlines additionally estimated the enhanced situational awareness they received through SMA allowed them to avoid three to five costly diversions per week at Detroit Metropolitan airport.

December 31, 1999: The U.S. air traffic control system successfully rolled over to January 1, 2000, with no disruptions to service.

2000

January 4, 2000: A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report issued this day revealed FAA had failed to conduct security checks on dozens of foreign nationals hired to fix Year 2000 (Y2K) problems in sensitive computer systems used for air traffic control. GAO said FAA had violated its own security policy by allowing foreign employees, who had not received background checks and were working for the agency's contractors, to be involved in repairing 15 of 153 critical computer systems. The House Science Committee had asked GAO to investigate how much FAA relied on foreign nationals for Y2K preparedness. FAA announced it was taking immediate steps to implement all of the GAO recommendations.

January 5, 2000: FAA proposed a rule that would require agency certification of companies hired by the airlines to perform security screening at airports. The rule would set standards for companies providing security screening, strengthen training and testing standards for screeners, and impose more stringent experience and training requirements on screening company managers and instructors. (See December 21, 1999; May 19, 2000.)

January 8, 2000: The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended that all turbine-powered aircraft then exempt from flight recorder rules be required to be equipped with crash-protected video recorders. Under NTSB's recommendation, the requirement would first affect planes that carry passengers for hire and would take effect within five years of adoption of a technical standard order covering the devices by FAA. The NTSB recommendation followed adoption of its final report on the October 8, 1997, crash of a Scenic Airlines Cessna 208B in Montrose, Colorado. The pilot and eight employees of the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, died in the tragedy. According to the report, while flying the aircraft at nearly its maximum gross weight and aft center of gravity, in nearly full to full instrument flight conditions, the pilot had apparently failed to maintain sufficient airspeed. Without access to a crash-protected video recorder, the board could not determine exactly why the pilot had allowed the aircraft to fly too slowly. The most likely factors contributing to the accident, however, were the pilot's improper in-flight planning, his faulty decision-making, and his failure to use proper stall/spin recovery techniques. (See May 3, 1999; August 18, 2003.)

January 10, 2000: FAA and Wildlife Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced publication of a manual to help combat wildlife hazards at airports. The manual, the first of its kind in the United States, was the culmination of years of research, airport site visits, and training conducted by the two agencies. The manual contained information designed to assist airport personnel in addressing airport wildlife hazard issues and enhancing aviation safety.

January 11, 2000: FAA announced, after more than one year of negotiations and several months of mediation through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, it had signed a tentative five-year labor agreement with the Professional Airways Systems Specialists (PASS). Union employees ratified the contract in early May. (See May 28, 1999.)

January 12, 2000: FAA achieved initial operating capability on its second early display capability (EDC) of standard terminal automation replacement system (STARS) at the Syracuse, New York, terminal radar control (TRACON). *January 28*, FAA Administrator Jane Garvey formally dedicated the new system at Syracuse. (See December 20, 1999; May 9, 2002.)

January 14, 2000: The White House unveiled a new FAA program to give airline pilots and mechanics a no-penalty way to report safety-related incidents and problems. The aviation safety action program (ASAP), patterned after a successful American Airlines program begun in 1996, encouraged pilots and mechanics to volunteer information that could help prevent accidents. In return, FAA and the airlines promised not to take action against pilots and mechanics in most cases. (See June 15, 2009.)

January 31, 2000: Alaska Air Flight 261, a Boeing MD-83, crashed into the ocean off Point Magu, California, killing all 88 on board. Before the plane suddenly dived 17,900 feet into the water, the crew had reported a stabilizer jammed in a position that pushed the aircraft downward. (See February 10, 2000.) *December 10, 2002*, NTSB determined the probable cause of the accident was the loss of airplane pitch control resulting from in-flight failure of the horizontal stabilizer trim system jackscrew assembly's acme nut thread. The component failed because of excessive wear resulting from Alaska Airlines' insufficient lubrication of the jackscrew assembly. Contributing to the accident were the carrier's extended lubrication and end play check intervals, and FAA's approval of these intervals.

February 4, 2000: FAA awarded a multi-million-dollar contract to Computer Sciences Corp. to begin the software development and implementation of the controller-pilot data link communications project (CPDLC). Designed to provide more efficient, automated communications between controller and pilot, and CPDLC would reduce operational errors resulting from misunderstood voice communications. FAA planned to deploy the prototype system at the Miami Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) in June 2003 with national deployment beginning six months later at the other 19 ARTCCs. (See April 16, 1998; October 7, 2002.)

February 10, 2000: FAA ordered an immediate inspection of the entire fleet of single-aisle planes built by McDonnell Douglas after inspectors found two Alaska Airlines aircraft with damage in the tail section similar to that found in the wreckage of Alaska Airlines Flight 261. The airworthiness directive (AD) required a visual inspection of the jackscrew assembly of the horizontal stabilizer within three days and a more sophisticated examination within 30 days. (See January 31, 2000; March 17, 2000.)

February 22, 2000: After the German airline Lufthansa found cracked copper lines and ordered Boeing 747s in its fleet grounded briefly for inspections, FAA announced plans to order an inspection of the engine fire suppression system on Boeing 747-400s registered in the United States. (See October 28, 1999; April 27, 2001.)

February 23, 2000: FAA Administrator Jane Garvey accepted a report from the fractional ownership aviation rulemaking committee, chartered in October 1999, which outlined their views on the best ways to improve oversight of aircraft owned by multiple entities. (See November 17, 2003.)

February 24, 2000: Effective this date, FAA added Pacific oceanic areas to the airspace where the principles of reduced vertical separation minima (RVSM) could be applied. Previously, RVSM was only used in North Atlantic minimum navigation performance specifications airspace. The introduction of RVSM procedures in Pacific oceanic airspace made more fuel- and time-efficient flight levels and tracks available to operators. (See April 9, 1997; December 10, 2001.)

February 2000: The Department of Transportation and the Department of Defense (DOD) jointly released the 1999 Federal Radionavigation Plan, which included provisions for two additional global positioning system (GPS) signals for civil use and a revised schedule for making the transition to GPS. (See March 26, 2002.)

March 5, 2000: Southwest Airlines Flight 1455, a Boeing 737-300, overran the departure end of Runway 8 after landing at Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport, Burbank, California. The airplane touched down at approximately 182 knots. About 20 seconds later, at approximately 32 knots, the airplane collided with a metal blast fence and an airport perimeter wall. The airplane came to rest on a city street near a gas station beyond the airport property. Of the 142 persons on board, two sustained serious injuries; 41 passengers and the captain sustained minor injuries; and 94 passengers, three flight attendants, and the first officer sustained no injuries. The airplane sustained extensive damage and some internal damage to the passenger cabin. *June 26, 2002*, NTSB determined that the strongest probable cause of the accident was the flight crew's excessive airspeed and flight path angle during the approach and landing. NTSB also noted the crew had failed to abort the approach when stabilized approach criteria were not met. Contributing to the accident was the air traffic controller's positioning of the airplane, which was too high, too fast, and too close to the runway threshold. As a result, no safe options existed for the flight crew other than a go-around maneuver. Despite all of these factors, however, NTSB concluded, had the accident flight crew applied

maximum manual brakes immediately upon touchdown, the airplane would likely have stopped before impacting the blast fence. (See March 14, 2000.)

March 6, 2000: FAA broke ground for a new regional air traffic control center on a 33-acre site in Vint Hill, Fauquier County, Virginia, that would replace the radar monitoring facilities at Baltimore-Washington International, Dulles International, Reagan Washington National, and Andrews Air Force Base. The new TRACON would guide aircraft within about a 75-mile radius of Washington, DC. (See January 7, 1999; December 14, 2002.)

March 10, 2000: President Clinton, along with Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, announced FAA and the aviation industry were launching a new effort to improve the flow of air traffic during severe weather. The spring/summer 2000 severe-weather plan, slated to begin March 12 and to be fully phased in on April 1, would maximize the use of available air space, improve communications between FAA and the airline industry and expand the use of new technology to help reduce weather-related delays. The president also charged FAA to develop, in 45 days, a broader plan for reform of the air traffic control system. (See May 31, 2000.)

March 13, 2000: FAA received a clean audit from the Department of Transportation Inspector General for fiscal year 1999, marking the first time FAA achieved approval of its financial statements since the audits began in fiscal year 1992. The report presented an unqualified or "clean" opinion on the full set of FAA financial statements.

March 14, 2000: FAA Administrator Jane Garvey announced new initiatives to enhance runway safety, including a series of workshops that would be held around the country to produce regional and local plans to reduce runway incursions. These workshops would be followed by a national summit. FAA also announced initiation of a program for pilots involved in such incidents to help determine the root causes of the events. (See March 5, 2000; June 14, 2000.)

March 17, 2000: NTSB released its conclusions that the horizontal stabilizer jackscrew, which apparently played a key role in the January 31 crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261, had no grease on the area that experienced the most friction during normal operation. In a brief statement, NTSB did not comment on the meaning of the finding by its laboratory. Sources close to the investigation said the discovery was potentially significant, although more work had to be done to determine whether the area was dry before the crash that killed 88 people near Los Angeles or whether the grease was removed by the violent plunge into the Pacific. (See February 10, 2000.)

March 29, 2000: Effective this date, FAA required all airplanes with U.S. registry outfitted with six or more passenger seats to be equipped with a FAA-approved terrain awareness and warning system (referred to as an enhanced ground proximity warning system). The announcement came in response to several accident investigations and studies that showed a need to increase the warning times and situational awareness of

flight crews to decrease the risk of controlled flight into terrain accidents. (See December 15, 1997.)

March 30, 2000: Controllers at the Minneapolis ARTCC started testing an advanced computer tool designed to help them direct more aircraft into airports during busy hours. The traffic management advisor (TMA) “looked” at planes several hundred miles from selected airports as they approached from all directions. As the aircraft got closer, TMA helped controllers develop plans to handle the traffic effectively according to the spacing requirements for each airport. The new system was to be one half of FAA’s Center-TRACON automation system. The other component – the passive final approach spacing tool – would be located first at the agency’s TRACON facilities in Atlanta, Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and St. Louis. (See April 16, 1998.)

April 1, 2000: FAA ordered immediate inspections of 14 Boeing 717-200 airliners to check for potential electrical problems in their integrated standby instrument system altitude displays. The AD required modification before further flight. The mandate followed reports of two instances of intermittent loss of altitude data on the captain and first officer's primary flight display and the altitude display. In both cases, the airspeed and attitude indication remained operational and the flights continued to their destinations without further incident.

April 5, 2000: President Clinton signed into law the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century, known more commonly as AIR-21. The bill contained provisions to advance aviation safety and called for the appointment of a chief operating officer. The act also reauthorized the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) through FY 2003. AIR-21 instituted many changes to the AIP, including changes to funding levels, revised criteria for program eligibility, and expanded pilot programs. The authorized AIP funding level significantly increased in FY 2001 to a level of \$3.2 billion, growing to \$3.4 billion in FY 2003. The legislation also added two new PFC levels - \$4 and \$4.50, including new requirements. (See February 3, 1999; April 23, 2000; May 30, 2000; June 10, 2003.)

April 6, 2000: FAA awarded a contract worth up to \$22 million to Airsys ATM, Inc., for the acquisition of up to 105 instrument landing systems (ILS). The ILS, a primary landing system, provided vertical and lateral guidance to aircraft during the final approach and landing phases of flight.

April 10, 2000: FAA established a permanent mentor protégé program designed to broaden the agency's contractor base by encouraging prime contractors to mentor socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses. In April 1997, the agency had implemented a pilot program that successfully enhanced the capabilities of small businesses to work on high-tech FAA contracts and subcontracts. The permanent program would further invite FAA prime contractors and subcontractors to assist or partner with small socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, historically black colleges and universities, minority institutions, and women-owned small businesses.

April 10, 2000: FAA announced the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had found that the agency met safety oversight standards for international aviation in a first-ever audit conducted June 1999.

April 23, 2000: Approximately 6,500 FAA employees transferred into a new market- and performance-based compensation system closely linked to the strategic goals of the agency. The new core compensation plan replaced the general schedule grade levels with twelve pay bands linked to market pay levels. An executive compensation system became effective on the same date for senior executives. (See April 5, 2000; December 7, 2000.)

May 1, 2000: FAA announced it had begun use of electronic air/ground communication services for aircraft operating over the Atlantic Ocean. The same system had been operating for aircraft flying over Pacific Ocean airspace for more than a year. FAA's New York ARTCC had begun initial operations, in March, of the multi-sector oceanic data link system – technology that provided a means for air traffic controllers to have two-way electronic communications with aircraft equipped with data link. This system eliminated the need for voice communication between data link-equipped aircraft and air traffic controllers, improving the reliability and timeliness of message delivery. In conjunction with aircraft equipped with the future air navigation system – an international standard for avionics that were compliant with oceanic data link – the system provided a means to check automatically pending clearances for conflicts while allowing the flight crews to load flight clearances they had received into the aircraft's flight management system.

May 16, 2000: FAA announced it had recently completed the final installation and acceptance of innovative air surveillance radar technology that enhanced air safety through improved position information and weather detection. The air route surveillance radar (ARSR-4) replaced obsolete radar with long-range, three-dimensional radar providing aircraft position information to FAA, Air Force, Navy, and Customs Service. The new technology could detect a one-square-meter object out to 250 nautical miles, a 50 nautical mile increase over previous long-range radar models. The ARSR-4 also provided weather data to both FAA and National Weather Service. The program consisted of 43 operational systems deployed around the periphery of the continental United States as well as in Guam, Hawaii, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The 44th system was used for support at the FAA Academy at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City. The twelve-year FAA/DOD ARSR-4 program began with a contract award in 1988 to Northrop Grumman. FAA commissioned the first system April 1996 in Tamiami, Florida. DOD funded half of the total program cost of \$800 million.

May 18, 2000: FAA ordered 120 Boeing 767 aircraft to undergo emergency inspections after airline mechanics found damaged bolts in the engine pylons of one of the planes. Under the directive, airlines had five to ten days to complete the inspections.

May 19, 2000: FAA announced grant awards to three companies totaling about \$8.6 million to develop explosives detectors. The new systems would be used to scan checked baggage at smaller air carrier stations that did not need the high baggage-processing rate of current systems. The grants provided \$7.5 million to InVision Technologies Inc., of

Newark, California; \$757,432 to L-3 Communications of New York City; and \$313,309 to PerkinElmer Inc., of Wellesley, Massachusetts; for the delivery of prototypes within 15 months. The grant project was designed to expedite the development of low-cost certified explosives detection systems. (See January 5, 2000; July 19, 2000.)

May 24, 2000: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would require air carrier operators to carry automated external defibrillators aboard large, passenger-carrying aircraft and to augment required emergency medical kits. It would affect those operations for which at least one flight attendant was required and, if adopted, would require instruction on the use of the equipment. (See April 12, 2001.)

May 25, 2000: FAA issued final rules ordering operators of 719 Boeing MD-80, MD-88, MD-90, DC-10, and MD-11 aircraft to replace insulation blankets covered with metalized Mylar. The agency had proposed the rules in August 1999 to minimize the risk of fire spreading aboard these types of aircraft. The airworthiness directives required operators to determine whether their planes had metalized Mylar-covered insulation materials, if so to note where they were located, and to replace them with new insulation blankets within five years. Replacement materials had to meet FAA's new flame propagation standard, which was based on an American Society for Testing and Materials flammability standard. (See August 11, 1999; September 8, 2000.)

May 25, 2000: FAA told air traffic controllers nationwide to review emergency procedures after a US Airways flight with a dying passenger was delayed in making an emergency landing in Baltimore, Maryland. A US Airways spokesman said the airline followed all on-board procedures, including the use of a heart defibrillator, and that three passengers who were nurses volunteered to help. Sources close to an investigation of the incident said the 50-year-old woman did not respond to the emergency treatment, and the delayed landing probably was not a factor in her death.

May 30, 2000: FAA published in the *Federal Register* a final rule modifying Part 158 to incorporate changes mandated by the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act of the 21st Century, including adding \$4.00 and \$4.50 passenger facility charge (PFC) levels. (See April 5, 2000; September 22, 2000.)

May 31, 2000: FAA announced the start of operational use of a new tool, the departure spacing program (DSP) tool, designed to help reduce delays at major airports in the northeastern part of the U.S. Achieving this start-up was one of the first milestones in the Spring 2000 initiative, announced in March by President Clinton and Department of Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater. A coordination and planning tool, DSP used pertinent air traffic information from airports equipped with the system, along with other information from filed flight plans, to space departing aircraft more evenly. This innovation allowed the best use of existing capacity, expediting the flow of air traffic while minimizing delays. The tool had been in use at LaGuardia, Kennedy, Newark, and Philadelphia airport towers and in TRACONS in the New York area since April 2000. (See March 10, 2000.)

June 2, 2000: The Department of Transportation issued a rule prohibiting smoking on all scheduled passenger flights by U.S. airlines and on scheduled passenger flights of foreign carriers into and out of the U.S.

June 5, 2000: FAA announced aircraft operators would be required to pay fees for air traffic control services provided to aircraft operated in U.S. airspace, but did not take off or land in the United States. Unlike other aircraft operations, these overflights had not been paying for the FAA air traffic control services they received. The authority to charge fees to aircraft conducting U.S. overflights was contained in the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996. The agency issued an interim final rule in 1997, but a U.S. Court of Appeals decision in January 1998 determined that FAA's calculation of fees was inconsistent with the statute. Under the new rule, fees would be based on the distance flown through airspace under U.S. control. Overflights would be charged at the rate of \$37.43 per 100 nautical miles in the en route environment, and \$20.16 per 100 nautical miles in the oceanic environment. No charges would be assessed on military and civilian aircraft operated by the U.S. government or by a foreign government. In addition, users who incurred \$250 or less in fees per month would not be charged for operations. (See May 19, 1997; August 1, 2000.)

June 9, 2000: FAA issued directives to the airports and air carriers strengthening procedures for verifying the credentials of law enforcement officers who carried arms on board aircraft or into secure areas of airports.

June 14, 2000: NTSB urged the installation of warning systems to prevent runway incidents at all 382 airports handling regularly scheduled passenger flights. *June 26*, FAA announced it would buy a new ground surveillance system to improve runway safety at 25 airports. The new airport surface detection equipment, called ASDE-X, would provide detailed coverage of runways and taxiways at an airport and also alert air traffic controllers in the tower to impending collisions. The new system provided similar data to the current ASDE-3 ground radar installed at 34 of the nation's busiest airports. Those airports would also have the airport movement area safety system (AMASS) in operation by late 2002. AMASS was a computer enhancement to the ASDE-3 radar that alerted controllers to an impending collision on or near the runway. ASDE-X offered the functions of ASDE-3 and AMASS at less-busy and complex airports and at lower cost. FAA planned to award a contract for production of ASDE-X in September. (See March 14, 2000; July 15, 2000; October 24, 2000.)

June 30, 2000: FAA proposed a rule to give the agency access to key safety data from every U.S. airline participating in the flight operational quality assurance (FOQA) program. FAA planned to use the information to identify aviation safety trends and target potential problems. Airlines collected data about everyday safety trends in their operations and would now be required to share the data with FAA. The agency would then use the data to identify industry-wide safety trends, allowing FAA and industry to target resources more effectively to correct potential safety problems. The information and insights provided by these programs could enhance line operational safety, training effectiveness, operational procedures, maintenance and engineering procedures, air traffic

control procedures, and airport surface safety. Participation in FOQA was voluntary and programs had to be FAA-approved. The agency would not use FOQA data for enforcement purposes, except in egregious cases. (See June 25, 2001.)

July 14, 2000: Secretary Rodney Slater and FAA Administrator Jane Garvey marked the completion of the effort to modernize the nation's air traffic control system by dedicating the 20th and final installation of new DSR hardware and supporting computers. The last system in the \$1.05 billion FAA program to replace older computers and displays was dedicated at the Washington ARTCC in Leesburg, Virginia. (See January 20, 1999.)

July 14, 2000: FAA announced an agreement among the airlines, airline pilot groups, and others in the aviation industry to continue land and hold short operations (LAHSO). As a result, FAA said it would issue an order implementing changes to LAHSO. The order, which went into effect August 14, permitted expanded use of the procedure. LAHSO, an aviation procedure used since 1968, increased capacity at airports with intersecting runways by allowing aircraft to land and stop on long runways before an intersection with another runway. Stopping short allowed the air traffic controller to have another aircraft take off or land on the intersecting runway. LAHSO had been refined through years of operational experience and cooperation among FAA, airlines, pilots, and controllers. (See February 19, 1999.)

July 15, 2000: FAA completed the first live flight demonstration of the AMASS at San Francisco International Airport. Two FAA aircraft – a Boeing 727 and Convair 580 – participated in the demonstration. AMASS gave controllers aural and visual alerts when aircraft on the airport surface were in danger of running into each other or other airport vehicles. AMASS, an enhancement to the basic airport surface detection radar called ASDE-3, was scheduled to be commissioned at 34 sites by the end of 2002. (See June 14, 2000; May 29, 2001.)

July 19, 2000: Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater announced FAA had awarded contracts to purchase additional certified explosives detection systems and trace explosives devices for the nation's airports, and would begin purchasing X-ray machines with new imaging software to improve screener performance. The threat image projection (TIP) system projected digital images of hundreds of different guns, knives, and bombs onto the X-ray displays to test screeners' abilities to detect threat objects. TIP would project the images at random into real carry-on bags going through the X-ray or inside bag images created by TIP. When a screener hit the button to stop the suspect bag, TIP flashed a "congratulations" for detecting the threat and recorded the screener's performance. It also recorded missed threat images. (See May 19, 2000; July 27, 2000.)

July 27, 2000: For the first time, general aviation aircraft could obtain cockpit displays of digital weather graphics and text through a FAA-sponsored service called the flight information service data link. This service provided basic text weather information directly to general aviation pilots if the aircraft had the necessary avionics. Using a small display in the cockpit, flight crews received basic text messages, including aviation routine weather reports, special aviation reports, terminal area forecasts, significant

meteorological information (SIGMET), convective SIGMETs, airman's meteorological information, pilot reports, and severe weather forecast alerts issued by FAA or the National Weather Service.

July 27, 2000: Armed with a gun, Aaron Amartei Commey tried to take hostages at John F. Kennedy International Airport on a National Airlines Boeing 757 headed for Las Vegas, Nevada. He demanded to be taken to Miami, Antarctica, or Argentina, and to speak to the Argentinean ambassador, Guillermo McGough. Negotiators from the FBI, New York's Port Authority, and the New York Police Department joined forces to persuade Commey to release the pilot and then the co-pilot. Passengers and crew had escaped from the plane when Commey was in the cockpit. Some of the 143 passengers aboard the flight to Las Vegas and Los Angeles exited by using an emergency chute flight attendants deployed. *July 29*, a federal magistrate charged Commey, who authorities said had been planning for months to take over a plane, with one count of air piracy and ordered him held for psychiatric evaluation. (See July 19, 2000; July 17, 2001.)

July 2000: FAA expanded the scope of its accountability board. In addition to dealing with allegations of sexual harassment, it would investigate allegations of harassment based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability as well as other misconduct that might create a hostile work environment. (See July 1998.)

July 2000: FAA completed the common automated radar terminal system (ARTS) program with the commissioning of the Huntington, West Virginia, site. Common ARTS was now fully operational at all 133 ARTS IIE sites and five ARTS IIIE sites. Besides providing upgraded equipment, the other major benefit of the common ARTS program was, regardless of location, was it allowed all ARTS systems to share a common software baseline that could be adapted to the size and complexity of a facility. These innovations facilitated the standardization of procedures, training, and logistics support.

August 1, 2000: An interim final rule went into effect requiring aircraft operators to pay fees for air traffic control services provided to aircraft that operated in U.S. airspace, but did not take off or land in the United States. The Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996 provided FAA the authority to charge fees to aircraft conducting U.S. overflights. (See June 5, 2000; August 20, 2001.)

August 16, 2000: British Airways grounded its fleet of Concorde supersonic jetliners a month after an Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris, raising safety concerns about all of these planes. Air France suspended its Concorde flights immediately after this crash, the first accident in the Concorde's 24 years of commercial service, killed 113 people. British Airways, the only other airline that operated the jets, canceled flights for a day after the accident, but then resumed them, saying it had conducted thorough checks and was confident of the safety of its fleet of these aircraft. British Airways grounded its fleet again, however, after receiving formal word that French and British aviation regulators intended to revoke the certificates of airworthiness for all Concorde.

August 21, 2000: FAA issued an AD reducing the time required for previously ordered inspections of General Electric CF-6 engines. The high-pressure compressor in the aircraft engine compressed the incoming air and sped it up before it entered the combustion chamber to mix with fuel. Cracks in the compressor could cause an uncontained engine failure. FAA had previously ordered operators of aircraft with CF-6 engines to begin inspections effective January 28, 2000. After analyzing an uncontained engine failure experienced by a Varig Brasil Airlines Boeing 767 on June 7, 2000, FAA decreased the time airlines had to complete their initial inspections.

August 24, 2000: After a successful 21-day stability test of the Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) signal in space, FAA declared the system immediately available for some aviation and all non-aviation uses. WAAS improved the position signal to augment GPS. The test demonstrated that the system could operate without interruption, providing a stable and reliable signal. The system delivered one to two-meters horizontal accuracy and two- to three-meters vertical accuracy throughout the contiguous United States. Raytheon operated the system for FAA on a continuous basis, interrupting it only as necessary to upgrade or test the system. (April 6-9, 1999; April 10, 2001.)

August 25, 2000: FAA ordered an inspection of Boeing 767 aircraft to detect possible defects of the shear rivets on the elevator bellcrank assemblies attached to a hydraulic power control actuator at the rear of the plane. Failed shear rivets on two or more bellcrank assemblies could produce abnormal elevator movements and affect control of the aircraft.

September 8, 2000: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would incorporate a new flame propagation standard into regulations applicable to new transport category aircraft. Newly type certified airplanes and newly manufactured airplanes entering service three years after the effective date of the regulation would be required to comply. (See May 25, 2000; September 2, 2003.)

September 14, 2000: Following a year-long analysis, FAA announced a range of initiatives affecting the Boeing 737 rudder system. Near-term initiatives involved changes in operations and maintenance; however, long-term, FAA planned to initiate rulemaking to mandate the redesign of the entire system. (See May 3, 1999; October 26, 2000.)

September 19, 2000: The Department of Transportation announced the swearing in of the first seven members of the FAA Management Advisory Council. This body, established by the FAA Reauthorization Act of 1996, would provide advice and counsel to the FAA administrator on policy, spending, funding, and regulatory matters affecting the aviation industry. It would consist of 18 members. The president would appoint ten members, representing aviation interests. Five members, appointed by the Department of Transportation Secretary, would serve as a subcommittee, with emphasis on air traffic services. There also would be one designee each from the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, and an air traffic services union. The first members included: J. Randolph Babbitt, former president of Air Line Pilots Association; Robert W. Baker,

vice-chairman of AMR Corp.; Edward M. Bolen, president of General Aviation Manufacturers Association; Geoffrey T. Crowley, president and CEO of Air Wisconsin; Robert A. Davis, former Boeing vice president; Deborah Branson, private attorney; and Kendall W. Wilson, private financial analyst. Initially, advisory council members would serve from one- to three-year terms. Subsequent appointments would be for three years. (See September 30, 1996.)

September 20, 2000: FAA issued a press release apologizing for an incident on July 17 when passengers were inconvenienced because of the actions of a small number of controllers in the Chicago TRACON. FAA proposed penalties ranging from letters of reprimand to 30-day suspensions for 15 air traffic controllers in the facility following an investigation that indicated there was an intentional slowing of traffic into the Chicago area. Additionally, FAA announced it would change the management team at the TRACON in Elgin, Illinois, to foster a new workplace environment. The investigation, conducted by FAA with the assistance of the Department of Transportation Inspector General revealed no safety related incidents during the period when traffic was slowed.

September 22, 2000: FAA announced that April 1, 2001, would be the earliest start date for new \$4.00 and \$4.50 PFC levels. The April 1 date, however, did not preclude airports from immediately submitting PFC applications. The new PFC levels were authorized under the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century. Previously, the highest PFC was \$3.00. (See May 30, 2000; April 1, 2001.)

October 5, 2000: Runway 7R/25L opened at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

October 16, 2000: A Cessna 335, carrying Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan, his aide, and piloted by his son, crashed ten miles northwest of Hillsboro, Missouri. All three persons on the aircraft died in the crash.

October 19, 2000: FAA issued a final rule that established a specific licensing and safety requirement for operating a commercial space launch site, whether the site was located on or off a federal launch range. The regulation outlined who must obtain a commercial launch site operator's license, set application requirements, and delineated licensee responsibilities. The rule followed and built upon prior rulemakings governing operation of reusable launch vehicles (RLVs) and reentry and recovery of RLVs and reentry vehicles, as well as a companion rule covering the financial responsibility requirements, such as insurance, for licensed reentry activities. As a set, the three rules completed the process of establishing FAA's regulatory oversight authorized by congressional legislation passed in 1998 that gave FAA responsibility for licensing and regulating reentry of returning space vehicles and reentry sites. Previously, the Commercial Space Launch Act had provided authority only over the launching of commercial launch vehicles, not their return to Earth. The expanded authority was needed to bring the return under the safety regulatory regime of FAA. (See November 9, 1999; November 28, 2000.)

October 24, 2000: FAA awarded a contract to Sensis Corporation to develop the airport surface detection equipment, version X (ASDE-X), a traffic management system that provided seamless coverage of the airport surface, as well as aircraft identification, to air traffic controllers. ASDE-X used a combination of surface movement radar, transponder multilateration, and sensors to display aircraft position labeled with flight call-signs on air traffic control tower displays. (See June 14, 2000; February 29, 2004.)

October 26, 2000: FAA issued an airworthiness directive, mandating use of a simplified procedure in the event that the rudder of a Boeing 737 was to jam or become significantly restricted in its movement. (See September 14, 2000; November 13, 2001.)

October 26-28, 2000: In conjunction with the Cargo Airline Association, FAA tested the ability of automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) and GPS technologies to improve flight safety while increasing the capacity at hub airports in Louisville, Kentucky. ADS-B, a situational awareness tool, shared the controller's level of information with the pilot so the controller and pilot could work together to manage traffic more efficiently. (See July 10, 1999; January 1, 2001.)

November 28, 2000: FAA proposed a new process for obtaining a license to operate an expendable space launch vehicle. Through this rulemaking, FAA proposed to update and streamline its license application process for launches from U.S. territory or by U.S. citizens elsewhere. The agency planned to codify the safety requirements for launch operators regarding license requirements, criteria, and responsibilities to protect the public from the hazards of such launches. These safety requirements would apply to all licensed launches of expendable launch vehicles, whether from a federal launch site or a non-federal launch site. (See October 19, 2000; February 9, 2001.)

December 7, 2000: President Clinton announced three actions to reduce airline delays and improve air travel for America: the release of an executive order directing FAA to create a performance-based organization to focus solely on efficient operation of the air traffic control system; the appointment of a group of business and labor leaders from outside of the aviation industry to serve as a board of directors for this new organization; and a review of impediments to congestion pricing at airports. The president also called on Congress to reform the way air traffic control services were financed. (See April 23, 2000; June 10, 2003.)

December 12, 2000: FAA announced a team of experts would conduct a one-year study of the safety processes used in certifying large transport airplanes, as well as FAA's support of continued airplane safety. The commercial airplane certification process study would include all of the safety processes used to design, build, and certify airplanes, as well as those involved in maintaining safety throughout operational service. Beginning in January 2001, the team would assess current safety processes and practices, and identify areas for improvement. Led by FAA, the team consisted of technical experts from the agency, NTSB, NASA, DOD, foreign civil aviation authorities, industry, and academia.

2001

January 1, 2001: As part of the FAA-industry Capstone partnership, FAA began the first use of automatic dependent surveillance B (ADS-B) technology to track and service traffic near Bethel, Alaska – an area that had no radar coverage. The new system used ground-based transceivers to pick up transmissions from aircraft equipped with ADS-B. The information was then transmitted via phone line and satellite to the Anchorage Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), where it was displayed electronically to controllers. (See October 26-28, 2000; April 1, 2002.)

January 17, 2001: FAA and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) signed an understanding covering operational errors and operational deviations (OE/D). Under this agreement, failure to maintain 80 percent separation minima would be recorded as technical violations and maintained in the employee's training folder. After twelve months, any information which could lead to the identification of an employee – whether causal or contributory to a technical violation – would be discarded. No controller would be decertified or forced to complete remedial training for a technical violation, and all controllers would have to attend refresher training annually. The agreement, which would be reviewed at six-month intervals, also called for quarterly meetings at the national level to address quality assurance. In addition, FAA and NATCA agreed to work together to develop and implement a classification system of OE/Ds based upon risk assessment no later than April 30.

January 20, 2001: George W. Bush became the forty-third President of the United States.

January 25, 2001: Former Member of Congress Norman Y. Mineta (D-CA) took the oath of office as the nation's fourteenth Secretary of Transportation. The lone Democrat in George W. Bush's cabinet, Mineta, age sixty-nine, had been Secretary of Commerce in the outgoing Clinton Administration, and was the first Asian Pacific American to hold this Cabinet-rank post. (See July 7, 2006.)

January 2001: FAA Administrator Jane Garvey established the terminal business service. The new organization consolidated funding, personnel, planning, and processes in a single organization to provide integrated terminal air traffic control capabilities. (See June 5, 1998; November 18, 2003.)

February 9, 2001: Effective this date, FAA amended the procedures for assessment and adjudication of civil penalties in space transportation. Previous regulations provided little guidance for FAA in the prosecution of civil penalties. The new rules provided more detail on the procedures FAA must use to assess civil penalties and on the respondents' rights to adjudication. The rules also provided more detailed procedures to be used in the adjudication. (See November 28, 2000; April 3, 2002.)

March 19, 2001: FAA announced U.S. airlines had complied with the deadline to retrofit commercial airplanes with both fire detection and suppression systems. Most wide-body passenger airplanes already had fire detection and suppression systems in inaccessible

cargo compartments. FAA's February 1998, final rule required the remainder of the passenger fleet be retrofitted within three years. In addition, approximately 300 all-cargo airplanes were required to have detection systems and means to shut off airflow to the cargo compartment. (See February 12, 1998.)

April 1, 2001: Thirty-one airports were the first to be permitted to begin collecting passenger facility charges (PFC) at a \$4.50 level. (See September 22, 2000.)

April 10, 2001: FAA announced its agreement with recommendations in the Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) Independent Review Board (IRB) report issued earlier in the month. Chartered by FAA, the IRB said its technical review showed WAAS would actually work better than FAA's previous estimate and, when fielded, would likely provide a significant additional aviation safety. The board, which met from August to December of 2000, recommended that FAA remain fully committed to the evolution of WAAS, and concluded national WAAS capability could be achieved with FAA's renewed leadership, action, and commitment. It further stated WAAS had enormous benefits for all global positioning system (GPS) users. (See August 24, 2000; July 11, 2003.)

April 12, 2001: FAA issued a rule, effective May 12, 2004, requiring air carrier operators to carry automated external defibrillators on large, passenger-carrying aircraft and augment currently required emergency medical kits. The new rule affected those air carrier operations for which at least one flight attendant was required and provided the option of treating serious medical events during flight time. (See May 24, 2000.)

April 25, 2001: FAA dedicated the first version of its weather systems processor (WSP) at a ceremony held at Albuquerque International Sunport, a facility that had been closely tied to development of the system. The WSP provided information to controllers and pilots about potentially hazardous microburst and wind shear weather events. The system improved the management of air traffic in air space near the airport by forecasting gust front-induced wind shifts, detecting precipitation, and tracking storms. The new processor was deployed at airports that did not qualify for the more sophisticated terminal doppler weather radar (TDWR) or as interim measures at airports where TDWR was scheduled for deployment later. WSP went on line at four other sites at the same time as the Albuquerque dedication: Austin, Texas; Norfolk, Virginia; the FAA Academy (training); and the Technical Center (testing and support). (See September 24, 1998.)

April 27, 2001: FAA prohibited U.S. operators of Boeing 737 aircraft from running center wing tank fuel pumps unless the quantity of fuel exceeded a specified minimum level. The Airworthiness Directive was one of many FAA initiatives to enhance fuel tank safety. (See February 22, 2000; May 7, 2001.)

May 3, 2001: FAA began providing a new service that used wireless devices to inform the public of aviation delays. Travelers with access to pagers, cell phones, or personal digital assistants (PDA), could subscribe and obtain real-time airport status information via e-mail.

May 7, 2001: FAA issued a rule that required airplane manufacturers and operators to change how airplane fuel tanks were designed, maintained, and operated. The rule included a special federal aviation regulation (SFAR) to minimize the potential for failures that could cause ignition sources in fuel tanks on new and existing airplanes. It also included a regulation that, for the first time, mandated airplane design changes to minimize the flammability of fuel tanks on new airplanes. Manufacturers had 18 months from June 6, the effective date of the rule, to conduct the safety reviews and develop required maintenance and inspection programs. Operators had 36 months from June 6 to incorporate a FAA-approved maintenance and inspection program into their operating procedures. (See April 27, 2001; June 6, 2001.)

May 23, 2001: FAA ordered operators of DC-9/MD-88 series and MD-90-30 series aircraft to inspect the wiring of small static port heaters for chafing, loose connections, and evidence of arcing, and to make necessary repairs. The heaters keep ice from forming on devices that measure air pressure. Operators had to determine if the surrounding insulation were covered with metalized Mylar (polyethyleneterephthalate). If so, the Mylar had to be removed and/or replaced with Tedlar-covered insulation, or other appropriate action had to be taken. The airworthiness directive came in response to an incident that occurred on September 17, 1999, in which a Delta Air Lines MD-88 experienced a fire in the forward cargo compartment shortly after takeoff from Northern Kentucky International Airport in Covington, Kentucky.

May 24, 2001: FAA provided Congress a report on ways to expedite environmental reviews of runway projects, including establishing special teams of experts, reducing paperwork, and improving coordination between federal and local officials. The agency proposed strengthening environmental impact statement (EIS) teams by adding more FAA members, asking airport proprietors to contribute members, and putting more consultants on the teams. FAA also suggested increasing FAA environmental specialist and environmental attorney resources. FAA planned to develop a reimbursable agreement for airports interested in paying for extra staff for expedited EIS reviews.

May 24, 2001: FAA announced it had selected a group headed by Lockheed Martin to undertake the advanced technologies and oceanic procedures (ATOP) project. Once installed, the new ATOP technology would give controllers the ability to reduce separation between aircraft on oceanic routes, and would give pilots greater flexibility to choose their own routes. (See June 30, 2004.)

May 29, 2001: FAA announced it would begin using an alert warning system at the country's 34 busiest airports to help prevent runway accidents. Already in use at San Francisco and Detroit, the airport movement area safety system (AMASS) provided air traffic controllers with visual and aural alerts of potential runway accidents caused by runway incursions. AMASS was an enhancement to the ASDE-3 (airport surface detection equipment) radar that processed surveillance data from the ASDE-3 and the terminal automation system. It then determined conflicts based on the position, velocity, and acceleration of airborne arrival aircraft with ground-based aircraft and vehicles. (See July 15, 2000; August 14, 2001.)

June 6, 2001: FAA required design approval holders of certain turbine-powered transport category airplanes, and of any subsequent modifications to those airplanes, to substantiate that the design of the fuel tank system precluded the existence of ignition sources within the airplane fuel tanks. The new rule also required the development and implementation of maintenance and inspection instructions to assure fuel tank safety. For new type designs, the manufacturer had to identify safety-critical maintenance actions and incorporate a means either to minimize development of flammable vapors in fuel tanks or to prevent catastrophic damage if ignition did occur. These actions were based on accident investigations and adverse service experience, both of which had shown unforeseen failure modes and lack of specific maintenance procedures on certain airplane fuel tank systems might result in degradation of design safety features intended to preclude ignition of vapors within the fuel tank. (See May 7, 2001; November 23, 2002.)

June 7, 2001: FAA unveiled a plan addressing the growing gap between demand and capacity in the air transportation system. The plan integrated and aligned agency activities with those of the aviation industry and users of the system. The Operational Evolution Plan (OEP) focused on maintaining safety, increasing capacity, and managing delays. The plan identified specific tasks to be accomplished in the near-term (2001 and 2002), mid-term (2002 to 2004), and long-term (2005 to 2010). FAA and industry considered the OEP an evolving document that would be modified, particularly to incorporate new technologies as they emerged. (See June 2007.)

June 11, 2001: FAA awarded a \$125 million-dollar contract to Lockheed Martin Corp., to develop and field the en route communications gateway (ECG). This new gateway for processing radar data would reduce system outages and thereby increase safety margins and reduce maintenance requirements. ECG would replace the peripheral adapter module replacement item (PAMRI) program. The system would be installed at twenty-one ARTCCs, the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City, and the William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Seattle ARTCC was the first site scheduled for installation of the new system. FAA expected the system to become operational in the summer of 2003. The last site would be fielded in mid-2005. (See December 7, 2005.)

June 25, 2001: FAA issued a final rule to protect from disclosure voluntarily provided information that aided the agency in improving safety and security. The rule particularly encouraged data sharing programs, such as flight operational quality assurance, which used state-of-the-art flight data recorder technology to collect and analyze data on routine flights. FAA had been using data collected in this fashion to identify industry-wide safety trends and to target more effectively resources and correct potential safety problems. The rule took effect on July 25. (See June 30, 2000; October 30, 2001.)

June 30, 2001: Mayor Richard Daley announced a proposal for reducing delays and congestion at O'Hare International Airport. Highlights of the proposal included the addition of one new runway and the relocation of three of the current seven runways. According to the city's estimates, making these changes would reduce delays related to poor weather by 95 percent and overall delays by 79 percent.

July 11, 2001: In a report to Congress, FAA's new management advisory council (MAC) concluded the agency's rulemaking process was inefficient, lacked credibility, and, unless fixed, would erode the safety, security, and efficiency of the aviation system. The MAC, however, was only one of a number of groups that had recently faulted FAA's rulemaking process. GAO, the Aeronautical Repair Station Association, and organized labor echoed the MAC's findings. The MAC found FAA took an average of five years to complete rules, and, at its current pace, would not be able to finish all of the rules currently being developed for 15 years. It also criticized FAA's cost/benefit analyses, inadequate staffing, and management accountability within FAA, and inefficiencies in the aviation rulemaking advisory committee process. (See January 13, 2014.)

July 17, 2001: FAA released final rules on airport and aircraft security, as recommended by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security following the 1996 crash of TWA 800. (See July 27, 2000; September 11, 2001.)

July 31, 2001: FAA awarded a contract to ITT Industries Aerospace/Communications Division, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, to provide the agency with multi-mode VHF digital air-to-ground radios. The contract was for an initial \$20.5 million and would be worth as much as \$580 million if all options were exercised. ITT Industries partnered with Park Air Systems, Federal Data Corp., and Operational Technologies Services, Inc., to provide the equipment. This first building block of the next generation air/ground communications (NEXCOM) system would, in phases, replace air traffic controllers' aging analog radios with digital radios. When completed, the entirely digital system would enhance FAA's ability to meet expanding air traffic control communication demands. (See February 22, 2002.)

August 14, 2001: Representative John Mica (R-FL), chairman of the House aviation subcommittee, criticized FAA for delaying deployment of the airport movement area safety system (AMASS). Mica said the program was six years behind schedule. (See May 29, 2001.)

August 16, 2001: FAA unveiled a new initiative designed to enhance the continued safety of aircraft wiring systems from their design and installation through their retirement. FAA based its enhanced airworthiness program for airplane systems (EAPAS) on results from an intensive data-gathering effort on aircraft wiring systems done in cooperation with industry. EAPAS combined a variety of near- and longer-term actions into a plan to increase awareness of wiring system degradation, implement improved procedures for wiring maintenance and design, and spread that information throughout the aviation community. FAA's overall aging transport non-structural systems program, an effort begun in October 1998, was an expansion of the agency's aging aircraft program. (See October 1, 1998; May 22, 1999; October 6, 2005.)

August 20, 2001: A final FAA rule, effective this date, lowered the overflight fees the agency charged carriers for air traffic and related services incurred by certain aircraft that transit U.S.-controlled airspace but neither take off from, nor land in, the United States. The new rule reduced the fees established by an interim final rule that had gone into

effect on August 1, 2000, and allowed FAA to continue to charge fees as required by law. FAA rulemaking efforts to impose statutorily required fees had been repeatedly challenged in court. The most recent challenge had stemmed from an opinion of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, issued on July 13, 2001, which stated: "Because FAA has failed to articulate the basis for its conclusions that 'the unit costs of providing [air traffic control] services to overflights within each environment [are] identical to the unit costs of providing [air traffic control] services to all air traffic within each environment,' we vacate the 2000 Rule and remand to the FAA for further proceedings consistent with this opinion." (See August 1, 2000; June 21, 2002.)

September 11, 2001: Nineteen radical Islamic extremists with the group al Qaeda penetrated security at three major airports, seized four U.S. domestic airliners, and turned them into missiles that destroyed the World Trade Center in New York City, and damaged the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, killing thousands. Passengers on one of the planes fought the hijackers causing the plane to crash in a Pennsylvania field, killing all on board. For the first time in history, FAA put a ground stop on all U.S. air traffic. Related details follow:

Eastern Standard Time

- 7:59 a.m.: American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767 with 92 people on board, takes off from Boston Logan airport for Los Angeles.
- 8:14 a.m.: United Air Lines Flight 175, a Boeing 767 with 65 people on board, takes off from Boston Logan airport for Los Angeles.
- 8:20 a.m.: American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757 with 64 people on board, takes off from Washington Dulles airport for Los Angeles.
- 8:38 a.m.: FAA notifies the North American Aerospace Defense Command's (NORAD) Northeast Air Defense Sector about the suspected hijacking of American Flight 11.
- 8:42 a.m.: United Air Lines Flight 93, a Boeing 757 with 44 people on board, takes off from Newark airport for San Francisco.
- 8:46 a.m.: American Flight 11 crashes into the north tower of the World Trade Center.
- 9:03 a.m. (approx.): United Flight 175 crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Center.
- 9:04 a.m.: FAA's Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center stops all departures from airports in its jurisdiction (New England and eastern New York State).
- 9:06 a.m.: FAA bans takeoffs of all flights bound to or through the airspace of New York Center from airports in that air route traffic control center and the three adjacent air route traffic control centers – Boston, Cleveland and Washington. This is referred to as a first tier ground stop and covers the Northeast from North Carolina north and as far west as eastern Michigan.
- 9:08 a.m.: FAA bans all takeoffs nationwide for flights going to or through New York Center airspace.
- 9:15 a.m.: FAA (New York ARTCC) notifies NORAD's Northeast Air Defense Sector that United Airlines 175 was the second aircraft that crashed into the World Trade Center.

- 9:25 a.m.: FAA bans takeoffs of all civilian aircraft regardless of destination – a national ground stop.
- 9:37 a.m.: American Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon.
- 9:45 a.m.: In the first unplanned shutdown of U. S. airspace, FAA orders all aircraft to land at the nearest airport as soon as practical. At this time, there were more than 4,500 aircraft in the air on instrument flight rules (IFR) flight plans.
- 10:03 a.m.: United Flight 93 crashes in Stony Creek Township, Pennsylvania.
- 10:39 a.m.: Reaffirming the earlier order, FAA issues a notice to airmen (NOTAM) that halts takeoffs and landings at all airports.
- 12:15 p.m.: The airspace over the 48 contiguous states is clear of all commercial and private flights.
- 2:30 p.m.: FAA announces there will be no U.S. air traffic until noon Eastern Standard Time Wednesday at the earliest. (See July 17, 2001; September 12, 2001.)

September 12, 2001: Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced FAA would allow a limited reopening of the nation's commercial airspace system to allow flights diverted the day before to continue to their original destinations. The Secretary announced FAA was temporarily extending the ground stop order imposed the previous day, while it initiated additional security measures. Mineta said FAA would permit flights only in special limited circumstances. Flights diverted as a result of the ground stop would be allowed to continue to their original destination under vastly tightened security guidelines. Only passengers on the original flights would be allowed to re-board, and only after airports and airlines had implemented strict screening measures. Mineta said a variety of stepped-up security measures would be instituted at the airports once they re-opened. Those measures included:

- A thorough search and security check of all airplanes and airports before passengers were allowed to enter and board aircraft.
- Discontinuance of curbside check-in at the airport.
- Discontinuance of off-airport check-in.
- Only ticketed passengers would be allowed to proceed past airport screeners to catch their flights.
- Vehicles near airport terminals would be monitored more closely. (See September 11, 2001; September 14, 2001.)

September 14, 2001: Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta approved restoration of the next phase of national air service, allowing certain general aviation flights back into the air effective at 4:00 p.m. General aviation was allowed to resume flights operating under instrument flight rules (IFR). Temporarily, however, general aviation flights would not be allowed to fly within 25 nautical miles of New York City and Washington, DC. Those restrictions would be kept in place until further notice as officials continued to assess the recovery situation in those cities over the near term. *September 19*, FAA lifted most restrictions of general aviation (Part 91) visual flight rules operations (VFR), flights. VFR flights were now permitted for U.S. registered aircraft outside of enhanced Class B airspace, or airspace within a 30-mile radius of 30 major U.S. airports. FAA kept restrictions on the following flying activities (except in Hawaii): civil aircraft VFR flight

training operations; VFR operations for banner towing; news reporting; traffic watch; airship/blimps; and Part 91 sightseeing. FAA also restricted flying of any kind within a 3,000-foot altitude and three nautical miles of major sporting events or large open-air gatherings of people, such as football and baseball stadiums, race tracks, and concerts. (See September 12, 2001; September 23, 2001.)

September 23, 2001: As a result of national security concerns, FAA, in conjunction with other federal agencies, issued a notice to airmen (NOTAM) banning Part 137 (agricultural/crop-duster flights) from operating. In addition, no aircraft capable of or equipped for agriculture operations could operate during the ban. (See September 14, 2001; September 27, 2001.)

September 27, 2001: In a speech at Chicago's O'Hare airport, President Bush announced three measures to enhance aviation safety and security. First, he would continue to expand the air marshal program and seek Congressional approval to make the expansion permanent. Second, he would ensure, effective October 1, a fund of \$500 million to finance aircraft modifications to delay or deny access to the cockpit. Thirdly, he would work with Congress to put the federal government in charge of airport security and screening services. The president said fully implementing the extensive security proposal might take four to six months. In the meantime, to ensure that every airport had a strong security presence, he asked the governors of all 50 states to call up the National Guard – at the federal government's expense – to augment existing security staff at every commercial airport nationwide. FAA would provide the necessary training for National Guard personnel. (See September 23, 2001; September 27, 2001.)

September 27, 2001: FAA announced it was launching a nationwide search for personnel to join the air marshal program. FAA was training agents from other federal agencies, including the Customs Service, the Secret Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Already-experienced law enforcement officials were being schooled on handling warfare in a confined space aboard a jet. (See September 23, 2001; September 28, 2001.)

September 28, 2001: FAA alerted civilian pilots of their responsibility to avoid restricted airspace and the procedures to follow if intercepted, in light of a DOD announcement that pilots near or in restricted or prohibited airspace faced a forced landing, or as a last resort, use of deadly force by military aircraft. New security decisions required additional airspace be barred to civilian aircraft. FAA anticipated announcing new restricted and prohibited areas throughout the United States. This additional airspace would be over areas that required protection for national security reasons. New and current restricted and prohibited areas would be revised periodically. (See September 27, 2001; October 4, 2001.)

September 28, 2001: FAA announced it was seeking industry input on its new en route automation modernization (ERAM) program, which would replace the existing en route air traffic control automation system and selected en route infrastructure. FAA planned to pursue the award of a single ERAM System contract. Services to be provided under the

contract included system engineering, system integration, system requirements analysis, system design/development, software design/development, system testing, infrastructure upgrades/enhancements, hardware and software replacements, system deployment, transition planning and support, training, maintenance, logistics support and life cycle support. FAA planned to incorporate any industry comments it deemed appropriate in the development of the final ERAM screening information request (SIR) #1 contract bid package planned for release in mid-October 2001. (See March 29, 2002.)

October 4, 2001: Reagan National Airport reopened for business, but under very tight security. Passengers had to undergo intense security screening and were limited to one carry-on bag and one personal item (a purse or briefcase). The first phase of the reopening included commercial flights by six airlines to the airports in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago O'Hare, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, New York (LaGuardia), and Newark. The six carriers were United, American, Delta, US Airways, Northwest, and Continental. (See September 28, 2001; October 13, 2001.)

October 13, 2001: Joint teams comprised of officials from FAA and the office of the Department of Transportation Inspector General began auditing background checks of Argenbright Security, Inc., employees at 13 U.S. airports. Recent FAA audits of Argenbright found background check violations at those airports. The action followed a petition filed by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Pease on Thursday, October 11, with the U.S. District Court in Philadelphia that ordered Argenbright officials to answer charges that they continued to violate a probation agreement regarding the hiring of screeners without first performing appropriate background checks or providing training. In the following weeks, separate FAA teams began auditing background checks of all U.S. airport security screeners, starting with those employed at the nation's 20 largest airports. The initial 13 airports were: Boston Logan International, Port Columbus International (Columbus, Ohio), Eastern Iowa (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), Dallas/Fort Worth International, Detroit Metro Wayne County, Las Vegas McCarran International, Los Angeles International, Nashville International, New York LaGuardia, Phoenix Sky Harbor International, Seattle-Tacoma International, Trenton-Mercer and Washington Dulles International. Future background checks would be audited to make sure screeners were properly hired according to FAA standards. (See October 4, 2001; October 18, 2001.)

October 18, 2001: Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced beginning the following Friday, October 26, flights at Reagan National Airport would be expanded to include 18 more cities, bringing to 26 the number of cities served by the airport after the president authorized its reopening. (See October 13, 2001; November 19, 2001.)

October 23, 2001: NTSB issued its findings on the crash of an American Airlines MD-82 during landing at Little Rock airport in 1999. The Board determined the probable cause of the accident was the flight crew's failure to discontinue the approach when severe thunderstorms and their associated hazards to flight operations had moved into the airport area, and the flight crew's failure to ensure that the spoilers had extended after touchdown. Contributing to the accident was the flight crew's impaired performance resulting from fatigue and the situational stress associated with the intent to land under

the circumstances, continuation of the approach to a landing when the airline company's maximum crosswind component was exceeded, and use of reverse thrust greater than 1.3 engine pressure ratio after landing. The accident occurred on June 1, 1999, as the flight was arriving from Dallas/Fort Worth with 139 passengers and six crewmembers on board. The aircraft overran the runway, passed through a chain link fence, went down an embankment and collided with a structure supporting the runway lighting system. The captain and 10 passengers were killed; over 100 others were injured. As a result of the investigation, NTSB made 22 new recommendations to FAA and two to the National Weather Service. (See June 3, 1999.)

October 30, 2001: FAA issued a rule that protected the data collected under airline flight operational quality assurance (FOQA) programs from FAA enforcement action, except in criminal or deliberate cases. A FAA rule issued on June 25 protected voluntarily provided information from disclosure to encourage data-sharing programs such as FOQA. The rule responded to a mandate from Congress to protect information that aided in improving safety and security. It also responded to recommendations made by the 1997 National Civil Aviation Review Commission, chaired by Norman Mineta. *November 30*, effective this date, FAA codified enforcement protection for FOQA programs. The agency would not use an operator's FOQA data, or even aggregate FOQA data, in any enforcement action against the operator or its employees when the information was obtained from an FOQA program approved by the FAA administrator. Criminal or deliberate acts would not be protected by this ruling. The rule required air carriers participating in approved FOQA programs to submit aggregated FOQA data to FAA for use in monitoring safety trends. (See June 25, 2001.)

November 12, 2001: American Airlines Flight 587 exploded over Queens, New York, shortly taking off from John F. Kennedy International Airport. All 260 people aboard the plane and five people on the ground were killed. Some witnesses reported a burning engine fell from the sky before the aircraft did, and others described a midair explosion. The wreckage fell in three places. One cylindrical piece, resembling an engine housing, fell onto a Texaco station, where it landed six feet from the fuel pumps. Most of the fuselage cratered into an intersection, sending columns of dense black smoke aloft over leaping flames. The third element, a wing section, plunged into Jamaica Bay. (See November 16, 2001.)

November 13, 2001: FAA published a proposal to mandate installation of a new, improved rudder control system in all Boeing 737 models within five years. The proposed airworthiness directive would require Boeing 737 operators to install a new rudder system, currently being developed by Boeing, and make any additional changes to the aircraft needed to accommodate the new system, within five years of the AD effective date. The new design would increase the overall safety of the 737 by simplifying the rudder system and eliminating a range of previously known failure possibilities. The redesign also would make it unnecessary to have existing flight crew operating procedures and associated training unique to the 737 rudder system. (See October 26, 2000; October 7, 2002.)

November 14, 2001: FAA commissioned the last automated surface observing system (ASOS) at New Haven, Connecticut, five months ahead of schedule, marking the completion of a nationwide push to establish 569 baseline systems, which started in November 1993 in Montrose, Colorado. ASOS provided current weather information on critical weather parameters, such as sky condition and visibility, temperature and dew point, pressure, wind speed, and direction. It also identified precipitation and its accumulation, thunderstorm reporting, and freezing rain accumulation.

November 15, 2001: FAA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration made a new tool available to convey advanced storm information to pilots. The national convective weather forecast (NCWF) product, designed and developed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, and MIT Lincoln Laboratory, in Lexington, Massachusetts, provided pilots with a plotted map depicting the current location of convective hazards and where they would be an hour later. Pilots, federal aviation weather briefers, air traffic control specialists, and airline dispatchers who routinely made operational decisions associated with thunderstorm hazards routinely were turning to the NCWF for essential information.

November 16, 2001: FAA issued an emergency airworthiness directive mandating an inspection of the vertical stabilizers and rudders on all Airbus A-300 and A-310 aircraft. The inspections had to be completed within 15 days. In addition to the area where the structural failure in American 587 occurred, the inspections also focused on the surrounding rudder components and attachment fittings. (See November 12, 2001.)

November 19, 2001: President George W. Bush signed into law the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (Public Law 107-71), which, among other things, called for the establishment of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in the Department of Transportation, to be responsible for aviation security. The act also broadened AIP eligibility to include costs for additional security-related activity required by law or the Secretary of Transportation. The period of eligibility for such projects was for FY 2002 and could include only those additional costs incurred from September 11, 2001, to September 30, 2002. (See October 18, 2001; December 6, 2001, February 17, 2017.)

December 6, 2001: FAA required each airport operator and aircraft operator with a security program under part 107 or part 108, to conduct fingerprint-based criminal history record checks for individuals who had not already undergone such a check. The rule applied to those who either possessed, or had applied for: unescorted access authority to the security identification display area of an airport; authority to authorize others to have unescorted access; and screening functions. (See November 19, 2001; December 20, 2001.)

December 10, 2001: FAA amended the list of airspace locations where RVSM could be applied to include the New York flight information region (FIR) portion of West Atlantic Route System airspace. RVSM procedures allowed vertical separation to be reduced between aircraft at certain higher altitudes if the aircraft met stringent altimeter and auto-pilot performance requirements. The rule also required any aircraft equipped with the

traffic alert and collision avoidance system, version II (TCAS II) flying in RVSM airspace to incorporate a version of TCAS II compatible with RVSM operations. (See February 24, 2000; May 10, 2002.)

December 11, 2001: Runway 4L/22R opened at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

December 20, 2001: FAA decreased the no fly zone around Reagan National Airport. As a result of the change, Suburban Airport in Anne Arundel County, Freeway Airport in Prince George's County, and Maryland Airport in Charles County, Maryland, reopened for normal operations. (See December 6, 2001; January 5, 2002.)

December 27, 2001: Four FAA facilities in the Eastern Region – the New York TRACON, the New York and Washington ARTCCs, and the Philadelphia tower – implemented what was called the “Newark Chokepoint Flip/Flop” project. This involved switching flight paths and eliminating a crossover pattern affecting hundreds of aircraft daily to increase capacity.

December 2001: The Kansas City ARTCC began daily use of the user request evaluation tool (URET). The tool enabled controllers to see traffic 20 minutes into the future and allowed them to safely assign and grant pilot requests for more direct and more fuel efficient routes. The prototypes at the Memphis and Indianapolis ARTCCs had been shown to save the airlines \$1.5 million per month based on an increase in direct routings of about 20 percent. (See September 30, 1999; January 26, 2002.)

2002

January 5, 2002: Fifteen-year-old Charles Bishop, a flight student, took off in a Cessna, leaving his instructor behind, and crashed the plane into the Bank of America Plaza in downtown Tampa, Florida. Bishop, the only fatality in the crash, ignored warnings from an intercepting Coast Guard helicopter to land. The crash rekindled the debate surrounding the security of general aviation, spurred another round of meetings among top security officials, and lead FAA to issue a flight standards service notice proposing eleven recommendations for possible security enhancements around airports. The proposed enhancements included having separate ignition and door lock keys for aircraft, limiting student pilots' access to aircraft keys until they reached a specific point in the training curriculum, keeping student pilots under supervision of a flight instructor at all times, establishing positive identification of any student pilot before every flight lesson, and requiring a parent or legal guardian to co-sign enrollment applications for students who were not legal adults. Other recommendations called for aircraft owners to take appropriate steps to secure unattended aircraft. (See December 20, 2001; January 15, 2002.)

January 15, 2002: Effective this date, FAA mandated new standards to protect cockpits from intruders and the effects of small arms fire or fragmentation devices, such as grenades. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act authorized FAA to issue the

final rule, which required operators of more than 6,000 airplanes to install reinforced doors by April 9, 2003. The agency also issued a special federal aviation regulation (SFAR) requiring operators to install temporary internal locking devices within 45 days on all passenger airplanes and on airplanes equipped with cargo cockpit doors. *October 17*, FAA issued a series of SFARs authorizing short-term door reinforcement by providing airlines and cargo operators with temporary relief from certain FAA standards. The major U.S. airlines voluntarily installed short-term fixes to the cockpit doors of 4,000 aircraft in 32 days. The SFAR stated a long-term fix that met FAA requirements must be installed within 18 months. (See January 5, 2002; January 18, 2002.)

January 18, 2002: Effective this date, airlines had to inspect all checked baggage for explosives. (See January 15, 2002; February 13, 2002.)

January 26, 2002: FAA launched the user request evaluation tool (URET), a software decision-support tool designed to aide controllers in providing direct routes to high altitude aircraft more quickly, at the Memphis Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC). *January 27*, controllers began using URET at the Indianapolis ARTCC and on *January 30* at the Cleveland ARTCC. With the Kansas City ARTCC already up and running, four URET sites were in service. (See December 2001; May 6, 2002.)

February 5, 2002: FAA proposed new certification requirements for light-sport aircraft, pilots, and repairmen. Previous FAA regulations had not addressed the sport pilot segment of general aviation. The proposal defined light-sport aircraft as simple, low-performance, low-energy aircraft that would be limited to:

- 1,232 lbs. maximum weight,
- Two occupants,
- A single engine (non-turbine),
- Stall speed of 39 knots,
- Maximum airspeed of 115 knots, and
- Fixed landing gear.

FAA also included two new categories in the sport aircraft proposal – weight-shift-control aircraft and powered parachutes. (See September 1, 2004.)

February 13, 2002: FAA issued an emergency rule enabling private flying to resume under new strict security procedures at three airports in suburban Maryland outside Washington, DC, which had been largely shut down since September 11, 2001. The reinstated airports were: College Park, Potomac, and Washington Executive/Hyde. (See January 18, 2002; February 17, 2002.)

February 17, 2002: Effective this date, formal responsibility for aviation security transferred from FAA to the Transportation Security Agency (TSA). (See November 19, 2001; March 13, 2002.)

February 22, 2002: FAA announced establishment of government/industry agreements with three companies for the development of technology that would integrate digital

voice and data into air/ground communications. Under the agreements, Rockwell Collins Commercial Systems, Honeywell Aerospace Electronic Systems, and Avidyne Corp. would develop VHF digital link mode-3 (VDL-3) avionics. FAA would partially fund industry development of the airborne components of next generation air/ground communications (NEXCOM) program, which would replace the ground radio system currently used for air traffic control communications with state-of-the-art digital technology. (See July 31, 2001; July 15, 2002.)

February 25, 2002: FAA announced pilots could now receive up-to-date weather information in the cockpit via VHF data link mode 2 (VDL-2) avionics that supported flight information services broadcast. Pilots of properly equipped aircraft could receive text messages, including routine and special weather reports, terminal area forecasts, and pilot reports issued by FAA or the National Weather Service at no cost. They could also receive graphic products such as weather maps, and other flight information services products available through a subscription service.

February 28, 2002: The Department of Transportation Inspector General released an audit of FAA's progress in acquiring the weather and radar processor (WARP), which would provide meteorologists and air traffic controllers more accurate and reliable information to lessen the effects of bad weather. The IG found that FAA had experienced significant problems managing the development and deployment of WARP on controller displays – mostly because of human factors and technical problems. He also found the program's current cost baseline was not realistic and the schedule was at risk. Since 1995, estimated program costs had increased from \$227.8 million to \$276.8 million. (See March 2002.)

March 13, 2002: Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced flight operations at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport would be authorized to return to their pre-September 11, 2001, capacity by April 15, completing full restoration of the nation's commercial aviation system. Since the airport reopened on October 4, 2001, the facility had been returning in phases to full capacity, giving the federal government and local authorities a chance to implement enhanced security measures at all airports serving Reagan National. During the first phase of restored flights, service was allowed to eight cities. Phase 2, which had begun October 26, permitted service to an additional 18 cities. Phase 3, carried out in three stages, began January 2 with incremental increases on February 1 and March 1. Service to a total of 43 additional cities was restored during phase 3, during which approximately 620 daily flights were operated at the airport – 77 percent of its pre-September 11 total. With a return to full service, traffic would be able to grow to its previous total of approximately 800 daily flights. (See February 17, 2002; June 21, 2002.)

March 21, 2002: The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) determined the probable cause of the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 was the airplane's departure from normal cruise flight and subsequent impact with the Atlantic Ocean as a result of the relief first officer's flight control inputs. EgyptAir Flight 990, a Boeing 767-366ER, crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Nantucket, Massachusetts, on October 31, 1999. The scheduled flight was being operated from John F. Kennedy International

Airport, New York, to Cairo International Airport, Cairo, Egypt. The 14 crewmembers and 203 passengers were killed and the airplane destroyed. Because the crash occurred in international waters, the Egyptian government had responsibility for the investigation under the provisions of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. However, the Egyptian government delegated the conduct of the investigation to the NTSB under the provisions of Annex 13. (See October 31, 1999.)

March 26, 2002: Department of Transportation and Department of Defense (DoD) Secretaries Norman Mineta and Donald Rumsfeld announced the release of the 2001 Federal Radionavigation Plan. The plan included revised schedules for phasing down most land-based radionavigation systems to allow more time to transition to the global positioning system. The Department of Transportation would continue to operate Loran-C in the short term while the administration continued to evaluate the long-term need for the system. Beginning with this edition, federal radionavigation information previously contained in a single document would be published in two separate documents, the Federal Radionavigation Plan, and a companion document entitled Federal Radionavigation Systems. The plan included the introduction, policies, operating plans, system selection considerations, and research and development sections, and would allow more efficient and responsive updates of policy and planning information. Sections relating to government roles and responsibilities, user requirements, and systems descriptions were moved to the companion document and would be updated as necessary. A joint product of the Department of Transportation and DoD, the radionavigation plan was mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1998, which also required that the plan be revised and updated at least every two years. (See February 2000.)

March 29, 2002: In response to the en route automation modernization (ERAM) screening information request (SIR) issued March 15, Raytheon filed a formal protest of FAA's sole-sourcing plans to judge bids for the ERAM contract. Raytheon and Lockheed Martin had been the only firms planning to bid on ERAM. Subsequently, an alternative dispute resolution process was set up, FAA shelved the sole-source proposal, and the agency worked with both companies to craft a new SIR. *Late June 2002*, FAA formalized an agreement between Lockheed Martin and Raytheon to resolve the ERAM contract dispute. Lockheed Martin was awarded the contract worth \$10 million for the risk-mitigation phase of the ERAM program, with Raytheon named as one of the subcontractors. At the same time, Lockheed Martin was named as a subcontractor to Raytheon on the standard terminal automation replacement system (STARS) project. If Lockheed Martin successfully executed the risk mitigation phase, it would secure the implementation contract for the full ERAM program. The total projected value for implementation and support was estimated at \$1 billion through 2012. (See September 28, 2001; June 30, 2003.)

March 2002: FAA awarded a \$26 million follow-on contract to Harris Corporation to maintain and support the WARP program. Under the original contract, a \$72.5 million design and development award given to Harris in July 1996, FAA tasked the firm to develop, procure, install, and support 24 WARP systems at FAA ARTCCs and the air

traffic control system command center. The follow-on contract covered general support and hardware and software maintenance through September 2004. Future awards and options could increase the overall contract value to more than \$125 million by 2004. (See February 28 2002; May 2002.)

April 1, 2002: Under contract to FAA's Capstone program office in Anchorage, Alaska, General Dynamics Decision Systems successfully demonstrated a direct small aircraft-to-satellite navigation communications data link capability. Using a Motorola hand-held satellite telephone in a University of Alaska Cessna 180, General Dynamics conducted its proof-of-concept demonstration, transmitting a live stream of aircraft position data, via the Iridium satellite system, to the Anchorage ARTCC. The test flight departed Merrill Field, proceeded along the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet, past Pioneer Peak, and continued deep into the Knik Glacier valley. (See January 1, 2001; July 1, 2002.)

April 3, 2002: FAA announced it had issued space launch licenses to two U.S. launch vehicles, the Lockheed Martin Atlas V and the Boeing Delta IV rockets. Both were scheduled to fly before the end of the year, each carrying commercial satellite payloads. The new vehicles were highly advanced models of the Atlas and Delta vehicles which had served as the workhorses of U.S. government and commercial launches for many years. (See February 9, 2001; April 1, 2004.)

April 8, 2002: The Department of Transportation Inspector General for Auditing, Alexis Stefani, testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee on FAA's oversight of passenger aircraft maintenance. Stefani stated that while FAA's air transport oversight system (ATOS) for monitoring air carriers was conceptually sound, it was not reaching its full potential at the original ten major carriers and had not been expanded to the remaining 129 passenger air carriers. FAA had a long-standing requirement for carriers to monitor their own maintenance. The carriers, however, placed limited emphasis on information derived from continuing analysis and surveillance systems, a subcomponent of ATOS used to monitor the effectiveness of their aircraft maintenance and inspection programs. As a result, weaknesses had gone undetected in air carrier maintenance systems. Stefani recommended FAA:

- Finish developing key elements of ATOS – specifically, processes for analyzing inspection results and ensuring that corrective actions were implemented for weaknesses found in air carrier maintenance and operations systems,
- Improve inspector training and locating qualified inspectors where they were most needed, and
- Establish strong national oversight and accountability to ensure consistent ATOS field implementation. (See October 1, 1998.)

April 27, 2002: A new terminal radar control facility (TRACON) began providing air traffic approach and departure control for the entire St. Louis metropolitan area. Airport traffic control tower facilities supported by the new TRACON included St. Louis Lambert International Airport (St. Louis); Spirit of St. Louis Airport; (Chesterfield, Missouri); St. Louis Regional Airport (Alton, Illinois); St. Louis Downtown Airport

(Cahokia, Illinois); and Scott Mid-America Airport (Belleville, Illinois), a joint-use facility also responsible for directing air traffic for Scott Air Force Base.

May 6, 2002: FAA announced the successful deployment of URET at the Washington ARTCC in Leesburg, Virginia. URET allowed pilots to select more direct routes to their destinations. The new digital system was one of many building blocks in FAA's free flight program. In addition to Washington, URET was in use at five other ARTCCs (Kansas City, Cleveland, Chicago, Indianapolis, and Memphis). (See January 26, 2002; October 30, 2006.)

May 9, 2002: FAA announced the operational use of STARS in El Paso, Texas. This upgraded version, referred to as full STARS, and completely replaced the automated radar terminal systems (ARTS). Full STARS consisted of state-of-the-art displays and computers providing radar service and a backup service. The full system was being developed in phases so that the concerns of technicians and air traffic controllers could be addressed. In 1999, El Paso and Syracuse, New York, had received an early version of STARS, which had attached STARS to the ARTS processing system. (See January 12, 2000; June 12, 2002.)

May 10, 2002: FAA issued a proposed rule that would reduce the minimum vertical separation between aircraft from the current 2,000 feet to 1,000 feet for all aircraft flying between 29,000 and 41,000 feet, thus allowing more airplanes in the same volume of airspace. At the time, aircraft at those altitudes had to be separated by 2,000 feet vertically, meaning they could fly only at 29,000, 31,000, and 33,000 feet and so forth. Implementing reduced vertical separation minima procedures was intended to increase the routes and altitudes available and lead to more efficient routings that would save time and fuel. (See December 10, 2001; October 22, 2003.)

May 2002: The Fort Worth ARTCC became the first facility to go operational with WARP on the controller displays. WARP displayed terminal Doppler weather radar information directly to controllers on the same screen as aircraft position data, thus helping controllers to reroute air traffic to avoid areas of severe weather. FAA planned to install WARP at the other ARTCCs during June and July and have the system operational at all the center sites by the end of October. (See March 2002; January 23, 2003.)

June 12, 2002: FAA announced plans to purchase new radar automation display systems for some low- to medium-activity airports that currently lacked radar displays. The display systems were part of FAA's plan for providing interim tower displays in advance of the full national deployment of STARS. Called the ARTS IE (automated radar terminal systems IE) and STARS LITE (STARS local integrated tower equipment), the displays were based on existing air traffic control technology, enabling FAA to minimize the need for additional testing, evaluation, and training. (See May 9, 2002; September 17, 2002.)

June 14, 2002: GAO concluded FAA's controller hiring plans were inadequate, and the widely publicized problem of controller retirements was going to be even worse than the

agency had predicted. Investigating controller attrition at the direction of Congress, the GAO reported that about 5,000 controllers might retire in the next five years, double the number who retired in the previous five years. Although the exact number and timing of the controllers' departures had not been determined, attrition scenarios developed by both FAA and GAO indicated the total attrition would grow substantially in both the short and long term. As a result, FAA would likely need to hire thousands of air traffic controllers in the next decade to meet increasing traffic demands and to address the anticipated attrition of experienced controllers.

June 21, 2002: FAA issued a notice of agency reconsideration of final rule regarding the charging of fees for providing air traffic services required by aircraft that fly in U.S.-controlled airspace but neither take off from, nor land in, the United States. Since August 1, 2000, the agency had been charging fees for these overflight services. Authorized by the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996, the fees were amended by the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, enacted on November 19, 2001. The newer legislation further required that the fees be “reasonably,” rather than directly, related to costs. The 2001 act provided that the determination of costs by the FAA administrator was not subject to judicial review. On May 6, 2002, FAA published a notice of inquiry in the *Federal Register* seeking public comment on whether, and to what (if any) extent, these statutory changes required the agency to modify its final rule on fees. (See August 20, 2001.)

June 21, 2002: Effective this date, FAA required improved flightdeck security and operational and procedure changes to prevent unauthorized access to the flightdeck on passenger-carrying aircraft and some cargo aircraft operated by foreign carriers under the provisions of part 129. This final rule applied the same flightdeck security enhancements to foreign air carriers as applied to U.S. air carriers. (See March 13, 2002; October 28, 2002.)

June 26, 2002: FAA announced plans to upgrade the tower data link services (TDLS) to enhance the reliability of service between tower controllers and pilots. The upgrade would include changes to system hardware, software, and supporting technical documentation. Philadelphia and Boston Logan International airports would receive the upgrades first. Over the following 12 months, FAA planned to upgrade 58 high-density airport towers in the U.S. then using TDLS. In all, the system was used by 17 major airlines and two general aviation service providers who relayed flight information to 1,400 aircraft and two cargo carriers.

July 1, 2002: FAA announced flight service station specialists in Anderson, South Carolina, had begun using the operational and supportability implementation system (OASIS), part of the agency's program to modernize 61 automated flight service stations in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The stations provided in-flight planning and up-to-date weather information to general aviation pilots. OASIS consisted of commercial-off-the-Shelf hardware and software to combine weather, flight plan, and aeronautical database information within a single system. (See August 25, 1997.)

July 1, 2002: FAA announced it had completed the technical and economic evaluations of alternative automatic dependent surveillance-B (ADS-B) technologies and decided that ADS-B would use a combination of the 1090 MHz extended squitter ADS-B link for air carrier and private/commercial operators of high performance aircraft, and the universal access transceiver ADS-B link for the typical general aviation user. ADS-B airborne systems would transmit an aircraft's identity, position, velocity, and intent to other aircraft and to air traffic control systems on the ground, allowing for common situational awareness to all appropriately equipped users of the national airspace system. (See April 1, 2002; August 30, 2007.)

July 15, 2002: FAA announced Harris Corporation had been awarded a contract to modernize, operate, and manage the telecommunications infrastructure that air traffic controllers use to communicate with each other and with pilots. The contract called for the replacement of FAA-owned multiplexing and switching networks, as well as telecommunications services leased from multiple providers. The performance-based contract consisted of a five-year base with options that could extend the period of performance up to 15 years. FAA anticipated the contract value to grow beyond the initial evaluated cost of approximately \$1.7 billion to an estimated \$3.5 billion.

July 15, 2002: While lauding FAA's initiative to develop new communications technologies to support future air traffic management needs, a GAO report recommended the agency assess the possible impact of emerging technologies on the effort. Anticipated growth in air traffic would require more channels for voice communication than FAA's current systems could handle, according to the report. The agency had undertaken its next generation air/ground communications (NEXCOM) initiative to develop an integrated voice and data communications system that would keep pace with future needs. According to the GAO report, FAA eventually would require aviation users to buy new radios and other equipment to support the system. The agency estimated its long-term funding commitment to NEXCOM could reach \$4 billion through fiscal year 2023. Members of the House Subcommittee on Aviation had asked GAO to determine to what extent FAA's current communications infrastructure could meet future needs, what FAA had done to ensure the technology selected for NEXCOM would be adequate, and what issues the agency had to resolve before it made its final decision. (See February 22, 2002; February 5, 2003.)

July 17, 2002: The White House announced its intention to nominate NTSB Chair Marion Blakey to become FAA administrator after Jane Garvey's five-year term ended. Blakey, 54, had been at NTSB for less than a year, having been selected for the post in June 2001, and sworn in September. Before becoming NTSB chairman, Blakey, a native of Gadsden, Alabama, spent eight years – during the Clinton Administration – running her own public affairs consulting business, Blakey & Associates. Before that she held numerous government posts in Republican administrations, including jobs with the Departments of Commerce and Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the White House. She was Administrator of Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration under the senior President Bush from 1992-1993. She was a 1970 graduate of Mary Washington College, and did graduate work in Middle

East affairs while attending the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. (See August 2, 2002.)

July 18, 2002: FAA awarded the Boeing Company a \$23 million contract to examine the feasibility of incorporating satellite-based communications and air traffic management systems into the national airspace system. This was the first significant FAA contract for Boeing's new air traffic management division.

August 2, 2002: Jane Garvey's five-year term as FAA administrator ended. The Senate confirmation hearing for FAA Administrator-designate Marion Blakey, originally scheduled for this date, was postponed. Secretary Mineta named Monte Belger acting administrator. In an earlier memo to FAA management team, the Secretary announced Belger had agreed to stay on beyond his planned retirement date to aid in the transition. If Blakey had been confirmed, Belger would have been acting deputy administrator through August 30. (See August 4, 1999; November 8, 1999; July 17, 2002; September 13, 2002.)

August 5, 2002: FAA announced that it was providing pilots with Internet access to runway visual range (RVR) information, an electronic means to display how far a pilot with normal vision would be able to see down the runway during an approach. Pilots and flight operations centers used RVR in deciding whether to land at an airport when visibility was poor. Previously, RVR information had been available only to selected air carriers as part of FAA's collaborative decision making (CDM) initiative, where it was used for traffic management planning.

August 7, 2002: Effective this date, FAA amended the noise certification standards for subsonic jet airplanes and subsonic transport category large airplanes. These changes were based on the joint effort of FAA, the European Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA), and the FAA aviation rulemaking advisory committee, to harmonize the U.S. noise certification regulations and the JAA requirements for subsonic jet airplanes and subsonic transport category large airplanes. The changes provided nearly uniform noise certification standards for airplanes granted certificates in the United States and in the JAA countries. The harmonization of the noise certification standards also simplified airworthiness approvals for import and export purposes. (See October 28, 1998; August 2, 2002; January 28, 2004.)

August 27, 2002: FAA issued a final rule confirming interim final rules published on September 29, 1992, and December 30, 1993, requiring deicing operations in ground icing conditions. The interim final rules required Part 121 certificate holders to develop and comply with a FAA approved ground deicing/anti-icing program, part 125 certificate holders to provide pilot testing on conducting operations in ground icing conditions, part 135 certificate holders to provide pilot training on conducting operations in ground icing conditions, and part 125 and 135 certificate holders to check airplanes for contamination (i.e., frost, ice, or snow) prior to takeoff when ground icing conditions exist.

September 9, 2002: FAA announced plans to develop, and implement within the next year, a plan to establish an air navigation concept called required navigation performance

(RNP). Under RNP, the national airspace system would evolve from a ground-based design to one where aircraft could take full advantage of advanced technologies for precision guidance in the en route (high-altitude) and terminal (about a 40-mile radius of the airport) areas. Potential benefits included allowing more precision approach and departure paths at airports and keeping aircraft clear of obstacles and terrain. Using RNP, flight paths could be developed that met operators' preferred routes and environmental requirements. Parallel paths also could be developed to increase airspace capacity, both in en route and terminal operations. (See October 8, 2002.)

September 13, 2002: Marion C. Blakey was sworn in as the 15th administrator of FAA. (See August 2, 2002.)

September 13, 2002: Monte Belger, long-serving acting FAA deputy administrator retired. Belger worked for FAA for more than 30 years. He joined the agency in 1972 as a security inspector in Tampa, Florida. From 1980 to 1988, he held three senior management positions in the Great Lakes region. In 1992, he was named executive director for acquisitions and safety oversight. Since 1995, Belger had been associate administrator for air traffic services, responsible for the daily operations of the national airspace system. In 1998, he was named acting deputy administrator. (See August 2, 2002; November 2, 2002.)

September 15, 2002: FAA commissioned a new state-of-the-art air traffic control tower at the Orlando International Airport. The new tower, at 345 feet, became the tallest in North America.

September 17, 2002: The Department of Transportation Inspector General (IG) expressed concerns about progress on deploying STARS. The IG had pointed out that FAA had officially changed the cost, schedule, and requirements for STARS twice. In October 1999, FAA estimated the cost for its new approach at \$1.4 billion, with a schedule to begin deploying STARS in 2002 at 188 facilities, with installation to be complete at all facilities by 2008. The second change occurred in March 2002, when FAA lowered its estimate from \$1.4 billion to \$1.33 billion, reduced the number of facilities receiving STARS from 188 to 74, and changed the date to complete installation at all facilities from 2008 to 2005. FAA responded to the IG concerns by stating it planned to follow its policy for testing STARS and addressing critical software problems. Because FAA had changed the date for deploying STARS at the first facility from 1998 to 2002, the agency was implementing interim systems to allow it to continue to meet demands for air traffic services. (See June 12, 2002; September 20, 2002.)

September 20, 2002: Raytheon defended the STARS program in a statement responding to a recent GAO report that cited critical software problems with the system. FAA planned to introduce STARS at the Philadelphia TRACON on November 18. STARS would control live traffic there, with the current system serving as a backup. FAA expected to commission formally the new system in February 2003. (See September 17, 2002; February 4, 2003.)

October 3, 2002: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would require FAA-approved corrosion prevention and control programs to be included in the maintenance and inspection of all airplanes operated under part 121 of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, all multiengine airplanes registered in the U.S. but operated in common carriage by foreign air carriers or foreign persons under 14 CFR part 129, and all multiengine airplanes used in scheduled operations under 14 CFR part 135.

October 4, 2002: FAA proposed a two-step program for getting more crash-resistant seats into airplane cabins. Once finalized, these steps would place current-standard "16g" seats in the U.S. fleet within 14 years. FAA proposed giving manufacturers of Part 121 and 135 aircraft four years to get the new seats onto production lines. In-service planes would require the upgrades within 14 years, or when seats were replaced as part of interior upgrades, starting four years after the rule's publication. FAA would tackle the production lines first because new-build planes would have longer useful lives than in-service jets. A FAA study concluded 16g seats – already in service on many planes – would prevent 114 passenger deaths and 133 serious injuries through 2020. The then-current 9g minimum standard, established in the 1950s, used a static test to measure how much force could be applied to a seat before it broke. The new 16g standard was based on a dynamic test using real-life crash impact data.

October 7, 2002: Controller-pilot datalink communications (CPDLC) became operational at the Miami ARTCC. The prototype system, which had been tested for one year at Miami, offered four services:

- Transfer of communications (an obligatory data transfer process occurring with a flight's hand-off from one sector to another).
- Initial contact (an obligatory exchange of information occurring at the time of a crew's first check-in with an air traffic control facility).
- Exchange of altimeter setting information.
- Exchange of "menu text" to determine what types of messages proved most beneficial to pilots and controllers. (See February 4, 2000.)

October 7, 2002: FAA published a final rule requiring Boeing 737 operators to install a newly designed rudder control system and make other changes to the aircraft to accommodate the new system. The new design increased the overall safety of the aircraft by simplifying the rudder system and eliminating a range of failure possibilities. Operators had six years to install the new system. (See November 13, 2001.)

October 8, 2002: In a speech at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Aviation Summit, FAA Administrator Marion Blakey announced, within a month, FAA would approve required navigation performance (RNP) procedures for San Francisco International Airport. Through the use of onboard technology, pilots would be able to navigate aircraft to any point in the world using only geographical coordinates. (See September 9, 2002; December 31, 2002.)

October 28, 2002: Effective this date, FAA revised the pilot certificate requirements to require a person to carry approved photo identification when exercising the privileges of

a pilot certificate. Additionally, the rule required a pilot certificate holder to present photo identification when requested by authorities including a duly-authorized representative of FAA, NTSB, TSA, or a law enforcement agency. (See June 21, 2002; February 10, 2003.)

November 22, 2002: The White House announced plans to nominate Robert Sturgell, senior counsel to FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, to fill the vacant FAA deputy administrator post. (See September 13, 2002.)

November 23, 2002: FAA issued an emergency airworthiness directive for Boeing 737-600s and -700s, 700Cs, 900s, 747s, and 757s after two fuel tank pumps on separate 747s showed “extreme localized overheating of parts.” The AD gave carriers four days to comply. The parts in question were located in the priming and vapor pump section of the fuel pump. FAA said the likely cause of the overheating was friction between the pump parts but found no specific cause. (See June 6, 2001; July 30, 2004.)

November 27, 2002: FAA issued a final rule for air tour operators calling for development of site specific plans to protect the environment of U.S. national parks. The rule, crafted with input from the National Park Service, accommodated the varied interests of visitors to the parks, Native American tribes, and local air tour operators. The National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000 had directed FAA, in cooperation with NPS, to establish an air tour management plan (ATMP) for any unit of the National Park System, or abutting tribal lands, where commercial air tour operations were conducted or planned. To continue air tour operations over any national park or abutting tribal lands, all existing air tour operators were required to submit an application to FAA for operating authority by January 23, 2003. Existing operators who complied with all applicable federal requirements would be granted interim operating authority to continue air tour operations while developing their individual ATMPs. New entrant operators had to apply for and be granted operating authority before commencing air tours over any national park or abutting tribal lands. (See March 15, 2007.)

November 2002: A high-profile government report called for FAA to offer incentives to airlines to introduce the onboard technology necessary to support a modernized air traffic management (ATM) system, and recommended changes to the modernization process itself. The final report of the Commission on the Future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry said airline reluctance to equip their fleets with new technology could hinder ATM modernization. It said mandatory rules and operational benefits were insufficient to motivate the aggressive operator investments needed for system-wide improvements. Onboard technology should be regarded as part of national aviation infrastructure, and therefore federally funded, the report said.

December 8, 2002: FAA issued an interim final rule requiring inspections and records reviews for most aircraft in scheduled commercial service for 14 years or more. The rule, effective one year from this date, mandated operators could not keep an airplane in service more than four years from the effective date unless the maintenance program for the aircraft included damage-tolerance-based inspections and procedures for certain parts.

The rule affected operators of multi-engine airplanes in scheduled operations under Parts 121, 135, and 129 of the federal aviation regulations, as well as type certificate holders (for example, aircraft manufacturers). The rule did not apply to airplanes operated within the state of Alaska.

December 8, 2002: FAA commissioned a new air traffic control tower at Miami International Airport. The tower could withstand 150-mile-per-hour winds generated by hurricanes. At 333 feet, the Miami tower was the second-tallest in the U.S. after Orlando International's 345-foot tower.

December 14, 2002: The new Potomac Consolidated TRACON began operations. The new state-of-the-art facility in Fauquier County, Virginia, consolidated five existing TRACONs and allowed FAA to redesign the airspace in this area for more efficient, direct flight routings. (See March 6, 2000.)

December 31, 2002: FAA signed an industry-championed change, eight years in the making, adding required RNP instrument approach procedures to the rolls of the terminal instrument procedures document and other publications. In about one year, operators would be permitted to begin flying scaled-down versions of the futuristic RNP instrument approaches used by Alaska Airlines in remote locations. The RNP rating system defined an aircraft's ability to know its own position in terms of nautical miles. The lower the aircraft's RNP number, the more airspace access – particularly in new or reduced minimums approaches – would be available to it. The role of FAA in the new regime would be to set the required accuracy levels and criteria for routes or procedures, after which users could decide if the rewards of participating were worth the effort of their participation. (See October 8, 2002; July 25, 2003.)

2003

January 7, 2003: FAA announced a tentative agreement in principle to extend the existing contract with the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), signed in 1998, for two years to September 2005. (See June 15, 1998; December 9, 2003.)

January 8, 2003: Air Midwest Flight 5481, a Beechcraft 1900D operating as US Airways Express Flight 5481, crashed into an airport hangar and burst into flames 37 seconds after taking off from Charlotte/Douglas International Airport in Charlotte, North Carolina. All 19 passengers and two pilots aboard were killed in the accident, one person on the ground received minor injuries. *February 26, 2004*, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) determined that the probable cause of the accident was the airplane's loss of pitch control during takeoff. The findings also suggested that this loss of pitch control probably resulted from a combination of an incorrect rigging of the elevator control system together with a weight distribution that caused the airplane's center of gravity to shift dangerously far aft. (See January 27, 2003.)

January 23, 2003: FAA announced it had completed deployment of the weather and radar processor (WARP) at all 20 air route traffic control centers. WARP allowed air traffic

controllers to view highly accurate and timely weather information on the same display that showed aircraft position data. (See May 2002.)

January 27, 2003: FAA issued an emergency airworthiness direction (AD) requiring operators to perform prescribed elevator system checks on Raytheon Beechcraft Models 1900, 1900C and D aircraft by January 31. The actions were aimed at preventing an accident similar to the January 8 crash of Air Midwest Flight 5481. In addition, FAA ordered commuter airlines to begin weighing some passengers out of concerns of possible overloading of passengers and baggage. The program covered planes registered in the U.S. and carrying 10 to 19 passengers. The 30-day sample of passenger and baggage weights was designed to determine whether FAA's assumptions at the time about passenger and baggage weights were valid. In general, the agency had assumed that an average adult would weigh 180 pounds in summer and 185 pounds in winter, and travel with 20 pounds of carry-on luggage. Each child aged two to twelve was assumed to weigh 80 pounds. (See January 8, 2003.)

February 4, 2003: Representative Ellen Tauscher (D-CA), member of the House Transportation aviation subcommittee, expressed concerns that cost overruns on the standard terminal automation replacement system (STARS) would compromise other agency programs. Tauscher, responding to a GAO report released on February 3, criticized FAA's management of the program in these terms: "After seven years and \$1.2 billion, only one major airport has new technology." She considered STARS to be poorly managed. The GAO report was similar in content to a recent Department of Transportation Inspector General report. Tauscher warned FAA: "This continued lackadaisical management is simply unacceptable." Tauscher said the agency had spent \$1.2 billion on STARS since 1996, and estimated it would take at least \$153 million over five years to deploy the system. GAO pointed out inaccuracies in the baseline data received by FAA did not reflect the current status of the contract and recommended changes in STARS management. (See September 20, 2002; June 9, 2003.)

February 5, 2003: FAA awarded contracts to ITT Industries, Inc., and Harris Corporation valued at \$16 and \$21 million, respectively, over a 20-month period for the initial phase of next generation air/ground communications (NEXCOM) program. By integrating data link with digital voice, NEXCOM would make more efficient use of the available frequency spectrum, and accommodate additional air traffic control sectors and new runways to support continued industry growth. The existing air/ground communications system had been used for air traffic control for more than 50 years. (See July 15, 2002; March 18, 2004.)

February 10, 2003: FAA expanded the restricted airspace over Washington, DC. It now covered a 30-mile radius from each of the region's three major airports – Reagan National, Baltimore-Washington International, and Dulles International. (See October 28, 2002; July 26, 2007.)

May 1, 2003: FAA awarded a local area augmentation system (LAAS) contract to Honeywell International, Inc. A satellite navigation landing system, LAAS would enable

pilots to guide planes safely into busy airports in bad weather. It also would significantly increase the accuracy, availability, continuity, and integrity of the information received from the global positioning system (GPS) constellation of satellites to enhance the safety and efficiency of air travel. The contract had three phases. The first phase, valued at \$16.7 million, provided for the software and hardware design of the category I LAAS. Phases 2 and 3 contract options, which totaled an additional \$340 million, landing provided a level of service in poor weather conditions down to a ceiling of 200 feet and visibility of one-half mile. (See August 13, 1999.)

May 1, 2003: Effective this date, FAA revised the applicability of certain collision avoidance system requirements for airplanes. The rules previously in place were based on passenger seating configuration and, therefore, excluded all-cargo airplanes. Intended to reduce the risk of a mid-air collision involving a cargo airplane, this final rule would use airplane weight and performance characteristics as the basis for collision avoidance system requirements. Specifically, it would apply to cargo airplanes weighing more than 33,000-pounds maximum certificated takeoff weight.

May 30, 2003: The engineered materials arresting system installed at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport successfully stopped a Gemini Cargo McDonnell Douglas MD-11F aircraft that overran the runway. (See May 8, 1999; January 22, 2005.)

June 9, 2003: FAA commissioned the first STARS at a large, busy airport – Philadelphia International Airport. Under a joint FAA and Department of Defense (DOD) program, STARS would eventually replace computers and displays at more than 300 air traffic control facilities nationwide. In addition to Philadelphia, other FAA deployments scheduled for 2003-2004 included: Portland, Oregon; Boston, Massachusetts; Miami, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Port Columbus, Ohio; San Antonio, Texas; and Seattle/Tacoma, Washington. (See February 4, 2003.)

June 10, 2003: Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced the selection of Russell G. Chew as FAA's first Air Traffic Organization Chief Operating Officer (COO). (See April 5, 2000; December 7, 2000; November 18, 2003; February 23, 2007.)

June 30, 2003: The Department of Transportation Inspector General outlined cost and timetable overruns in most of FAA's major acquisition programs. The IG raised red flags about large programs such as the en route automation modernization program, which it considered to be a high-risk effort and one of the largest, most expensive, software-intensive, and complex acquisitions FAA had undertaken. (See March 29, 2002; September 30, 2007.)

June 2003: FAA issued the *Human Factors Design Standard*, a compilation of human factors practices and principles integral to the procurement, design, development, and testing of FAA systems, facilities, and equipment. The guide, which superseded the 1996 *Human Factors Design Guide*, provided a single easy-to-use source of human factors design criteria, oriented to the needs of the FAA mission and systems.

July 10, 2003: FAA commissioned the wide area augmentation system (WAAS), technology designed to improve the accuracy, availability, and integrity of GPS to provide a navigation and landing system that could deliver precision guidance to aircraft at thousands of airports and airstrips lacking precision landing capability. (See April 10, 2001; March 24, 2006.)

July 21, 2003: Effective this date, FAA amended the airworthiness standards applicable to the lower deck service compartments of transport category airplanes. The change required two-way voice communication systems between lower deck service compartments and the flightdeck remain available following loss of the normal electrical power generating system. It also clarified the requirements for seats installed in the lower deck service compartment. While adoption of the amendment would not affect then current industry design practices, it would eliminate regulatory differences between the airworthiness standards of the U.S. and requirements of the Joint Aviation Authorities.

July 25, 2003: FAA released a plan to develop air traffic procedures that would employ required navigation performance (RNP) and area navigation (RNAV), coupled with on-board technology, to help pilots to navigate to any point in the world. The RNP Roadmap identified steps and milestones that would transition the U.S. airspace system from reliance on airways running over ground-based navigation aids to a point-to-point navigation concept that would take maximum advantage of advanced automation capabilities aboard aircraft. The plan, which would be updated regularly, was to be divided into three implementation timeframes:

- Near-Term (2003-2006). FAA and industry would implement a first set of RNP and RNAV procedures in all phases of flight. The agency also would continue to develop criteria and guidance for more advanced RNP/RNAV operations.
- Mid-Term (2007-2012). RNAV would become the primary means of navigation in U.S. airspace. Additional RNP procedures would be made available as more aircraft were equipped with advanced technologies. FAA would begin to remove some ground-based navigation aids, routes, and procedures from service starting in 2010.
- Far-Term (2013-2020). Based on previous demonstration of RNP/RNAV benefits, the U.S. aircraft fleet would continue to advance its capabilities. By 2020, operators would use RNP and RNAV procedures operationally in all areas. A minimal operational network of ground-based navigation aids would remain in place. (See December 31, 2002; December 20, 2005.)

July 30, 2003: FAA dropped an ATR42-300 regional transport airplane 50 feet to the concrete below as part of its efforts to collect the empirical data needed to set crashworthiness standards for commuter aircraft. Data collected from this and previous tests at the William J. Hughes Technical Center would help researchers to assess the impact response characteristics of the airframe structure, seats, overhead stowage bins, fuel tanks, and the potential for occupant injury. (See August 28, 2013.)

July 31, 2003: FAA began issuing new, security-enhanced airman certificates to the nation's 650,000 active pilots. FAA Administrator Marion Blakey unveiled the new

certificate before hundreds of aviation enthusiasts at the annual Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture. The new credit card-sized certificates were made from high-quality composite media card stock and incorporated new security features, such as a hologram of the FAA seal. They replaced the existing paper airman certificates which were easily damaged.

August 18, 2003: Effective this date, FAA amended flight data recorder regulations by expanding the recording specifications of certain data parameters for specified airplanes, and by adding aircraft models to the lists of aircraft excepted from the 1997 regulations. In addition, this rule corrected specifications in an operating rule appendix that were inadvertently omitted in previous actions. These changes were necessary to allow the continued operation of certain aircraft that could not meet the existing recorder criteria without incurring a cost-prohibitive retrofit. (See January 8, 2000; February 24, 2005.)

September 2, 2003: Effective this date, FAA adopted upgraded flammability standards for thermal and acoustic insulation materials used in transport category airplanes. The standards included new flammability tests and criteria that addressed flame propagation and entry of an external fire into the airplane. The standards previously in place did not realistically address situations in which thermal or acoustic insulation materials might have contributed to the propagation of a fire. (See September 8, 2000; April 1, 2005.)

September 4, 2003: Runway 16R/34L opened at Denver International Airport and runway 8/26 opened at Miami International Airport.

September 30, 2003: During FY 2003, which ended on this date, FAA issued its first annual strategic plan, "Flight Plan 2004-2008." The new plan laid out four goals and described FAA's strategies for achieving those goals. The Flight Plan was aligned with the Department of Transportation strategic plan and linked to FAA's budget requests. Every staff office and line of business was required to develop a plan linking directly to the flight plan. (See November 8, 2004; February 19, 2014.)

October 15, 2003: The White House commission established to investigate the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks issued a subpoena to obtain needed documents from FAA. In May, the commission had requested all documents relating to FAA's tracking of the hijacked airliners and communications with the North American Aerospace Defense Command. FAA had provided 40 boxes containing 150,000 pages of information in September, but during subsequent interviews, the commission had learned that some materials had not been included. FAA officials responded their failure to turn over all documents had been caused in part by internal procedures used to search for material. (See July 22, 2004.)

October 21, 2003: FAA announced the nationwide deployment of the first all-digital airport radar system. The airport surveillance radar (ASR-11) replaced older-generation analog radars nearing the end of their service life. The replacement technology provided improved digital aircraft and weather input needed by FAA's new air traffic control automation systems, such as STARS. The first ASR-11 went operational in March at the

Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, Naval Air Station, and was providing radar data to STARS at the Philadelphia International Airport. The new radars grew out of a joint FAA/DoD program. FAA planned to procure a total of 112 ASR-11s, with scheduled deployment completed in 2009. FAA had procured 25 systems since the contract was awarded in December 1996.

October 22, 2003: FAA issued a new rule reducing the minimum vertical separation between aircraft from the current 2,000 feet to 1,000 feet for all aircraft flying between 29,000 feet and 41,000 feet. Reduced vertical separation minima (RVSM) implementation would significantly increase the routes and altitudes available and thus allow more efficient routings that would save time and fuel. FAA planned to implement RVSM procedures on January 20, 2005, to give airlines and other aircraft operator's time to install the more accurate altimeters and autopilot systems needed to ensure the highest level of safety. The long-awaited rule – FAA initiated the process with a notice of proposed rulemaking in May 2002 – detailed equipment requirements, including dual altimeters and a more advanced autopilot system. Aircraft equipped with traffic alert and collision avoidance system version II (TCAS II) had to be updated with new software, compatible with RVSM operations. (See May 10, 2002; November 26, 2003.)

October 31, 2003: Runway 8L/26R opened at George Bush Intercontinental/Houston Airport.

November 5, 2003: FAA announced U.S. certification of an innovative diesel aircraft engine that used automotive parts and ran on jet fuel. Administrator Marion Blakey made the announcement before the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association annual conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The 4-cylinder, 135 hp TAE 125-01 was developed by German-based Thielert Aircraft Engines (TAE), an auto racing engine and global automotive parts manufacturer. This newly certified aircraft engine could be installed in general aviation aircraft such as two-seat Cessna and Piper models.

November 10, 2003: FAA proposed first-time regulations for extended aircraft operations (ETOPS), which would allow consumers to take advantage of new, more direct routes and more frequent trips on existing routes. If adopted, ETOPS rules would cover scheduled air carriers (Part 121) and charter operators (Part 135) and carry the full legal authority of a federal aviation regulation. Carriers and operators currently complied voluntarily with FAA advisory circulars that governed ETOPS. (See February 15, 2007.)

November 17, 2003: Effective this date, FAA updated and revised the regulations governing operations of aircraft in fractional ownership programs. The final rule defined fractional ownership programs and their various participants, allocated responsibility and authority for safety of flight operations for purposes of compliance with the regulations, and ensured that fractional ownership program aircraft operations would maintain a high level of safety. These regulations provided a level of safety for fractional ownership programs equivalent to regulations applied to on-demand operators. (See February 23, 2000.)

November 18, 2003: Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced initial details of FAA's new Air Traffic Organization (ATO) business structure. ATO would consolidate FAA's air traffic services, research and acquisitions, and free flight program activities into a smaller, more efficient organization with a strict focus on providing the best service for the best value to the aviation industry and the traveling public. The establishment of the ATO was first recommended by the 1997 National Civil Aviation Review Commission, chaired by Mineta. In April 2000, Congress enacted the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century that mandated establishing the position of a chief operating officer (COO) to oversee the air traffic control system. Executive Order 13180 (as amended June 4, 2002) officially created the ATO with the COO as its head. (See January 2001; June 10, 2003; February 8, 2004.)

November 20, 2003: FAA announced 86 percent of workers belonging to the National Association of Air Traffic Specialists (NAATS) had approved a new, five-year collective bargaining agreement between the union and FAA.

November 26, 2003: Effective this date, a FAA rule allowed RVSM flights in the airspace over the contiguous 48 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, Alaska, that portion of the Gulf of Mexico where FAA provided air traffic services, the San Juan Flight Information Region (FIR), and the airspace between Florida and the San Juan FIR. The RVSM program allowed 1,000-foot vertical separation at certain altitudes between aircraft meeting stringent altimeter and autopilot performance requirements. The rule required any aircraft equipped with TCAS II and flown in reduced RVSM airspace to incorporate a version of TCAS II software compatible with RVSM operations. (See October 22, 2003; January 20, 2005.)

December 9, 2003: FAA and NATCA signed a two-year contract extension that expanded pay-for-performance to include air traffic controllers and provided potential savings of several million dollars. The contract extension increased the number of agency employees whose pay was tied partly to performance from 37 percent to 75 percent. The pay for performance compensation system for over 15,000 air traffic controllers was based on safety and capacity targets set forth in FAA's strategic Flight Plan. The targets included reducing operational errors and runway incursions and increasing on-time performance and arrival efficiency rates. FAA and the union also agreed, when a provision binding FAA to maintain a fixed number of controllers each year expired at the end of September, the agency could adjust staffing levels based on actual workload. This contract action was initiated following direction from Congress and the Department of Transportation Inspector General to exert greater cost control over air traffic control operations. The previous contract was ratified in 1998. FAA expected to begin negotiations on a new agreement with NATCA in early 2005. (See January 7, 2003; July 13, 2005.)

December 12, 2003: President George W. Bush signed the Vision 100 – Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Public Law 108-176). The legislation abolished the air traffic services subcommittee of the federal aviation management advisory council and created, separate from the council, an air traffic services committee (ATSC). The ATSC

was given substantial governmental authority, including the power to approve FAA's strategic plan for the air traffic control system, to approve certain large procurements, to appoint and determine the pay of the FAA chief operating officer, to dictate major FAA reorganizations, and to control FAA cost accounting and financial management structure. The legislation also endorsed the concept of the next generation air transportation system (NextGen) and directed the Department of Transportation to create a joint planning and development office to facilitate the process. The legislation also provided funding for the airport improvement program (AIP) from FY 2004 through FY 2007. The act also changed the basic requirements and guidelines under which FAA implemented AIP, including numerous provisions to assist smaller airports and to streamline the environmental review of airport projects. (See January 27, 2004.)

December 25, 2003: Runway 17L/35R opened at Orlando International Airport.

2004

January 21, 2004: Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced a new order intended to reduce flight congestion and passenger inconvenience at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Under terms of the order signed by FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, both American and United Airlines agreed to reduce their operations during the peak hours between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. by 5 percent. The reduction of 62 scheduled flights, which took effect in early March and lasted for six months, returned scheduled O'Hare operations to October 2003 levels, the last month prior to significant delays. (See April 21, 2004.)

January 27, 2004: In a luncheon speech to the Aero Club of Washington, Secretary of Transportation Mineta announced plans for a new, next generation air transportation system with expanded capacity to relieve congestion, prevent gridlock, and secure America's place as global leader in aviation's second century. An inter-agency plan, Next generation air transportation system (NextGen) would offer a cleaner, quieter system based on 21st-century technology, seamless security, and added capacity to relieve congestion. (See December 12, 2003; December 15, 2004.)

January 28, 2004: FAA Administrator Marion Blakey dedicated a new FAA center of excellence, the Partnership for Air Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction. (See September 23, 1997; August 7, 2002; August 18, 2010.)

January 30, 2004: FAA Administrator Marion Blakey submitted a final proposal for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) multi-unit contract, along with the union's objections, to Congress seeking help in resolving the issue. The NATCA contract represented about 1,900 employees – mostly administrative personnel in budget, regional accounting and logistics, regional airports, plus some engineers and nurses. Over the previous several months, there had been attempts on both sides to seek outside help to break the impasse, but when those failed, the next step for FAA – according to procedures established in the agency's personnel reform legislation dating from the mid-1990s – was to submit its recommendations to Congress for action within 60 days. If the

legislators failed to respond within that time, FAA could implement its own proposal. (See July 10, 2005.)

February 8, 2004: FAA's new air traffic organization (ATO) officially began operations. The new organization had responsibility for providing air traffic services, research and acquisition, as well as management of the free flight organizations. The change came after a decades-long attempt by previous administrations, Congress, and FAA to improve the delivery of air traffic services by adopting business-like practices. (See November 18, 2003; March 25, 2004.)

February 10, 2004: FAA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* modifying 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 158 to change the amount and the basis for compensation to air carriers collecting, handling, and remitting passenger facility charges.

February 29, 2004: Effective this date, FAA revised its regulations for landing under instrument flight rules to allow aircraft to operate below certain specified altitudes during instrument approach procedures, even when the airport environment was not visible using natural vision, if the pilot used certain FAA-certified enhanced flight vision systems.

February 29, 2004: Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta visited Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to introduce a new air traffic control technology and reiterate the Administration's commitment to improvements aimed at reducing airspace congestion nationwide. The airport was the first to receive airport surveillance detection equipment-X (ASDE-X), a new radar that provided complete, up-to-the-minute map of all airport operations that controllers used to spot potential collisions and ensure aviation safety on the ground. (See October 24, 2000; August 8, 2007.)

March 2, 2004: A new FAA-developed tool to predict in-flight icing became operational. Using a web-based forecast icing tool, aviation meteorologists and airline dispatchers could warn pilots about icing hazards up to twelve hours in advance.

March 18, 2004: FAA canceled the next generation air/ground communications (NEXCOM) rapid prototype development contracts with ITT Industries and Harris Corp. FAA previously canceled a full-scale NEXCOM development contract that had not yet been awarded. FAA said it canceled the contracts because there was disagreement on global standards. FAA and EUROCONTROL agreed in 2003 to study what the next-generation air traffic control voice communication system should be. (See February 5, 2003.)

March 24, 2004: Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced a series of steps aimed at reducing potential gridlock and delays during the up-coming peak travel periods of spring and summer. The steps included the creation of new air traffic express lanes, within many of the nation's most heavily congested routes. The measures were developed earlier in the month at a three-day conference called "Growth without

Gridlock.” Hosted by FAA, the conference brought together more than 60 participants from major and regional airlines, business aviation, pilot organizations, and industry associations to develop a common strategy to reduce system delays.

March 25, 2004: Secretary Norman Mineta announced the establishment of an office to provide independent safety oversight of the ATO. The office’s primary responsibility was to ensure the safety of changes to air traffic standards and procedures. The creation of the new air traffic safety oversight service, based within FAA’s regulation and certification organization, followed a recommendation of the 1997 National Civil Aviation Review Commission chaired by Secretary Mineta. On November 1, 2001, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) required that its member states, including the U.S., set up independent oversight of air traffic operations. Canada, Great Britain, and Germany were among the ICAO states transitioning to similar systems. (See February 8, 2004; December 5, 2005.)

April 1, 2004: FAA issued the world’s first license for a sub-orbital manned rocket flight to Scaled Composites of Mojave, California, headed by aviation record-holder Burt Rutan, for a sequence of sub-orbital flights spanning a one-year period. The FAA sub-orbital space flight license was required for U.S. contenders in the X-Prize competition, a high-stakes international race ultimately to launch a manned, reusable private vehicle into space and return it safely to Earth. The X-Prize foundation planned to award \$10 million to the first company or organization to launch a vehicle capable of carrying three people to a height of 100 kilometers (62.5 miles), return them safely to Earth, and repeat the flight with the same vehicle within two weeks. *April 23*, FAA announced it had issued a second license for a manned sub-orbital rocket flight to XCOR Aerospace Inc. of Mojave, California, which sought to develop a passenger carrying space vehicle for adventure travelers in the future. *June 21*, Scaled Composites’ SpaceShipOne reached a record altitude of 328,491 feet (approximately 62 miles), making pilot Mike Melville the first civilian to fly a spaceship out of the atmosphere. *September 29, 2004*, Melville successfully reached suborbital space for a second time. *October 4*, Brian Binnie successfully flew the second orbital flight in the prescribed timeframe. The X-Prize foundation awarded its \$10 million prize to Scaled Composites for being the first company to launch a vehicle capable of carrying three people to a height of 100 kilometers (62.5 miles), return them safely to Earth, and repeat the flight with the same vehicle within two weeks. (See April 3, 2002; July 2, 2004; June 7, 2012.)

April 6, 2004: FAA, in partnership with the U.S. Trade and Development Agency and U.S. aviation manufacturers and suppliers, launched the U.S.-China Aviation Cooperation Program to expand relations and cooperation with its Chinese counterparts. (See June 22, 2007; October 27, 2017.)

April 21, 2004: Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced plans by United and American Airlines to reduce their daily schedules by another 2.5 percent starting in early June, making this the second time the airlines had trimmed their schedules to help reduce congestion at O’Hare. Both airlines rescheduled the majority of

targeted flights to slower times of the day, but each also canceled some operations. (See January 21, 2004; August 4, 2004.)

April 30, 2004: President George W. Bush signed legislation into law renaming the two downtown office buildings housing FAA after the inventors of powered, sustained, controlled flight, Orville and Wilbur Wright. The measure, approved by Congress earlier in the year, renamed the agency's Federal Building 10A at 800 Independence Ave., SW, the Orville Wright Federal Building, and Federal Building 10B at 600 Independence Ave., SW, as the Wilbur Wright Federal Building. *July 8*, FAA headquarters buildings were officially renamed the Orville and Wilbur Wright buildings.

May 24, 2004: FAA dedicated a new, state-of-the-art airport traffic control tower at Sea-Tac International Airport. At 233 feet high, the new tower was more than twice the height of the old tower, built in 1949.

May 2004: FAA released a screening information request (SIR) for the automated flight service station public-private competition under OMB's A-76 recommendations to improve government efficiency and cost savings through commercialization of certain government operations. Per the announcement, potential service providers would be required to submit technical proposals in August 2004 and cost proposals in September 2004. The agency planned to award the contract by March 17, 2005. (See February 1, 2005.)

June 24, 2004: Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta released *Capacity Needs in the National Airspace System: An Analysis of Airport and Metropolitan Area Demand and Operational Capacity in the Future*, predicting which airports and communities would need to expand their capacity by the year 2020. The capacity study was the first of its kind to look at current air travel patterns, economic and population trends, current air service, and current capacity. The associated report revealed 23 of the nation's fastest growing airports needed to add capacity to accommodate air traffic growth over the next two decades.

June 30, 2004: FAA announced a \$13.5 million contract award to Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) to upgrade the automated system used to ensure the most efficient flow of the nation's air traffic. Under the traffic flow management modernization contract, CSC would design an advanced computer platform that used air traffic data from across the country to predict when the numbers of flights might exceed available routes and capacity. FAA would use this information to run special programs designed to reduce delays due to severe weather and congestion and to help airlines to provide more accurate flight departure and arrival information to their passengers.

June 30, 2004: The Oakland ARTCC started using advanced technologies and oceanic procedures (ATOP). The new system allowed controllers to reduce separation between aircraft on oceanic routes, and gave pilots greater flexibility to choose their own routes. Oakland was the first of three ARTCCs handling oceanic operations to use ATOP. (See May 24, 2001; June 23, 2005.)

July 2, 2004: FAA announced it had issued a license to create, at the Mojave Airport in California, the first inland commercial space launch site, and the fifth licensed commercial spaceport, in the U.S. With this announcement, East Kern Airport District could operate the Mojave site in support of suborbital reusable launch vehicle missions. (See April 1, 2004; December 23, 2004.)

July 22, 2004: In its final report, the commission established to investigate the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks criticized FAA's response and preparedness. The commission, however, acknowledged agency employees adapted quickly to the crisis. (See October 15, 2003.)

July 30, 2004: FAA extended the date – from December 6, 2004 to December 16, 2008 – for operators to comply with special maintenance program requirements for transport airplane fuel tank systems. The action was intended to allow operators enough time to incorporate revisions into their maintenance programs, after having learned of required fuel tank systems maintenance programs from those who hold design approval. (See November 23, 2002; November 14, 2005.)

August 4, 2004: FAA Administrator Marion Blakey told the carriers serving O'Hare Airport if a voluntary approach to reducing their schedules at O'Hare did not work, FAA would use its statutory authority to impose a solution. The agency advised relaxing schedules would help ease the congestion and reduce delays that started at O'Hare and then rippled throughout the system. (See April 21, 2004; August 18, 2004.)

August 5, 2004: Runway 6L/24R opened at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

August 18, 2004: Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced domestic airlines serving O'Hare had agreed to a voluntary limit of 88 scheduled arrivals per hour between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. The new limit on scheduled arrivals during peak hours, effective November 1, brought schedules more in line with O'Hare's capacity and was expected to cut the amount of time lost due to delays by 20 percent. The agreement, the result of talks directed by Secretary Mineta and chaired by FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, was expected to cut delay times by imposing a limit on new flights airlines planned to add in November. United and American Airlines, which were then operating 86 percent of flights at O'Hare, offered the largest reductions. United agreed to reduce 20 arrivals while American canceled 17 incoming flights scheduled between noon and 8:00 p.m. Other airlines with fewer operations also agreed to reduce or change schedules to cut delays. (See August 4, 2004.)

September 1, 2004: Effective this date, FAA began certifying sport pilots and their aircraft. The rule encompassed manufacture, certification, operation, and maintenance of light-sport aircraft that weighed less than 1,320 pounds (1,430 pounds for aircraft intended for operation on water) and were heavier and faster than ultralight vehicles. The rule included airplanes, gliders, balloons, powered parachutes, weight-shift-control aircraft, and gyroplanes. (See February 5, 2002.)

September 22-23, 2004: FAA Administrator Marion Blakey hosted the first FAA international safety forum for government and industry leaders to improve communication and provide solutions to improving aviation safety worldwide. The program became the first in a series of annual meetings.

September 24, 2004: FAA and EUROCONTROL signed a memorandum of cooperation to increase joint air traffic management and research efforts to improve safety, capacity, and standards of air traffic operations between North America and Europe.

October 13, 2004: The President signed into law the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Hurricane Disaster Assistance Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-324) as part of the FY 2005 Military Construction Appropriations Act. The law authorized emergency capital funding to compensate airport sponsors for capital costs for replacement or repair of public-use facilities directly related to damage caused by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

October 26, 2004: FAA started using a new landing procedure, known as the simultaneous offset instrument approach, to help cut delays at San Francisco International Airport. Taking advantage of an advanced radar system that was nearly five times faster than conventional airport radar, this procedure allowed up to a 25 percent increase in the number of arrivals during overcast conditions. Because air traffic controllers could get a much more precise fix on approaching aircraft, the change enabled two arriving planes to fly above and then through the clouds at different angles without compromising the safe separation standards required during overcast conditions. Once the aircraft moved under the cloud deck, the planes were to fly a visual, parallel approach to the airport's two runways.

November 8, 2004: The Association for Strategic Planning, a California-based professional association dedicated to advancing strategic thought, development, and practice awarded the FAA Flight Plan 2004 2008 its 2004 Richard Goodman Strategic Planning Award for continuing excellence in stimulating innovation in the planning process. (See September 30, 2003.)

December 15, 2004: Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta unveiled the Integrated Plan for the Next Generation Air Transportation System, a long-term strategic business plan that laid out goals, objectives, and requirements in eight specific areas: airport infrastructure development; security; the air traffic system; information technology; safety management; environmental stewardship; weather forecasting; and global collaboration. The development of innovative public-private partnerships was a key component to the entire effort. Under the direction of Secretary Mineta and an executive-level policy committee, and with 2025 in mind, six government agencies and representatives from the private sector worked to direct and coordinate research, identify and resolve critical policy issues, and invest in necessary infrastructure and technology. A joint planning and development office would coordinate the transformation effort. In 2003, Congress established a charter to create NextGen by the year 2025 and established a multi-agency committee to carry out the plan to include the Department of

Transportation, FAA, NASA, DOD, Commerce, and Homeland Security, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. (See January 27, 2004; July 18, 2006.)

December 16, 2004: FAA Administrator Marion Blakey announced a revised presidential policy on the global positioning system. The new policy strengthened interagency management of GPS, with a national executive committee co-chaired by the Deputy Secretaries of Defense and Transportation. In terms of civil aviation, the policy made it clear the U.S. remained firmly committed to provide a robust GPS signal free of direct user charges. The policy directed the Departments of Defense and Transportation to ensure that GPS civil services exceed or at least be equivalent to services provided by the European Galileo system.

December 21, 2004: FAA released its "10-Year Strategy for the Air Traffic Controller Workforce," a staffing plan that called for hiring 12,500 controllers over ten years to cover projected total retirement and non-retirement controller losses. The level of hiring reflected the required lead time for training and maintained the appropriate ratio between developmental and fully certified controllers. The plan also outlined expedited training actions FAA would initiate to ensure there were enough recruits in the pipeline to replace the more than 11,000 controllers expected to leave the agency between 2005 and 2014. (See August 24, 2006.)

December 23, 2004: President George W. Bush signed the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-492). The legislation gave FAA authority to regulate manned suborbital flight. (See July 2, 2004; February 11, 2005.)

December 29, 2004: Effective this date, FAA and the Research and Special Programs Administration banned cargo shipments of non-rechargeable lithium batteries aboard passenger flights, because the batteries posed a fire hazard when transported in the cargo hold of passenger aircraft. Airline passengers were allowed to carry on board and use, or pack in checked bags, personal computers and other consumer products that contained lithium batteries. The ban applied to all U.S.-carrier flights and those of foreign carriers into and out of the United States. (See October 8, 2010.)

2005

January 20, 2005: At 4:01 a.m. eastern standard time, air traffic controllers inaugurated reduced vertical separation minima (RVSM), a new procedure designed to allow aircraft to fly more direct routes at the most fuel-efficient altitudes, saving time and money for airlines and travelers alike. Controllers directed planes to fly 1,000 feet above and below each other at altitudes of 29,000 feet to 41,000 feet. Although invisible to passengers, the procedural change doubled airspace routes at the affected altitudes and greatly increased the routing options available to pilots and air traffic controllers. Before commercial airlines and other aviation users could take advantage of RVSM, FAA would first determine if the aircraft were properly equipped. Canadian, Mexican, Caribbean, and South American civil aviation authorities also began RVSM on this date. (See November 26, 2003.)

January 22, 2005: The engineered materials arresting system installed at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport successfully stopped a Boeing 747-200 cargo aircraft that overran the runway. (See May 30, 2003; July 17, 2006.)

February 1, 2005: FAA announced selection of a team headed by Lockheed Martin to take over services provided currently by the agency's automated flight service stations. The total evaluated cost of the five-year contract, with five additional option years, was \$1.9 billion and represented estimated savings of \$2.2 billion over the next ten years. After careful review, FAA had formally announced in December 2003 its flight service stations met the criteria for competitive sourcing and it would conduct a competition under the OMB's Circular A-76 guidelines for an improved way to provide flight service operations. FAA then evaluated five competing service providers, including the incumbent government organization, to determine the best value to the government for the delivery of effective services to support safe and efficient flight. Lockheed Martin assumed operation of the flight service stations in October 2005. Incremental consolidation of the 58 current flight service stations began in April 2006 and was expected to result in 20 sites by the end of March 2007. *October 4*, the responsibility for flight services transitioned seamlessly from FAA to Lockheed Martin. (See May 2004; September 2010.)

February 1, 2005: Citing FAA's high priority on cost accounting and the routine use of such information in FAA decision making, GAO announced it had removed the agency from its high risk list for financial management.

February 2, 2005: A Bombardier Challenger CL-600-1A11, during takeoff, ran off the departure end of runway 6 at Teterboro Airport, in New Jersey. The aircraft continued through an airport perimeter fence, crossed a six-lane highway, struck a vehicle, entered a parking lot, and finally impacted a building. The two pilots were seriously injured, as were two occupants in the vehicle. The cabin aide, eight passengers, and one person in the building received minor injuries. *October 31, 2006*, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) determined that the probable cause of the accident was the flight crew's failure to ensure the airplane was loaded within weight and balance limits compounded by their attempt to take off with the center of gravity beyond the aircraft's forward takeoff limit. This improper weight distribution prevented the airplane from achieving the required rotation speed.

February 11, 2005: FAA released draft safety guidelines for space tourism, in anticipation of developing final regulations no later than June 2006. The draft guidelines required a reusable launch vehicle operator to inform space tourists, in writing, about the safety record of the vehicle they would fly on and compare that record with those of other manned space vehicles. After being given time to ask questions about the risks of flight, passengers were required to provide written consent prior to flight. Each passenger also received safety training on how to respond to any credible emergency situations – which were likely to include cabin depressurization, fire, smoke, and emergency egress. (See December 23, 2004; June 1, 2005.)

February 24, 2005: FAA proposed a series of significant upgrades to aircraft "black boxes" that would increase the quality, quantity, and survivability of recorded data. The notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) would require installation of more rugged flight data recorders and cockpit voice recorders designed to give accident investigators more information. The new rules – which would apply to air carriers, other operators, and aircraft manufacturers – would increase the duration of recordings, increase the data recording rate of certain digital parameters, and improve the reliability of the power supply. All data-link messages sent to an aircraft would be recorded, and operators would be required to retrofit all aircraft equipped with ten or more seats. (See August 18, 2003.)

March 23, 2005: FAA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* regarding the non-hub pilot program and related changes to Part 158 mandated by Vision 100 – Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act.

March 28, 2005: FAA formally delayed – until April 6, 2006 – the deadline by which Part 145 repair stations must establish an approved training program. FAA called the one-year delay necessary because the agency had not yet released guidance material to help repair stations develop appropriate training programs. (See June 16, 1999; March 10, 2006.)

April 1, 2005: FAA proposed a rule that would require operators of more than 800 Boeing aircraft registered in the U.S. to replace or modify certain insulation blankets over the next six years. Aircraft insulation blankets protected the passengers and crew from engine noise and frigid temperatures at high altitudes. The discovery that some insulation blankets coated with a film called AN-26 no longer met the standards for preventing the spread of fire had prompted the proposed airworthiness directive (AD). (See September 2, 2003; January 28, 2004.)

April 25-26, 2005: FAA began a two-day forum with aviation industry representatives to discuss changing the way FAA was funded. The agency wanted to initiate debate on a variety of funding alternatives. At the time, FAA was drawing much more of its annual budget from the aviation trust fund than from the government's general fund. The aviation trust fund, however, was due for congressional reauthorization in 2007. Attendance at the forum was by invitation only, and media were not admitted. Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, Department of Transportation Inspector General Kenneth Mead, and other FAA officials addressed the forum. Representatives of other countries' aviation systems talked about their own funding models. One funding proposal under consideration was allowing FAA raise public debt to replace and modernize aviation infrastructure.

May 2005: The Supreme Court declined to hear a case brought by a group of pilots against FAA. In *Dallas E. Butler et al., Petitioners v. FAA*, 12 Southwest pilots challenged a FAA rule dating to 1960 that grounded Part 121 airline pilots at age 60, arguing that FAA should consider the health and skills of each pilot. (See December 13, 2007.)

June 1, 2005: FAA proposed adding procedures for obtaining a voluntary safety approval to its commercial space transportation regulations. If the agency raised no objection to a launch vehicle, reentry vehicle, safety system, process, service, or personnel, the safety approval holder could then offer its equipment or personnel to prospective launch and reentry licensees for use within a defined and proven envelope. (See February 11, 2005; December 29, 2005.)

June 23, 2005: FAA announced the advanced technologies and oceanic procedures (ATOP) system was operational at the New York Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC). The ATOP system provided safe separation of aircraft in areas, such as over the ocean, that were outside radar coverage or direct radio communication. It detected conflicts between aircraft and provided satellite data link communication and position information to air traffic controllers. ATOP also reduced the workload on controllers through the use of electronic flight strips instead of the labor-intensive paper strip method used for decades to track trans-oceanic aircraft. *October 31*, ATOP became operational at the Oakland, California ARTCC. (See June 30, 2004; April 3, 2007.)

June 2005: FAA directed inspectors to increase oversight of Part 135 operations to ensure those using a "d/b/a" or "doing-business-as" name were doing so properly and complying with regulations. A five-page notice issued to all Part 135 principal operations inspectors clarified the use of a d/b/a and focused attention on who had operational control of an aircraft. FAA issued the notice to address concerns that arose during the investigation of the Challenger runway overrun accident at Teterboro, New Jersey airport in February 2005.

July 10, 2005: Following an unsuccessful three-year bargaining process, with two years of negotiations, FAA implemented its final contract proposal with National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) multi-unit employees. The contract covered approximately 1,900 employees from ten smaller union groups that included engineers, inspectors, accountants, nurses, administrative employees, and computer specialists. Unable to reach a voluntary agreement in 2004, the parties called on the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). When the FMCS could not remove the impasse, NATCA had sought relief from the Federal Service Impasse Panel. On January 9, 2004, the impasse panel elected not to assert jurisdiction. FAA forwarded the contract stalemate to Congress on January 30, 2004. Under the law, Congress had the power either to resolve the stalemate or, by default, allow the agency to implement its final proposal. (See January 30, 2004; July 18, 2007.)

July 13, 2005: FAA and NATCA began contract negotiations for the air traffic controllers. (See December 9, 2003; November 28, 2005.)

July 29, 2005: Effective this date, FAA terminated a program that had assigned controllers, full-time, at the agency headquarters to provide controller liaison and feedback on modernization programs.

August 1, 2005: FAA requested the air traffic control towers at all airports to assess their current need to use the taxi into position and hold procedure. This procedure was designed to allow aircraft to taxi onto a runway and hold while awaiting clearance from the tower. Facilities needing to employ the procedure were asked to confirm and verify that operational requirement.

August 4, 2005: Effective this date, FAA adopted a new noise standard to ensure the latest available noise reduction technology was incorporated into new aircraft designs for subsonic jet airplanes and subsonic transport category large airplanes. The new standard, stage 4, applied to any entity submitting an application for a new airplane type design on and after January 1, 2006, and could be applied voluntarily prior to that date. This noise standard was intended to provide uniform noise standards for stage 4 airplanes being certified in the United States as well as for airplanes that met Annex 16, Chapter 4 of the noise standard published by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

August 11, 2005: Effective this date, a special federal aviation regulation (SFAR) allowed passengers to use certain portable oxygen concentrator devices on aircraft, provided certain conditions were met. The rule required passengers to carry the devices on board and mandated a battery-packaging standard necessary for the safe carriage of extra batteries in carry-on baggage.

August 25, 2005: FAA announced it would not mandate the use of child safety seats on airplanes. The agency explained its analyses showed, if forced to purchase an extra airline ticket, families might choose to drive to their destination, a statistically more dangerous way to travel. (See September 26, 2005.)

August 29, 2005: Hurricane Katrina, which had formed over the Bahamas on August 23, crossed southern Florida as a category 1 hurricane. It then strengthened in the Gulf of Mexico, made its second and third landfalls as a category 3 storm in southeast Louisiana and at the Louisiana/Mississippi state line. The storm surge caused severe damage along the Gulf Coast, closing all airports in the region. *September 1*, both runways at New Orleans International Airport were restored to 24-hour availability for hurricane relief flights, as FAA worked to repair air traffic control facilities at this and other airports hit by Katrina. FAA said New Orleans could handle nine landings per hour, but only in visual flight rule conditions. *September 2- 7*, FAA personnel supported the largest airlift operation on United States soil, Operation Air Care. *September 8*, FAA restored scheduled, commercial passenger service to the Gulfport-Biloxi, Mississippi, airport, with two roundtrip flights originating from Memphis, Tennessee. *September 13*, FAA restored scheduled, commercial passenger service to Louis Armstrong New Orleans airport, with two roundtrip flights originating from Memphis.

September 9, 2005: FAA reissued a final rule, with a June 6, 2006 compliance date, creating a second-in-command (SIC) type rating. A requirement put forward by the International Civil Aviation Organization mandated the SIC rating for pilots engaged in international operations. When first released on August 4, 2005, this rule had carried an effective date of September 6, 2005.

September 18, 2005: Tropical Storm Rita formed over the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean and moved toward the Florida Keys. *September 20*, the tropical storm was recategorized as a hurricane, and FAA closed the air traffic control tower at the airport in Key West, Florida. *September 22*, FAA reopened the air traffic control tower in Key West. *September 24*, Hurricane Rita made landfall between Sabine Pass, Texas, and Johnsons Bayou, Louisiana, as a category 3 hurricane. The storm surge caused extensive damage along the Louisiana and extreme southeastern Texas coasts and completely destroyed some coastal communities. The Lake Charles Regional Airport in Louisiana and Beaumont-Port Arthur Airport in Texas closed because of damage. FAA instituted a temporary flight restriction along the Texas and Louisiana coast area to support relief and recovery operations. *September 26*, FAA opened its air traffic control tower at Beaumont-Port Arthur Airport in Texas for visual flight operations only. FAA resumed visual flight operations at the Lake Charles Regional Airport tower in Louisiana, and reopened the Terminal Radar Approach Control facility at the airport.

September 26, 2005: FAA officially opened its Early Dispute Resolution Center at FAA headquarters. Earlier in the year, the administrator had announced plans to open such an office in response to low marks in the area of conflict management and resolution that the agency had received on the most recent employee attitude survey.

September 26, 2005: Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta signed a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Transportation, FAA, and the National Academy of Sciences to establish the airport cooperative research program (ACRP). FAA funded ACRP at \$10 million per year from airport improvement program funds to conduct research on problems shared by airports.

September 26, 2005: Effective this date, FAA amended its operating regulations to allow the use of FAA-approved child restraint systems (CRSs) on board aircraft. Current FAA regulations did not allow the use of CRSs other than those that met specific standards for the automobile environment. (See August 25, 2005; September 2006.)

September 28, 2005: FAA issued the first airworthiness certificate for a civil unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), the General Atomics Altair. The Altair's FAA airworthiness certificate was in the "experimental" category and limited flights to research and development, crew training, or market survey. The agency specified a number of safety conditions for the Altair's operation – including weather, altitude, and geographic restrictions, as well as a requirement for a pilot and observer. FAA also collaborated with manufacturers to collect vital technical and operational data to improve the UAV regulatory processes. In addition, FAA asked RTCA, a group that frequently advised the agency on technical issues, to help develop UAV standards. (See June 1, 2010.)

October 3, 2005: FAA codified the requirements of the advanced qualification program (AQP), provisions that had previously been contained in a special federal aviation regulation that expired on October 2, 2005. AQP would continue as an alternative regulatory program for airlines seeking more flexibility in training than the traditional training program allowed.

October 6, 2005: FAA proposed regulatory changes affecting wiring systems and fuel tank systems in transport category airplanes. First, to organize and clarify design requirements for wire systems, it proposed to create a single section of the regulations specifically for wiring and new certification rules and then move existing regulatory references to wiring into that section. It also proposed to require holders of type certificates for certain transport category aircraft to analyze their fleets and make the necessary changes to existing instructions for continued airworthiness that would improve maintenance procedures for their wire systems. (See August 16, 2001; December 10, 2007.)

October 7, 2005: President George W. Bush signed Public Law 109-87, which authorized the Secretary of Transportation to provide grants-in-aid for emergency repairs to airports damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The law specified that such emergency aid be funded from FY 2005 and 2006 unobligated funds already appropriated to the airport improvement program. The law also waived all federal matching fund requirements.

October 16, 2005: FAA migrated payroll responsibilities to the Department of Interior's Federal Personnel and Payroll System, the last of the Department of Transportation modal administrations to transition to the new service provider.

October 27, 2005: FAA implemented new air routes along the East Coast that cut flight delays and saved fuel. Called the Florida airspace optimization plan, the new routes made significant changes to airspace controlled by air traffic control centers in Washington, Jacksonville and Miami, and various approach controls in Florida. The plan created more efficient routings from points north to Florida.

October 27, 2005: Runway 17/35 opened at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

November 14, 2005: FAA proposed rules that, over seven years, would require retrofit of more than 3,200 existing, as well as manufacture of certain new large passenger jets, to reduce flammability levels of fuel tank vapors. The proposed rulemaking would require aircraft operators to reduce the flammability levels of fuel tank vapors both on the ground and in the air to remove the likelihood of a potential explosion. Boeing 737, Boeing 747, and Airbus A320 models would be retrofitted first. (See July 30, 2004.)

November 14, 2005: Effective this date, FAA established the organization designation authorization (ODA) program. The ODA program expanded the scope of approved tasks available to organizational designees; increased the number of organizations eligible for organizational designee authorizations; established a more comprehensive, systems-based approach to managing designated organizations; and set phase-out dates for then-current organizational designee programs.

November 28, 2005: FAA Administrator Marion Blakey called for federal mediation to help the agency reach a voluntary contract agreement with the air traffic controllers union. FAA's request, hand-delivered to NATCA, sought help from the FMCS to reach a voluntary agreement after four and a half months of negotiations. FAA's contract

proposal maintained the base-pay of in-service controllers while taking steps to bring in new hires at a lower pay scale – one that narrowed the pay gap between controllers and the rest of FAA’s safety-focused employees. While the existing contract had technically expired on September 30, a clause had allowed it to remain in place so long as talks had continued. (See July 13, 2005; April 3, 2006.)

December 5, 2005: Russ Chew, chief operating officer of FAA’s air traffic organization (ATO), announced the restructuring of ATO administrative and support functions in the field. The number of service areas was reduced from nine to three and flight service areas from three to two. By eliminating duplication of administrative and support services, the agency expected to reduce the ATO’s operating costs by an estimated \$360-\$460 million over the next ten years. (See March 25, 2004; June 26, 2006.)

December 7, 2005: FAA announced it had completed deployment of a new mission-critical communications gateway that processed radar and flight data in all 20 ARTCCs. Called the en route communications gateway (ECG), the system consolidated all gateway functions into a single system. It provided the foundation to support new communications sources and new radar/surveillance sources, such as ADS-B. The design of the new system also allowed for easy integration with FAA’s ERAM program, a key element in the agency’s overall air traffic modernization effort. The ECG replaced the peripheral adapter module replacement item (PAMRI), using modern communications protocols and modular, scalable hardware components. PAMRI was a single point of failure in the en route air traffic control infrastructure. The first ECG went operational in Seattle in 2003. The final site to go operational was Miami in October 2005. (See June 11, 2001.)

December 8, 2005: The engineered materials arresting system installed at Chicago’s Midway Airport successfully stopped Southwest Airlines Flight 1248 that overran the runway. (See May 30, 2003; October 13, 2006.)

December 19, 2005: A Grumman Turbo Mallard amphibious airplane, on a regularly scheduled passenger flight to Bimini, Bahamas, experienced an in-flight separation of its right wing from the fuselage and crashed into the shipping channel adjacent to the Port of Miami shortly after takeoff. Two flight crewmembers and 18 passengers on board were killed; impact forces destroyed the aircraft. *May 30, 2007*, NTSB determined the probable cause of the crash was the failure and separation of the right wing, which resulted from the failure of Chalk’s Ocean Airways’ maintenance program to identify and properly repair fatigue cracks in the wing, and the failure of FAA to detect and correct deficiencies in the company’s maintenance program.

December 20, 2005: FAA announced the inception of a new navigation procedure at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The required navigation performance (RNP) initiative took advantage of a plane’s onboard navigation capability to fly a more precise flight path into the airport. The Reagan National RNP approach to Runway 19 allowed planes to land with considerably lower cloud ceilings and visibility than previously required. The procedure was used by any operator who could meet specific FAA requirements for aircraft navigation performance and pilot training. Alaska Airlines,

the first air carrier authorized by FAA to use the RNP procedures at Reagan National, had pioneered the use of RNP procedures at Juneau and other airports in Alaska. Besides introducing the new procedure at Reagan National, FAA authorized RNP procedures at Juneau, Alaska; San Francisco and Palm Springs, California; Portland, Oregon; and Hailey (Sun Valley), Idaho. (See July 25, 2003; July 2006.)

December 22, 2005: Runway 18R/36L opened at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.

December 29, 2005: In response to the requirements of the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004, FAA proposed a rule to establish requirements for crew qualifications, training, and notification. It would establish training and informed consent requirements for space flight participants. The regulation would also modify how financial details affecting space flight participants and crew would be accounted for and, though an additional regulation, how experimental permits would be issued. (See June 1, 2005; August 25, 2006.)

2006

January 3, 2006: The Federal Service Impasse Panel ruled that contract negotiations between FAA and its systems technicians would begin on February 6 and continue through July 21. The contract between FAA and the Professional Airways Systems Specialists (PASS) expired in July 2005, but no new negotiations had begun because the agency and the union could not agree on a timetable. (See March 30, 2006.)

January 11, 2006: FAA withdrew a rule to ease Part 121 oxygen requirements after the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) warned the rule was based on faulty data and could jeopardize safety. In November 2005, FAA had raised the altitude, to flight level 350, at which a pilot must put on an oxygen mask when the other pilot left the control station. With the rescinding of this less rigorous requirement, pilots left alone at the controls were still required to use their masks at altitudes above flight level 250.

January 30, 2006: FAA announced an international financial and accounting services firm validated the agency's calculation that the average 2005 air traffic controller compensation package exceeded \$166,000. Other independently validated figures revealed, between 1998 and 2005, controller compensation had increased by 75 percent and the wage gap between controllers and all other FAA employees had doubled. Cost data used to reach these wage determinations were also independently shown to be consistent with the agency's accounting system and its audited financial statements. FAA had begun contract negotiations with NATCA on July 13, 2005. The existing contract had expired on September 30, 2005, but an evergreen clause had allowed the original contract to remain in place so long as talks were ongoing. (See November 28, 2005; April 3, 2006.)

March 1, 2006: Effective this date, U.S. parties interested in transmitting certain types of financial interests (or prospective interests) to the international aircraft registry had to file

a completed FAA entry point filing form (International Registry, AC Form 8050-135) with FAA. Upon receipt of the completed form, FAA would issue a unique authorization code. With the establishment of the new international aircraft registry, it was no longer sufficient for U.S. aircraft buyers or sellers to conduct searches and file documents only with FAA; they now also had to conduct searches and register interests in aircraft and high-value engines at the new international registry.

March 10, 2006: The Aeronautical Repair Station Association (ARSA) challenged FAA in federal court over the legality of the agency's changes to its drug- and alcohol-testing regulations. ARSA filed a petition for review with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC circuit, claiming the updated testing regulations represented an "unnecessary burden that provides no aviation safety-related benefits." The court filing argued FAA violated several federal statutes, including the Administrative Procedure Act and the Regulatory Flexibility Act. Two repair stations and a non-certified maintenance provider joined the filing. (See March 28, 2005; June 30, 2008.)

March 24, 2006: FAA announced that, within a year, use of the wide area augmentation system (WAAS) would be extended to 200 feet above an airport's surface. WAAS, a satellite-based navigation system, was designed to improve the accuracy, availability and integrity of signals from global positioning system (GPS) satellites. WAAS was expected, eventually, to enable the agency to remove a portion of its existing ground-based navigation infrastructure, and thus reduce operational costs, while still improving capacity and safety. Originally commissioned in July 2003, FAA initially approved WAAS to provide vertical guidance down to 350 feet. Localizer performance with vertical guidance procedures down to 250 feet was later developed to take advantage of the increased performance provided by WAAS. (See July 11, 2003; October 19, 2007.)

March 30, 2006: PASS accepted FAA's contract proposal. However, the union's bargaining team made it clear to FAA, although it did not think the agency's offer was fair or reasonable, it would leave the decision to its voting members. *August 3*, FAA system specialists voted to reject the agency's contract offer and called for the agency to return to the bargaining table. PASS said its members rejected the contract by a margin of 98 percent. The rejection was anticipated because PASS had recommended its members vote against the contract offer. Because PASS nominally accepted the FAA proposal as a tentative agreement, FAA had to await the conclusion of the voting process before taking any other action. (See January 3, 2006.)

March 2006: A U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission judge ruled that controllers fired by President Reagan after the 1981 strike could proceed with a class action suit against FAA. Specifically, they could argue age discrimination had prevented their rehiring. In the suit, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) said FAA had not hired any PATCO controllers since 1999. Other discriminatory practices listed by PATCO included the use of separate applicant pools, and hiring quotas for PATCO members.

April 3, 2006: FAA and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) exchanged their final contract proposals. *April 6*, FAA declared, as it had reached an impasse with the controllers' union after nine months of contract talks, only congressional action could prevent the agency from imposing its latest contract offer without union agreement. *April 25*, FAA officially ended contract negotiations with NATCA. *June 5*, FAA announced it would begin imposing its preferred contract terms on the controller work force. Under existing statutory rulings, the agency could impose its contract terms if Congress failed to overturn the agency's proposal within a 60-day window. FAA had sent its contract proposal to Congress in April and the deadline for congressional action was June 4. FAA Administrator Marion Blakey said, although the previous contract was officially terminated as of the previous day before, the work and pay rules of that contract would remain in effect while the new rules were phased in. She also commented in a letter to employees the transition process could take several months. (See November 28, 2005; August 2007.)

April 13, 2006: Runway 11/29 opened at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

May 16, 2006: Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport commissioned its fifth runway and dedicated its new 396-foot air traffic control tower.

May 20, 2006: Runway 10/28 opened at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

June 7, 2006: FAA posted an announcement in the *Federal Register* that all Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs), Part 121, 135 and 91(K) operators would be issued a new operations specifications or management specifications requiring completion of a new en route landing distance assessment for all their turbojet aircraft. The calculation took into consideration runway conditions and allowed a full-stop landing, on a given runway, with at least a 15-percent safety margin beyond the actual landing distance – according to the conditions existing at the time of arrival, and with deceleration means and other conditions appropriate to the and airplane being used. The calculation was staged as close to the time of arrival as practicable. Previous regulations had only mandated calculations such as these be made prior to the departure of the aircraft.

June 26, 2006: FAA instituted a new air traffic organization (ATO) service center unit. Three service centers replaced the nine service area offices within en route, terminal, and technical operations. Each of the service centers comprised five functional groups: administrative services, business services, safety assurance, system support, and planning and requirements. A sixth group, engineering services, was a shared resource and remained in place in the existing locations. (See December 5, 2005; May 8, 2008.)

June 2006: FAA delayed until January 1, 2007, proposed changes in aircraft registration policies that would have severely limited the ability of aircraft owners to request "priority service" in connection with declarations of international flights. Citing an increasingly heavy workload and the observation that many operators routinely requested priority service even if it was really not needed, officials at FAA's aircraft registration

organization sought to limit priority handling for international flights to one request per aircraft in any three-month period.

July 7, 2006: Effective this date, Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta resigned his post. (See January 25, 2001; October 24, 2006.)

July 13, 2006: FAA announced plans to phase in a new program designed to reduce the number of flight delays and bring an estimated \$900 million in cost savings to the airlines and the flying public. The airspace flow program was designed to allow air traffic controllers to delay only those flights expected to encounter extremely bad weather. As a result, the program was expected to minimize the crippling effects of the sudden thunderstorms that frequently affected the nation's airspace system during the summer travel season. On a single severe weather day during high peak seasons, thousands of flights often were delayed, diverted, or canceled, affecting hundreds of thousands of passengers and resulting in millions of dollars in operating losses for carriers.

July 17, 2006: The engineered materials arresting system installed at Greenville Downtown Airport, Greenville, SC, successfully stopped a Mystere Falcon 900 aircraft that overran the runway. (See January 22, 2005; July 18, 2008).

July 18, 2006: FAA Administrator Marion Blakey and European Commission Vice President Jacques Barrot signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that secured enhanced cooperation toward building a more efficient and seamless air traffic system between Europe and the United States. The MOU focused on building administrative bridges between the United States' NextGen and the Commission's Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research (SESAR) airspace modernization programs. In addition to annual meetings and regular, informal communications between FAA and the Commission, the MOU formalized pre-existing exchanges for facilitating enhanced understanding of those international programs. The memorandum acknowledged the importance of participation by both European and U.S. industries in each other's air traffic modernization efforts. (See May 16, 2007; June 18, 2010.)

July 27, 2006: Eclipse Aviation won FAA provisional certification for the Eclipse 500 very light jet. (See April 2007.)

July 2006: FAA's performance-based operations aviation rulemaking committee, a government and industry group, released the second version of the "Roadmap for Performance-Based Navigation." The first plan, released in 2003, covered concepts and principles, but included very few details. The revised version spelled out how FAA planned to proceed in the near-term (2006-10), mid-term (2011-15), and far-term (2016-25), and outlined dates for mandates on the types of equipment that would be needed by the airlines, business aircraft, and general aviation operators. The near-term period focused on the investment aircraft operators had already made in avionics and FAA spending on satellite-based navigation. It included the wide-scale rollout of RNAV procedures, including the instrument departures and arrivals commissioned at airports

such as Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International and Dallas-Fort Worth International. (See December 20, 2005; August 6, 2007; March 2007.)

August 24, 2006: FAA released an updated air traffic controller workforce plan designed to address the anticipated retirement and replacement of air traffic controllers over the coming decade. The revised document outlined the agency's plans to hire more than 11,800 new air traffic controllers over the next ten years. The plan was the first update to FAA's "10-year Strategy for the Air Traffic Control Workforce," which FAA released in December 2004. The revised plan was based on updated traffic forecasts, experience with productivity increases, actual retirements, and improved mathematical models. As part of the revised plan, FAA planned to hire 930 controllers by the end of fiscal year 2006. The plan also addressed the broader need to hire more than 11,800 controllers over the next ten years based on the latest attrition and traffic growth modeling. It outlined how FAA would bring on new controllers using a schedule designed to provide adequate training lead-time and to address changing air traffic demands over the coming decade. In addition to the hiring schedule, the plan addressed steps the agency was taking to improve the training process for new controllers. (See December 21, 2004; March 7, 2007.)

August 25, 2006: FAA and U.S. Air Force Space Command issued new, common federal launch safety standards designed to create consistent, integrated space launch rules for the nation. The rule strengthened public safety by harmonizing launch procedures that identified potential problems early and by implementing a formal system of safety checks and balances. The new FAA regulations governed commercial launch operations at federal and non-federal launch sites. (See December 29, 2005; December 15, 2006.)

August 27, 2006: Comair Flight 5191 crashed at the Lexington Blue Grass Airport; 48 of the 49 people on board died in the crash. In pre-dawn darkness, the crew had turned the aircraft onto a 3,500-ft. inoperative VFR-day Runway 26 instead of the 7,000-ft. departure Runway 22, a 40-degree heading difference. The aircraft had run out of concrete during the takeoff roll and crashed into a perimeter fence.

September 25, 2006: A report issued by the Department of Transportation Inspector General outlined a host of problems with FAA's "RESULTS" contracting program, but acknowledged FAA had moved quickly to shut the program down. The audit was launched at the request of Senators Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) after a whistleblower highlighted examples of waste and abuse. One of three such contracting programs used by FAA, RESULTS provided a list of 142 pre-qualified vendors to which the agency could award support contracts. Since its inception, the program had awarded more than 114 contracts with a potential value of \$543 million. The whistleblower uncovered abuse in one contract. The Office of the Inspector General widened its investigation to cover the entire program. The investigation found because of inadequate program controls, labor costs were much higher than in other FAA contracting efforts. In addition, RESULTS contracts were awarded without sufficient competition or price analysis, and inadequate oversight of contract performance contributed to further cost overruns.

September 2006: FAA approved the first child safety harness that could be used on commercial aircraft. The harness, manufactured by AmSafe Aviation, incorporated belt and shoulder harnesses secured by straps around the seat back and attachments to existing lap belts. The harness was an alternative to hard-shelled child seats that were the only other child restraint parents could carry onto aircraft. (See September 26, 2005; October 20, 2015.)

September 2006: FAA issued full type certification to the Cessna's entry-level Citation Mustang, making it the first very light jet to achieve that goal.

October 24, 2006: Mary Peters was sworn in as the 15th Secretary of Transportation. (See July 7, 2006.)

October 30, 2006: FAA completed the deployment of the user request evaluation tool (URET) at all 20 air route traffic control centers (ARTCCs). URET was a conflict-detection tool that automatically detected and advised air traffic controllers of predicted conflicts between aircraft or between aircraft and other operational elements within the national airspace system. This strategic planning tool allowed controllers to create alternative conflict-free flight routings and to manage better the changing air traffic or weather conditions. (See May 6, 2002.)

November 23, 2006: Runway 14/32 opened at General Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport.

December 14, 2006: FAA announced it had issued a type certificate for the double-decker Airbus A380 jet during a ceremony in Toulouse, France. Airbus applied to FAA for certification of the aircraft on August 12, 1998. The A380's size and complexity required FAA to extend its normal five-year certification period for a large airliner to seven years to ensure the required standards of safety.

December 15, 2006: FAA issued final regulations for crew and spaceflight participants. The new regulations required a reusable launch vehicle (RLV) operator to inform space tourists, in writing, about the safety record of the vehicle they would fly in, and compare that record with those of other manned space vehicles. After being given time to ask questions about the risks of flight, passengers had to provide written consent prior to the flight. Each passenger had to take safety training on how to respond to emergency situations – which included cabin depressurization, fire, smoke, and emergency egress. (See August 25, 2006; April 6, 2007.)

2007

January 30, 2007: In a luncheon speech at the National Press Club, FAA Administrator Marion Blakey proposed a rule change to allow pilots to fly until they were 65 years of age. Under the proposal, if one pilot on a flight was older than 60, the other pilot in the cockpit would have to be younger than 60. This would be a change from the mandatory retirement age of 60, which had been in effect since 1960. Before this change could

become official, FAA would have to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking and ask for public comment. The agency cautioned it could take years to pass new regulations. *December 11*, the House of Representatives approved a bill to let pilots fly until they reached the age of 65 provided they took medical tests twice a year. It also mandated airlines must perform additional proficiency checks on pilots over 60. *December 12*, the Senate passed a similar bill allowing pilots to fly until age 65. The new law would take effect immediately if signed by President George W. Bush. (See December 13, 2007.)

February 14, 2007: FAA unveiled a proposal to finance its operations and air traffic control modernization through a complex system of user fees and fuel taxes, plus new authority to issue bonds. The proposal was included in a draft FAA reauthorization bill containing financial provisions that would last for ten years and other provisions with a three-year life. In October 2008, after the first year of the reauthorization, FAA would drop the current taxes and fees that provided revenue to the aviation trust fund – mainly a 7.5 percent excise tax on airline tickets. In place of these revenue sources, the agency would initiate user fees to raise 53 percent of its total budget; retain and increase fuel taxes that, with reduced international passenger taxes, would provide an additional 28 percent; and rely on the general fund – derived from government-wide taxes and other revenues – for the remaining 19 percent of the budget. Under the proposal, as the airline's share of revenues decreased, aviation's total business share, derived from fees paid by corporate operators, would grow. Additionally, general aviation would pay a higher fuel tax – raised from 20 cents to about 70 cents per gallon.

February 15, 2007: Effective this date, FAA established regulations governing the design, operation, and maintenance of certain airplanes that flew long-range, regularly scheduled commercial routes over remote areas. The rule changed the current limitations and opened routes for twin-engine passenger and cargo planes. It also set uniformly high standards for all commercial passenger planes flying routes more than three hours from an airport. The final rule codified FAA policy, industry best practices and recommendations, as well as international standards designed to ensure safety on long-range flights. To ease the transition for current operators, this rule delayed the compliance dates pertaining to certain requirements applicable to extended range operation with two-engine airplanes, or ETOPS. (See November 10, 2003.)

February 23, 2007: Russ Chew, FAA Air Traffic Organization Chief Operating Officer resigned from the agency. Administrator Marion Blakey assigned COO responsibilities to Deputy Administrator Robert Sturgell as collateral duties. (See June 10, 2003; October 1, 2007.)

March 7, 2007: FAA released an updated plan to hire air traffic controllers over the next ten years. The plan provided a range of authorized controller staffing numbers for each of FAA's 314 staffed facilities across the country, giving the agency greater flexibility to match the number of controllers with traffic volume and workload. The agency had planned to hire and train more than 15,000 controllers over the next decade, and the updated plan called for hiring nearly 1,400 new controllers by year's end. (See August 24, 2006; April 4, 2012.)

March 15, 2007: Effective this date, FAA implemented a final rule setting safety and oversight rules for a broad variety of sightseeing and commercial air tour flights. The rule standardized requirements for air tour operators and consolidated air tour safety standards. It required operators, including some who were not previously covered, to meet the safety requirements in the expanded national air tour safety standards prescribed in the federal aviation regulations. The provision included requirements for enhanced passenger briefings before takeoff, life preservers and helicopter floats for certain over water operations, and the submission of helicopter performance plans. The rule also applied to the growing air tour industry offering tours of national parks. (See November 27, 2002.)

March 23, 2007: FAA dedicated its newest air traffic control facility in Guam. With oversight responsibility for nearly 200,000 square miles of airspace in the South Pacific, the new Guam air traffic facility would consolidate a number of air traffic functions in a single location. It would house en route and terminal radar air traffic control, a new air traffic control tower for the local international airport, and a technical operations division.

March 2007: FAA selected Naverus Inc., as the first FAA-approved required navigation performance (RNP) consultant to help airlines qualify to fly RNP procedures in the U.S. Intending to accelerate the transition from ground-based to satellite-based navigation, the agency decided to allow third parties to become involved. Broadening the use of RNP would allow minimums to be lower than otherwise possible during instrument approaches and would eventually allow reduced separation of aircraft. Naverus would advise airlines on how to qualify to fly RNP procedures, as outlined in FAA Advisory Circular 90-101. (See July 2006; May 10, 2012.)

April 2, 2007: Runway 7R/25L opened at Los Angeles International Airport.

April 3, 2007: FAA announced completion of advanced technologies and oceanic procedures (ATOP) deployment with the installation at the Anchorage Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC). ATOP was already deployed at FAA ARTCCs in Ronkonkoma, New York, and Oakland, California, providing air traffic service over the Atlantic and Pacific regions respectively. This technology enabled controllers to separate aircraft in areas outside radar coverage or direct radio communication, such as over oceans. It also detected conflicts between aircraft and provided satellite data link communication and position information to air traffic controllers. (See June 23, 2005.)

April 6, 2007: FAA released new guidelines allowing developers to obtain one-year experimental launch permits for reusable spacecraft. These provisions gave businesses the opportunity to fly and test their vehicles before applying for a FAA launch license. A permit covered multiple vehicles of a particular design and could be used for an unlimited number of launches. Applicants had to provide FAA a program description, a flight test plan, operational safety documentation (including a hazard analysis), and a plan for responding to any mishap. None of the flights covered by an experimental permit could be flown for profit, and the permits could be renewed following a favorable FAA review.

The agency would determine what kind of design changes could be made to a vehicle before its permit would be invalidated. (See December 15, 2006.)

April 11, 2007: FAA dedicated a new \$90 million, 324-foot tall air traffic control tower at Phoenix's Sky Harbor International Airport. The new tower featured state-of-the-art equipment and design. At 850 square feet, it was twice as tall as the old Phoenix Tower, built in 1977, and could accommodate 11 controllers in a cab three times the size of the previous one. The new terminal radar control (TRACON) section of the structure, with work stations for 22 controllers, replaced a 50-year old leased building that had accommodated only 13 controllers.

April 26, 2007: FAA proposed new standards to ensure timely activation of airframe ice protection systems on Part 25 aircraft. The proposal would require manufacturers to provide a means to alert the flight crew when an ice protection system should be activated. The proposal stipulated three options for hazard detection and activation of the ice protection system: supplying a primary system that would activate automatically to alert the flightcrew of realized danger; supplying visual cues that, together with an advisory ice detection system, would alert the flight crew of the first signs of ice accretion; or supplying technology that would identify external conditions conducive to icing and advise the flightcrew to be prepared to activate the protective system. (See May 12, 1997; April 3, 2009.)

April 2007: FAA awarded a production certificate to Eclipse Aviation for the Eclipse 500, one of the first very light jets to be certified. (See July 27, 2006.)

April 2007: The precision runway monitoring system became operational at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport. The system allowed controllers to land planes almost simultaneously on parallel runways, saving time and simplifying operations.

May 9, 2007: FAA and NASA formalized an educational partnership aimed at developing the next generation aviation and aerospace workforce.

May 15, 2007: FAA released the Future Airport Capacity Task (FACT) 2 report. The study identified six airports and four metropolitan areas in the national airspace system that, despite the effect of currently planned improvements, were likely to be capacity-constrained by 2015 and 2025. It recommended airport planning and development to increase the capacity of the system to meet these anticipated future aviation demands.

May 16, 2007: FAA Administrator Marion Blakey and her counterparts from Canada and Mexico signed a formal agreement establishing a cooperative NextGen strategy group. The agreement encouraged all three countries to share information regarding strategic roadmaps, technologies, and environmental metrics, as well as to coordinate harmonization efforts between North America and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). (See July 18, 2006; June 13, 2007.)

May 23, 2007: FAA announced its annual spring/summer plan, called the airspace flow program. The program gave airlines the option of either accepting delays for scheduled flights that flew through storms or flying longer routes to maneuver around adverse conditions. The agency successfully launched the program in 2006 at seven locations in the Northeast. On bad weather days at major airports in the region, delays fell by nine percent compared to the year before. The 2007 plan targeted 18 locations around the country where heavy traffic and weather created the most system delays.

May 23, 2007: FAA announced deployment of adaptive compression, a new software program that helped to ensure airports affected by bad weather would receive as many flights as could safely fly to them. When storms caused flights to be delayed or canceled, the software program filled automatically vacant arrival slots with the next available flight. Deployed in March, the software tool effectively reduced delays to save time and money for airlines and passengers.

May 23, 2007: FAA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* modifying Part 158. The change added debt service and air carrier bankruptcy requirements and other miscellaneous changes mandated by the Vision 100 – Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act.

May 24, 2007: FAA and the National Association of Government Employees signed a contract covering over 200 air traffic assistants who provided support for air traffic operations in terminal and en route facilities.

June 13, 2007: FAA announced release of the "NextGen Concept of Operation," a document which laid out the blueprint for the development and execution of the NextGen system. (See May 16, 2007; June 2007; September 26, 2007.)

June 22, 2007: Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, and Minister Praful Patel from the Ministry of Civil Aviation in India signed a memorandum of agreement that established the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program, a U.S. government and industry initiative to promote aviation relations and cooperation with Indian counterparts. (See April 6, 2004.)

June 2007: FAA published the first version of its expanded operational evolution plan (OEP), which laid out the agency's path to NextGen through 2025. The OEP, launched in 2001 to improve capacity, was extended in duration as well as broadened in scope to include FAA's NextGen-related activities. (See June 7, 2001; June 13, 2007; September 26, 2007.)

July 18, 2007: FAA and NATCA signed the NATCA multi-unit agreement covering approximately 1,200 engineers and architects responsible for the planning, design, and installation of facilities, systems, and equipment. Negotiations took place over the course of nine months before the agreement was overwhelmingly ratified by the union membership. (See July 10, 2005.)

July 26, 2007: FAA announced it was modifying the restricted airspace over the National Capital Region to make it safer, more secure, and easier for pilots to navigate. The new, circular 30-nautical-mile-radius restricted area eliminated the “mouse ears” shape of the previous air defense identification zone and allowed pilots to use a single navigational aid instead of four. The change, which went into effect on August 30, 2007, freed 33 airports and helipads from difficult restrictions affecting approximately 1,800 square miles of airspace. (See February 10, 2003.)

August 6, 2007: Effective this date, FAA amended its regulations to reflect technological advances supporting required area navigation (RNAV). The new provisions updated the use of suitable RNAV systems for navigation and made them more consistent with those of ICAO. The regulations also removed all reference to the middle marker, a previously required component of instrument landing systems, and clarified airspace terminology. (See July 2006; October 7, 2011.)

August 8, 2007: FAA announced an airport surface detection equipment program known as ASDE-X had begun an operational suitability demonstration at Chicago's O'Hare airport. ASDE-X used ground surveillance data collected from a variety of sources, including traditional radar, the automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast system (ADS-B), and aircraft transponders. Controllers in the tower saw the information presented as a color display of aircraft and vehicle positions overlaid on a map of the airport's runways, taxiways, and approach corridors. The system continuously updated a map of all airport-surface operations that controllers could use to spot potential collisions. FAA planned to commission the system in about a month. ASDE-X was first tested by FAA in June 2003 at General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. FAA declared the system ready for national deployment several months later. (See February 29, 2004; December 5, 2007.)

August 15, 2007: FAA Administrator Marion Blakey assembled a meeting of over 40 aviation leaders to brainstorm short-term remedies for reducing runway incursions. The one-day meeting involved senior FAA officials and industry executives. Blakey asked the meeting participants to consider solutions in four areas: cockpit procedures, airport signage and markings, air traffic procedures, and technology. The aviation community agreed to a five-point short-term plan:

- Within 60 days, teams of FAA, airport operators, and airlines would begin safety reviews at the airports where wrong runway departures and runway incursions were the greatest concern.
- Within 60 days, disseminate information and training across the entire aviation industry.
- Within 60 days, accelerate the deployment of improved airport signage and markings at the top 75 airports, well ahead of the June 2008 mandated deadline.
- Within 60 days, review cockpit procedures and air traffic control clearance procedures.
- Implement a voluntary self-reporting system for all air traffic organization safety personnel, such as air traffic controllers and technicians.

- By focusing new procedures and technology on mid- to long-term goals, maximize situational awareness, minimize pilot distractions, and eliminate runway incursions. (See June 24, 2008.)

August 30, 2007: FAA selected ITT Corporation as the prime contractor for the ADS-B system. Under the terms of the approximately \$1.8 billion contract, ITT would build the ADS-B ground stations and would own and operate the equipment. FAA would pay subscription charges to ITT for the transmission of ADS-B broadcasts to suitably equipped aircraft and air traffic control facilities. Along with air traffic displays, ADS-B would provide pilots graphical weather information, terrain maps, and flight information that would include temporary flight restrictions and notices to airmen. The system would alert controllers and pilots alike to the precise location of aircraft, enabling them to negotiate more direct flight routes that would enhance airspace efficiency, reduce delays, and improve safety. (See July 1, 2002; October 2, 2007.)

August 2007: The Federal Labor Relations Authority (FRLA) issued its rulings on three unfair labor practice complaints filed by NATCA in April, July, and September 2006. The charges related to the negotiation and implementation of the contract. FRLA concluded there was no merit to NATCA's claims, FAA had bargained in good faith, and the agency's implementation of the contract was lawful. (See April 3, 2006; December 2007.)

September 4, 2007: FAA approved collection of almost \$1.3 billion of passenger facility charge (PFC) revenue at Chicago O'Hare International Airport to finance various projects, including new runways and a runway extension associated with the O'Hare Modernization Program at Chicago, Illinois. (See November 20, 2008.)

September 5, 2007: FAA issued a final decision for redesigning the New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia metropolitan area airspace as part of efforts to reduce delays, fuel consumption, aircraft emissions, and noise. FAA held more than 120 public meetings in five states to complete the environmental planning process. The airspace redesign involved a 31,000-square-mile area over New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Connecticut with a population of 29 million residents. Twenty-one airports were included in the study. (See August 4, 2005; February 7, 2008.)

September 13, 2007: Marion Blakey left FAA after serving her five-year term. Robert Sturgell became acting administrator. (See September 13, 2002; September 24, 2007; October 23, 2007; February 7, 2008.)

September 18, 2007: FAA dedicated the new air traffic control tower at Washington Dulles International Airport. The new facility, which had become operational about two months before, supplanted a tower that had been in service since the airport opened in 1962.

September 20, 2007: FAA told airlines it planned to impose a new "level 2" international designation on New York's Kennedy and Newark airports – a classification that required

carriers to supply their summer schedules by October 11. This earlier deadline would apply to flights coming to the area between March 9 and November 1, although FAA would accept schedules that coincided with the International Air Transport Association scheduling season of March 30 through October 25. Level 2 airports were defined as facilities "where there is considerable potential for congestion at some periods . . . which is amenable to resolution by voluntary cooperation between airlines." New York's LaGuardia and Chicago O'Hare were the only U.S. airports designated as level 3.

September 24, 2007: Ruth Leverenz, FAA assistant administrator for centers and regions, became acting deputy administrator. (See September 13, 2007.)

September 26, 2007: House Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Costello (D-IL) accused FAA of not acting aggressively enough to prevent airline over scheduling, and suggested the focus by the agency and airlines on the next generation air transportation system (NextGen) air traffic control system was a red herring. The chairman said he was pleased, however, FAA asked airlines to supply their summer schedules in advance for Newark and Kennedy airports. (See June 13, 2007; March 10, 2008.)

September 30, 2007: FAA announced it had accepted early delivery of a crucial en route air traffic control system from manufacturer Lockheed Martin. The en route automation modernization (ERAM) system had passed all FAA requirement tests. The next phase of operational testing would be primarily conducted by FAA at the William J. Hughes Technical Center. FAA stressed the government acceptance milestone was achieved within budget and ahead of time. ERAM would replace the current HOST system at the 20 air route traffic control centers. (See June 30, 2003.)

October 1, 2007: Henry P. Krakowski became the FAA ATO COO, replacing Russ Chew who left the agency in February. Krakowski came to FAA from a 29-year career at United Airlines. (See February 23, 2007; April 14, 2011.)

October 2, 2007: FAA proposed an initial set of aircraft avionics requirements designed to enable the transition to the next generation satellite-based air transportation system. The proposal would require all aircraft flying in the nation's busiest airspace to have satellite-based avionics by 2020 so air traffic controllers could use the satellite-based ADS-B system to track them. Aircraft not flying in controlled airspace would not be required to have ADS-B avionics. The proposed rule was open to public comment for 90 days, and was scheduled to become final by late 2009. The proposed compliance date of 2020 would give the industry more than ten years to equip aircraft with ADS-B avionics. (See August 30, 2007; March 10, 2008; May 27, 2010.)

October 19, 2007: FAA announced the expansion of wide area augmentation system (WAAS) coverage into Canada and Mexico, increasing capacity at thousands of general aviation airports across the North American continent. WAAS improved the accuracy and integrity of GPS satellite signals, and provided highly precise approaches that could be used regardless of the weather. Nine new international wide-area reference stations were brought online under the expansion. The Canadian locations included Goose Bay,

Gander, Winnipeg, and Iqaluit. The Mexican locations included Mexico City, Puerto Vallarta, Merida, Tapachula, and San Jose del Cabo. Cooperation on the expansion project was carried out with Canadian and Mexican aviation authorities under the auspices of the North American Aviation Trilateral Agreement. (See March 24, 2006.)

October 23, 2007: The White House announced its intention to nominate Robert Sturgell for a five-year term as FAA administrator. (See September 13, 2007.)

October 25, 2007: FAA announced 23 schools were now participating in the agency's air traffic collegiate training initiative (CTI) program, part of a broader effort by the agency to recruit, train, and hire controllers. CTI schools were accredited to offer a non-engineering aviation degree in aviation programs. FAA added nine schools: Arizona State University; Community College of Baltimore County (Maryland); Florida Community College-Jacksonville; Green River Community College (Washington); Lewis University (Illinois); Kent State University (Ohio); the Metropolitan State College of Denver (Colorado); Middle Georgia College, and the University of Oklahoma. These nine schools joined fourteen others that renewed their commitment to the program first established in 1990 at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. (See February 10, 2014

November 8, 2007: FAA issued a final rule amending regulations for the certification and operation of transport category airplanes to mitigate conditions that put airlines at risk for wire failures, smoke, and fire. The new rule enhanced the safety requirements for design, installation and maintenance of electrical wiring in new and existing airplane designs, including the following:

- new maintenance, inspection, and design criteria for airplane wiring to address conditions that put transport airplanes at risk of wire failures, smoke and fire;
- requirements for those aerospace manufacturers holding type certificates, which indicate airworthiness, to analyze the zones of their airplanes for the presence of wire and for the likely accumulation of contaminant materials before 2010;
- requirements for those aerospace manufacturers holding type certificates to develop maintenance and inspection tasks to identify, correct, and prevent wiring conditions that introduce risks to continued safe flight, and that these tasks are included in new Instructions for Continued Airworthiness for wiring and compatible with Instructions for Continued Airworthiness for fuel tank systems while avoiding duplication or redundancy, by 2010; and
- requirements for operators of transport-category airplanes to incorporate maintenance and inspection tasks for wiring into their regular maintenance programs before 2012.

November 15, 2007: President George W. Bush announced an agreement between FAA and DOD temporarily releasing military airspace for Thanksgiving holiday travel. Under the agreement, the Department of the Navy released airspace, above 24,000 feet, off the east coast from Maine to Florida. FAA was allowed to use that airspace from 4 p.m. eastern standard time on Wednesday, November 21, to 6 a.m. eastern standard time on

Monday, November 26. The Navy continued to control airspace off the east coast below 23,000 feet for training operations.

November 30, 2007: FAA completed tests of a new system designed to improve the detection of microburst winds in dry climates at the Las Vegas airport. During the tests, the light detection and ranging, or LIDAR, detected more than half of all possible types of windshear. LIDAR used pulses of infrared light in a narrow scanning beam, which bounces off dust particles in the air. The frequency of the pulse changed according to the speed of the particles.

November 2007: FAA and Japanese aviation officials signed a data exchange agreement to coordinate air traffic operations between the two countries. The agreement was the result of meetings by the Informal Pacific Air Traffic Control Coordination Group (of which Japan and the United States are members) that recommended improvements to air traffic flow management through data sharing. Japan was the first country to participate in the program. (See April 27, 2009.)

December 5, 2007: In a report issued on this date, GAO faulted FAA's approach to reducing runway incursions and increasing ramp safety. GAO said FAA efforts had been uncoordinated, largely because its 2002 runway safety action plan had not been updated – although agency policy called for an update every two to three years. GAO also expressed concern about the deployment of the airport surveillance detection system (ASDE-X), saying it was skeptical FAA could meet its revised target of deploying the system to 35 major airports by 2011. GAO echoed NTSB concerns about controller fatigue, particularly the number of controllers working six-day weeks. (See August 8, 2007; October 16, 2008.)

December 6, 2007: FAA announced plans to form an aviation rulemaking committee to develop requirements for aircraft landing distance performance assessments prior to landing. FAA said the takeoff/landing performance assessment aviation rulemaking committee would establish: airplane certification and operational requirements (including training) for takeoff and landing operations on contaminated runways; landing distance assessment requirements, including minimum landing distance safety margins, to be performed at the time of arrival; and, standards for runway surface condition reporting and minimum surface conditions for continued operations.

December 10, 2007: Effective this date, FAA amended regulations for certification and operation of transport category airplanes. The changes improved the design, installation, and maintenance of airplane electrical wiring systems and aligned the amended requirements as closely as possible with those affecting fuel tank system safety. The rule organized and clarified design requirements for wire systems by moving existing regulatory references to wiring into a single section of the regulations specifically for wiring and by adding new certification rules. Under the rule, manufacturers had to complete FAA-approved instructions for new wiring-related maintenance and inspection tasks within 24 months for existing airplanes. U.S. scheduled air carriers and foreign airlines operating U.S.-registered aircraft had to develop maintenance and inspection

programs for wiring based on the manufacturers' instructions within 39 months, and had to update those programs, as needed, for subsequent aircraft modifications. (See October 6, 2005.)

December 13, 2007: President Bush signed into law the Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act (Public Law 110-135). The law amended federal transportation law to allow a pilot who has attained 60 years of age to serve as a passenger airline pilot until the age of 65, provided a pilot who had attained age 60 may serve as pilot-in-command on international flights only if there is another pilot in the flight crew who has not yet attained 60 years of age. It also prohibited subjecting pilots to different medical examinations and standards on account of age unless to ensure an adequate level of safety in flight. No person who had attained 60 years of age could serve as a pilot unless such person had a first-class medical certificate. In addition, the act required air carriers to: (1) continue to provide FAA-approved training to pilots, with specific emphasis on initial and recurring training and qualification of pilots who had attained 60 years of age; and (2) evaluate, every six months, the performance of pilots who had attained 60 years of age through a line check of such pilot. (See January 30, 2007; November 13, 2014.)

December 19, 2007: Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced new measures to reduce airline delays over the holiday season as well as new actions designed to reduce congestion in the New York area starting in the upcoming summer months. The agreement among the major airlines serving John F. Kennedy International Airport, capped the number of flights at either 82 or 83 per hour, depending on the time of day. The hourly caps took effect on March 15, 2008, and remained in place for two years. Airlines were now allowed to shift their flights to times of the day when the airport had unused capacity, allowing 50 more flights per day than the previous summer. The Secretary also directed FAA to enter into negotiations to set hourly caps at Newark International Airport. Effective this date, Peters also announced new take-off patterns at Newark and Philadelphia International Airport that allowed aircraft to fan out after take off, which provided more options for aircraft waiting to depart. Peters authorized the appointment of an aviation "czar" to serve as director of the newly-created FAA New York Integration Office. The new office would coordinate regional airspace issues and all projects and initiatives addressing problems of congestion and delays in New York. In addition, the Secretary formed a new federal advisory task force to help airlines and airports better coordinate when unexpected weather stranded passengers on tarmacs and in airports. She also authorized FAA to exercise liberal use of overtime to make sure facilities were staffed to handle the surge in traffic, and placed a moratorium on non-essential maintenance through the holidays so controllers could focus on traffic.

December 31, 2007: In Calendar Year 2007, public agencies collected \$2.8 billion in passenger facility charge revenue.

December 2007: According to a memo sent by FAA to its managers, the agency submitted its "second settlement proposal" to NATCA in the last week of December. Former NATCA President John Carr reportedly sent the memo to *Aviation Daily*. The memo described the offer as including several pay adjustments as well as additional

projects that would benefit the work force. A FAA spokeswoman confirmed that a new proposal was sent to NATCA. FAA said the agency had been in discussions with the union about a settlement since the previous spring, and the latest offer was part of this process. NATCA said FAA gave it a deadline of March 31, 2008, to accept the proposal. (See August 2007.)

2008

January 14, 2008: Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters proposed a new national policy that would make it easier for overcrowded airports to add capacity and reduce delays by encouraging airlines to spread their flights more evenly throughout the day. Under the proposal, the Department of Transportation encouraged congested airports in New York and across the country to move away from the decades-old practice of charging aircraft landing fees based on the weight of the plane and begin charging fees based on the time of the day. As a result, airports would be able to spread traffic more evenly throughout the day – allowing them to serve more passengers and reduce delays. The proposed policy changes would be open to public comment for 45 days before being finalized. Changes to FAA's policy on airport rates and charges would also allow airport operators to include the cost of projects designed to expand capacity in the new landing fees. Currently, airports could only include those costs after the projects had been completed. (See December 19, 2007; March 10, 2008.)

January 24, 2008: FAA announced, as a result of the runway safety summit held in August 2007, FAA and industry had made significant accomplishments in achieving the goals of their runway safety plan. As of this date, 71 of the targeted 75 medium and large airports had completed upgrades to airport painted markings. The remaining four were expected to have their markings upgraded well in advance of the June 2008 deadline. Sixty-two small airports had also upgraded their markings, 121 airports planned to complete the work by the end of the year, 25 airports planned to enhance markings in 2009, and 22 airports had expressed interest, but had not yet provided a target completion date. FAA proposed extending the enhanced taxiway centerline requirement at all certificated airports. FAA published a draft change to Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5340-1J, Standards for Airport Markings, in late December 2007. Comments were due by February 26, 2008. In addition, FAA completed a runway safety review of 20 airports based on runway incursion data and wrong runway departure data. FAA also issued a draft change to AC 150/5210-20, Ground Vehicle Operations on Airports, in late December 2007. Public comments were due by February 26, 2008. (See August 15, 2007; January 15, 2009.)

January 28, 2008: FAA finalized a special federal aviation regulation (SFAR) that created new pilot training, experience, and operating requirements to increase the safety of the widely used Mitsubishi MU-2B airplane. The final rule mandated a comprehensive standardized pilot training program for the aircraft. The regulation required use of a standardized cockpit checklist and the latest revision of the airplane flight manual. MU-2B operators also had to have a working autopilot onboard except in certain limited circumstances. Owners and operators had one year to comply with the SFAR.

February 6, 2008: FAA announced plans to deploy new air traffic tower simulators to 19 locations around the country to help train new air traffic controllers in an interactive operational environment that provided realistic scenarios. The new simulators would be deployed over 18 months at the following towers: John F. Kennedy (NY); Los Angeles; Oakland (CA); Washington Reagan National; Dallas Fort-Worth; Atlanta; Denver; Philadelphia; Cincinnati; Cleveland; San Antonio; Memphis (TN); Honolulu; Orlando (FL); Charlotte (NC); Minneapolis; Boston; and Newport News (VA). FAA planned to install an additional six simulators at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City.

February 7, 2008: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a confirmation hearing for acting FAA Administrator Robert Sturgell to become the FAA administrator. After the hearing, New Jersey's two democratic senators, Frank Lautenberg and Bob Menendez, placed a hold on the nomination, preventing it from going to the Senate floor for a vote. Both said they had concerns about safety and traffic issues with FAA. Both senators were also unhappy with FAA changes to the New York area airspace, saying the changes added to noise pollution. Sturgell had been acting FAA administrator since Marion Blakey's term expired. Bush nominated Sturgell to be her replacement October 23, 2007. (See September 13, 2007; September 5, 2008; January 16, 2009.)

February 14, 2008: Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced an Open Skies agreement between the United States and Australia eliminating restrictions on air services for the carriers of both countries. Under the agreement, U.S. and Australian airlines could select routes and destinations based on consumer demand, without limitations on the number of flights that could fly between the two countries. The agreement also removed restrictions on capacity and pricing, and provided opportunities for cooperative marketing arrangements, including code-sharing, between participating carriers. With this agreement, Australia became the 90th U.S. Open-Skies partner. The United States signed its first open skies agreement with The Netherlands on October 14, 1992. (See February 29, 1996; March 13, 2008.)

February 15, 2008: In an effort to streamline the job application process for air traffic controllers, FAA announced establishment of consolidated screening and testing centers to provide one stop shopping for prospective new employees. The first center was set up at the regional FAA office in New York in January 2009. (See March 7, 2007; September 9, 2008.)

February 26, 2008: FAA announced plans to install runway status lights at Los Angeles International Airport. Using a series of red lights embedded in the pavement, the system warned pilots when it was unsafe to cross over or enter a runway. Under an agreement between FAA and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), pilots would begin testing runway status lights in early 2009. LAWA would fund the system at an estimated cost of \$6 million. FAA would install, test, evaluate, and maintain the system. (See October 16, 2008.)

February 28, 2008: President Bush signed into law legislation extending FAA authorization and the existing aviation excise taxes through June 30, 2008. The legislation, H.R.5270, also renewed FAA's airports contract spending authority, which had expired at the end of 2007, freeing up airport improvement program dollars. The president signed the legislation one day before the agency's authorization was due to expire. (See February 14, 2007.)

March 6, 2008: FAA initiated an action to collect a \$10.2 million civil penalty from Southwest Airlines for operating 46 airplanes without performing mandatory inspections for fuselage fatigue cracking. Subsequently, the airline found six of the 46 airplanes had fatigue cracks. From June 18, 2006 to March 14, 2007, FAA alleged Southwest Airlines operated 46 Boeing 737 airplanes on 59,791 flights while failing to comply with a September 8, 2004, airworthiness directive that required repetitive inspections of certain fuselage areas to detect fatigue cracking. FAA alleged after Southwest Airlines discovered it had failed to accomplish the required repetitive inspections, between March 15, 2007 and March 23, 2007, it continued to operate those same 46 airplanes on an additional 1,451 flights. The amount of the civil penalty reflected the serious nature of the deliberate violations. Southwest Airlines had 30 days from receipt of FAA's civil penalty letter to respond to the agency. (See March 18, 2008.)

March 7, 2008: The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) announced the automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) team of public and private sector groups had been selected as the recipient of the 2007 Robert J. Collier Trophy. The team included the FAA, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Air Line Pilots Association, Cargo Airline Association, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, ITT Corporation, Lockheed Martin Corporation, NASA, MITRE Corporation, UPS, ACSS, among others. NAA formally presented the Collier Trophy on June 12. The Collier Trophy was awarded annually for the greatest achievement in aeronautics or astronautics in America. (See October 2, 2007; November 24, 2008.)

March 10, 2008: FAA mandated significant upgrades to aircraft cockpit voice and flight data recorders – the improvements enabled investigators to retrieve more data from accidents and incidents requiring investigation. Under the final rule, which affected manufacturers and operators of airplanes and helicopters with 10 or more seats, all voice recorders had to capture the last two hours of cockpit audio instead of the current 15 to 30 minutes. The new rule also required an independent backup power source for the voice recorders to allow continued recording for nine to eleven minutes if all aircraft power sources were lost or interrupted. Voice recorders were required to use solid state technology instead of magnetic tape, a medium shown to be vulnerable to damage and loss of reliability. Airplanes (but not helicopters) operating under Parts 121, 125, or 135 of FAA regulations had to retrofit some equipment by April 7, 2012. The rule also mandated the enhancements on all newly built aircraft and helicopters after April 7, 2010. (See September 26, 2007; October 2, 2007; April 5, 2010.)

March 10, 2008: Airlines serving Newark Liberty Airport agreed to temporarily cap and spread flights for two years at a level that would allow 30 more flights per day than

during the previous summer. The cap, which applied to both domestic and international flights, would allow an average of 83 flights per hour during peak periods and would go into effect in early May. (See January 14, 2008; April 16, 2008.)

March 10, 2008: Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced the Department would move key elements of the next generation air transportation system (NextGen) – the new satellite-based aviation system designed to enhance efficiency and minimize delays across the nation – from design to delivery in 2008. She said Florida would serve as the test-bed for the new system beginning the summer of 2008, with the introduction of NextGen at Daytona Beach. A new descent technique would help to save fuel, and reduce noise and emissions in Miami. In addition, ADS-B technology would help increase the capacity of airspace along Florida's Gulf Coast by allowing planes to fly more closely together without compromising safety. (See September 26, 2007; February 7, 2008; May 8, 2008; June 24, 2010.)

March 13, 2008: Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced the United States and Croatia had concluded an Open Skies agreement establishing free trade in aviation services between the two countries. Under the new agreement, airlines from both countries would be allowed to select routes and destinations based on consumer demand, without limitations on the number of U.S. or Croatian carriers that could fly between the two countries or the number of flights they could operate. The agreement contained no restrictions on capacity and pricing, and provided opportunities for cooperative marketing arrangements, including code-sharing, between U.S. and Croatian carriers. The agreement offered U.S. cargo carriers special benefits by allowing them to carry air cargo between Croatia and third countries without requiring a stop in the United States. Croatia became the 91st U.S. Open Skies partner. The United States drafted similar agreements with Kenya on May 30, 2008; Laos on October 3, 2008; Armenia on October 7, 2008; and Japan on December 11, 2009. (See February 14, 2008; April 23, 2010.)

March 18, 2008: FAA directed federal aviation inspectors to reconfirm commercial carriers operating within the United States had complied with all airworthiness directives (ADs). By March 28, 2008, inspectors had to complete review of ten ADs per fleet. In total, they completed a review of ten percent of the directives applicable to a fleet. (See March 6, 2008; April 2, 2008.)

March 31, 2008: FAA and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) signed an agreement to create an air traffic safety action program (ATSAP) designed to foster a voluntary, cooperative, non-punitive environment for the open reporting of safety of flight concerns by FAA employees. Under the ATSAP, all parties would have access to safety information that might not otherwise be obtainable. This information would be analyzed and used to develop skill enhancement or system corrective action to help solve safety issues. The agreement would be in place for 18 months and would begin at several targeted facilities. If both parties deemed the program successful after a comprehensive review and evaluation, they would make it a continuing program. (See September 22, 2010.)

April 2, 2008: FAA acting Administrator Robert Sturgell announced a safety audit had found U.S. air carriers in compliance with 99 percent of the nearly 2,400 airworthiness directives (ADs) sampled by safety inspectors between March 13 and March 28, 2008. Sturgell also announced plans to (1) enable inspectors to raise their concerns quickly and at a higher level; (2) toughen ethical standards for inspectors to prevent conflicts of interest; (3) enhance airline safety by improving the clarity and coordination of directives issued by FAA to air carriers; (4) require reporting of voluntary disclosures to be made by senior airline officials; and (5) speed up the expansion of our comprehensive aviation safety database. The announced actions included:

- Developing a safety issues reporting system (SIRS) to be implemented by April 30, 2008, which would provide employees an additional mechanism to raise safety concerns if they felt they were not receiving the necessary response from supervisory and management personnel.
- Initiating, by June 30, a rulemaking project to address ethics policies that would enhance inspector post-employment restrictions.
- Working with manufacturers and air carriers to develop a system to improve the clarity of ADs to ensure effective implementation by the industry.
- Requiring senior airline officials submit reports detailing compliance deviations under the voluntary disclosure reporting program.
- Accelerating the expansion of the aviation safety and analysis sharing program. (See March 18, 2008; September 22, 2010.)

April 8, 2008: Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced the selection of Marie Kennington-Gardiner as director of the New York Integration Office, created as part of a coordinated effort to address chronic aviation delays in the New York region. As the newly appointed aviation “czar,” Kennington-Gardiner would coordinate regional airspace issues and all projects and initiatives addressing problems of congestion and delays in New York. (See December 19, 2007.)

April 8, 2008: FAA announced it had transitioned to a new telecommunications network that increased network reliability and save hundreds of millions of dollars over the next decade. The FAA telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) network replaced the legacy telecommunications network known as the leased interfacility national airspace system communications. (See November 2, 1993; December 8, 2009.)

April 16, 2008: The Department of Transportation finalized changes to its so-called bumping rule, which doubled the limit on compensation airlines had to pay passengers involuntarily bumped from their flight. Under the new rule, fliers who were involuntarily bumped would receive up to \$400 if rescheduled to reach their destination within two hours of their original arrival time or four hours for international flights, and up to \$800 if they were not rerouted within that timeframe. The new rule covered flights operated with aircraft seating 30 people or more; the previous rule covered flights with 60 seats or more. In addition, Secretary Peters announced new air traffic measures designed to help cut summer delays. The first involved new and greater flexibility for aircraft to use alternative routes in the sky to avoid severe weather. FAA would also open a second westbound route for aircraft, akin to adding another interstate highway lane in the sky.

Peters said improving the passenger experience was central to the Department's efforts and that she wanted to hear directly from travelers about how they were affected by problems in the air travel industry. She launched a series of aviation consumer forums to hear from consumers and help educate air travelers about their rights and responsibilities. The first Department-hosted forum was scheduled for April 17 in Miami, to be followed by public meetings in Chicago and San Francisco. (See August 11, 2009.)

April 16, 2008: Under a supplemental rulemaking, the Department of Transportation proposed two market-based options to ease congestions at New York's LaGuardia Airport that would require a limited number of flights operated by the airlines in a given day, known as slots, to be made available through an auction process. Under the first option, all air carriers would be given up to 20 slots a day for the 10-year life of the rule. Meanwhile, over the next five years, 8 percent of the additional slots currently used by an airline would be made available to any carrier via an auction. An additional 2 percent of the slots would be retired to help cut the record delays at the airport. Proceeds from the auction would be invested in new congestion reduction and capacity improvement initiatives in the New York region. The second option also gave airlines permanent access to up to 20 slots a day for a 10-year period. Beyond those flights, 20 percent of the slots currently used by the airlines would be made available over the next five years to all airlines through an auction. Under this option, the carriers would retain the net proceeds of the auction. (See March 10, 2008; May 18, 2008.)

April 18, 2008: Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced measures to improve FAA's safety inspection program and minimize travel disruptions caused when airlines abruptly grounded aircraft. She created an external review team and tasked them with developing recommendations within 120 days on how FAA could do a better job safeguarding the skies. Team members included J. Randolph Babbitt, William McCabe, Malcolm Sparrow, Ambassador Edward Stimpson, and Carl Vogt. Peters also said FAA would begin implementing a new program to track the inspections and alert key personnel whenever a safety inspection was overdue. FAA would begin requiring senior level officials within the agency's field offices to be accountable for accepting voluntary safety disclosures from airlines and for revising ethics rules to require a cooling-off period before FAA inspectors could work for an airline they oversaw or interacted with while employed at the agency. In addition, FAA would establish a new national safety inspection review team to conduct focused and comprehensive safety reviews. (See April 2, 2008; September 5, 2008.)

May 5, 2008: FAA issued an advisory circular (AC 120-96) highlighting the best practices for use by helicopter emergency medical service (HEMS) operators in establishing their control centers and training their specialists. (See November 14, 2008.)

May 7, 2008: The Department of Transportation issued a new rule giving people with disabilities additional protections against discrimination when they traveled by air. The rule strengthened the Air Carrier Access Act of 1990 and extended it to foreign airlines operating a flight that began or ended in the United States. It applied to U.S. air carrier operations worldwide. The new rule also made it easier for passengers to use medical

oxygen during flights by requiring airlines to allow the use in the passenger cabin of portable oxygen concentrators that met applicable safety, security, and hazardous materials requirements for safe use aboard aircraft. The Department sought public comment through a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) about whether airlines should be required to provide medical oxygen to passengers upon request. The SNPRM also addressed subjects such as accessibility of airline web sites, automated ticketing kiosks, and in flight entertainment systems. The rule provided greater accommodations for passengers with hearing impairments by requiring airlines to include easy-to-read captions for the hearing-impaired in its safety and informational videos. In addition, airlines had to provide the same information to hearing- and vision-impaired passengers that it provided to other passengers in airport terminals or on the aircraft – such as information on boarding, flight delays, schedule changes, weather conditions at the flight’s destination, connecting gate assignments, checking and claiming of baggage, and emergencies. The rule did not specify how carriers should make this information available to passengers who are deaf or hard of hearing. The new rule would be effective in one year to give carriers enough time to implement its provisions. (See November 4, 2013.)

May 8, 2008: FAA announced creation of a new position within the air traffic organization. The new senior vice president for NextGen and operations planning, Victoria Cox, managed the organizations she previously managed as the vice president for operations planning, as well as the joint planning and development office. (See June 26, 2006; March 10, 2008; October 3, 2008.)

May 18, 2008: FAA proposed to temporarily limit scheduled flight operations at Newark Liberty International Airport to ease persistent congestion and delays during peak operating hours and to accommodate the projected increase in flight delays during the summer. After evaluating the written comments submitted to the public docket, FAA issued a final order, which took effect on June 20, 2008. (See April 16, 2008; August 5, 2008.)

May 29, 2008: Three Iraqi nationals became Baghdad’s first tower-certified air traffic controllers after completing months of rigorous instruction based on international aviation safety standards and overseen by a FAA-led team. At a ceremony on May 29, the Director General of Iraq’s Civil Aviation Authority Sabeeh Al Shebany and Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters presented the controllers with their certifications at Baghdad International Airport’s air traffic control facilities.

June 3, 2008: FAA dedicated a new 228-foot-tall airport traffic control tower at the Huntsville International Airport. The facility had become operational at 6 a.m., May 4. The \$18.5 million tower complex was located one-mile south of the previous facility in a gated, fenced complex between the parallel runways. The project consisted of the control tower and a 10,500-square foot base building and included a generator building and parking. The new 800 square foot terminal radar control facility (TRACON) more than doubled the size of the old TRACON.

June 16, 2008: Acting Administrator Robert Sturgell announced the elimination of flight caps at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. He said O'Hare had been designated as an International Air Transport Association Level 2 airport, a designation requiring air carriers to continue providing their schedules six months in advance. In 2004, FAA capped arrivals at O'Hare at 88 during most hours of the day to reduce congestion at the world's second-busiest airport. (See August 18, 2004; October 30, 2008.)

June 17, 2008: FAA transitioned the traffic flow management system from the Department of Transportation's John. A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA, to its William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City, NJ. FAA dedicated the system, which predicted, detected, and handled airspace congestion problems, on August 7, 2008.

June 26, 2008: The air traffic control tower at St. Louis Downtown Airport, located in Cahokia, IL, began operations.

June 30, 2008: Acting Administrator Robert Sturgell and Antonio Tajani, European Commissioner for Transport, European Commission, signed a safety agreement to further enhance safety cooperation. The agreement:

- Provided for reciprocal acceptance of safety findings in aircraft design and manufacturing, continued airworthiness, and repair station oversight;
- Broadened the scope of potential future United States acceptance of European aeronautical products from all member states of the European Union, beyond the current 14 that have individual agreements with the United States;
- Promoted safety and harmonization by providing for regulatory cooperation, particularly in rulemaking, and safety data exchange; and
- Established a bilateral oversight board to manage implementation of the agreement, consult on urgent matters, and provide a forum for discussion of approaches to safety issues.

The agreement would take effect upon an exchange of diplomatic notes, after each party to the agreement had completed ratification procedures and final arrangements regarding fees and charges. (See March 10, 2006; February 10, 2009.)

July 18, 2008: The engineered materials arresting system installed at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, IL, successfully stopped a Mexicana Airlines Airbus A320 aircraft that overran the runway. (See July 17, 2006; January 19, 2010.)

July 21, 2008: FAA issued a final rule that specified within two years all new transport category aircraft must include technology designed to significantly reduce the risk of center fuel tank fires. In addition, passenger aircraft built after 1991 must be retrofitted with technology designed to keep center fuel tanks from catching fire. The rule did not direct the adoption of specific inerting technology, but established a performance-based set of requirements that set acceptable flammability exposure values in tanks most prone to explosion or required the installation of an ignition mitigation means in an affected fuel tank. The cost of installing the new technology would range from \$92,000 to

\$311,000 per aircraft, depending on its size. The U.S. aircraft to be retrofitted included approximately 2,730 aircraft belonging to the A320 family of 900 airplanes, 50 A330s, 965 Boeing 737s, 60 Boeing 747s, 475 Boeing 757s, 150 Boeing 767s and 130 Boeing 777s. (See December 10, 2007.)

August 5, 2008: Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced plans to hold an auction for the right to operate a single roundtrip flight at Newark Liberty Airport under a five-year lease. Eos Airlines, which had two slots, had filed for bankruptcy leaving FAA with control of the slots. The winner of the auction would be able to operate at Newark daily, arriving at 5:00 to 5:30 pm every day but Monday and Saturday, when the arrival would be from 12:00 to 12:30 pm, and departing daily from 7:30 to 8:00 pm. The funds generated from the auction would be used to reduce delays and enhance capacity at New York-area airports. The terms and conditions of the lease and details of the auction process were made available on FAA's procurement web site for public comment until August 18. After taking into consideration all comments on both the lease and the auction process, a final notice and invitation to bid would be published August 25 and the auction would take place on September 3. (See May 18, 2008; October 9, 2008.)

August 25, 2008: The U.S. aviation system received a score of 91 out of 100 in a safety audit conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a United Nations agency that oversaw international civil aviation. The U.S. score, which was well above the global average of 56, reflected U.S. compliance with over 9,500 international safety standards. FAA led U.S. preparations for the audit, which also included NTSB, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The team of ICAO auditors conducted a comprehensive audit of all aspects of civil aviation in the United States, including aircraft operations and airworthiness, accident investigation, navigation services, airports, personnel licensing, and legislation and regulations. ICAO established the universal safety oversight audit program in 1995 at the urging of the United States. (See September 2, 1994; July 30, 2010.)

September 5, 2008: FAA inspectors found an overall compliance rate of 98 percent in more than 5,600 audits of airworthiness directives (AD) at U.S. air carriers, acting Administrator Robert Sturgell announced. Alleged noncompliance in the audits fell into five categories: instances where the air carrier could not show compliance with the AD; cases where additional records were needed to prove compliance; cases where the air carrier did the work, but had to apply for an alternate means of compliance approval; situations where the AD work was not done, but the airplane was not flying; and other minor discrepancies not involving ADs. All noncompliance issues were corrected before the airplanes flew again, and FAA investigated to determine if enforcement actions were warranted. Sturgell also provided a progress report on the safety initiatives announced in April 2008:

- Safety Issues Reporting System — Complete
- Voluntary Disclosure Reporting Program Approvals — Complete
- Ethics Policy Enhancement — In progress; proposed rule expected next summer
- Aviation Safety and Analysis Sharing Program expansion — In progress
- Independent Review Team — Complete; with Secretary Peters for review

- Airworthiness Directive Review — in progress (See April 18, 2008; September 10, 2008.)

September 9, 2008: FAA awarded a \$437 million contract to Raytheon to support air traffic controller training. The 10-year award replaced separate contracts to support initial training at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City and to support ongoing training in air traffic facilities nationwide. The consolidation into a single contract gave Raytheon the ability to support the entire lifecycle of controller training. This, in turn, would allow FAA to provide more integrated training activities throughout a controller's career. (See February 15, 2008; May 4, 2015.)

September 10, 2008: Transportation Secretary Mary Peters directed FAA to implement 13 new safety recommendations made by the team tasked with reviewing the U.S. aviation safety system. Peters said the team's report confirmed the basic approach to aviation safety in the United States had generated unprecedented results, but that there were ways to make the system even safer. In response to a key recommendation by the review team, Peters committed FAA to have guidance in place by the end of the year to ensure that airworthiness directives and their deadlines were fully understood by all appropriate FAA officials and airlines. The review team also recommended new safeguards against FAA personnel developing "overly cozy" relationships with the airlines they regulated through regular audits of field offices where the managerial team had been in place for more than three years. Consistent with recommendations to improve FAA's safety culture, the Secretary also charged the agency with developing, and having underway within six months, a new training program for safety managers and inspectors. (See September 5, 2008; November 20, 2009.)

October 3, 2008: ATO announced a realignment of its senior leadership into four business units, each led by a senior vice president. The new ATO executive council now included Chief Operating Officer Hank Krakowski and four senior vice presidents for operations, strategy and performance, finance, and NextGen and operations planning. Previously the ATO included the nine different service unit vice presidents. (See May 8, 2008; September 17, 2009.)

October 9, 2008: The Bush Administration committed \$89 million over the next eight years to expand capacity at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced. She unveiled new rules designed to lower fares, increase consumer choices, and improve service for air travelers using John F. Kennedy, Newark, and LaGuardia airports. The Secretary said the Department would sign a "letter of intent" committing the federal government to invest the money between 2009 and 2016 to fund a series of taxiway improvements at the airports. The taxiway improvements included constructing two new taxiways, extending or improving six others, and creating new high-speed exit taxiways. The construction work was expected to begin in 2009 and completed by 2014. (See August 5, 2008; October 10, 2008.)

October 10, 2008: FAA published final rules to address congestion at New York area airports by auctioning a limited number of landing and take-off slots at each of the

region's three airports. Under the final rules, airlines operating at Kennedy, Newark, and LaGuardia would receive a 10-year ownership of the vast majority of FAA slots they currently operated. However, the new rules called for a gradual auctioning over the next five years of up to 10 percent of the landing and take off slots these airlines currently operated free of charge. The rules lowered the hourly operating cap at LaGuardia airport from 75 slots per hour to 71 slots per hour by "retiring" an additional five percent of the slots currently being used. Existing airlines at LaGuardia would keep 988 of the slots they currently operated. The remaining 113 slots would be made available over the next five years by auction to airlines interested in starting new service or expanding current operations at the airport. Under the rules for Kennedy and Newark, existing airlines would keep 1,035 of the slots they operated at Kennedy and 1,154 of the 1,245 slots they operated at Newark. The remaining 89 slots at Kennedy and 91 slots at Newark would be made available over a five-year period for airlines wishing to expand their current operations or start new services at either of the airports. (See October 9, 2008; December 8, 2008.)

October 16, 2008: FAA awarded a three-year contract to Sensis Corp. of Syracuse, NY, to install runway status lights at 22 major U.S. airports. Runway status lights improved runway safety at busy airports by warning pilots when it was unsafe to cross or enter a runway. The initial award, valued at \$131 million, included two one-year options to install the lights at additional airports, for a total contract value of \$215 million. The runway status lights used the ASDE-X surveillance data to operate. As part of the initial contract, runway status lights would be deployed at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport; Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport; Boston Logan International Airport; Charlotte Douglas International Airport; Chicago O'Hare International Airport; Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport; Denver International Airport; Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport; Washington Dulles International Airport; Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport; Houston Intercontinental Airport; New York John F. Kennedy International and LaGuardia Airports; Las Vegas McCarran International Airport; Los Angeles International Airport; Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport; Newark Liberty International Airport; Orlando International Airport; Philadelphia International Airport; Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport; San Diego International Airport; and Seattle Tacoma International Airport. (See December 5, 2007; February 26, 2008; July 29, 2010.)

October 30, 2008: The U.S. Department of Justice approved the merger between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines. The airlines had announced the merger on April 14, 2008. (See December 31, 2009.)

October 30, 2008: FAA extended the expiration date of special federal aviation regulation (SFAR) No. 105 through October 31, 2010. The action maintained the reservation system established for unscheduled arrivals at Chicago O'Hare International Airport following the expiration of limitations imposed on scheduled operations at the airport. (See June 16, 2008.)

November 3, 2008: Acting Administrator Robert Sturgell announced FAA had signed a \$9 million agreement with two companies to accelerate the testing and installation of NextGen technology. Teams led by Honeywell and Aviation Communications & Surveillance Systems (ACSS) would help FAA test and develop technology that would be used on an airport's airfield to detect and alert pilots of potential safety issues. Two Honeywell test planes and pilots from JetBlue Airways and Alaska Airlines would provide operational input from concept development through flight evaluation and demonstration. Honeywell would conduct work at Seattle Tacoma International and Snohomish County Paine Field airports. Under the agreement, Honeywell would receive approximately \$3 million. ACSS, which planned to work with US Airways to develop standards, flight demonstrations, and prototypes, would receive approximately \$6 million. Twenty Airbus A330 aircraft would be equipped with cockpit displays, transponders, antennas, wiring kits, and Class 2 electronic flight bags. Demonstrations would be conducted at Philadelphia International Airport. (See October 3, 2008; November 18, 2008; March 14, 2011.)

November 11, 2008: The new Indianapolis International Airport opened. Construction funds came from \$120 million in federal grants, airport revenue bonds, and passenger head taxes. More than 1,100 residences were bought for the \$220 million project, which started in 1987. Parallel runways opened in the 1990s, and after 9/11, the terminal design changed to accommodate improved security. A new air traffic control tower and TRACON opened in 2006.

November 14, 2008: FAA issued a notice in the *Federal Register* advising operators of important mandatory changes to helicopter emergency medical service (HEMS) flights. The agency encouraged the use of night vision goggles and terrain awareness warning systems. Consistent with NTSB recommendations, all HEMS operators had to comply with Part 135 weather minimums, including repositioning flights with medical crew onboard. FAA also provided greater access to weather reporting facilities, and required the flight crew to determine a minimum safe altitude and obstacle clearance prior to each flight. Operators had to comply no later than February 22, 2009. (See May 7, 2008; January 12, 2009.)

November 18, 2008: President George W. Bush issued Executive Order 13479, Transformation of the National Air Transportation System. Among other requirements, the executive order reiterated the national importance of establishing NextGen and mandated the Secretary of Transportation to establish a support staff to support NextGen activities. (See November 3, 2008; December 8, 2008.)

November 20, 2008: New runways at Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare, and Seattle-Tacoma International Airports opened. The new runways allowed for an additional 330,000 take-offs and landings each year. The runways, built with \$643 million in federal airport improvement program funds, also would help reduce delays at the three airports.

November 20, 2008: FAA commissioned the North Airport traffic control tower at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. (See September 4, 2007; October 17, 2015.)

November 24, 2008: FAA commissioned an ADS-B system testbed at Daytona Beach Airport under a joint program with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Lockheed Martin, and other partners. The system provided real-time graphical weather displays from the National Weather Service, along with critical flight information. (See March 7, 2008; November 23, 2009.)

December 4, 2008: FAA broke ground for its new air traffic control system command center near Warrenton, VA, which the agency hoped to open in 2011. The 63,000-square-foot building that would house FAA's new command center would share a site with the Potomac TRACON, a consolidated approach and departure control facility serving Washington, Baltimore, and Richmond-area airports. FAA awarded a \$22 million contract to Corinthian Construction Company of Arlington, VA, to build the new center. (See April 15, 1994; April 11, 2011.)

December 8, 2008: The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit stayed the FAA final rules issued on October 10 concerning slot auctions at three New York area airports. *January 22, 2009*, the Air Transport Association requested Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood withdraw the final rule in light of the court's stay. While the regulations were already incorporated into the Code of Federal Regulations, they no longer had force and effect because of the court's ruling. (See October 10, 2008; December 22, 2008.)

December 8, 2008: FAA signed a wide-ranging agreement with fractional jet operator NetJets to run some test programs in various parts of the U.S. by equipping some of the 550 to 600 aircraft it manages with NextGen avionics. (See November 18, 2008; September 21, 2009.)

December 15, 2008: FAA issued a launch site license to the New Mexico Spaceport America. The 16,000-acre site was the first launch facility built for passenger spaceflights. Construction work on the site, situated 40 miles north of Las Cruces, was scheduled to open in 2010. (See July 2, 2004; January 26, 2009; December 9, 2013.)

December 16, 2008: FAA published a final rule making permanent the air defense identification zone around Washington, DC. The rule established a 15-nautical-mile radius Flight Restricted Zone and an outer Special Flight Rules Area 30 nautical mile radius around Washington National Airport. (See July 26, 2007.)

December 17, 2008: FAA approved the charter of a new aviation rulemaking committee (ARC) created for the purpose of consulting with FAA regarding the cost of providing air traffic control and related services to overflights, and providing advice and recommendations to the administrator regarding the future level of FAA's overflight fees. (See June 21, 2002; September 28, 2010.)

December 20, 2008: Continental Airlines Flight 1404, on a scheduled flight from Denver to Houston, crashed while attempting to takeoff from runway 34L. During its takeoff roll,

the aircraft veered to the left, exited the runway, went down a ravine, and caught fire. Thirty-eight occupants were injured, 5 critically.

December 21, 2008: Scaled Composites and Virgin Galactic successfully flew the WhiteKnightTwo on its first flight from Mojave, CA. The aircraft made a 59-minute flight, taking off from Mojave and reaching a maximum altitude of 16,000 feet. The twin-boomed aircraft, powered by four Pratt & Whitney Canada PW308A turbofans, had been undergoing a series of high-speed taxi and brake tests in the run-up to the first flight. (See April 6, 2007; June 7, 2012.)

December 22, 2008: Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced FAA would work with carriers to reduce voluntarily scheduled operations at New York's LaGuardia Airport from 75 to an average of 71 per hour as part of continued efforts to address chronic congestion at the delay-prone airport. The airport ranked just 28th for on-time departure performance over the first 10 months of 2008. Data showed that lowering the hourly cap on operations from 75 to 71 could reduce delays by up to 41 percent, saving up to \$178 million in delay related costs per year. (See December 8, 2008; March 11, 2009.)

2009

January 7, 2009: FAA certified Embraer's largest executive jet, the Lineage 1000. The aircraft won type certification in December 2008 from Brazil's National Civil Aviation Agency as well as the European Aviation Safety Agency.

January 12, 2009: FAA issued instructions (Notice 8900.63) to agency inspectors with oversight of HEMS operators to find out how many operators had adopted FAA recommended best practices. (See November 14, 2008; October 12, 2010.) With reports in from all 74 operators surveyed, the percentages that had adopted various programs were:

- Decision-making skills and risk assessment programs – 94 percent
- Response to FAA guidance on Loss of Control (LOC) and Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT) avoidance – 89 percent
- Integration of operation control center – 89 percent
- Installation of Flight Data Recorders and devices that can re-create a flight – 11 percent
- TAWS equipage – 41 percent
- Use of radar altimeters – 89 percent

January 15, 2009: United Airlines Flight 1549 struck a flock of birds after departing New York LaGuardia Airport en route to Charlotte, NC. Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger successfully ditched the aircraft into the Hudson River. All onboard survived.

January 15, 2009: FAA awarded Thales ATM a contract to install and test a low-cost (\$500,000 or less) ground surveillance system the agency planned for small- and medium-size airports. Kansas-based Thales ATM was among several companies that

submitted proposals in response to FAA's August 2007 Call to Action to reduce risk of runway incursions. The low-cost system was radar-based and would provide surface movement information to controllers, who in turn would advise flight crews of potential collisions. (See January 24, 2008; July 1, 2009.)

January 16, 2009: Acting Administrator Robert Sturgell resigned with the change in presidential administrations. Lynne Osmus, acting deputy administrator, became the acting administrator. (See February 7, 2008; March 27, 2009.)

January 20, 2009: Barrack Obama became the 44th President of the United States.

January 23, 2009: Ray H. LaHood became the 16th U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

January 26, 2009: Following up on an executive order signed on November 18, 2008, the Department of Transportation named Karlin Toner, Ph.D., as the chief multiagency liaison for the next generation air transportation system (NextGen) modernization effort. Toner would serve as the senior staff adviser to the Secretary of Transportation regarding NextGen and would be the senior liaison between the Department and the different agencies involved in the joint planning and development office. Toner was detailed to the secretary's office from FAA, where she recently had been selected to head the human factors research and engineering group. Toner had 15 years of experience at NASA. She served as NASA's director of airspace systems programs from August 2006 to December 2008 and had held several other NASA positions in aerospace and aeronautical planning and research. (See November 18, 2008; see February 2, 2009.)

January 30, 2009: Delta Airlines signed a memorandum of understanding with the Air Line Pilots Association and FAA to reinstate its aviation safety action program (ASAP) for Delta pilots. Under the program, pilots could report safety concerns without repercussions. Delta said it had formal ASAP programs in place for its dispatchers and technical operations employees, and other safety reporting programs for flight attendants and ground employees. The airline also planned to continue ASAP programs currently covering pre-merger Northwest pilots, dispatchers, and load planners. (See January 14, 2000; September 22, 2010.)

February 2, 2009: FAA called for the establishment of a new industry-based task force charged with developing an industry consensus for the midterm goals of the NextGen system. (See January 26, 2009; September 9, 2009.) FAA asked the task force, the NextGen Mid-Term Implementation Task Force (TF5), carried out through RTCA, to complete its recommendations by August 2009. FAA charged the task force with:

- identifying a specific set of operation capabilities that would be fully deployed and could deliver benefits by 2018;
- determining steps necessary to reach the capabilities, including procedures, training, technical risk mitigation and policy changes;
- recommending interim milestones;
- suggesting ways to accelerate operational benefits, including preferred means to accommodate "mixed-equipage" operations; and

- providing strategies to ensure that the intended benefits are delivered and to encourage operators to equip their aircraft.

February 3, 2009: Aviation Partners Boeing (APB) delivered Continental Airlines' first winglet-equipped Boeing 757-300. Continental became the first U.S. major airline to order blended winglets when it ordered the modification for both retrofit on 757-200 and for production line fit on 737 Next Generations in April 2004. FAA awarded APB a supplemental type certificate for the winglet upgrade on the 757-200 in May 2005, and APB officially launched the retrofit for the 757-300 in June 2008 when it won orders from Continental and German tour operator Condor.

February 10, 2009: FAA suspended Miami-based AAR Landing Gear Services' repair station certificate because the company had not followed manufacturer maintenance manual procedures for conducting liquid penetrant exams, shot peening, and cadmium plating before returning to service a variety of airliner landing gear parts. The agency said AAR employed defective processes and followed defective inspection protocols. FAA had inspected the Miami facility in early July 2008, and on July 16 had issued a written notice of alleged discrepancies, to which AAR said it responded with corrective actions on July 29. On November 7, AAR and FAA representatives met to discuss the company's responses and its corrective actions. On January 30, FAA sent the company a follow-up letter identifying items that required further attention. AAR said it was in the process of responding to that request when it received the suspension notice. AAR had until February 20 to appeal the emergency order of suspension. (See June 30, 2008; February 17, 2009.)

February 12, 2009: Colgan Air (Continental Connection) Flight 3407, on a scheduled passenger flight from Newark, NJ, crashed while on approach to the Buffalo/Niagara International Airport. The twin-engine turboprop had been cleared for the ILS approach to runway 23 in icy weather conditions when it disappeared from radar approximately 5 miles northeast of the airport. Soon after, it was reported the aircraft had crashed into a residence and exploded in flames near the Buffalo suburb of Clarence Center. All 49 passengers onboard the aircraft and one person on the ground were killed. (See June 9, 2009; April 17, 2018.)

February 17, 2009: AAR Landing Gear Services and FAA entered into a consent order that terminated the agency's February 10 emergency suspension of the company's repair station certificate. As a result of the consent order, AAR Landing Gear's certificate now was in a state of "voluntary surrender." To get it back, the company had to adhere to a list of agreed upon stipulations, including revisions to its manuals and procedures, stepped up non-destructive testing of components, greater FAA oversight, and enhanced training for its staff. (See February 10, 2009; November 20, 2009.)

February 23, 2009: Seattle-Tacoma International Airport became the first U.S. facility to install and test avian radar. The risk of bird strikes to aircraft was highlighted on January 15 when Canada geese caused a dual-engine failure on US Airways Flight 1549. The FAA-funded research project at the airport was a collaborative effort with the University

of Illinois. Sea-Tac's experimental avian radar, installed on top of the airport office building, was used to monitor bird movements in the vicinity of the airport. The project was aimed at determining how airport operators could use the technology as an early warning detection system against aircraft-bird collisions. (See January 15, 2009.)

March 2, 2009: FAA reached a settlement agreement with Southwest Airlines to resolve outstanding enforcement actions. Under the agreement, Southwest Airlines would pay a \$7.5 million civil penalty that would double to \$15 million if the airline did not accomplish specific safety improvements outlined in the agreement. The agreement stemmed from a \$10.2 million civil penalty FAA proposed on March 6 against Southwest Airlines for operating 46 airplanes on 59,791 flights without performing mandatory inspections for fuselage fatigue cracking. (See March 6, 2008.)

March 5, 2009: FAA announced it had no plans to ground Eclipse Aviation's EA500 despite the company's recent announcement it had entered Chapter 7 liquidation. With all Eclipse operations (including certification, production, service centers, training centers, and dealers) closed, FAA issued a special airworthiness information bulletin requesting owners and operators of the Eclipse Model EA500 aircraft to report all unsafe conditions that may exist on the aircraft to its Airplane Certification Office in Fort Worth, Texas. Owners and operators could still fly their aircraft as long as it was in an airworthy condition in accordance with 14 CFR Part 91.

March 9, 2009: FAA announced it had convened a new aviation rulemaking committee (ARC) to develop recommendations for comprehensive safety management system (SMS) rulemaking. The ARC initially comprised 12 people from across the aviation industry, but membership was expected to grow as working groups formed to delve into the application of SMS to the various industry sectors. FAA planned to release an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking later in the year that would provide a starting point for the SMS rule. The ARC had a three-year charter. (See October 7, 2010.)

March 11, 2009: The President signed Public Law 111–8, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009. That legislation provided several departments within the executive branch, including the Department of Transportation, with the funds to operate until the end of the fiscal year. The law contained a provision prohibiting the Secretary of Transportation from promulgating regulations or taking any action regarding the scheduling of airline operations that involved auctioning rights, permission to conduct airline operations at such an airport, or withdrawing a right or permission to conduct operations at such an airport (except when the withdrawal was for operational reasons or pursuant to the terms or conditions of such operating right or permission). The prohibition was limited to the fiscal year. (See December 22, 2008; May 14, 2009.)

March 27, 2009: The White House announced its intention to nominate J. Randolph Babbitt for FAA administrator. The President nominated Babbitt on May 11 and the Senate confirmed him on May 21, 2009. He was sworn in as FAA's sixteenth administrator on June 1, 2009. Babbitt came to FAA from Oliver Wyman, an international management consulting firm where he served as partner. A veteran pilot,

Babbitt had been a member of the agency's Management Advisory Council since 2001. He was the founding partner of Eclat Consulting in 2001, and served as President and CEO until Oliver Wyman acquired Eclat in 2007. Babbitt began his aviation career as a pilot, flying 25 years for Eastern Airlines. A skilled negotiator, he served as president and CEO for the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA). Lynne Osmus, who had served as acting administrator, became the acting deputy administrator. (See January 16, 2009; December 4, 2009.)

April 27, 2009: FAA announced a bilateral aviation safety agreement between the United States and Japan that allowed for the reciprocal certification of aircraft and aviation products. (See November 2007.)

May 14, 2009: FAA proposed to rescind the October 10, 2008, final rules regarding slots at three New York airports citing the impact of the Omnibus Appropriations Act on the rule and the state of the economy in general. The comment period closed June 15, 2009. FAA received five sets of comments, all of which supported rescission of the rule. *October 9, 2009*, FAA rescinded the final rules. (See March 11, 2009; June 17, 2009; January 8, 2015.)

May 18, 2009: Mediation aimed at ending an ongoing contract dispute between FAA and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) began. Both parties signed a process agreement to move the negotiations forward. The agreement provided for extensive mediation sessions and for binding resolution of any unresolved issues, guaranteeing a new collective bargaining agreement between the parties. Jane Garvey, former FAA administrator, led the mediation as part of a three-member panel that also included Richard Bloch and George Cohen. (See December 2007; August 13, 2009.)

June 9, 2009: Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt announced they had ordered FAA inspectors to immediately focus attention on training programs to ensure that regional airlines were complying with federal regulations. LaHood and Babbitt also announced plans to gather representatives from the major air carriers, their regional partners, aviation industry groups, and labor groups in Washington, DC, on June 15 to participate in a "call to action" to improve airline safety and pilot training. (See February 12, 2009; June 15, 2009.)

June 11, 2009: FAA announced the runway status light system was operational at Los Angeles International Airport. The system used a series of red lights embedded in the pavement to warn pilots if it was unsafe to enter or cross a runway, or to take off. Los Angeles World Airports paid for the \$7 million system and FAA installed and maintained the system. The runway status light system was connected to the airport's ground radar system. The lights turn red if the ground radar detected a potential conflict between two aircraft or an aircraft and a vehicle. Los Angeles was the third U.S. airport to get runway status lights following several years of successful tests at Dallas-Fort Worth and San Diego. It was the first airport to have the lights installed on multiple runways. (See October 16, 2008; October 31, 2019.)

June 15, 2009: Senior officials from U.S. airlines, pilot unions, and FAA agreed on several major actions to improve safety programs and pilot training. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt hosted the meeting to identify immediate steps to strengthen and improve pilot hiring, training, and testing practices at airlines that provided regional service as well as at the country's major air carriers. The participants agreed on best practices for pilot record checks that would result in a more expansive search for all records available from a pilot's career. The airlines and unions would also review existing pilot training programs over the next several months to see how they could be strengthened. Airline and union officials recommended developing pilot mentoring programs that would expose less experienced pilots to the safety culture and professional standards practiced by more senior pilots. The programs could pair experienced pilots from the major airlines with pilots from their regional airline partners. To address concerns about pilot fatigue, Babbitt said FAA would start the rulemaking process to rewrite the rules for pilot flight and duty time to incorporate recent scientific research about the factors that lead to fatigue. Babbitt also asked airlines to operate safety reporting systems, such as flight operations quality assurance (FOQA) and the aviation safety action programs (ASAP), to provide better data about safety issues. In addition, FAA and industry representatives agreed to hold as many as 10 similar meetings throughout the country to assure that every carrier and pilot union had the opportunity to commit to these actions and to identify and share best practices. (See December 14, 1995; November 23, 2009.)

June 17, 2009: FAA published a proposal to extend an earlier order limiting operations at New York's LaGuardia Airport to 71 scheduled operations and three unscheduled operations per hour from October 2009 to October 2010. This would allow the agency to consider options with regard to managing congestion at the airport on a longer-term basis. Options under consideration would provide a means for carriers to either commence or expand operations at the airport, thereby introducing more competition and service options to benefit the traveling public. (See May 14, 2009.)

June 18, 2009: Controllers at the Salt Lake City Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) were the first to control operational traffic with the new en route automation modernization system (ERAM). The goal of the operational test was to place ERAM in limited use during a period of low air traffic activity and record how the technology worked in an operational environment. ERAM, which would replace the HOST system, processed flight surveillance data, provided communications, and generated display information to air traffic controllers. It also supplied crucial flight plan information to terminal radar and control tower facilities. When fully operational at the ARTCC, the new technology would provide additional capabilities, such as the ability to process data from 64 radars instead of the current 24. (See September 30, 2007.)

July 1, 2009: FAA awarded Northrop Grumman Corp. a contract for the first U.S. installation of low-cost ground surveillance (LCGS) systems designed to help manage airport surface traffic. The contract was for an initial LCGS system at the Reno, NV, airport and included options for additional airports. (See January 15, 2009; December 1-3, 2009.)

August 3, 2009: FAA announced new certification standards for transport category airplanes. Under the certification standards, new transport aircraft designs had to use one of three methods to detect icing and to activate the airframe ice protection system:

- An ice detection system that automatically activated or alerted pilots to turn on the ice
- protection system;
- A definition of visual signs of ice buildup on a specified surface (e.g., wings) combined with an advisory system that alerted the pilots to activate the ice protection system; or
- Identification of temperature and moisture conditions conducive to airframe icing that would tip off pilots to activate the ice protection system.

The standards further required that after initial activation, the ice protection system must operate continuously, automatically turn on and off, or alert the pilots when the system should be cycled. (See April 26, 2007; August 19, 2011.)

August 8, 2009: Nine people died when a sightseeing helicopter collided with a small plane near New York City. The single-engine Piper had taken off from Teterboro Airport in NJ, and the helicopter, operated by Liberty Helicopter, had taken off from West 30th Street in Manhattan. Wreckage from both aircraft landed in the Hudson River. (See August 14, 2009.)

August 11, 2009: Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced he had asked the Department's General Counsel to look into whether Continental Airlines or its regional partner, Express Jet Airlines, had violated any laws in connection with the lengthy tarmac delay on their Houston-Minneapolis flight on August 8 during which passengers were stuck in a small plane for seven hours. *August 21, 2009*, Secretary LaHood announced the Department had concluded the preliminary phase of its investigation and had determined the Express Jet crew was not at fault. While the crew of the ExpressJet flight did all it could to assist the passengers, more senior personnel within Continental or ExpressJet should have become involved in an effort to obtain permission to take the passengers off the plane. The representative of Mesaba – the only carrier able to assist Continental at the airport – had said at the time of the incident the airport was closed to passengers, apparently because there was no one from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) available to screen passengers. In fact, TSA procedures allowed passengers to get off the plane, enter the terminal, and reboard without being screened again as long as they remained in a sterile area. LaHood said the Department was considering the appropriate actions to take as it completed the investigation, which it expected to conclude within a few weeks. The Department would use the findings from this investigation to formulate a final rule that would provide better protection for airline passengers. (See November 24, 2009; April 29, 2010.)

August 13, 2009: FAA announced mediation with NATCA had resulted in a draft labor agreement. NATCA members had 45 days to ratify the many agreed-upon issues in the proposed agreement. The five issues decided by arbitrators, including compensation, were not subject to ratification by members. The agreement provided employees with

greater flexibility in their work schedules, childcare support, a new grievance review process, and a variety of other gains. At the same time, it gave FAA flexibility to more effectively redeploy labor to congested airports using controller incentive pay. The agreement restored a more equitable pay standard, to benefit new hires as well as veterans nearing retirement. The associated costs would be phased in over the three years of the contract. (See May 18, 2009.)

August 14, 2009: FAA convened a New York airspace working group to review current operating procedures over the Hudson and East Rivers and recommend safety improvements within two weeks. *August 28, 2009*, the working group made a number of recommendations to FAA. One of the most significant recommendations suggested dividing the airspace into altitude corridors that separated aircraft flying over the river from those operating to and from local heliports or seaplane bases. This new exclusionary zone would be comprised of three components:

- It would establish a uniform “floor” for the Class B airspace over the Hudson River at 1,300 feet, which would also serve as the “ceiling” for the exclusionary zone.
- Between 1,300-2,000 feet, it would require aircraft to operate in the Class B airspace under visual flight rules under positive air traffic control, and to communicate on the appropriate air traffic frequency.
- Between 1,000-1,300 feet, it would require aircraft using VFR to use a common radio frequency for the Hudson River. Aircraft operating below 1,000 feet would use the same radio frequency.

In addition, new pilot operating practices would require pilots to use specific radio frequencies for the Hudson River and the East River, would set speeds at 140 knots or less, and would require pilots to turn on anti-collision devices, position or navigation equipment, and landing lights. Existing common practices that took pilots along the west shore of the river when they were southbound and along the east shore when they were northbound would become mandatory. In addition, pilots would be required to have charts available and to be familiar with the airspace rules. *September 2, 2009*, FAA announced it would modify the airspace over the Hudson River by revising procedures to create safe, dedicated operating corridors for all the aircraft that flew at lower altitudes around Manhattan. It also would propose standardized procedures for fixed-wing aircraft leaving Teterboro to enter the Class B airspace over the Hudson River or the exclusionary zone. (See August 8, 2009; November 16, 2009.)

August 17, 2009: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to update FAR Part 23 standards to accommodate new light and very light jets. The proposal would eliminate the exemptions, special conditions, and equivalent levels of safety findings the agency used to certify this class of aircraft under Part 23. The proposal would codify the current practice of certificating multiengine turbojets weighing up to and including 19,000 pounds.

September 9, 2009: The RTCA NextGen Mid-Term Implementation Task Force submitted its final report to FAA. The task force developed a short list of actionable

operational capability recommendations in five problem areas (surface, runway access, metroplex, cruise, access to NAS) and two cross-cutting areas (data communication applications and integrated air traffic management). The task force also made four overarching recommendations that it considered essential to the implementation of any of the prior recommendations. (February 2, 2009; September 21, 2009).

September 12, 2009: A new wide-area multilateration surveillance system began operating at Colorado's Yampa Valley-Hayden, Craig-Moffat, Steamboat Springs, and Garfield County Regional-Rifle airports. The system allowed air traffic controllers to track aircraft not covered by radar in remote, mountainous regions. FAA and the Colorado Department of Transportation shared the cost of the system. (See May 4, 2010.)

September 17, 2009: As part of a strategy to reduce emerging aviation risks using national safety data, FAA's office of aviation safety established a new accident investigation and prevention service that integrated the work of the offices of accident investigation and safety analytical services. The new organization consolidated resources so FAA could better understand current and emerging risks across the aviation community through the use of data from accident and incident investigations, historical accidents and incidents, and voluntarily submitted information from industry programs, such as the aviation safety action and flight operational quality assurance programs. FAA also announced the creation of a new office of audit and evaluation. The office, which reported to the FAA Chief Counsel, consolidated into one organization:

- Administrator's Hotline — gave FAA employees a way to get high-level management attention for concerns unresolved by established procedures.
- Aviation Safety Hotline — provided an outlet for anyone to express concerns about unsafe aviation situations without fear of reprisal.
- Public Inquiry Hotline — responded to and referred inquiries from the public about aviation matters.
- Whistleblower Protection Hotline — coordinated with the Department of Labor on safety disclosures made by private-sector aviation workers, including government contractors.
- Safety Issues Reporting System — established in April 2008, allowed office of aviation safety employees to report safety issues they believed had not been addressed by other FAA processes.

September 21, 2009: FAA announced approval of Honeywell's smartpath precision landing system, which provided precise navigation service based on GPS. The first U.S.-approved system would be located in Memphis, TN, and would become operational in early 2010. The ground-based system (GBAS) augmented GPS to provide precision approach guidance to all qualifying runways at an airport. It monitored the GPS signals to detect errors and augment accuracy by transmitting correction messages to the aircraft via local radio broadcast. GBAS would initially supplement the legacy instrument landing systems used at airports. FAA's NextGen implementation plan had identified GBAS as an enabler for descent and approach operations to increase capacity at crowded airports. The Honeywell system was approved for precision approach operations down to 200 feet above the surface. (See September 9, 2009; January 31, 2010.)

October 16, 2009: FAA published new regulations for manufacturers of aircraft and aviation products that updated and standardized FAA requirements to better align them with the global manufacturing environment. The regulations, which would become effective on April 14, 2010, included:

- Standardization of quality control system requirements for all aviation manufacturers.
- Updated export requirements to facilitate global acceptance and documentation of parts.
- Standardization of part marking and identification requirements so they aligned with other countries' rules, and consolidation of the requirements into one regulation.
- Updated and standardized language in the regulations for production approvals, exporting, and identification marking.

October 19, 2009: FAA officials helped break ground on the Aviation Research Technology Park located adjacent to the William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City, NJ. FAA hoped the establishment of a high-technology aviation facility would provide the opportunity for FAA partners to perform research, development, testing, integration, and verification of new NextGen technologies. The seven-building, multi-million-dollar project was expected to create more than 2,000 jobs. (See September 18, 2013.)

October 27, 2009: FAA announced revocation of the licenses of two Northwest Airlines pilots who overflowed their destination airport on October 21, 2009, while operating Flight 188 from San Diego to Minneapolis. Air traffic controllers and airline officials repeatedly tried to reach them through radio and data contact, without success. The emergency revocations cited violations of a number of federal aviation regulations. Those included failing to comply with air traffic control instructions and clearances and operating carelessly and recklessly.

November 16, 2009: FAA finalized a rule, effective November 19, 2009, that separated low-altitude, local aircraft flights over the Hudson River from flights transiting through the river airspace. The rule required pilots to follow safety procedures were previously recommended, but not mandatory. In a new special flight rules area over the Hudson and East Rivers, pilots had to:

- Maintain a speed of 140 knots or less.
- Turn on anti-collision and aircraft position/navigation lights, if equipped.
- Self-announce their position on specific radio frequencies.
- Carry current charts for the airspace and be familiar with them.
- In an exclusion zone below 1,300 feet over the Hudson River, announce their aircraft type, position, direction, and altitude at charted mandatory reporting points and stay along the New Jersey shoreline when southbound and along the Manhattan shoreline when northbound.
- When transiting the Hudson River, fly at an altitude between 1,000 feet and 1,300 feet and operate local flights in the lower airspace below 1,000 feet.

The rule also incorporated provisions of an October 2006 notice to airmen (NOTAM) that restricted fixed-wing aircraft in the exclusion zone over the East River to seaplanes landing or taking off on the river or those specifically approved by FAA air traffic control. (See August 14, 2009.)

November 19, 2011: President Barack Obama signed the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill providing \$12.5 billion in FAA funding for fiscal year 2012. The bill stipulated the office of audit and evaluation report directly to the FAA administrator rather than the chief counsel. (See October 3, 2008; May 3, 2010.)

November 20, 2009: FAA published a notice of proposed rulemaking proposed limits on airlines and other operators from hiring FAA safety inspectors and their managers for two years after those employees left the agency. The proposed rule would prohibit air carriers, flight schools, repair stations, and other certificated organizations from employing or contracting with former FAA inspectors and managers to represent them in agency matters if the former employee had any direct oversight of the certificate holder in the preceding two years. The rule would apply to anyone who owned or managed a fractional ownership program aircraft. The rule would not keep operators from hiring former inspectors to serve in other positions (e.g., aircraft dispatcher, flight attendant, maintenance technician, pilot, or training instructor) as long as they did not represent the operator in FAA matters. (See September 10, 2008; February 17, 2009; December 21, 2009; August 19, 2011; February 12, 2013.)

November 23, 2009: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would require scheduled airlines to either retrofit their existing fleet with ice-detection equipment or make sure the ice protection system activated at the proper time. For aircraft with an ice detection system, FAA proposed the system alert the crew when they should activate the system. The system would either turn on automatically or pilots would manually activate it. For aircraft without ice-detection equipment, the crew would activate the protection system based on cues listed in their airplane's flight manual during climb and descent, and at the first sign of icing when at cruising altitude. FAA estimated the rule would cost operators about \$5.5 million to implement. Operators would have two years after the final rule was effective to make the changes. The proposed rule would apply only to in-service aircraft with a takeoff weight less than 60,000 pounds, because most larger airplanes already had equipment that met the requirements. (See April 26, 2007; December 1, 2009.)

November 23, 2009: FAA withdrew a previously published notice of proposed rulemaking designed to establish consistent and clear duty period limitations, flight time limitations, and rest requirements for domestic, flag, supplemental, commuter, and on-demand operations. In June 2009, FAA had chartered the flight and duty time limitations and rest requirements ARC, comprised of labor, industry, and FAA representatives, to develop recommendations for a rule based on current fatigue science and a thorough review of international approaches to the issue. (See June 15, 2009; August 1, 2010.)

November 23, 2009: FAA began using ADS-B in Louisville, marking the first time U.S. controllers used this technology for handling traffic on a continuous basis. (See November 24, 2008; January 12, 2010.)

November 24, 2009: The Department of Transportation levied a civil penalty of \$100,000 against Continental Airlines and ExpressJet Airlines for their roles in causing the passengers on board Continental Express Flight 2816 to remain on the aircraft at Rochester International Airport for an unreasonable period of time (7 hours) on August 8, 2009. In addition, the Department assessed a civil penalty of \$75,000 against Mesaba Airlines, which provided ground handling for the flight, for its role in the incident. (See August 11, 2009; December 21, 2009.)

November 25, 2009: Edward Stimpson, one of general aviation's most respected advocates in Washington and founder of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), died at home in Boise, Idaho, from cancer. Stimpson was credited, along with former Cessna Chairman and CEO Russ Meyer, with championing the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994, which helped reinvigorate the industry by capping manufacturers' product liability to 18 years. He went on to become chairman of the Flight Safety Foundation. Stimpson joined FAA at the invitation of then-Administrator Najeeb Halaby and served through much of the 1960s as its congressional liaison. He became head of GAMA shortly after it was founded in 1970 and he led the organization almost continuously for 25 years. President Bill Clinton later nominated Stimpson to represent the U.S. at the International Civil Aviation Organization. He served in that ambassadorial post from 1999-2004, ending his tenure at the United Nations agency as vice president of its assembly.

December 1, 2009: FAA issued a final rule, effective February 1, 2010, that prohibited operations with polished frost on the wings and stabilizing and control surfaces of aircraft. Under the final rule, operators were required to remove any frost adhering to critical surfaces prior to takeoff. Additionally, the rule restructured language in parts 91, 125, and 135 to clarify that aircraft must have functioning deicing or anti-icing equipment to fly under IFR into known or forecast light or moderate icing conditions, or under VFR into known or forecast light or moderate icing conditions. (See November 23, 2009; June 29, 2010.)

December 1-3, 2009: FAA, in cooperation with the American Association of Airport Executives and the MITRE Corporation, held its first International Runway Safety Conference in Washington, DC. Nearly 500 people attended the conference, which focused on ways to reduce and eventually eliminate runway incursions and excursions. (See January 24, 2008.)

December 4, 2009: FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt announced the retirement of acting deputy administrator, Lynne Osmus, effective January 3, 2009. Effective this day, Osmus returned to her permanent post as assistant administrator for security and hazardous materials and David Grizzle, FAA general counsel, became the acting deputy administrator. (See March 27, 2009; December 8, 2009.)

December 8, 2009: FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt called for the establishment of a group comprised of both FAA and non-agency members to assess the FAA telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) outage that caused widespread air traffic delays across the country. A FTI software configuration problem interrupted automated flight plan processing and other electronic traffic flow management tools for four hours on November 19, 2009. While critical safety systems and radar and communications services were unaffected, controllers and flight data communications specialists had to manually input data, which resulted in delays. The panel was tasked with producing two reports by early 2010: one focused on the outage with suggestions for any immediate changes to the FTI system and the other focused on the FTI architecture as it related to future FAA systems. Panel members included: U.S. Navy Vice Admiral (retired) Nancy Brown, former Joint Staff director of command, control, communications and computer systems; Amr ElSawy, President and CEO of Noblis, a nonprofit science, technology, and strategy organization; Federal Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra; Department of Transportation Chief Information Officer (CIO) Nitin Pradhan; FAA CIO Dave Bowen; and FAA's Air Traffic Control Organization CIO Steve Cooper. (See April 18, 2008; November 12, 2010.)

December 8, 2009: The White House nominated Michael Huerta to be FAA deputy administrator. The White House had announced its intention to nominate Huerta the day before. Huerta had his own consulting firm, which advised clients on transportation policy, technology, and financing. Until April 2009, Huerta was group president of the Transportation Solutions Group of Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. (ACS), a technology services provider supporting transportation agencies worldwide. Before joining ACS, he was a managing director with the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002. From 1993 to 1998, Huerta served in two senior positions at the Department of Transportation under President Bill Clinton. He also held senior positions in the cities of San Francisco and New York. Huerta had a master's degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Riverside. At the time of his nomination, he was the chairman of the board of directors of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America and served as a member of President Obama's transition team for the Department of Transportation. (See December 4, 2009; June 23, 2010.)

December 9, 2009: FAA announced a new service to provide the public information about airport delays. The airport status and delays web service, registered on Data.gov, combined FAA information about ground delays, airport closures, ground stops, and arrival or departure delays with local weather data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

December 13, 2009: An American Airlines Boeing 737's wingtips touched the ground during landing at Charlotte, NC, when the part of the plane's landing gear veered off the runway while touching down in low visibility. *December 22*, an American Airlines flight overshot the runway during heavy rain in Jamaica. The Boeing 737 broke into three sections; all passengers survived. *December 24*, an American Airlines McDonnell Douglas

MD-80's wingtip touched the ground while landing at Austin, Texas. On January 1, 2009, FAA issued a statement saying the agency would conduct a review of the mishaps to determine if there was a larger issue with the airline.

December 14, 2009: FAA issued a type certificate for Embraer's Phenom 300 light jet. Brazil certified the aircraft on December 3.

December 15, 2009: After over two years of delays, Boeing's first new aircraft design in over 10 years, the 787 Dreamliner made its maiden flight.

December 21, 2009: The Department of Transportation announced new rules that prohibited U.S. airlines operating domestic flights from permitting an aircraft to remain on the tarmac for more than three hours without deplaning passengers, with exceptions allowed only for safety or security or if air traffic control advised the pilot-in-command returning to the terminal would disrupt airport operations. U.S. carriers operating international flights departing from or arriving in the United States had to specify, in advance, their own time limits for deplaning passengers, with the same exceptions applicable. Carriers were required to provide adequate food and potable drinking water for passengers within two hours of the aircraft being delayed on the tarmac and to maintain operable lavatories and, if necessary, provide medical attention. The rule was adopted in response to a series of incidents in which passengers were stranded on the ground aboard aircraft for lengthy periods and also in response to the high incidence of flight delays and other consumer problems. The rule also:

- Prohibited airlines from scheduling chronically delayed flights, subjecting those who do to DOT enforcement action for unfair and deceptive practices;
- Required airlines to designate an airline employee to monitor the effects of flight delays and cancellations, respond in a timely and substantive fashion to consumer complaints and provide information to consumers on where to file complaints;
- Required airlines to display on their website flight delay information for each domestic flight they operate;
- Required airlines to adopt customer service plans and audit their own compliance with their plans; and
- Prohibited airlines from retroactively applying material changes to their contracts of carriage that could have a negative impact on consumers who already have purchased tickets. (See November 24, 2009; April 29, 2010.)

December 25, 2009: A passenger on Northwest Flight 253 from Amsterdam to Detroit tried to explode a device and was subdued by passengers and crew. The flight landed safely at Detroit where the individual was arrested. On *January 3, 2010*, the Transportation Security Administration issued new security directives to all United States and international air carriers with inbound flights to the U.S. effective January 4, 2010.

December 31, 2009: FAA granted Delta Air Lines permission to integrate fully its Northwest Airlines subsidiary's planes and flight crews into its fleet. Authority to fly under a single operating certificate allowed the airlines to use common technical manuals

and organizational structure. Delta acquired Northwest for \$2.8 billion in October 2008. (See October 30, 2008.)

2010

January 12, 2010: Controllers at the Houston Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) began using automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) to manage aircraft flying over the Gulf of Mexico. Houston was the first of four sites selected to demonstrate ADS-B services to go live with the service. (See November 23, 2009; April 26, 2010.)

January 19, 2010: The engineered material arresting systems (EMAS) at Yeager Airport in Charleston, WVA, successfully stopped a PSA Airlines Bombardier CRJ-200 that overran the runway. This was the sixth save by an EMAS, which consisted of a layer of crushed concrete positioned at the end of runways that slows and stops aircraft in runway overruns. EMAS was developed in a research partnership with FAA and Engineered Arresting Systems Corp. (ESCO), a division of Zodiac Aerospace. (See July 18, 2008; October 1, 2010.)

January 21, 2010: FAA dispatched a portable, temporary control tower to Haiti to help assist with aircraft operations at Port-au-Prince International Airport after an earthquake destroyed much of the air traffic control equipment at the airport. Shipment of the portable tower came at the request of the Haitian government. FAA air traffic and airport specialists also deployed to Haiti to help with airport reconstruction efforts.

January 31, 2010: FAA released action plans outlining how it planned to implement recommendations from an aviation community task force on modernizing the next generation air transportation system (NextGen). The plans were contained in a report issued in response to recommendations made in September by the RTCA NextGen Mid-Term Implementation Task Force. Responses to the RTCA recommendations focused on improvements in five operational areas: surface, runway access, congested metropolitan airspace (metroplex), cruise, and national airspace system (NAS) access. They also encompassed two specific NextGen capabilities: automated digital communications and integrated air traffic management. (See September 21, 2009; February 26, 2009.)

February 16-17, 2010: An air traffic tower controller at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) permitted his 9-year-old son to transmit six clearances on JFK's tower frequency. The following day, his 7-year-old daughter made a couple of transmissions also under supervision. FAA subsequently put the controller and a supervisor on administrative leave while it investigated the incident. FAA also suspended the tower visitor program, while it reviewed visitor procedures.

February 26, 2010: FAA announced the selection of Karlin Toner, Ph.D., as the new Director of the NextGen joint planning and development office. Toner served as senior advisor to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood on NextGen and continued in that role.

In her new position, Toner reported to the FAA deputy administrator. (See January 31, 2010; March 2010; January 17, 2014.)

March 2010: FAA issued an updated version of the NextGen implementation plan. The plan expanded upon earlier efforts by including information on the potential effects the future air traffic control system could have upon airports, the environment, and international initiatives. (See February 26, 2010; April 8, 2010; October 8, 2014.)

March 2010: FAA granted a type certificate to the Cessna Citation CJ4 after a 22-month flight-test program.

April 5, 2010: Based on industry comments, effective this date, FAA extended the compliance deadline mandating significant upgrades to aircraft cockpit voice and flight data recorders. As compared with the earlier rule adopted in March 2008, this final rule adopted the following flight recorder equipment compliance times:

- For the ten-minute backup power source for cockpit voice recorders (CVR), the compliance date for newly manufactured aircraft operating under part 91 would be April 6, 2012.
- For increased digital flight data recorder (DFDR) sampling rates, the compliance date for newly manufactured aircraft operating under part 91 would be April 6, 2012.
- For increased DFDR sampling rates, the compliance date for newly manufactured aircraft operating under part 121, 125, or 135 was December 6, 2010.
- For recordation of datalink communications, the compliance date after which newly installed datalink systems must include recording capability for aircraft operating under part 91 would be April 6, 2012.
- For recordation of datalink communications, the compliance date after which newly installed datalink systems must include recording capability for aircraft operating under part 121, 125, or 135 was December 6, 2010. (See March 10, 2008.)

April 5, 2010: FAA began allowing, on a case-by-case basis, pilots who take one of four antidepressant medications – Fluoxetine (Prozac), Sertraline (Zoloft), Citalopram (Celexa), or Escitalopram (Lexapro) – to fly provided that they had been satisfactorily treated on the medication for at least 12 months.

April 8, 2010: FAA awarded CSSI, Inc., a \$280 million contract to perform engineering work for NextGen. This was the first of six contracts to be awarded under an umbrella portfolio contract called System Engineering 2020 (SE-2020), which had a ceiling of \$7 billion. (See March 2010; May 18, 2010.)

April 20, 2010: In a message to employees, Administrator Randy Babbitt announced changes to the agency's vision and values statement.

- Old vision statement: We continue to improve the safety and efficiency of flight. We are responsive to our customers and are accountable to the taxpayer and the flying public.

- New vision statement: We strive to reach the next level of safety, efficiency, environmental responsibility and global leadership. We are accountable to the American public and our stakeholders.
- Old Value Statement:
 - Safety is our passion. We are world leaders in aerospace safety.
 - Quality is our trademark. We serve our country, our stakeholders, our customers, and each other.
 - Integrity is our character. We do the right thing, even when no one is looking.
 - People are our strength. We treat people as we want to be treated.
- New Value Statement:
 - Safety is our passion - We work so all air and space travelers arrive safely at their destinations.
 - Excellence is our promise - We seek results that embody professionalism, transparency and accountability.
 - Integrity is our touchstone - We perform our duties honestly, with moral soundness, and with the highest level of ethics.
 - People are our strength - Our success depends on the respect, diversity, collaboration, and commitment of our workforce.
 - Innovation is our signature - We foster creativity and vision to provide solutions beyond today's boundaries.

April 23, 2010: Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood announced the United States and Israel had reached an Open-Skies aviation agreement that liberalized air services for the carriers of both countries. (See March 13, 2008; May 4, 2010.)

April 26, 2010: Controllers at Philadelphia International Airport began using ADS-B as part of the FAA demonstration program. (See January 12, 2010; June 24, 2010.)

April 29, 2010: An airline consumer protection rule went into effect. Under the new rule, U.S. airlines operating domestic flights could not permit an aircraft to remain on the tarmac at large and medium hub airports for more than three hours without deplaning passengers, with exceptions allowed only for safety or security reasons or if air traffic control advises the pilot in command that returning to the terminal would disrupt airport operations. U.S. carriers operating international flights departing from or arriving in the United States were required to specify, in advance, their own time limits for deplaning passengers, with the same exceptions applicable. Carriers were also required to provide adequate food and drinking water for passengers within two hours of the aircraft being delayed on the tarmac and to maintain operable lavatories and, if necessary, provide medical attention. In addition, the rule:

- Prohibited the largest U.S. airlines from scheduling chronically delayed flights;
- Required U.S. airlines to designate an airline employee to monitor the effects of flight delays and cancellations, respond in a timely and substantive fashion to consumer complaints, and provide information to consumers on where to file complaints;
- Required U.S. airlines to adopt customer service plans and audit their own compliance with their plans; and

- Prohibited U.S. airlines from retroactively applying material changes to their contracts of carriage that could have a negative impact on consumers who already had purchased tickets. (See December 21, 2010; June 2, 2010.)

April 2010: FAA changed the name of its bimonthly safety magazine for the general aviation community from *FAA Aviation News* to *FAA Safety Briefing* beginning with the March/April 2010 issue. *FAA Aviation News* started in 1961 as a newsletter and expanded to a magazine format in 1962. In 1976, it sharpened its focus on general aviation.

May 4, 2010: Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood announced the United States and Trinidad and Tobago had reached an Open-Skies aviation agreement that liberalized air services for the carriers of both countries. Trinidad and Tobago became the 98th U.S. Open-Skies partner. (See April 23, 2010; July 2, 2010.)

May 4, 2010: FAA announced that controllers in Juneau, Alaska, were using a new surveillance technology, the wide-area multilateration system (WAM), to track aircraft along the difficult approach to Juneau – a mountainous area where radar coverage was not possible. WAM, comprised of a network of small sensors deployed around Juneau, sent out signals that received and sent back by aircraft transponders. The system triangulated the returning signals to determine the precise location of each aircraft. Controllers saw those aircraft on their screens as if they were radar targets. (See September 12, 2009.)

May 12, 2010: Secretary Ray LaHood announced the members of a new committee on the future of the U.S. aviation industry. He had formally created the Future of Aviation Advisory Committee in March to provide information, advice, and recommendations principally on five issue areas: ensuring aviation safety; ensuring a world-class aviation workforce; balancing the industry's competitiveness and viability; securing stable funding for aviation systems; and addressing environmental challenges and solutions. The members represented airlines, airports, labor, manufacturers, environment, finance, academia, consumer interests, and general aviation stakeholders. Susan Kurland, assistant secretary for aviation and international affairs at the Department of Transportation, chaired the committee, which included: Juan J. Alonso, Associate Professor, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Stanford University; Susan M. Baer, Director, Aviation Department, Port Authority of NY/NJ; David Barger, President and CEO, JetBlue Airways Corporation; Bryan K. Bedford, Chairman, President and CEO, Republic Airways; Severin Borenstein, Professor, HAAS School of Business, University of California, Berkeley; Thella F. Bowens, President and CEO, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority; John M. Conley, International Administrative Vice President and Air Transport Division Director, Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO; Cynthia M. Egnotovitch, Segment President, Nacelles and Interior Systems, Goodrich Corporation; Patricia A. Friend, International President, Association of Flight Attendants-Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO; Robert L. Lekites, President, UPS Airlines; Ana McAhrn-Schulz, Director of Economic and Financial Analysis, Air Line Pilots Association; William J. McGee, Consultant to the Consumers Union; Daniel McKenzie, U.S. Airlines Research Analyst, Hudson Securities; Jack J. Pelton, Chairman,

President and CEO, Cessna Aircraft Company; Nicole W. Piasecki, Vice President, Business Development, Boeing Commercial Airplanes; Raul Regalado, President and CEO, Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority; Glenn F. Tilton, Chairman, President and CEO, UAL Corporation; and Christopher J. Williams, Chairman and CEO, The Williams Capital Group. The committee held its first meeting on May 25. (See December 15, 2010.)

May 17, 2010: FAA ruled the 130 offshore turbines planned for Nantucket Sound posed no threat to aircraft, provided they were properly marked and lighted. The 400-foot turbines would occupy a 25-mile stretch off Cape Cod. The decision came a month after U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar gave his approval.

May 18, 2010: FAA's aviation safety organization released a plan identifying the key roles its staff would play in setting standards for NextGen and providing oversight for the safe implementation of new technologies, processes, and procedures. The AVS Work Plan for NextGen established the commitments – schedules, resources, management structure, and internal coordination – the organization would make to ensure the successful transition to NextGen. (See March 2010; June 7, 2010.)

May 23, 2010: Northwest Beaches International Airport opened in Panama City, FL – the first new commercial passenger airport to open since Denver International Airport opened in 1995.

May 26, 2010: FAA awarded Boeing, General Dynamics, and ITT contracts worth up to \$4.4 billion under the System Engineering 2020 (SE-2020) contract. Under the contract the three companies would conduct large-scale demonstrations, including the use of aircraft as flying laboratories, to see how NextGen concepts, procedures, and technologies could be integrated into the current national airspace system. FAA would work with the companies to develop and demonstrate new procedures in four dimensions, adding the element of time to the current three-dimensional profile of an aircraft's latitude, longitude, and altitude. Other work to be performed included the development and rollout of modernized weather services. (See May 18, 2010; May 27, 2010.)

May 27, 2010: FAA issued a final rule mandating performance requirements for aircraft tracking equipment that would be required under NextGen. The avionics would allow aircraft to be controlled and monitored with greater precision and accuracy using ADS-B. The rule mandated the broadcast signal meet specific requirements in terms of accuracy, integrity, power, and latency. FAA required all planes to have the system by 2020. (See May 26, 2010; June 7, 2010.)

May 27, 2010: Northrop Grumman Corporation announced a FAA contract award to provide national maintenance services and logistic support of several critical FAA communications products and systems, including the integrated communications switching system, rapid deployment voice switching system, enhanced terminal voice switch, and small tower voice switch. Under the terms of the contract, Northrop Grumman would ensure the existing communications systems, hardware, firmware, and

documentation were supported into the year 2015. The company would supply round-the-clock technical assistance support, including next day delivery of critical repairs. The five-year contract encompassed one base year and four additional one-year options with a not-to-exceed value of \$32 million.

May 2010: FAA's office of commercial space transportation approved a simulator – the only one of its kind – developed by NASTAR that could replicate the G-forces of launch and descent. FAA required crews planning to fly sub-orbital missions to demonstrate an ability to withstand the stresses of spaceflight. (See December 15, 2009; July 1, 2010.)

May 2010: FAA announced that Atlantic City International Airport would be the first in the national airspace system to deliver digital notices to airmen (NOTAMS). The notices had long been posted in difficult-to-read shorthand designed for delivery over teletype machines. The digital versions would be easier to read, more accurate, and would be disseminated quicker.

June 1, 2010: Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood joined federal and state officials in breaking ground for a new air traffic control tower at Palm Springs International Airport, CA. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding totaling \$13.9 million would finance the construction of an approximately 150-foot-tall tower and a 7,000 square-foot base building.

June 1, 2010: Effective this date, FAA approved a certification of authorization (COA) for an unmanned aerial vehicle to patrol a portion of the U.S.-Mexico border extending from Arizona to the El Paso region of Texas. Three drones were already used along the border in Arizona. Several others were deployed for border patrols in North Dakota and Florida. Officials at Customs and Border Protection intended to deploy the unmanned vehicles along the entire U.S. border by 2015. (See September 28, 2010; June 9, 2010.)

June 2, 2010: Transportation Secretary LaHood proposed new protections for air travelers, building on the Department of Transportation's earlier rule banning carriers from subjecting passengers to long tarmac delays and other deceptive practices. The proposed rule would:

- increase compensation for passengers involuntarily bumped from flights
- allow passengers to make and cancel reservations within 24 hours without penalty
- require full and prominently displayed disclosure of baggage fees as well as refunds and expense reimbursement when bags are not delivered on time
- require fair price advertising
- prohibit price increases after a ticket is purchased
- require timely notice of flight status changes (See April 29, 2010; August 23, 2011.)

June 7, 2010: FAA dedicated its newest laboratory at the William J. Technical Center. The NextGen integration and evaluation capability (NIEC) laboratory, designed to simulate the national airspace system, provided a testbed where researchers could

simulate and evaluate the effects of NextGen components on the system. (See May 27, 2010; June 18, 2010.)

June 9, 2010: FAA signed a cooperative research and development agreement with Boeing subsidiary, Insitu Inc., to facilitate FAA understanding of how unmanned aerial systems were constructed and how they functioned and operated in the national airspace system. Insitu provided FAA with a Scan Eagle system to help the agency develop recommendations for integrating unmanned aircraft into the U.S. airspace system. The system, including two Scan Eagle small unmanned aircraft, was delivered to FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center under a cooperative research and development agreement. (See June 1, 2010; November 22, 2010.)

June 18, 2010: FAA and the European Commission signed an agreement recognizing the importance of coordinated research and implementation of results into seamless air traffic services between the two continents. The agreement specified 22 specific areas of cooperation to facilitate joint research and development of NextGen/Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR) projects. (See June 7, 2010; December 16, 2010.)

June 21, 2010: FAA announced the selection of Clay Foushee as director of the office of audit and evaluation. FAA created the office in 2009 to ensure safety complaints from both inside and outside the agency were handled in a fair and timely manner and they received proper consideration. The office monitored the progress of the investigations and reported them to the FAA administrator. Foushee had wide experience in the aviation industry, having served in senior executive positions at Northwest Airlines and as chief scientific and technical advisor for human factors at FAA. His most recent position was on the senior professional staff of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. (See September 17, 2009.)

June 23, 2010: The U.S. Senate confirmed Michael P. Huerta as FAA deputy administrator. Prior to his appointment he ran his own consulting firm, advising clients on transportation policy, technology, and financing. He also served as a member of President Obama's transportation transition team. He had been president of the Transportation Solutions Group of Affiliated Computer Services, Inc., a technology services provider supporting transportation agencies worldwide. Huerta served in two senior positions at the Department of Transportation under President Clinton from 1993 to 1998. He held a master's degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Riverside. (See December 8, 2010; May 15, 2013.)

June 24, 2010: FAA announced contracts with Boeing, General Electric, Honeywell, Pratt & Whitney, and Rolls-Royce-North America to develop and demonstrate technologies to reduce commercial jet fuel consumption, emissions, and noise. The contracts, part of FAA's continuous lower energy, emissions and noise (CLEEN) program, were expected to total \$125 million over the five-year span of the program. Under a cost sharing arrangement, the companies would match or exceed FAA's contribution, bringing the overall value of the program to more than \$250 million. (See March 10, 2008; June 29, 2012; February 13, 2013; September 8, 2015.)

June 24, 2010: FAA announced controllers at the Anchorage ARTCC and at the Juneau air traffic control tower were using ADS-B, critical for operations in Juneau because, like in the Gulf of Mexico, there was no radar coverage there. (See April 26, 2010; October 25, 2010.)

June 29, 2010: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would require plane manufacturers to show small airliners could fly safely in certain icy weather conditions, such as rain that falls as a liquid but freezes when it touches a plane. To improve the safety of transport category airplanes operating in super cooled large droplet (SLD), mixed phase, and ice crystal icing conditions, the proposed regulations would:

- Expand the certification icing environment to include freezing rain and freezing drizzle.
- Require airplanes most affected by SLD icing conditions to meet certain safety standards in the expanded certification icing environment, including additional airplane performance and handling qualities requirements.
- Expand the engine and engine installation certification, and some airplane component certification regulations (for example, angle of attack and airspeed indicating systems), to include freezing rain, freezing drizzle, ice crystal, and mixed phase icing conditions. (See December 1, 2009; November 3, 2014.)

June 2010: FAA agreed to classify the Terrafugia Transition flying car, or roadable aircraft, as a light sport aircraft, even though the vehicle was 120 pounds too heavy to qualify for that class. Pilots needed only 20 hours of flight time (just five of it solo) to qualify for a license to fly a Light Sport Aircraft. (See March 23, 2012.)

July 1, 2010: FAA awarded a license to the state of Florida to operate Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's Launch Complex 46 for commercial use. (May 2010; August 3, 2010.)

July 1, 2010: FAA, the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS), and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) introduced the Partnership for Safety program to identify safety issues before incidents or accidents occur by seeking input from employees.

July 2, 2010: The Department of Transportation signed an Open-Skies Agreement with Barbados that liberalized air services for airlines of both the U.S. and Barbados. Barbados became the 99th U.S. Open-Skies partner. (See May 4, 2010; November 11, 2010.)

July 12, 2010: SRA International announced its subsidiary company Systems Research and Applications Corporation had won a five-year, \$57 million FAA contract to provide research and development services to the FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City, NJ. The work would involve the areas of airport pavement design and testing; aircraft rescue and firefighting; wildlife hazards; bird strike mitigation, and runway surface technology. SRA would also provide services in airport capacity analysis and planning, visual guidance and lighting technologies, and materials testing.

July 20, 2010: FAA issued a final rule requiring re-registration of all civil aircraft over the next three years and renewal every three years after that. Re-registration would enhance the aircraft registration database with current data derived from recent contact with aircraft owners. The new regulations also would ensure aircraft owners gave FAA updated information at least once every three years when they renewed their registration. FAA planned to cancel the N-numbers of aircraft that were not reregistered or renewed. (See April 30, 1980.)

July 29, 2010: FAA commissioned the airport surface detection equipment-model X (ASDE-X) at Ronald Reagan National Airport. (See October 16, 2008; March 29, 2011.)

July 30, 2010: FAA announced Mexico was not in compliance with international safety standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), following an assessment of the country's civil aviation authority. As a result, the United States downgraded Mexico from a Category 1 to Category 2 rating. As part of FAA's international aviation safety assessment (IASA) program, the agency assessed the civil aviation authorities of all countries with air carriers that operate or have applied to fly to the United States and made the information available to the public. The assessments determined whether or not foreign civil aviation authorities met ICAO safety standards, not FAA regulations. With the IASA Category 2 rating, Mexican air carriers could not establish new service to the United States, although they could maintain existing service. (See December 1, 2010.) *December 1, 2010*, FAA announced Mexico again complied with international safety standards based on the results of a November FAA review of Mexico's civil aviation authority. Mexico now had a Category 1 rating. (See August 25, 2008; August 23, 2010.)

August 1, 2010: President Barrack Obama signed the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act. The bipartisan bill extended aviation programs and excise taxes through September 30. It also required airline pilots to have a FAA airline transport pilot license and increased the minimum number of flight hours from 250 to 1500. The bill extended aviation programs and excise taxes for two months, or for the remainder of fiscal year 2010. (See November 23, 2009; September 14, 2010.)

August 3, 2010: FAA approved a NASA plan to expand the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at the Wallops Flight Facility, VA, to accommodate commercial launches. (See July 1, 2010; August 18, 2010; September 30, 2010.)

August 4, 2010: Lexington Blue Grass Airport opened a new 4,000-foot runway, R 9/27. The \$27 million runway would be used for crosswind operations.

August 9, 2010: A DeHavilland DHC-3T crashed near a remote Alaskan fishing village killing five of the nine people aboard the aircraft. Former Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) was among the victims. Former NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe and his son survived the accident. (See November 26, 2012.)

August 18, 2010: FAA selected New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, to lead the new Air Transportation Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation. The center, a partnership of academia, industry, and government, was established to address current and future challenges for commercial space transportation. The center's research and development efforts would focus on: space launch operations and traffic management; launch vehicle systems, payloads, technologies, and operations; commercial human space flight; and space commerce (including space law, space insurance, space policy, and space regulation). FAA entered into 50-50 cost-sharing cooperative agreement with the new center, and planned to invest at least \$1 million per year for the initial five years of the center's operations. (See January 28, 2004; August 3, 2010; September 30, 2010.)

August 23, 2010: FAA announced that Nigeria had achieved a Category 1 rating under FAA's international aviation safety assessment program, which meant Nigeria complied with international safety standards set by ICAO. The Category 1 rating was based on the results of a July FAA review of Nigeria's civil aviation authority. With the Category 1 rating, Nigerian air carriers could apply to operate to the United States with their own aircraft. (See July 30, 2010; November 1, 2012.)

September 14, 2010: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would set a nine-hour minimum for rest prior to a pilot's duty period, a one-hour increase over the current rules. The proposed rule would establish a new method for measuring a pilot's rest period, so the pilot would have the chance to receive at least eight hours of sleep during the rest period. Cumulative fatigue would be addressed by placing weekly, 28-day, and annual limits on the amount of time a pilot could be assigned any type of duty. Pilots would have to be given at least 30 consecutive hours free from duty on a weekly basis, a 25 percent increase over the then current rules. (See August 1, 2010; December 21, 2011.)

September 22, 2010: FAA announced a new safety program that, for the first time, integrated voluntary safety information self-reported by pilots and air traffic controllers into the aviation safety action and the air traffic safety action programs. These data-sharing programs gave FAA a more complete picture of the national airspace system by collecting, assessing, and reviewing safety events from the perspective of both pilots and air traffic controllers. United Airlines and its pilots became the first to participate in the demonstration program. FAA expected to sign similar agreements with other carriers. (March 31, 2008; January 30, 2009.)

September 27, 2010: Southwest Airlines announced it had entered into an agreement to acquire all of the outstanding common stock of AirTran Holdings, Inc., the parent company of AirTran Airways, for a combination of cash and Southwest Airlines' common stock. Southwest said it could take up to two years before all aspects of the merger were complete, including the combining of staff and frequent-flier programs and retrofitting of aircraft.

September 28, 2010: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would adjust existing overflight fees by using current FAA cost accounting data and air traffic activity data. The agency believed the adjustment necessary because operational costs for providing air traffic control and related services for overflights had increased steadily since it established the fees in 2001. (See December 17, 2008; October 1, 2011.)

September 28, 2010: The Department of Transportation, ICAO, the International Air Transport Association, and the European Commission signed a memorandum of understanding covering the global safety information exchange program. The program provided a framework for identifying what safety information could be shared, how to communicate that information, and the mechanisms to be used for the actual exchange of information.

September 30, 2010: FAA announced a new grant program designed to fund projects for the development and expansion of the commercial space transportation infrastructure. The first space transportation infrastructure matching grants included: \$43,000 for the New Mexico Spaceport Authority to provide an automated weather observing system; \$227,195 to the Alaska Aerospace Corporation for a rocket motor storage facility; \$125,000 to the East Kern Airport District in Mojave, CA, for an emergency response vehicle; and, \$104,805 to the Jacksonville Airport Authority in Florida to develop a spaceport master plan for Cecil Field. (See August 3, 2010; August 18, 2010; September 17, 2014.)

September 2010: FAA awarded Lockheed Martin a three-year contract extension to continue to provide automated flight service station services. The contract option, a follow-on to the initial 2005 contract, was worth \$356 million. (See February 1, 2005; December 3, 2019.)

October 1, 2010: The engineered material arresting systems (EMAS) at Teterboro Airport in Teterboro, NJ, successfully stopped a G-4 Gulfstream that overran the runway. This was the seventh EMAS save. An EMAS consisted of a layer of crushed concrete positioned at the end of runways that could slow and stop aircraft in runway overruns. EMAS was developed in a research partnership with FAA and Engineered Arresting Systems Corp. (ESCO), a division of Zodiac Aerospace. (See January 19, 2010; November 2014.)

October 1, 2010: United Continental Holdings, Inc., formerly UAL Corporation, announced its wholly owned subsidiary had merged with Continental Airlines, Inc. Continental Airlines and United Air Lines, Inc., were now wholly owned subsidiaries of United Continental Holdings, Inc. (See November 30, 2011.)

October 7, 2010: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would require each certificate holder to establish a safety management system (SMS) for its entire airfield environment (including movement and non-movement areas) to improve safety at airports hosting air carrier operations. A SMS was a formalized approach to managing safety by developing an organization-wide safety policy, developing formal methods of

identifying hazards, analyzing and mitigating risk, developing methods for ensuring continuous safety improvement, and creating organization-wide safety promotion strategies. (See March 9, 2009; November 5, 2010.)

October 8, 2010: FAA issued a safety alert for operators (SAFO), which summarized research showing that lithium metal (non-rechargeable) and lithium-ion (rechargeable) batteries were highly flammable and capable of igniting during air transport under certain circumstances. Research indicated Halon 1301, the suppression agent found in Class C cargo compartments, was ineffective in suppressing lithium metal battery fires. The SAFO recommended procedures air carriers could use when transporting lithium batteries. (See December 29, 2004; February 14, 2012.)

October 10, 2010: Controllers began operations in the new air traffic control tower at LaGuardia Airport. FAA formally dedicated the new tower on January 21, 2011. (See January 21, 2011.)

October 12, 2010: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would require helicopter operators to use the latest on-board technology and equipment to avoid terrain and obstacles. The proposal contained provisions which, when finalized, would require operators to use enhanced procedures for flying in challenging weather, at night, and when landing in remote locations. The proposed rules would require air ambulance operators to:

- Equip with helicopter terrain awareness and warning systems
- Conduct operations under Part 135, including flight crew time limitation and rest requirements, when medical personnel are on board
- Establish operations control centers if they are certificate holders with 10 or more helicopter air ambulances
- Institute pre-flight risk-analysis programs
- Conduct safety briefings for medical personnel
- Amend their operational requirements to include visual flight rules (VFR) weather minimums, instrument flight rules (IFR) operations at airports/heliports without weather reporting, procedures for VFR approaches, and VFR flight planning.
- Ensure their pilots in command held an instrument rating

Under the proposal, all commercial helicopter operators would be required to:

- Revise IFR alternate airport weather minimums
- Demonstrate competency in recovery from inadvertent instrument meteorological conditions
- Equip their helicopters with radio altimeters
- Change the definition of extended over-water operation and require additional equipment for these operations

In addition, the proposed rules would require all Part 135 aircraft, i.e., helicopter and fixed wing on-demand operators, to:

- Prepare a load manifest

- Transmit a copy of load manifest documentation to their base of operations, in lieu of preparing a duplicate copy
- Specify requirements for retaining a copy of the load manifest in the event that the documentation is destroyed in an aircraft accident
- Require Part 91 general aviation helicopter operators to revise the VFR weather minimums

The public had until January 10, 2011, to comment on the proposed rule. (See January 12, 2009; February 20, 2014.)

October 15, 2010: FAA broke ground for a new air traffic control tower at Oakland International Airport. Two air traffic control towers served Oakland International Airport. A 158-foot-tall tower on the southern portion of the airfield was built in 1962 as part of a terminal expansion project. In 1972, construction of a large hangar blocked some views from the south tower, requiring the Port of Oakland to build a second tower to handle traffic on the north runways. Replacing both towers with a single one would improve air traffic operations and reduce operating costs. (See June 20, 2013.)

October 18, 2010: FAA broke ground for a new air traffic control tower at the Frederick Municipal Airport in Frederick, MD. Approximately 200 general aviation aircraft were based at Frederick Municipal Airport, a reliever airport for Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. The airport handled more than 135,000 aircraft operations annually.

October 19, 2010: FAA's air traffic organization (ATO) announced its workforce engagement (WE) effort with the launch of the WE website. The ATO contracted with Gallup to support ATO's long-term effort to create a better place to work. On December 1, ATO invited its employees to take a short, 15 question survey to establish a baseline of employee engagement, which would be used to help measure progress as the WE initiatives progressed.

October 21, 2010: FAA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a five-year agreement to develop aviation fuel from forest and crop residues and other feedstocks to decrease dependence on foreign oil and stabilize aviation fuel costs. Under the partnership, the agencies would assess the availability of different kinds of feedstocks that could be processed by bio-refineries to produce jet fuels. The participants would develop a tool to evaluate the status of different components of a feedstock supply chain, such as availability of biomass from farms and forests, the potential of that biomass for production of jet fuel, and the length of time it would take to ramp up to full-scale production. The agencies already had existing programs and collaborative agreements with private and public partners and resources to help biorefiners develop cost-effective production plans for jet aircraft biofuels. (See September 13, 2011.)

October 21, 2010: TASC, Inc., announced a 10-year FAA contract award worth up to \$827.8 million for national airspace system support services. The SE-2020 support services contract covered advanced systems engineering, investment and business case

analysis, planning and forecasting, as well as business, financial and information management support services related to the development and the transformation of the national air transportation system. (See May 26, 2010.)

October 25, 2010: ITT Corporation announced it had received clearance from FAA for nationwide deployment of the ADS-B. Achievement of this in service decision milestone followed successful tests at four key sites in Alaska, the Gulf of Mexico, Louisville, and Philadelphia. (See June 24, 2010; February 3, 2011.)

October 26, 2010: FAA dedicated the new air traffic control tower at Reno-Tahoe Airport, NV. The \$29 million tower was 195 feet tall, three times as big as the old one built in 1957.

October 28, 2010: Law enforcement agencies discovered potential suspicious packages on two cargo planes in transit to the United States. Based on close cooperation among U.S. government agencies and with foreign allies and partners, authorities identified and examined two suspicious packages, one in East Midlands, United Kingdom, and one in Dubai. Both of these packages originated from Yemen. At the direction of the President, the Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration, and Customs and Border Protection immediately took additional measures to enhance existing protocols for screening inbound cargo, including grounding packages originating from Yemen destined for the United States and deploying a team of inspectors to assist the Government of Yemen with their cargo screening procedures.

November 1, 2010: An interim FAA requirement mandated that planes landing after Boeing's 747-8 jumbo jet stay at least 10 miles behind went into effect. FAA said the interim standards were based, in part, on guidance received from international regulatory organizations that had studied the wake vortices of the Airbus 380-800 in 2006. After those studies, ICAO issued a 10-mile separation standard for the A380 superjumbo jet. This was later relaxed, but a separation of 6 to 8 miles was still required for the A380, depending on the size of the aircraft behind it. Prior to its Boeing 747-8 ruling, the U.S. requirement for large airplanes was just a 4-mile separation from other heavy jets and up to 6 miles from light aircraft. (See August 17, 1996; November 1, 2012.)

November 2, 2010: FAA issued a final rule amending the airworthiness standards for transport category airplanes concerning flight crew alerting. The standards updated definitions, prioritization, color requirements, and performance for flight crew alerting to reflect changes in technology and functionality. This amendment added additional alerting functions, and consolidated and standardized definitions and regulations for flight crew warning, caution, and advisory alerting systems. It also harmonized standards between FAA and the European Aviation Safety Agency. The rule became effective on January 3, 2011.

November 2-3, 2010: The first meeting of FAA's national labor-management forum took place in Baltimore, MD. The meeting provided an opportunity for approximately 30 representatives from FAA's labor unions and management to discuss how such a forum

could work to improve the agency. President Obama had signed an executive order in December 2008 establishing Labor-Management Forums as a tool to improve labor relations within the federal government. The FAA labor-management participants first came together in June 2010 and jointly decided to create a national forum. Participants at the Baltimore forum agreed to a charter outlining the forum's responsibilities, procedures, and guiding principles. Participants established work groups to take on issues involving metrics, pre-decisional involvement, joint collaboration, training, and communication. In addition, they agreed to meet quarterly to:

- Handle high level agency-wide issues
- Set a tone for the agency that would help facilitate a broad culture change and encourage collaboration efforts
- Enable and support continuing collaborative efforts and those that have yet to get underway
- Commit to provide tools for collaboration and dispute resolution
- Reflect positive interaction

November 5, 2010: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that, when finalized, would require each certificate holder operating under 14 CFR part 121 to develop and implement a safety management system (SMS) to improve the safety of their aviation related activities. A SMS included an organization-wide safety policy; formal methods for identifying hazards, controlling, and continually assessing risk; and promotion of a safety culture. (See October 7, 2010.)

November 6, 2010: Quentin Taylor, a long-time FAA executive died. Taylor began his FAA career in 1958. He served as the agency's first manager of the office of civil rights, later as deputy director of FAA's Alaska region, and director of its New England region. In 1977, he became FAA's deputy administrator. He later became director of the office of international aviation and then deputy associate administrator for airports. He retired in 1999. (See May 4, 1977.)

November 11, 2010: Colombia became the United States' 100th Open-Skies partner when representatives of the two countries reached agreement to liberalize U.S.-Colombia air services for airlines of both countries. Once full Open Skies took effect at the end of 2012, airlines from the United States and Colombia would be allowed to select routes, destinations, and prices for both passenger and cargo service based on consumer demand and market conditions. (See July 2, 2010; December 3, 2010.)

November 12, 2010: FAA accepted the final report on the November 2008 telecommunications outage prepared by an independent review panel asked to investigate the incident. Administrator Randy Babbitt had asked the panel to examine the cause of the FAA telecommunications infrastructure (FTI) outage and to recommend strategies to reduce the potential for similar future outages. He also asked the panel to examine the FTI's present and future architecture as it relates to emerging technology and future FAA systems. The final report on the FTI outage laid out 14 long-term strategic recommendations FAA should pursue as it transitions to future network systems. The recommendations focused on:

- Governance: the decision making process for FAA systems
- Situational Awareness: FAA network monitoring and information sharing
- Interoperability: data sharing between systems and stakeholders
- Resilience: ability of a network to continue operating under a variety of conditions
- Cyber Security: the ability to thwart, detect, and respond to any attempts to compromise the system (See December 8, 2009.)

November 15, 2010: SkyWest Inc. announced completion of its \$133 million purchase of ExpressJet Holdings Inc. Both SkyWest and ExpressJet provide regional service for bigger carriers.

November 15, 2010: In a notice of proposed policy, FAA announced its intention to clarify the definition of "actively engaged" for the purposes of evaluating applications for inspector authorizations (IA). In the then current list of requirements, FAA stated that an applicant must have been "actively involved" in maintaining aircraft certificated and maintained in accordance with FAA regulations. However, it lacked the necessary clarification on what qualified as "actively engaged," leading to a substantial amount of confusion. In the newly proposed policy amendment, FAA addressed the issue by adding language intended to help clarify the requirement. The new policy language, when adopted, would assist aviation safety inspectors in making the appropriate determination when assessing IA applications, as well as prevent applicant confusion. Under the new language, those holding supervisory positions and, as such, were not actively engaged in maintenance activities, would not be permitted to retain their IA. FAA planned for the new policy to go in effect for the next IA renewal cycle in March 2011.

November 15, 2010: FAA issued a final rule requiring aircraft manufacturers and certification applicants to establish a number of flight cycles or hours a plane could operate and be free from widespread fatigue damage (WFD) without additional inspections for fatigue. Once manufacturers established the flight cycle limits, operators of affected aircraft had to incorporate them into their maintenance programs within 30 to 72 months, depending on the model of aircraft. The new regulation applied to airliners with a takeoff weight of 75,000 lbs. and heavier, as well as all transport designs certificated in the future.

November 16, 2010: Donald Nyrop, the second administrator of the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA), died; he was 98. Nyrop joined the CAA in 1939 after graduating from law school and became administrator in 1950. In 1951 he became chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board and three years later became president of Northwest Airlines. He retired from Northwest in 1978. (See October 4, 1950.)

November 18, 2010: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that, if finalized, would require a pilot to carry a pilot certificate with photo with an expiration date of eight years. At the end of this period, the pilot would have to update their photo and obtain a new certificate. The proposal responded to section 4022 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act. FAA previously required all pilots to obtain a

plastic certificate (excepting temporary certificates and student pilot certificates). FAA also proposed to require student pilots to obtain a plastic certificate with photo. Student pilot certificates would have the same duration as other pilot certificates. Additionally, because of the new photo requirements, the proposal modified the application process and the fee structure for pilot certificates. The new certificate cost \$22.00.

November 22, 2010: FAA issued its first license permitting the reentry to earth of a privately developed spacecraft to the Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX). The Space X Dragon space capsule launched atop the Falcon 9 rocket on December 8 and returned to earth three hours later. The unmanned flight was a precursor to NASA and SpaceX efforts to provide commercial trips to the International Space Station with cargo and crew. (See June 9, 2010; May 22, 2012.)

November 23, 2010: FAA issued an advisory circular (AC 150/5220-25) requiring radars used for airport wildlife hazard programs be capable of tracking 1,000 targets simultaneously. The tracking capability within an area 0.3 to 3 nautical miles was a minimum standard set by the 50-page advisory circular, a mandatory document for airports that accepted federal funding or levy passenger facility charges.

December 3, 2010: The Department of Transportation agreed to implement an Open-Skies Agreement with Brazil that would liberalize air services for airlines of both countries. The agreement immediately removed restrictions on pricing and on the routes between each country that could be served by U.S. and Brazilian scheduled and charter airlines and provided immediately for full code-share rights and additional charter flexibility. When the full Open Skies agreement took effect in 2015, airlines from the United States and Brazil would be allowed to select routes, destinations, and prices for passenger, cargo, and charter services based on consumer demand and market conditions. Brazil was the 101st U.S. Open-Skies partner. (See November 11, 2010; April 18, 2011.)

December 7, 2010: FAA awarded a contract to Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., to provide up to \$271 million in design-build services for at least five years. Jacobs would work with FAA's en route facilities program, which oversaw the management of the nation's 21 air traffic control centers. Specifically, the company would provide strategic facilities planning, cost estimates, construction support, hazardous material abatement, and related services.

December 16, 2010: The Future of Aviation Advisory Committee presented its final recommendations to Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. The committee made 23 recommendations in 5 categories, including safety, workforce/labor, competitiveness and viability, finance, and environment. Among the recommendations presented by the committee were proposals that federal government assist in funding NextGen equipage on aircraft, ensure greater transparency for consumers in airline pricing, expand the sources of safety data available to FAA, and ensure that global airline alliances enhance the viability and competitiveness of the U.S. aviation industry. Other specific recommendations included:

- Developing improved methods of predicting safety risks;

- Incorporating safety standards into planning for NextGen;
- Improving links between airports and other forms of transportation;
- Enhancing science and technology training for the future and current aviation workforce;
- Ensuring that aircraft operators are able to realize the benefits of NextGen as quickly as possible;
- Reducing aviation's impact on the environment through use of sustainable fuels and improved aircraft technology, as well as accelerating the use of NextGen equipment to promote greater efficiency.

After review of the recommendations, the Department of Transportation planned to develop a strategy to implement the recommendations. (See June 18, 2010; February 3, 2011.)

December 20, 2010: FAA launched a new web-based job application system called the automated vacancy information access tool for online referral (AVIATOR). The system, which replaced the automated staffing and application process (ASAP) used by the agency since 2005, provided an automated application process and an instant notification of application submissions, and stored applications for future use.

December 27, 2010: Alfred Kahn, the architect of the historic deregulation of the airline industry, died. As head of the Civil Aeronautics Board in 1977-1978, Kahn oversaw the Carter Administration's airline deregulation policies. In October 1978, President Carter appointed him as his anti-inflation czar with a mandate to curb the rising costs in food, medical care, and energy. Kahn spent most of his career as a professor at Cornell University. (See October 24, 1978.)

December 27, 2010: FAA issued a proposed airworthiness directive that, if finalized, would mandate software upgrades to onboard aircraft collision avoidance devices manufactured by Aviation Communication and Surveillance Systems, a unit of L-3 Communications Holdings. FAA proposed the directive after reports of anomalies with the devices during a test flight over a high-density airport. Operators had 48 months after the effective date of the AD to install the software upgrade.

2011

January 12, 2011: The City of St. George, UT, opened a new airport with a 9,300-foot-long runway. The new airport replaced the old St. George Municipal Airport.

January 21, 2011: FAA dedicated a new airport traffic control tower at LaGuardia Airport. The new tower replaced a tower built in 1964. The total cost to design, equip, and construct the new 233-foot high tower was approximately \$100 million. (See October 10, 2010.)

February 3, 2011: FAA announced it had signed an agreement with JetBlue to allow the airline to fly more precise, satellite-based flights from Boston and New York to Florida and the Caribbean beginning in 2012. Under the agreement, as many as 35 of JetBlue's A320 aircraft would be equipped with automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) avionics over the next two years, enabling them to fly in two major routes off the East Coast even if traditional radar coverage was not available. The agreement also allowed JetBlue to fly a new route to the Caribbean. FAA planned to collect valuable data for its next generation air transportation system (NextGen) by observing and conducting real-time operational evaluations of ADS-B on revenue flights. (See December 16, 2010; February 28, 2011.)

February 25, 2011: Executive Jet Management, working with the Jeppesen Company, announced it had secured FAA's first approval for use of the iPad for aeronautical charting in all phases of flight. The approval followed three months of testing and 250 flight trials that included a successful rapid decompression test to 51,000 feet and noninterference testing.

February 28, 2011: FAA and NASA released a new plan focused on human factors research for NextGen. FAA and NASA developed the document titled, "NextGen Human Factors Research Coordination Plan," in response to a 2010 report by the Government Accountability Office – along with previous recommendations from the inter-agency joint planning and development office (JPDO) and the Department of Transportation Inspector General – stating the need for a cross-agency, human factors plan that coordinated research efforts by the two agencies. (See February 3, 2011; September 23, 2011.)

March 9, 2011: FAA and Sensis Corporation received the Jane's Airport Review Runway Safety Award at the 2011 ATC Global Exhibition and Conference in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. This was the first year for the runway safety award category, which recognized a contribution to improved safety on or near the runway. The award recognized FAA's deployment of Sensis Corporation's airport surface detection equipment, model X (ASDE-X) technology at 35 major U.S. airports, including five of the world's ten busiest airports. (See July 29, 2010.)

March 14, 2011: FAA commissioned ADS-B equipment on its Airbus 330/340 flight simulator at FAA's Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center. The one year, \$1 million project featured other enhancements, such as dual electronic flight bags with traffic information display; an air/ground display of traffic bearing/speed/altitude indicator cueing; a new traffic collision avoidance system (TCAS) integrated with ADS-B; and a fully integrated simulator visual system and electronic flight bag for up to 50 aircraft. (See November 3, 2008; February 3, 2011; January 2, 2013; April 22, 2013.)

March 21, 2011: Effective this date, FAA prohibited flight operations with the Tripoli Flight Information Region by all U.S. air carriers; U.S. commercial operators; persons exercising the privileges of a U.S. airman certificate, except when such persons operated a U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier; and operators of U.S.-registered civil

aircraft, except when such operators were foreign air carriers. FAA issued this regulation because the ongoing armed conflict in Libya and presented a potential hazard to civil aviation.

March 22, 2011: Effective this date, FAA required all certificate holders conducting operations under Part 135 to include in their training programs crew resource management training for crewmembers, including pilots and flight attendants.

March 25, 2011: As part of the Alaskan aviation camera program begun in 1999, FAA turned on its 150th weather camera in Talkeetna. FAA used these cameras to view sky conditions around airports, air routes, and mountain passes. The cameras also provided pilots with critical weather information to help them decide whether or not it was safe to fly. (See September 30, 2013.)

April 11, 2011: FAA announced its new David J. Hurley Air Traffic Control System Command Center, located in Warrenton, VA, was fully operational. The new command center, co-located with FAA's Potomac Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON), was responsible for managing the overall use of the national airspace system. Traffic management specialists balanced air traffic demand with system capacity, and worked with aviation stakeholders to handle constraints in the system, such as weather, runway closures and delays. (See December 4, 2008.)

April 13, 2011: FAA announced that effective immediately, it had placed an additional air traffic controller on the midnight shift at 27 control towers around the country staffed with only one controller during that time. FAA took this action after an incident at Reno-Tahoe International Airport when a controller fell asleep while a medical flight carrying an ill patient attempted to land. The medical flight pilot communicated with the Northern California TRACON and landed safely. FAA suspended the controller, who was out of communication for approximately 16 minutes, while it investigated the incident. (See April 14, 2011.)

April 14, 2011: FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt announced he had accepted the resignation of ATO COO Hank Krakowski. In his statement, Babbitt said, "Over the last few weeks we have seen examples of unprofessional conduct on the part of a few individuals that have rightly caused the traveling public to question our ability to ensure their safety. This conduct must stop immediately." David Grizzle, FAA's Chief Counsel, became acting COO, and on July 7, 2011, Administrator Babbitt announced that Grizzle would be the permanent COO. (See October 2, 2007; April 13, 2011; April 17, 2011; August 13, 2013.)

April 17, 2011: Administrator Babbitt announced changes to air traffic controller scheduling practices after suspending an air traffic controller the day before for falling asleep while on duty during the midnight shift at the Miami ARTCC. The new scheduling rules included:

- Controllers would now have a minimum of nine hours off between shifts. Currently they may have as few as eight.

- Controllers would no longer be able to swap shifts unless they have a minimum of 9 hours off between the last shift they worked and the one they want to begin.
- Controllers would no longer be able to switch to an unscheduled midnight shift following a day off.
- FAA managers would schedule their own shifts in a way to ensure greater coverage in the early morning and late night hours. (See April 14, 2011; July 1, 2011.)

April 18, 2011: The United States signed its 102nd Open Skies Agreement with Saudi Arabia that liberalized air services for airlines of both countries. (See December 3, 2010; July 11, 2011.)

May 20, 2011: FAA dedicated a new airport traffic control tower at Long Island MacArthur Airport. The new 158-foot high tower, which replaced a tower built in 1963, housed a 525-square-foot tower cab. The total cost to design, equip, and construct the new tower was approximately \$20 million.

June 2, 2011: FAA announced it would begin to impose civil penalties against people who point a laser into the cockpit of aircraft. An agency legal interpretation determined shining a laser beam into an aircraft cockpit could disrupt a flight crew's ability to perform its duties while operating an aircraft, in violation of federal aviation regulations. FAA could impose a civil penalty of up to \$11,000 on anyone who interfered with a flight crew.

July 1, 2011: FAA and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) announced agreement on a number of fatigue recommendations developed by a joint FAA-NATCA working group. The agreement reinforced existing FAA policy that prohibited air traffic controllers from sleeping while performing assigned duties. FAA and NATCA also agreed all air traffic controllers must report for work well-rested and mentally alert. As a result of this agreement, air traffic controllers could now request leave if too fatigued to work air traffic. (See April 17, 2011.)

July 1, 2011: FAA revoked the operating certificate of Bimini Island Air. The Fort Lauderdale-based on-demand operator surrendered its certificate on July 1 after an emergency order of revocation was issued the previous month.

July 11, 2011: The United States and Macedonia reached an Open-Skies aviation agreement, which allowed airlines of the two countries to select routes, destinations and prices for both passenger and cargo service based on consumer demand and market conditions. It was the first aviation agreement between the two countries, and was the 103rd U.S. open skies agreement. (See April 18, 2011; December 5, 2011.)

July 23, 2011: FAA furloughed 4,000 employees and stopped work on a number of airport improvement projects when Congress failed to pass the 21st reauthorization extension for the agency. The employees, paid out of the aviation trust fund, included engineers, scientists, administrative assistants, computer specialists, program managers

and analysts, environmental protection specialists, and community planners. Congress passed an extension of FAA's reauthorization on August 4, allowing FAA employees to return to work. On September 13, the House passed the 22nd extension; the Senate passed the bill for the four-month extension on September 15. The bill extended then current funding levels through January 31, 2012. (See February 22, 2013.)

July 23, 2011: FAA dedicated a new, 254-foot-tall airport traffic control tower at Dayton International Airport.

July 26, 2011: A FAA contract award to Harris Corporation was announced. Under the 10-year contract, worth \$85 million, Harris would replace and upgrade the existing satellite communications network linking the Alaska ARTCC in Anchorage with 64 FAA facilities throughout the region.

August 1, 2011: Effective this date, air traffic controllers could once again ride in aircraft cockpits with commercial pilots as part of a voluntary education program. The flight deck training program, designed to improve safety by giving air traffic controllers a greater understanding of the pilots' experience and workload in the cockpit, replaced a previous program called familiarization training, or FAM trip, which was suspended in 2001. Controllers were limited to two training trips in a calendar year instead of the eight permitted under FAM policies, and controllers could not fly to the same airport on consecutive flights. A controller had to get advanced approval to participate and had to submit an itinerary, as well as medical and security information. Foreign travel was not permitted.

August 19, 2011: FAA issued a final rule prohibiting air carriers and other certificate holders from employing certain former FAA aviation safety inspectors as company representatives to the agency for a period of two years after they had left the agency. These restrictions applied if the former FAA employee directly served as or was responsible for the oversight of a flight standards service aviation safety inspector and had direct responsibility to inspect, or oversaw the inspection of, the operations of the certificate holder. This rule also applied to persons who owned or managed fractional ownership program aircraft used to conduct certain commercial operations. (See November 20, 2011.)

August 19, 2011: FAA issued a new rule requiring scheduled airlines to install ice detection equipment in their existing fleets or to update their flight manuals to ensure crews know when to activate their ice protection systems. For aircraft equipped with an ice-detection system, the new rule mandated that the system alert the crew every time they needed to activate ice protection. The system could either automatically turn on the ice protection or pilots could manually activate it. For aircraft without ice-detection equipment, the crew had to activate the protection system based on cues listed in their airplane's flight manual during climb and descent, and at the first sign of icing when at cruising altitude. The rule applied only to in-service aircraft that weighed less than 60,000 pounds because studies showed smaller planes were more affected by undetected icing or late activation of the ice protection system. (See April 26, 2007.)

August 23, 2011: New consumer protections for airline passengers went into effect mandating airlines to refund any fee for carrying a bag if the bag is lost. Airlines were required to prominently disclose all optional fees on their websites, including but not limited to fees for baggage, meals, canceling or changing reservations, or advanced or upgraded seating. The new rules also doubled the amount of money passengers were eligible to be compensated for in the event they were involuntarily bumped from an oversold flight. The rule expanded the existing ban on lengthy tarmac delays to cover the international flights of foreign airlines at U.S. airports, and established a hard four-hour time limit on tarmac delays for all international flights at U.S. airports. It also extended the three-hour tarmac delay limit for domestic flights, then in place at large-hub and medium-hub airports, to flights at small-hub and non-hub airports. All carriers subjected to the tarmac rule would be required to report lengthy tarmac delays to DOT. In all cases, exceptions to the time limits were allowed only for safety, security, or air traffic control-related reasons. Carriers also had to ensure passengers stuck on the tarmac were provided adequate food and water after two hours, as well as working lavatories and any necessary medical treatment. (See June 2, 2010 and November 14, 2011.) Additional measures under the new rule that would take effect January 24, 2012, included:

- Requiring all taxes and fees to be included in advertised fares.
- Banning post-purchase price increases.
- Allowing passengers to hold a reservation without payment, or to cancel it without penalty, for 24 hours after the reservation is made, if the reservation is made one week or more prior to a flight's departure date.
- Requiring disclosure of baggage fees when passengers book a flight.
- Requiring that the same baggage allowances and fees apply throughout a passenger's journey.
- Requiring disclosure of baggage fee information on e-ticket confirmations.
- Requiring prompt notification of delays of over 30 minutes, as well as cancellations and diversions.

August 26, 2011: At an event at Boeing's facility in Everett, Washington, Administrator Babbitt presented Boeing executives with two certificates for the design and production of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner with Rolls-Royce engines. The first, a type certificate, was for FAA's approval of the airplane's design. The second, a production certificate, allowed Boeing to manufacture the 787 following a rigorous review by FAA inspectors of Boeing's quality system, production tooling, manufacturing processes and controls, inspection methods, and supplier control procedures. The Dreamliner made its inaugural flight from Tokyo to Hong Kong with paying passengers on October 26, 2011. (See December 4, 2012.)

September 7, 2011: Lockheed Martin announced controllers at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport were now using a tool it developed with FAA. The automated terminal proximity alert (ATPA) tool automatically let controllers know what the distance was between aircraft that are flying in-line instrument approaches. The system also visually alerted a controller when a trailing plane was predicted to get too close to an

aircraft ahead of it, allowing the controller to take action before a loss of standard separation occurs.

September 13, 2011: Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and Australian Ambassador to the United States Kim Beazley signed a memorandum of agreement to continue research and development of clean, sustainable alternative aviation fuels. The agreement called for Australia and the United States to exchange information about policies, programs, projects, research results, and publications, and to conduct joint studies in areas such as fuel sources and environmental impacts. The memorandum also facilitated analysis of fuel source supply chains. (See October 21, 2010; November 7, 2011.)

September 23, 2011: In a message to FAA employees, Administrator Babbitt announced Congress had approved FAA's reprogramming request. The request, dated June 30, 2011, proposed to shift approximately \$608 million in funding between budget accounts to execute a reorganization of the agency. With congressional approval, FAA moved the organization responsible for NextGen from the ATO to a new office reporting directly to the FAA deputy administrator. The ATO senior vice president for NextGen and operations planning became the assistant administrator for NextGen. The joint planning and development office also became a direct report to the deputy administrator. In addition, the agency created a senior vice president for program management within the ATO. Programs covering approximately 125 capital investment plan budget line items moved into the new organization. A new assistant administrator for finance and management, reporting to the administrator, took over the separate offices that managed acquisition and business services, financial services, and regions and center operations. All of FAA's financial, information technology, non-ATO acquisition, property management, and related administrative functions now reported to this new organization. The assistant administrator had four deputies, once for each functional area. (See February 28, 2011; February 14, 2012; January 17, 2014.)

October 1, 2011: Effective this date, FAA updated its fee structure. The fee levels that would eventually be achieved reflected increases above then levels of 69 percent in the en route environment and 36 percent in the oceanic environment. This would be accomplished by increasing the fees on October 1 in each of the years 2011 through 2014 at annual compounded rates of 14 percent for en route and 8 percent for oceanic. (See September 28, 2010.) The actual dollar amounts of each fee on the four revision dates would be:

- October 1, 2011 \$38.44 \$17.22
- October 1, 2012 \$43.82 \$18.60
- October 1, 2013 \$49.95 \$20.09
- October 1, 2014 \$56.86 \$21.63

October 7, 2011: FAA announced approval of the first public use helicopter area navigation routes (RNAV) known as TK routes. The new TK routes connected New York City with Washington, DC. Publishing the RNAV routes on IFR en route low altitude

charts offered helicopter operators several benefits, such as dedicated routes and IFR capability. (See August 6, 2007.)

October 17, 2011: FAA broke ground on a new \$69 million, 324-foot air traffic control tower and TRACON at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. The new tower would replace one opened in 1988. FAA expected to commission the new tower and TRACON in late 2014.

October 20, 2011: FAA dedicated the new \$72.6 million, 336-foot-tall air traffic control tower and TRACON at Memphis International Airport.

October 31, 2011: Beginning this date, FAA required pilots of business jets certified for single-pilot operations to pass yearly proficiency checks. The rule required approximately 3,000 US-based pilots to have flight checks, which had to be performed either in full-flight simulators or in an aircraft with a FAA-designated examiner on board.

November 7, 2011: United Airlines flew the first-ever commercial domestic flight using a blend of 40 percent biofuel mix created from algae by Solazyme, a San Francisco based company, and traditional jet fuel. (See September 13, 2011; December 1, 2011.)

November 14, 2011: The Department of Transportation announced it had imposed the first fine for violating the April 2010 three-hour tarmac delay rule. The Department fined American Eagle \$900,000 in civil penalties and ordered the air carrier to cease and desist from future violations of the tarmac delay rule. On May 29, 2011, American Eagle had tarmac delays of more than three hours on 15 flights arriving at O'Hare. Those 15 flights had tarmac delays of up to 225 minutes, which was 45 minutes beyond the legal limit. While the airline had a procedure in place to bring passengers subject to an extended tarmac delay back to the gate, the carrier was late in implementing its procedure, resulting in violations of the rule. A total of \$650,000 had to be paid within 30 days, and up to \$250,000 could be credited for refunds, vouchers, and frequent flyer mile awards to the passengers on the 15 flights, as well as to passengers on future flights that experienced lengthy tarmac delays of less than three hours. (See August 23, 2011.)

November 28, 2011: The Air Transport Association formally changed its name to Airlines for America with the slogan "We Connect the World." The name change was publically announced on Capitol Hill on November 30. (See January 3, 1936.)

November 29, 2011: FAA dedicated the new environmental modeling lab at its Washington, DC, headquarters. The facility allowed FAA to develop and use the tools necessary to assess aviation environmental impacts and advise policy and regulatory decision-making processes, both domestically and internationally.

November 29, 2011: AMR, the parent company of American Airlines filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy. (See February 13, 2013.)

November 30, 2011: FAA granted United Continental Holdings a single operating certificate allowing Continental and United to operate as one airline. (See October 1, 2010.)

November 30, 2011: DOT hosted a forum on flight diversions to examine what happened on October 29 when the poor weather caused a massive diversion of flights from the New York area airports to other airports, including Bradley Airport in Hartford, CT. Flights sat on the tarmac for hours at Bradley as the aviation system broke down under the sheer volume and speed of an October snowfall, strong winds, long-scheduled runway maintenance, and equipment outages at the New York area airports. The baggage system also broke down at Bradley because of the volume of air traffic diverted there. In addition, there was insufficient Customs and Border Protection staff to handle diverted flights coming from international destinations. The forum's 100 participants met in three breakout groups – airport operations, airline operations, and the customer experience – to discuss how the events of October 29 could have been prevented. They addressed five FAA proposed recommendations on how to improve procedures at airports to reduce the impact caused by inclement weather. The groups unanimously agreed that increased collaboration and real-time information sharing via an airport information portal managed by FAA would help alleviate prolonged tarmac delays. Other recommendations included coordinating contingency plans among all airports in a given region; clearly identifying diverted flights on the monitoring systems used by air traffic controllers and airport operators to delineate between them and regularly scheduled air traffic at a given airport; and, including smaller airports on FAA's routine strategic planning teleconferences where information was routinely exchanged on diverting flights.

December 1, 2011: FAA announced it had awarded \$7.7 million in contracts to eight companies to help advance alternative, environmentally-friendly, sustainable sources for commercial jet fuel. (See November 7, 2011; December 2, 2014.) FAA funds were distributed by the Department of Transportation's John A. Volpe Center. The eight companies selected for the contracts were to help FAA develop and approve alternative, sustainably-sourced "drop-in" jet fuels that could be used without changing aircraft engine systems or airport fueling infrastructure. As part of that work, the companies would develop these biofuels from sources such as alcohols, sugars, biomass, and organic materials known as pyrolysis oils. In addition, the contracts called for research into alternative jet fuel quality control, examination of how jet biofuels affect engine durability, and guidance to jet biofuel users about factors that affect sustainability. (See November, 7, 2011; February 13, 2013.) Awardees included:

- \$1.1 million for Honeywell UOP of Des Plaines, IL
- \$3 million for LanzaTech, Inc. of Roselle, IL
- \$1.5 million for Virent Energy Systems of Madison, WI
- \$1.5 million for Velocys, Inc. of Plain City, OH
- \$280,000 for Honeywell Aerospace of Phoenix, AZ
- \$250,000 for Metron Aviation, Inc. of Dulles, VA
- \$50,000 for Futurepast: Inc. of Arlington, VA
- \$25,000 for Life Cycle Associates, LLC of Portola Valley, CA

December 5, 2011: FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt announced he would be taking an extended leave of absence from the agency. The DOT Secretary appointed FAA Deputy Administrator Michael Huerta acting administrator. The following day, on December 6, Babbitt announced his resignation from FAA.

December 5, 2011: The United States and Montenegro concluded an Open Skies aviation agreement that liberalized air services for the carriers of both countries. This was the first aviation agreement between Montenegro and the United States. Previously, air rights between the two countries were governed by an agreement between the United States and Yugoslavia. Under the Open Skies agreement, the airlines of both countries could fly to, from, and beyond the other's territory, without restriction on how often carriers flew, the kind of aircraft they used and the prices they charged. The agreement made Montenegro the 105th U.S. Open-Skies partner. (See July 11, 2011; December 13, 2011.)

December 11, 2011: J. Lynn Helms, FAA's eighth administrator, died at the age of 86. During his tenure as administrator, he played a key role in keeping the NAS operating during the August 3, 1981, air traffic control strike, headed the U.S. delegation to the United Nations emergency session following the Soviet Union's shooting down of Korean Air Flight 007, spearheaded FAA's development of TCAS, and initiated the national airspace review program to develop methods and procedures for improved safety and operational efficiency in the national airspace. Helms originated and oversaw development of the 1982 National Airspace System (NAS) Plan. The 450-page document spelled out specific improvements to be made to facilities and equipment to meet the projected demands of air transportation. (See April 22, 1981.)

December 13, 2011: Republic Airways Holdings announced plans to sell Frontier Airlines.

December 13, 2011: The United States and St. Christopher and Nevis signed an Open-Skies aviation agreement to liberalize air services for the carriers of both countries. Previously, aviation relations between the two countries were governed by Bermuda II, the former aviation agreement between the United States and United Kingdom which restricted route rights and pricing. Under the Open-Skies agreement, the airlines of both countries could fly to, from and beyond the other's territory, without restriction on how often carriers flew, the kind of aircraft they used, and the prices they charged. The agreement made St. Christopher and Nevis the 104th U.S. Open-Skies partner. (See December 5, 2011; March 25, 2013.)

December 14, 2011: FAA certified the passenger version of the new 747-8 intercontinental jumbo jet. At 250 feet long with a 225-foot wingspan, the 747-8 was the largest Boeing jet and could carry 467 passengers in a typical 3-class airline configuration. The list price of the aircraft was \$333 million, though aircraft valuation firm Avitas estimated the real market value after standard discounts at about \$167 million.

December 15, 2011: Fort Lauderdale-based regional carrier Gulfstream International Airlines rebranded itself as Silver Airways.

December 16, 2011: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood sent a letter to several European Commission (EU) officials, including EU President Jose Manuel Barroso, saying the U.S. would take “appropriate action” if the EU did not change its policy of including international aviation in the emissions trading scheme. The letter stated the U.S. had a “strong record of performance” in reducing emissions and in researching sustainable and other initiatives and the emissions trading policy was inconsistent with international law. The letter did not identify what actions the U.S. might take. The previous week, DOT ordered U.S. and European carriers to submit emission trading scheme data to the U.S. government, in a move that many believed to be the first step in a potential U.S. retaliation against the policy.

December 21, 2011: FAA issued a final rule mandating pilot flight and duty requirements. (See September 14, 2010; January 4, 2014.) Airlines had two years to comply. The rule did not apply to cargo carriers. Key components of this final rule for commercial passenger flights included:

- Flight duty period. The allowable length of a flight duty period depended on when the pilot’s day began and the number of flight segments he or she was expected to fly, and ranged from 9-14 hours for single crew operations. The flight duty period began when a flightcrew member reported for duty, with the intention of conducting a flight and ended when the aircraft was parked after the last flight. It included the period of time before a flight or between flights a pilot was working without an intervening rest period. Flight duty included deadhead transportation, training in an aircraft or flight simulator, and airport standby or reserve duty if these tasks occurred before a flight or between flights without an intervening required rest period.
- Flight time limits of eight or nine hours. FAA limited flight time – when the plane was moving under its own power before, during, or after flight – to 8 or 9 hours depending on the start time of the pilot’s entire flight duty period.
- Ten-hour minimum rest period. The rule set a 10-hour minimum rest period prior to the flight duty period, a two-hour increase over the old rules. The new rule also mandated that a pilot must have an opportunity for eight hours of uninterrupted sleep within the 10-hour rest period.
- New cumulative flight duty and flight time limits. The new rule addressed potential cumulative fatigue by placing weekly and 28-day limits on the amount of time a pilot could be assigned any type of flight duty. The rule also placed 28-day and annual limits on actual flight time. It also required that pilots have at least 30 consecutive hours free from duty on a weekly basis, a 25 percent increase over the old rules.
- Fitness for duty. FAA expected pilots and airlines to take joint responsibility when considering if a pilot was fit for duty, including fatigue resulting from pre-duty activities such as commuting. At the beginning of each flight segment, a pilot was required to affirmatively state his or her fitness for duty. If a pilot

- reported he or she was fatigued and unfit for duty, the airline had to remove that pilot from duty immediately.
- **Fatigue Risk Management System.** An airline could develop an alternative way of mitigating fatigue based on science and using data validated by FAA and continuously monitored.

2012

January 17, 2012: FAA's air traffic organization (ATO) reorganized to simplify management and reporting structures. The changes included a simplified reporting structure under the chief operating officer and his deputy and clarified lines of responsibility and accountability. Safety functions and technical training became part of the new ATO safety and technical training organization. A new program management organization pulled together key acquisition programs into one office. ATO consolidated most non-technical operational support under management services and realigned technical operational mission support under mission support services. (See September 23, 2011 and January 30, 2012.)

January 18, 2012: FAA broke ground for a new \$16.4 million, state-of-the-art airport traffic control tower at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. When complete, the new facility would include a 117-foot-tall air traffic control tower topped by a 525-square-foot tower cab. A 7,200-square-foot single-story base building housed training rooms, administrative offices, and equipment rooms. FAA planned to commission the new tower in the spring of 2014. It would replace the existing tower, commissioned in 1970.

January 23, 2012: Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Acting FAA Administrator Michael Huerta helped break ground for a \$791 million runway expansion at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The project would extend, shift, and lengthen Runway 9R/27L from 5,276 feet to 8,000 feet, giving the airport two parallel runways that increased the airport's capacity from 84 to 107 flights per hour.

January 24, 2012: New regulations went into effect requiring airlines and ticket agents to include all mandatory taxes and fees in published airfares and to disclose baggage fees to consumers. The new provisions, part of the airline consumer rule issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation in April 2011, included requirements allowing passengers to hold a reservation without payment, or cancel a booking without penalty, for 24 hours after making a reservation, if they made it one week or more prior to a flight's departure date. In addition, airlines had to notify passengers of flight delays of over 30 minutes, as well as flight cancellations and diversions, and they were prohibited from increasing the price of passenger tickets after purchase. (See November 14, 2011; July 24, 2012; December 5, 2017.)

January 30, 2012: FAA issued five new orders for ATO's operational service units – en route, terminal, and system operations – that embodied the core principles of the safety management system (SMS). SMS integrated safety-related operational processes, procedures, policies and programs, and provided the framework for the ATO to anticipate

potential sources of risk so it could act before they could jeopardize safety. (See November 5, 2010, August 6, 2012, January 7, 2015.)

February 7, 2012: FAA and airport officials at the Rocky Mountain Metro Airport in Broomfield, CO, dedicated the airport's new control tower. The \$23 million tower replaced one built in 1966.

February 10, 2012: An Airbus A320 test aircraft made the world's first four-dimensional, or 4D, trajectory flight as part of a single European sky air traffic management research (SESAR) initiative. SESAR, founded by the European Commission, Eurocontrol, Airbus, Honeywell, Indra, NORACON, and Thales, reported during the flight from Toulouse, France, to Stockholm, Sweden, the relevant air navigation service providers and airports successfully exchanged the trajectory information containing current and predicted position.

February 14, 2012: President Barack Obama signed the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 – a four-year reauthorization bill. The law included provisions for:

- Advancing NextGen – established deadlines for adopting existing NextGen navigation and surveillance technology and mandated development of precision navigational procedures at the nation's 35 busiest airports by 2015.
- Enhancing runway safety – directed FAA to develop and implement a plan to improve runway safety by reducing the number and severity of runway incursions and required a plan to develop and install a system to alert pilots and controllers of potential runway incursions.
- Making laser attacks on aircraft a federal crime.
- Applying flight and duty time limits to tail-end ferry and maintenance flights – counted flight segments to reposition aircraft that may be added to the end of a pilot's duty day toward flight-time limits by including Part 91 flights in flight-time limits under FAR 121.
- Improving the safety of lithium battery shipments by air – gave the Department of Transportation the ability to regulate the air transport of lithium metal and lithium ion batteries more stringently than ICAO technical instructions. (See October 8, 2004; April 13, 2015.)
- Continuing to authorize transpacific alternate airports – kept the alternate airfield open on Midway Island, as well as airports in the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau.
- Strengthening voluntary aviation safety data protections – enhanced protections for data collected by the aviation safety action program, the flight operations quality assurance program, line operation safety audits, and safety management systems and voluntarily submitted to FAA by mandating that the data could not be released to the public unless it is completely de-identified.
- Studying feasibility of installing flight deck doors or alternatives on all-cargo aircraft – took action toward the goal of enhancing all-cargo safety and security by funding studies on the feasibility of adding hardened cockpit doors or alternatives to all-cargo aircraft.
- Opposing EU environmental trading scheme for commercial aviation – made clear Congress's opinion the European Union should not extend its emissions-

trading proposal to international civil aviation operations without working through ICAO.

- Supporting critical aviation safety research – directed GAO to study the effectiveness of FAA’s oversight of the use of new technologies to prevent or reduce danger from smoke in the cockpit. Supported weather research on icing, volcanic ash, and wake vortices. Continued authorization for research and development in areas of fire safety, airworthiness, aircraft catastrophic failure prevention, human factors, aeromedical, unmanned aircraft systems, Safety management systems, atmospheric hazards, airspace management, propulsion and fuel systems, and alternative jet fuel. (See November 22, 2011; March 7, 2012.)
- Expanding IRA rollover options for airline employees during bankruptcy – expanded choices for qualified airline employees who receive payments during airline bankruptcies to allow the funds to be considered an IRA rollover contribution. (See September 23, 2011; March 6, 2012; September 30, 2015.)

February 14, 2012: The Federal Communications Commission revoked the conditional approval it gave LightSquared after the National Telecommunications and Information Administration said there was no practical way to mitigate the potential GPS interference.

February 15, 2012: FAA contract controllers began controlling aircraft from the Punta Gorda (FL) Airport’s first air traffic control tower. A grant from the Florida Department of Transportation and the Charlotte County Airport Authority funded the \$4 million tower.

February 27, 2012: FAA proposed raising the qualification requirements for first officers who fly for U.S. passenger and cargo airlines. Consistent with a mandate in the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 (see August 1, 2010), the proposed rule would require first officers – also known as co-pilots – to hold an airline transport pilot (ATP) certificate, requiring 1,500 hours of pilot flight time. Previously, first officers had to hold a commercial pilot certificate, which required 250 hours of flight time. The proposal also would require first officers to have an aircraft type rating, which would involve additional training and testing specific to the airplanes they fly. Other highlights of the proposed rule included:

- A requirement for a pilot to have a minimum of 1,000 flight hours as a pilot in air carrier operations that require an ATP prior to serving as a captain for a U.S. airline.
- Enhanced training requirements for an ATP certificate, including 50 hours of multi-engine flight experience and completion of a new FAA-approved training program.
- An allowance for pilots with fewer than 1,500 hours of flight time, but who have an aviation degree or military pilot experience, to obtain a “restricted privileges” ATP certificate. These pilots could serve only as a first officer, not as a captain. Former military pilots with 750 hours of flight time would be able to apply for an ATP certificate with restricted privileges. Graduates of a four-year baccalaureate aviation degree program would be able to obtain an ATP with 1,000 hours of flight time, only if they also obtained a commercial pilot certificate and

instrument rating from a pilot school affiliated with the university or college. (See December 21, 2011.)

March 6, 2012: FAA and the A6 alliance of European air navigation service providers signed a joint statement to work toward an interoperable aviation system. Representatives agreed to create a forum to enhance collaboration on the deployment and implementation of NextGen and SESAR. (See February 14, 2012; August 27, 2012.)

March 7, 2012: FAA requested public input on the agency's selection process for six aircraft system (UAS) test sites, as mandated by Congress under the National Defense Authorization Act and the 2012 FAA reauthorization bill. Specifically, the request for comment asked for input on several important questions, such as public versus private management of the sites, research activities and capabilities of the test areas, the requirements for test site operators, and the geographic and climate factors that should influence site selection. (See February 14, 2013.)

March 14, 2012: FAA and NATCA announced an extension of the NATCA contract for another four years. The contract was enacted in 2009 and was to expire on October 1. The extension, which did not require a vote of the union's members, prolonged the agreement to July 1, 2016. (See August 13, 2009.)

March 20, 2012: The Little Rock Municipal Airport Commission voted to rename the Little Rock National Airport the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport/Adams Field.

March 23, 2012: Manufacturer Terrafugia flew the first production prototype of its flying car, Transition, from its base in Plattsburgh, NY. The company successfully conducted tests of initial drive and conversion to an aircraft of its two-seat light sport aircraft – designed as a street legal aircraft that can be driven safely on the highway. During the eight-minute flight the aircraft reached an altitude of 1,400 feet. The proof-of-concept Transition took to the skies in 2009 and completed 28 flights. (See June 2010.)

March 27, 2012: President Barack Obama nominated acting FAA Administrator Michael Huerta to be FAA administrator for a five-year term. Huerta had been confirmed as the agency's deputy administrator in June 2010. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a confirmation hearing for Huerta on June 21. The hearing, however, was suspended because Senators needed to cast ballots on a bill. The Committee met on July 31 and unanimously voted to send the nomination to the full Senate for a vote. Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC), however, placed a hold on the nomination until after the presidential elections. He lifted the hold once the elections were over. The U.S. Senate confirmed Huerta for a five-year term as FAA administrator on January 1, 2013. (See December 5, 2011; January 1, 2013.)

April 4, 2012: FAA announced release of its seventh annual update to the controller workforce plan, which outlined the agency's strategies to maintain controller staffing levels at air traffic control facilities across the country for the next decade. According to the plan, FAA had hired more than 7,500 new air traffic controllers in the past five years, and currently employed more controllers than in 2000, even though air traffic had declined 23 percent in the past decade. FAA planned to hire 6,200 more controllers over

the next five years to keep pace with forecast retirements and traffic growth. In the previous five years, 3,151 controllers had retired. (See March 7, 2007; February 10, 2014.)

April 30, 2012: Delta Airlines announced it had agreed to purchase the ConocoPhillips refinery in Trainer, PA, for \$150 million. Delta expected to decrease annual fuel expenses by \$300 million once the refinery was retrofitted and reopened. Delta was the first airline to run its own refinery.

May 2, 2012: FAA, state, and local officials dedicated a new air traffic control tower at the Abilene (TX) Regional Airport. The 145-foot tower, which replaced the tower commissioned in 1951, cost \$9.24 million and included a nearly 400 square foot cab and 9,900 square feet for offices and training and break rooms.

May 10, 2012: FAA announced a contract award to ITT Exelis and GE Naverus to help accelerate the development of satellite-based procedures that would allow aircraft to fly more directly to their destinations. Under the \$2.77 million contract, ITT Exelis, the prime contractor, and GE Naverus, the sub-contractor, would develop required navigation performance (RNP) approach procedures into five airports: Ted Stevens Anchorage International, James M. Cox Dayton International, Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport (Kansas City), General Mitchell International (Milwaukee) and Syracuse Hancock International. (See March 2007.)

May 14, 2012: FAA announced interim rules allowing public safety agencies to fly drones weighing as much as 25 pounds without applying for special approval needed under previous regulations. The rule required agencies to show they could operate a drone before getting a FAA permit. Drones had to fly within 400 feet of the ground, remain in sight of the operator, and stay clear of airports. FAA also streamlined its approval process for the special certificates it required for other agencies to fly drones and for flying larger drones. The new application process expedited approvals for time-sensitive emergency missions and included a procedure allowing for applicant appeals if a permit request was denied. (See June 9, 2010; February 14, 2012.)

May 22, 2012: The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched and, on May 25, became the first U.S. commercial space rocket to dock at the International Space Station. The SpaceX mission, considered to be the first test of NASA's plan to outsource space missions to privately funded companies, was designed to prove to NASA the Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon capsule could successfully haul cargo, and eventually astronauts, for the space agency. The Dragon capsule returned to earth on May 31. (See November 22, 2010; September 16, 2014.)

May 24, 2012: Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the appointment of the four members of a new committee to advise him on measures to protect the rights of air travelers. The committee members included Lisa Madigan, Illinois attorney general, who chaired the committee; David A. Berg, senior vice president at Airlines for America; Deborah Ale-Flint, director of aviation at Oakland International Airport; and Charles Leocha, director of the Consumer Travel Alliance. The FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, signed by President Obama on February 14, mandated the establishment of

the committee. The law required the Secretary of Transportation to appoint to the committee four members with one representative each of air carriers, airport operators, state or local governments, and nonprofit public interest groups with expertise in consumer protection. According to the law, the committee would terminate on September 30, 2015.

June 7, 2012: FAA's office of commercial space transportation issued the first experimental permit allowing rocket-powered testing of a spaceship designed to carry humans. The permit, issued to Mojave, CA-based aerospace development company Scaled Composites, LLC, permitted the firm to begin powered test flights of its suborbital spacecraft, SpaceshipTwo, using its carrier aircraft, WhiteKnightTwo. The firm was developing and testing the spaceship for Virgin Galactic, founded by Richard Branson, which planned to offer space flights to paying customers in the future. (See April 1, 2004; December 21, 2008; April 29, 2013.)

June 14, 2012: FAA decommissioned the four-decades-old HOST computer system at the Seattle and Salt Lake City Air Route Traffic Control Centers (ARTCCs) and replaced the system with the en route automation modernization (ERAM) system. ERAM reached its operational readiness date (ORD) at Salt Lake City on March 27 and at Seattle on April 14. (See June 18, 2009; April 30, 2014.)

June 18, 2012: FAA and NASA signed a memorandum of understanding to coordinate standards for commercial space travel of government and non-government astronauts to and from low-Earth orbit and the international space station. In addition, the agreement addressed proper protocols for implementation, financial obligations, liability, free exchange of data and information, and other administrative obligations between FAA and NASA. (See November 9, 1999.)

June 22, 2012: A fire at FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center forced the evacuation of 1,600 people working at the complex. The fire made some traffic flow systems unavailable. Operations resumed at the Center the following Monday, although 230 employees working the Center's main administrative building had to be relocated. FAA subsequently estimated the fire caused \$2.2 million in damages to the facility.

June 29, 2012: Controllers began work at a temporary tower at East Hamptons (NY) Airport. The air traffic controllers directed planes into and out of the general aviation airport between 7 am and 11pm daily through October. The Town of East Hampton hoped controlled airspace during the busy summer season would mitigate aviation noise, in particular helicopter noise, in the area. The seasonal tower closed at the end of October. (See June 24, 2010; September 18, 2012.)

July 9, 2012: Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and acting FAA Administrator Michael Huerta joined federal and local officials in breaking ground for a new air traffic control tower at San Francisco International Airport. When completed in late 2015, the new tower would be 221 feet tall with a 650 square-foot controller work area. The project included a three-story, 44,000 square-foot base building, which would house administrative offices, computer equipment, a backup generator, and secure corridors to allow passengers to transit between terminals without allowing access to the tower. The

current tower, which FAA commissioned in 1984, was 190-feet-tall and had a 525 square-foot controller work area. Under a partnership with the airport, FAA would pay up to \$69.5 million toward the project's \$102 million cost and the airport would pay the additional costs as well as supervise the design and construction work.

July 13, 2012: FAA proposed a \$13.57 million civil penalty against The Boeing Company, the second-largest fine in the agency's history, for missing a deadline to submit service instructions that would enable airlines to further reduce the risk of fuel tank explosions on more than 380 Boeing jetliners. (See March 2, 2009.)

July 18, 2012: DOT's Inspector General (IG) testified before the House Subcommittee on Aviation regarding FAA's contract tower program. Established in 1982, the program oversaw 250 contract towers providing air traffic control services to airports nationwide. The IG testified contract towers continued to provide safe air traffic services. Those towers had a lower number and rate of reported safety incidents and Agency-identified deficiencies when compared with similar FAA towers. The IG found the average contract tower cost roughly \$1.5 million less to operate annually than a comparable FAA tower, largely due to lower staffing and salary levels. However, the IG noted FAA could improve its oversight of the program by implementing a voluntary safety incident reporting program at contract towers, reviewing labor hours worked to ensure contract compliance, and implementing processes to regularly evaluate contract towers as required by Congress. (See February 2, 1994.)

July 24, 2012: Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood praised the ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in favor of the U.S. Department of Transportation in *Spirit Airlines, Inc. v. United States Department of Transportation*. Spirit Airlines, Allegiant Air, and Southwest Airlines challenged portions of the Department of Transportation's April 2011 air passenger consumer protection rule requiring airlines and ticket agents to include all mandatory taxes and fees in published airfares, hold reservations without payment or penalty for 24 hours after the reservation was made, and prohibit post purchase baggage price increases after the initial ticket sale. The court ruled it reasonable for DOT to require airlines to add government fees and taxes to the base fare and disclose those as a total price, prominently displayed to prevent confusion over the total cost of their travel. Further, the court concluded the rule properly regulated airline cancellation policies because existing airline cancellation and refund practices were deceptive and unfair, and that the regulation was allowed under DOT's statute that targeted unfair and deceptive practices. Finally, the court ruled it was reasonable for DOT to conclude increasing the prices for baggage after the purchase of a ticket amounted to an unfair consumer practice. (See January 24, 2012.)

August 3, 2012: President Obama signed the Pilot's Bill of Rights, which expanded the rights of general aviation pilots facing potential penalties from FAA. The bill required FAA to give a pilot under investigation all relevant evidence at least 30 days before a decision to proceed with an enforcement action. FAA also had to provide the pilot access to flight service and tower communications pertinent to the enforcement action.

August 6, 2012: FAA ATO COO David Grizzle announced Teri Bristol would replace Deputy COO Rick Ducharme upon his retirement on August 31. At the time of the

announcement Bristol served as the vice president of ATO's technical operations organization. (See January 30, 2012; January 16, 2013.)

August 9, 2012: FAA published a notice in the *Federal Register* asking for comments on plans to decommission the last of the direction finders (DF) in the U.S. – 29 in Alaska. The agency had decommissioned DFs outside of Alaska in 2007. In the notice, FAA said use of DFs for pilot orientation “has become almost nonexistent.” The Alaska light service information area groups (AFSIAG) had documented eight flight assists involving lost or disoriented pilots over the past eight years. Of those instances, use of DF equipment for flight assists was documented just three times. There have been no documented flight assists with DFs since 2008.

August 15, 2012: FAA issued a “does not exceed (DNE)” determination for the proposed construction of 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound. A FAA study determined the proposed construction of the 130 wind turbines, individually and as a group, would have no effect on aeronautical operations. Therefore, FAA concluded the project, if constructed as proposed, posed no hazard to air navigation.

August 27, 2012: FAA announced plans to establish a government-industry group to study the portable electronic devices (PED) policies and procedures aircraft operators used to determine when such devices could be used safely during flight. FAA's mandate to the study group excluded in-flight use of cell phones. Then current FAA regulations required an aircraft operator to determine the radio frequency interference from the devices were not a safety risk before authorizing them for use during certain phases of flight. As the first step in gathering information for the working group, FAA sought public input on the agency's PED policies, guidance, and procedures for operators. The request for comments appeared in the *Federal Register* on August 28. (See September 30, 2013.)

August 27, 2012: FAA announced the selection of Harris Corp. to develop the national airspace system (NAS) voice system (NVS) as a replacement for the 40-year-old legacy system. NVS would support ground-to-ground voice communications between air traffic controllers and air-to-ground voice communications between controllers and aircraft. FAA planned to deploy NVS in air traffic control towers, terminal, and en route facilities, and future NextGen facilities. The NVS contract had a five-year base and five two-year options, with a potential total value of \$291.6 million. (See March 6, 2012; September 28, 2012.)

September 11, 2012: FAA and its German counterpart signed a declaration of cooperation to promote, develop, and use sustainable alternative aviation fuels in the United States and Germany. The declaration identified specific areas in which FAA and Germany's Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development, might cooperate, including exchanging information about research results, publications, funded research and development activities, and the sharing of best practices in alternative jet fuel conversion research and development and deployment. In addition, the countries could explore possibilities for cooperation in other areas, such as researching the lifecycle impact of the use of candidate alternative fuels on atmospheric emissions. The declaration also created an umbrella for cooperation between the commercial aviation

alternative fuels initiative (CAAFI) — comprised of several U.S. agencies and aviation industry groups — and its German counterpart, the aviation initiative for renewable energy.

September 18, 2012: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that, if adopted, would mandate more stringent noise certification standards for helicopters certificated in the United States. The rule would apply to new helicopter type designs and for supplemental type certificates for those new type designs. Helicopters type certificated under the new standard would be designated as a Stage 3 helicopter. The new standards would harmonize U.S. standards with those of ICAO. The public had until November 19, 2012, to comment on the proposed rule. (See June 29, 2012; December 4, 2012; March 4, 2014.)

September 20, 2012: Harris Corp. Government Communications Systems announced FAA had selected it to provide data communications integrated services (DCIS). With a subcontracting team that included ARINC Inc., GE Aviation, and Thales, Harris would develop DataComm to supplement analog voice-only air-to-ground communications system with a digital system. DataComm would provide a two-way data exchange between controllers and flight crews for clearances, instructions, advisories, requests, and reports. FAA planned to install the system in air traffic control towers by 2016 and in air traffic facilities that managed high-altitude traffic beginning in 2019. The \$331 million contract covered seven years, with 10 additional one-year options.

September 21, 2012: The new air traffic control tower at Missoula International Airport (MT) opened, replacing a tower built in 1961.

September 28, 2012: FAA Acting Administrator Michael Huerta and Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood dedicated the new \$20.5 million air traffic control tower at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport in PA. The 118-foot tower, equipped with a TRACON facility, provided NextGen capable air-traffic capability for flights within a 57-mile radius of the airport. Air traffic controllers had begun managing flights from the new tower in August. (See August 27, 2012; May 9, 2012.)

September 28, 2012: FAA's office of airports issued an updated airport design advisory circular (AC) 150/5300-13A, the first major rewrite of the AC in over 20 years. The AC, used by airport operators, airport planners, and engineers, provided guidance and recommendations for the geometric layout and engineering design of runways, taxiways, aprons, and other facilities at civil airports.

October 1, 2012: A new FAA rule required all pilots to use FAA MedXPress to apply for an airman medical certificate. The electronic system allowed pilots and aviation medical examiners to query the system electronically and determine the status of applications. FAA planned future enhancements to the system to allow air traffic control specialists to use MedXPress.

October 12, 2012: The Mingo County (WVA) Airport Authority held a grand opening ceremony for the new Appalachia Regional Airport. The airport officially opened on June 26 with limited services. The airport consisted of 975 acres of previously mined land

donated to the county in 2008 by Alpha Natural Resources. The airport authority said a total of \$9 million had been invested in the site to date.

October 12, 2012: FAA approved the type certificate for the Sikorsky S-76D helicopter. Originally announced in 2005, the S-76D featured all-composite main rotor blades, Pratt & Whitney PW210S engines, and Thales TopDeck avionics.

October 15, 2012: The first air traffic control tower at Hernando County (FL) Airport began operations. The FAA contract tower operated from 7 am until 10 pm seven days a week. The 82-foot tower cost \$2.2 million to construct.

October 15, 2012: Southwest Airlines announced it had hired former FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt as its senior vice president of labor relations. (See December 5, 2011.)

October 18, 2012: Officials dedicated a runway extension at the General Wayne A. Downing Peoria (IL) International Airport. A FAA grant paid for the majority of the approximately \$950,000 project, which allowed larger turbine powered aircraft to use the airport.

October 25, 2012: FAA announced it had begun deploying a new web application that made the process of submitting, reviewing, and issuing notices to airmen (NOTAMS) more efficient and accurate. The e-NOTAM II or ENII tool expedited the time it took to publish a NOTAM. With the new system, it took less than three seconds for a NOTAM to be published once a flight service specialist had reviewed and approved it. Previously, specialists had to copy and paste information from a system that handled requested NOTAMs into a system that issued the NOTAMs. They would then submit the NOTAM to a centralized office for approval and publication. (See May 2010.)

October 29-30, 2012: Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast of the United States causing power outages and damage to FAA facilities and equipment. FAA prepared for the storm by pre-positioning restoration assets, readying control facilities, and working with airlines as they cancelled thousands of flights. FAA reported the storm affected three ARTCCs, nine TRACONS, 40 control towers, and equipment, including 25 airport surveillance radars, 121 localizers, and 74 very high frequency omni directional range facilities with tropical storm force winds, rain, snow, and flooding.

October 2012: Portland, ME-based Elite Airways received FAA Part 121 air carrier certification.

November 1, 2012: FAA upgraded Israel to a Category 1 safety rating based on international safety standards set by ICAO. FAA downgraded Israel in 2008 to a category 2, which meant it lacked laws or regulations necessary to oversee airline safety, its civil aviation authority lacked technical expertise or trained personnel, or it was deficient in its record keeping or inspection procedures. (See August 23, 2010; September 10, 2013.)

November 1, 2012: FAA implemented new wake turbulence categories for aircraft separation standards. Under the re-categorization, aircraft models were placed in one of six categories (labeled A-F) based on considerations other than maximum gross takeoff weight, such as approach speeds, wing characteristics, and lateral control characteristics.

FAA split the heavy category (including the “super” Airbus A380) into three wake categories, “A” (super); “B” (upper heavy); and “C” (lower heavy) aircraft. When a lower heavy jet followed an upper heavy jet into an airport, the separation standard remained at four miles. When an upper heavy jet followed a lower heavy jet, the separation could be reduced to three miles. The former method of wake turbulence categorization was based solely on maximum gross takeoff weight. (See November 1, 2010 and May 8, 2013.)

November 1, 2012: The Department of Transportation Inspector General (IG) issued a report detailing a range of ethical, personnel, and procurement issues at the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA). MWAA operated two-federally owned airports, Reagan National and Dulles International, and had responsibility for managing a two-phased extension of the Silver Line subway. After the IG issued an interim report in May that highlighted systematic procurement and ethical lapses at MWAA, Secretary of Transportation appointed, on July 1, a federal accountability officer to provide MWAA with advice and counsel on improved ethics, procurement, and governance policies. DOT attorney Kimberly Moore served as the accountability officer until Congress established an inspector general position for MWAA. (See June 7, 1987.)

November 8, 2012: FAA, airlines, and aviation labor unions announced a partnership with NTSB to share summarized safety information that could help prevent accidents. The information, shared through an initiative called the aviation safety information analysis and sharing (ASIAS) executive board, would help NTSB determine if an accident was a unique event or an indication of systemic risks. The agreement outlined the procedures, guidelines, and roles and responsibilities for the executive board to address specific written NTSB requests for ASIAS information. ASIAS used aggregate, protected data from industry and government voluntary reporting programs, without identifying the source of the data, to find potential safety issues, identify safety enhancements, and measure the effectiveness of solutions.

November 13, 2012: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to tighten requirements for aircraft maintenance outsourcing. Under the proposal, each carrier that contracted out any of its maintenance had to have policies and procedures in place to ensure the contracted maintenance would be performed in accordance with its maintenance program and manual. The requirement would apply to scheduled service carriers under Part 121 regulations, but also to most commuter and on-demand carriers operating under Part 135 regulations. (See June 16, 1999.)

November 22, 2012: Dan McKinnon, who helped oversee the deregulation of the U.S. airline industry as the last chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) in the early 1980s, died at the age of 78. In a 1984 speech to the Aero Club of Washington, McKinnon counted among his accomplishments a tough new U.S. policy to negotiate quid pro quos for U.S. aviation interests in bilateral accords; the elimination of antitrust immunity for travel agents to sell airline tickets; and the transfer of the remaining CAB functions to the U.S. Transportation Department. (See December 31, 1984.)

November 26, 2012: FAA banned the use of velcro-type straps to secure emergency locator transmitters (ELT) designed and built after November 26, 2012. FAA issued

technical standard order (TSO-C126b) two years after a high-profile crash that killed Alaska Senator Ted Stevens and four others. The ELT aboard the Otter aircraft they were on came loose on impact and detached from the antenna. Rescuers found it on the floor in the back of plane, activated, but unable to transmit because it was no longer connected to the antenna. (See August 9, 2010.)

November 27, 2012: President Obama signed the European Union Emission Trading Scheme Prohibition Act, introduced by Senator John Thune (R-SD), which gave the Secretary of Transportation the authority to ensure U.S. aircraft operators would not be penalized or harmed by the European Union's emissions trading system (ETS). Under ETS, the European Union could subject all international flights operating to and from the European Union to pay an emissions tax. (See December 16, 2011.)

November 28, 2012: The consistency of regulatory interpretation aviation rulemaking committee (ARC) chartered by FAA on April 30, 2012, issued its final report. Among other things, it concluded the agency's flight standards service and aircraft certification service offices should review all guidance documents and interpretations to identify and cancel outdated material, and cross-reference material to the applicable rule. Further, the ARC suggested FAA expand its current aviation safety information management system initiative to consolidate all of the aviation safety organization libraries into a single master electronic resource, organized by rule, to allow users access to relevant rules and all active and superseded guidance material and related documents.

November 30, 2012: FAA, working with the Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) proposed a new policy for addressing flight attendant workplace safety. While FAA's aviation safety regulations took precedence, the agency proposed OSHA enforce certain occupational safety and health standards currently not covered by FAA oversight. Under the proposal, flight attendants would, for the first time, be able to report workplace injury and illness complaints to OSHA for response and investigation. On December 7, FAA published the proposed policy in the *Federal Register* and requested comments on that policy by January 7, 2013. (See August 22, 2013.)

December 3, 2012: FAA and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) announced the activation of technology to help pilots address inclement weather around Montrose Regional Airport in western Colorado. The technology, known as wide area multilateration (WAM), improved safety and efficiency by allowing air traffic controllers to track aircraft in mountainous areas outside radar coverage. The WAM deployment in Montrose was part of the larger Colorado surveillance project, a partnership between FAA and CDOT, which began providing radar-like service to the mountain communities of Craig, Hayden, Steamboat Springs, and Rifle in 2009. FAA and State of Colorado expected to complete the project by deploying WAM in Durango, Gunnison, and Telluride in summer 2013. (See May 4, 2010; July 31, 2013.)

December 4, 2012: FAA released a report approving commercial passenger flights at Paine Field south of Everett, WA. FAA began studying the issue in 2008 when Allegiant Air expressed interest in providing regional flights from the airport. In the report, FAA

stated up to 23 daily flights would not significantly increase noise, traffic, or pollution in nearby communities. (See September 18, 2012; September 3, 2013.)

December 4, 2012: FAA issued an airworthiness directive ordering airlines to inspect Boeing 787 Dreamliners for improperly installed fuel-line connectors that could result in leaks or fires. Airlines had reported fuel leaks on two in-service 787s, and subsequent inspections by Boeing of jets in service or still in production revealed some fuel line connectors installed incorrectly. Boeing recommended such inspections to 787 customers on November 25; the FAA airworthiness directive made those inspections mandatory. A third aircraft experienced electrical problems after FAA issued the directive. (See August 26, 2011 and January 7, 2013.)

December 6, 2012: FAA lifted its 16-year ban on commercial flights by U.S. carriers to two international airports, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, in Kurdish northern Iraq because of increased stability in the region. FAA banned flights to the region on October 16, 1996 (SFAR No. 77) for safety reasons.

December 9, 2012: A Learjet 25 (N345MC) carrying Los Angeles-based Mexican-American singer Jenni Rivera crashed in northern Mexico approximately 10 minutes after departing the airport in Monterey, Mexico. Six others, including 2 pilots, were on the plane. There were no survivors. NTSB assisted in the accident investigation. The 43-year old aircraft was owned by Starwood Management of Las Vegas, Nevada.

December 14, 2012: FAA issued a safety directive mandating a three-day deadline for 200 operators of Gulfstream business jets to conduct high-priority inspections and possible fixes of flight-control systems on the aircraft. FAA issued the mandate to avoid grounding Gulfstream 350 and 450 models when it discovered potential problems controlling horizontal stabilizers on the tails of the aircraft.

December 14, 2012: After an extensive two-year application and development process, FAA awarded Geisinger Life Flight an air carrier certificate. The certificate allowed Geisinger Health System to operate the aircraft assets it leased and owned. In addition, GHS could now employ its own pilots, mechanics, and aviation support personnel a process previously done through contracted air-services vendors. Averaging 2,600 flights per year, Life Flight operated 24-hours a day with a fleet of six twin-engine helicopters from air bases in Danville, State College, Avoca, Williamsport, and Minersville, PA.

December 14, 2012: FAA and Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS) leaders signed a new five-year contract covering PASS's ATO bargaining units (technical operations, flight inspection services, and mission support services). The agreement became effective on December 16, 2012. Among other things, the new contract contained a variety of provisions regarding pay, including annual increases each year from 2013 through 2017. The new agreement prevented the agency from reducing pay increases, guaranteed PASS would have an active role in modernization of the NAS, and required the agency to notify PASS before it explored the contracting out of a bargaining unit function or service that would significantly change the scope of an employee's work responsibilities.

December 21, 2012: FAA closed its center for management and executive leadership in Palm Coast, Florida. FAA's lease for the facility, under a contract with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Center signed in 1987, expired on August 21. FAA planned to hold management training classes at its aeronautical center in Oklahoma City until it found a new location for the training center. (See March 14, 1986.)

Calendar Year 2012: According to the Netherlands-based Aviation Safety Network, 2012 was the safety year for air travel since 1945. The world's airlines – including passenger and cargo flights – reported only 23 accidents resulting in 475 fatalities last year, compared with the 10-year average of 34 accidents and 773 fatalities per year. In the U.S., the network's data base showed only two fatal commercial airline accidents, resulting in two deaths.

2013

January 1, 2013: The Senate confirmed Michael Huerta as the new FAA administrator. DOT Secretary Ray LaHood swore him in for a five-year term on January 7. (See March 27, 2012.)

January 2, 2013: Garmin announced it had received FAA's technical standard order (TSO) authorization and approved model list supplemental type certificate (AML STC) approval for the GDL 88 series, the industry's first dual-link ADS-B solution for certified aircraft. With these certifications, FAA approved the GDL 88 for installation on most Part 23 fixed-wing aircraft. The dual-link capability allowed the GDL 88 to receive both the 978 MHz UAT and 1090 MHz frequency bands. (See March 14, 2011; April 4, 2013.)

January 7, 2013: A Japan Airline 787 Dreamliner that had flown into Boston's Logan airport from Tokyo caught fire while parked at the gate due to a malfunctioning battery. All passengers and crew from the plane had already departed the aircraft when the fire started. (See December 4, 2012; January 11, 2013.)

January 11, 2013: In light of a series of recent events with the Boeing 787, FAA announced plans to conduct a comprehensive review of the Boeing 787 critical systems, including design, manufacture, and assembly. FAA planned to validate the work conducted during the certification process to ensure the aircraft met FAA's safety requirements. A team of FAA and Boeing engineers and inspectors conducted the joint review, with an emphasis on the aircraft's electrical power and distribution system. (See January 7, 2013; January 16, 2013.)

January 16, 2013: FAA ordered all Boeing 787's grounded. FAA's emergency airworthiness directive required the aircraft operator or Boeing to prove the batteries safe before the aircraft could fly again. On this same day, All Nippon Airways Co. and Japan Airlines Co., the world's largest users of Boeing 787 jets, grounded their entire fleets of Dreamliners after one of All Nippon's 787s made an emergency landing in Japan the

previous day because of smoke coming from the aircraft. (See January 11, 2013; March 12, 2013.)

January 16, 2013: In his weekly message to ATO employees, COO David Grizzle announced plans to combine the terminal and en route service organizations into a new air traffic services (AJT) organization. The reorganization would be effective on October 6, 2013, pending congressional approval. He also announced ATO would no longer support its own communications office, and FAA's office of communications would handle ATO needs. As part of the reorganization, he divided the Eastern, Central, and Western service areas into northern and southern regions, with each of those six new areas reporting to a vice president (VP) of the newly formed AJT organization. The AJT would oversee contract towers, other contract operations, and technical issues. In addition, a significant portion of terminal and en route headquarters functions would move into other service units – more than 40 current terminal and en route personnel would move to mission support services, ten or more would move to management services, and several others would move to safety and technical training, and system operations services. FAA received congressional approval the week of October 21 and the reorganization became effective on November 3. (See August 6, 2013; August 13, 2013.)

January 29, 2013: Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood announced he would resign his post when the U.S. Senate confirmed his successor. (See April 29, 2013.)

February 12, 2013: FAA approved the Shanghai Hawker Pacific Business Aviation Service Center as an overseas repair station, making it the first aviation support facility in mainland China to hold Part 145 approval. (See November 20, 2009; August 12, 2014.)

February 13, 2013: FAA and the Spanish Aviation and Security Agency signed a declaration of cooperation to help develop alternative aviation fuels. (See December 1, 2011; December 2, 2014.)

February 13, 2013: American Airlines and US Airways agreed to a merger that would create the world's largest airline. (See November 29, 2011; July 12, 2013.)

February 14, 2013: FAA solicited proposals to create six drone sites around the U.S. in a major step toward opening U.S. airspace to unmanned drones. The tests sites would be used to determine the requirement needed to ensure drones do not interfere with planes in the airspace or endanger people or property on the ground. (See March 7, 2012; June 19, 2013.)

February 22, 2013: Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood issued a statement which said as a result of mandatory sequestration, the majority of FAA's nearly 47,000 employees would be furloughed for approximately one day per pay period until the end of the fiscal year. (See July 23, 2011; March 22, 2013.)

March 1, 2013: Saab Sensis Corporation announced it had partnered with Leesburg Executive Airport in Leesburg, VA, to demonstrate and evaluate remote tower technologies at the airport. The Virginia Department of Aviation and FAA were advisory partners for the project. For the demonstration, the partnership deployed a number of

Saab technologies at the airport that provided data directly to a remote tower center also located at the airport. (See November 23, 2016.)

March 12, 2013: FAA approved the Boeing Commercial Airplane Company's certification plan for the redesigned 787 battery system. The first step in the process to evaluate the 787's return to flight, the certification plan required Boeing to conduct extensive testing and analysis to demonstrate compliance with the applicable safety regulations and special conditions. The plan established specific pass/fail criteria, defined the parameters that should be measured, prescribed the test methodology, and specified the test setup and design. FAA also approved limited test flights for two aircraft to validate the aircraft instrumentation for the battery and battery enclosure testing in addition to product improvements for other systems. (See January 16, 2013; April 19, 2013.)

March 22, 2013: FAA announced 149 federal contract towers would close beginning on April 7 as part of the agency's sequestration implementation plan. The agency made the decision to keep 24 federal contract towers open it had previously proposed for closure because of national interest considerations. An additional 16 federal contract towers under the "cost share" program would remain open because congressional statute set aside funds every fiscal year for those towers. FAA planned to begin a four-week phased closure of the 149 federal contract towers beginning on April 7. (See February 22, 2013; April 5, 2013.)

March 25, 2013: The U.S. and Guyana signed an agreement establishing an Open Skies air transportation relationship between the two countries. Prior to this agreement, U.S. Guyana aviation relations had been governed by the 1946 Air Transport Agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom. The Open Skies agreement established a liberalized aviation relationship that permitted unrestricted air service by the airlines of both countries. It eliminated restrictions on how often carriers flew, the kind of aircraft they used, and the prices they charged. This was the 108th such agreement. (See December 13, 2011; May 28, 2013.)

April 4, 2013: US Airways announced it had received FAA certification, the first airline to receive such approval, to use SafeRoute on its wide-body Airbus A330. The SafeRoute suite of four applications used automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) technology to provide pilots with more precise position information of the operating aircraft and other airplane traffic. It also included interval management (IM), in-trail procedures (ITP), cockpit display of traffic information to assist in visual separation (CAVS), and surface area movement management (SAMM). IM made use of onboard aircraft surveillance to provide flight deck spacing commands that enable aircraft to follow one another at the safest, most efficient interval possible, from cruise altitude to the runway. ITP improved situational awareness and enabled flight crews to perform desired altitude changes on a more frequent basis in oceanic or non-radar airspace. CAVS allowed the flight crew to continue visual approach procedures using the electronic display to maintain separation if they lost visual contact with traffic-to-follow due to hazy or night conditions. It also assisted the flight crew in properly timing the deceleration to final approach speed, configuring the aircraft for landing and properly spacing aircraft on

the final approach segment just prior to landing. SAMM provided a moving map display of the airport surface in the cockpit that showed other traffic operating in the terminal, taxi, and runway areas. (See January 2, 2013; June 9, 2013.)

April 5, 2013: FAA announced it would delay the closure of all 149 federal contract air traffic control towers until June 15. The previous month, FAA had announced it would eliminate funding for these towers as part of the agency's required \$637 million budget cuts under sequestration. This additional time would allow the agency to attempt to resolve multiple legal challenges to the closure decisions. As part of the tower closure implementation process, the agency continued to consult with airports and operators and reviewed appropriate risk mitigations. (See March 22, 2013; April 23, 2013.)

April 8, 2013: In a settlement agreement and order made public on this date, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) said it would spend the next 12 months creating a dedicated aircraft rescue firefighting (ARFF) force at the four New York-area airports it owned and operated – John F. Kennedy (JFK), Teterboro, LaGuardia, and Newark Liberty International after acknowledging lapses that included allowing untrained Port Authority police officers to serve on active ARFF duty. PANYNJ paid \$3.5 million in fines to settle the case and agreed to hire dedicated ARFF firefighters, facility captains, and a fire chief, as well as to set up a training academy to ensure they met basic standards. FAA's investigation began when Port Authority officials could not supply training documentation during a routine inspection at JFK in December 2011. FAA then reviewed training at LaGuardia, Newark Liberty, and Stewart International, and found only Stewart – where DOD provided ARFF services – in compliance. FAA and Port Authority officials planned to meet monthly to review progress on meeting the milestones set out in the settlement, and FAA could impose an additional \$1.5 million in fines, plus \$27,500 daily for each additional violation, if PANYNJ violated the settlement deal.

April 19, 2013: FAA took the next step in returning the Boeing 787 to flight by approving Boeing's design for modifications to the 787 battery system. Boeing's changes addressed risks at the battery cell level, the battery level and the aircraft level. FAA subsequently planned to issue instructions to operators for making changes to the aircraft and to publish in the *Federal Register* the final directive to allow the 787 to return to service with the battery system modifications. FAA also required airlines that operated the 787 to install containment and venting systems for the main and auxiliary system batteries and to replace the batteries and their chargers with modified components. (See March 12, 2013; April 25, 2013.)

April 22, 2013: Eight months after becoming the first U.S. airline to obtain FAA approval to use Apple iPads on the flight deck during all phases of flight, American Airlines completed its rollout of the off-the-shelf electronic flight bags across its entire mainline fleet. Pilots of the carrier's Boeing 757s and 767s completed a 30-day transition with the iPads as primary flight support and paper charts as backup. American first tested the iPad on a Boeing 777 in January 2011. (See March 14, 2011; June 26, 2013.)

April 23, 2013: As a result of employee furloughs due to sequestration, which began on April 21, FAA began implementing traffic management initiatives at airports and

facilities around the country. FAA announced travelers could expect to see a wide range of delays that would change throughout the day depending on staffing and weather-related issues. For example, FAA experienced staffing challenges at the New York and Los Angeles ARTCCs and at the Dallas-Ft. Worth and Las Vegas TRACONs. Controllers spaced planes farther apart so they could manage traffic with smaller staffs. This resulted in delays at airports including Dallas, Las Vegas and Los Angeles. FAA also expected delays at Newark and LaGuardia because of weather and winds. On April 21, FAA attributed more than 1,200 delays in the system to staffing reductions resulting from the furlough; 1,400 additional delays resulted from weather and other factors. (See April 5, 2013 April 24, 2013.)

April 24, 2013: FAA announced due to employee furloughs as a result of sequestration, on April 23 the furlough caused more than 1,025 delays in the system. Weather and other delays caused more than 975 additional delays. The following day, FAA announced on April 25, furlough-related staffing reductions at the New York, Washington, Cleveland, Jacksonville, and Los Angeles ARTCCs, the Potomac, Dallas and Southern California TRACONs, and Detroit tower contributed to more than 863 delays, and weather and other factors caused more than 1,269 additional delays. (See April 23, 2013; April 27, 2013.)

April 25, 2013: FAA published a rule lifting the grounding the Boeing 787s operated by carriers based in the U.S. once those carriers installed modified lithium-ion batteries. The following day, Japanese authorities formally approved Boeing's proposed fixes to the batteries and declared the aircraft fit for use. On April 27, a Boeing 787 flew from Ethiopia to Kenya, the first Dreamliner flight since the plane's grounding in January 2013. United Airlines restarted its Dreamliner flights within the U.S. on May 20. (See April 19, 2013; June 23, 2013; February 14, 2012.)

April 27, 2013: After Congressional action, FAA suspended all employee furloughs. A typo in the legislation delayed getting the bill to the President, but President Obama signed it on May 1. The law allowed FAA to move as much as \$253 million within its budget to end furloughs and gave the agency enough flexibility to cancel the planned June 15 closing of 149 small airport control towers operated by contractors. (See April 24, 2013; May 9, 2013.)

April 29, 2013: President Barrack Obama nominated Charlotte, NC, Mayor Anthony Foxx to succeed Ray LaHood as Transportation Secretary. (See January 29, 2013; May 22, 2013.)

April 29, 2013: Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo made its first powered flight. It broke the sound barrier in a test over the Mojave Desert. The flight lasted 10 minutes. It made its second powered flight on September 5. (See June 7, 2012; July 31, 2013; January 10, 2014.)

April 2013: FAA and other U.S. government agencies completed the third and final operational field test in a two-year, \$8 million program to study the physical and electromagnetic interference between radar systems and wind turbine farms, and to identify mitigation techniques to address potential issues. Researchers at Sandia National

Laboratories and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory analyzed data from the third interagency field test and evaluation of wind turbine-radar to help develop long-term mitigation techniques. Interference with radar had been a safety concern for both FAA and the military, as well as a key roadblock to developers of new wind turbine farms, both in the U.S. and abroad.

May 3, 2013: FAA proposed a new policy aimed at providing better handling of a wide range of certification applications. The draft policy set the maximum delay that the agency could apply to applications for type certificates, amended type certificates, supplemental type certificates and several other approvals, including parts manufacturer approval. Under the draft policy, all projects would be acted on when FAA received an application, and the maximum delay in starting a project would be based on a metric each certification office set to perform a project, plus 90 days. First in the queue would be higher-priority projects, based on the highest value of a safety index developed by FAA. FAA based the draft policy, in part, on input the agency received after posting a request for comments in September 2011. Congress had mandated a broader review of the agency's certification processes under the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. In response, the agency co-chaired an aviation rulemaking committee that reviewed existing processes and made recommendations in February. (See February 14, 2012; December 11, 2013.)

May 9, 2013: FAA announced it no longer planned to close 72 medium-sized air traffic control facilities overnight because of sequestration. The following day, on May 10, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the recently enacted Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013 would allow FAA to transfer sufficient funds to end employee furloughs and keep the 149 low activity contract towers originally slated for closure in June open for the remainder of fiscal year 2013. FAA also planned to put \$10 million towards reducing cuts and delays in core NextGen programs and allocated approximately \$11 million to partially restore infrastructure support in the national airspace system. (See September 28, 2012; April 27, 2013; May 20, 2013; August 14, 2013; October 1, 2013.)

May 15, 2013: The White House nominated Michael Whitaker, an airline industry veteran, to fill the deputy administrator role left vacant by Michael Huerta's January 1 appointment as FAA administrator. Whitaker, who worked for the air transport division of Indian conglomerate InterGlobe Enterprises, had more than 20 years of experience in the airline industry, first with Trans World Airlines and then at United Airlines, where he worked for 15 years. Whitaker served as senior vice president for alliances, international, and regulatory affairs at United before joining InterGlobe in 2009. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood swore him in on June 3, 2013. (See June 23, 2010.)

May 8, 2013: FAA announced controllers at the San Francisco, Houston, and Memphis international airports would have a new tool to reduce delays beginning on May 15, May 20, and August 5, respectively, as part of a one-year FAA pilot program. The wake turbulence mitigation for departures (WTMD) was a crosswind-based system that enabled closely spaced parallel runway departures to take place without wake turbulence constraints. The system allowed for the crosswind-enabled elimination of wake turbulence separation minima when heavy/B757 aircraft departed the downwind runway and any aircraft followed departing on the upwind runway. WTMD required favorable

wind conditions for a specific airport's runway configuration and a minimum ceiling and visibility of 1,000 feet altitude above ground level (AGL) and 3 statute miles (SM). The WTMD system used wind information at the surface and incrementally up to about 1,200 feet AGL to ensure actual crosswinds and a conservative forecast of future crosswinds were sufficiently strong to allow the reduced separation operations. WTMD notified air traffic control supervisors when one of the closely spaced parallel runway (upwind runway) could be used as wake independent from heavy/B757 aircraft departing from the parallel (downwind) runway and allowed them to enable the WTMD procedure. (See November 1, 2012.)

May 20, 2013: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit vacated a lawsuit combining claims by airports groups and local communities against FAA over plans to close the contract air traffic control towers. DOT and FAA asked the court to drop the suit, arguing it was moot given the decision to continue funding the contract tower program through fiscal 2013. (See May 9, 2013.)

May 22, 2013: The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a confirmation hearing for Anthony Foxx to become the next Secretary of Transportation. At the hearings, Representative John Thune (R-SD) placed a hold on the nomination until DOT and FAA answered the questions posed in letters he sent earlier in the year asking for information on budgets, budget cuts, and related decisionmaking processes. After Thune lifted his hold, the Committee approved the nomination on June 10. (See April 29, 2013; June 27, 2013.)

May 28, 2013: The U.S. and Saudi Arabia signed an Open Skies agreement, which, following a transition period, would permit unrestricted air service by the airlines of both countries between and beyond the other's territory, eliminating restrictions on how often the carriers flew, the kind of aircraft they used, and the prices they charged. This became the 109th such agreement the U.S. signed with other nations. (See March 25, 2013; July 8, 2013.)

May 29, 2013: State officials dedicated a new air traffic control tower at Kona Airport, Hawaii. The new tower replaced one constructed almost 43 years ago. Officials also formally broke ground for a new 24,000-square-foot aircraft rescue and firefighting facility. FAA and state funds covered the cost of the \$14.5 million project.

May 29, 2013: Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport celebrated the completion of a \$29 million project designed to support the expansion of its largest tenant, Gulfstream Aerospace, while making room for future aviation businesses. Announced in late 2010, the north aviation development project involved the realignment of Gulfstream Road, including construction of a tunnel; a new electrical vault; a taxiway bridge; Taxiway H; as well as the extension of existing Taxiway A. FAA grants and airport revenues funded the project.

May 29, 2013: The Office of Management and Budget told federal agencies to prepare their fiscal 2015 budget requests with three levels of spending in mind, including 5 and 10 percent cuts from the projection provided agencies in April with the 2014 request. The budget-crafting guidance represented the first formal recognition of the long-term effects

of the 2011 Budget Control Act, whose first round of widespread, automatic sequestration rescissions took effect in March 2013.

May 31, 2013: FAA issued an updated version of its 10-year old advisory circular on wildlife collisions, AC 150/5200-32B. The update explained a number of recent improvements to the agency's wildlife strike reporting system.

June 3, 2013: NASA awarded \$38 million in contracts to Boeing, Honeywell, Rockwell Collins, and Saab Sensis to conduct research to develop and improve technologies and methods to improve situational awareness of real-time electronic information. The two-year contracts, with three one-year follow-on options would total \$9.5 million if NASA exercised all contract options. NASA tasked the companies with studying the human factors designs of how information could be best presented on flight decks or at control stations, including developing human-machine interfaces that reduced uncertainties associated with real-time information presentation.

June 5, 2013: Santa Monica, CA-based start-up airline Surf Air announced it had been certified by FAA. The new membership-based airline began flights on June 12. Surf Air offered all-you-can-fly service to its members. The airline had 150 members, each paying \$1,350 per month to belong. The airline had another 4,000 people on its waiting list. The company flew Pilatus PC-12 aircraft, a single-engine turboprop plane, configured to seat six people. Its first route linked San Carlos and Burbank.

June 9, 2013: JetBlue conducted its first ever ADS-B commercial flights from Fort Lauderdale to San Francisco. This was the first commercial aircraft that reached its destination using a route that relied primarily on ADS-B. FAA determined the route over the Gulf of Mexico based on the need for the aircraft to avoid turbulent weather. (See April 4, 2013; April 14, 2014.)

June 10, 2013: FAA asked the world's fuel producers to submit proposals for fuel options to help the general aviation industry transition to an unleaded fuel. FAA hoped to develop a new unleaded fuel by 2018 that would minimize the impact of replacing 100 octane low-lead fuel for most of the general aviation fleet. The request came in response to the July 2012 unleaded avgas transition aviation rulemaking committee report to FAA, which noted the currently unavailability of an unleaded replacement fuel. (See February 13, 2013; August 14, 2013; September 8, 2014.)

June 18, 2013: FAA announced the integration of the traffic analysis review program (TARP) at all ARTCCs. The TARP software automatically detected losses of aircraft separation and reported all such losses to the comprehensive electronic data analysis and reporting program (CEDAR). The system TARP replaced – the operational error detection patch – captured losses of separation, but did not transfer them directly into CEDAR. With TARP, alerts automatically showed up in CEDAR as electronic occurrence reports. CEDAR gathered both mandatory and electronic occurrence reports for analysis by ATO's safety and technical training's quality assurance team. The data helped FAA validate and classify events, and then take steps to prevent issues from occurring again. TARP had been used at terminal facilities since 2009.

June 19, 2013: In testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, FBI Director Robert Mueller acknowledged for the first time in public the FBI had used small, unarmed and unmanned drones to conduct surveillance. The FBI released a statement following Mueller's testimony explaining the use of drones allowed the agency to "learn critical information that otherwise would be difficult to obtain without introducing serious risk to law enforcement personnel." The agency also noted it only used drones to conduct surveillance on stationary objects. (See February 14, 2013; July 19, 2013.)

June 19, 2013: NTSB received a petition urging the agency to reconsider its investigation of the 1996 TWA 800 crash. A group of individuals who took part in a new documentary about the deadly crash initiated the petition. The documentary suggested NTSB investigators had not interviewed any of the eyewitnesses "who claimed to have seen something like a missile leave the shore that night headed toward the" plane. On June 28, NTSB issued a statement and invited journalists to its training center on July 2, saying "Since the accident occurred 17 years ago, many who are now covering the petition filing are less familiar with the details and findings of NTSB's four-year investigation." (See July 17, 1996.)

June 20, 2013: Controllers began handling flights from a new, 236-foot tower at Oakland International Airport. The new tower replaced two existing towers – the first built in 1962 and the other approximately 10 years ago when a new hanger blocked controllers' view of the north side of the airport. Having all controllers working in one tower reduced the amount of coordination required between the two towers and streamlined operations and procedures. (See October 15, 2010; November 22, 2013.)

June 23, 2013: A United Airlines Boeing 787 flight from Houston to Denver returned to Houston shortly after takeoff because of an issue with the brake indicator. The previous Thursday, June 20, a United Boeing 787 from London to Houston made an emergency landing in Newark, NJ, because an indicator showed low engine oil. On Tuesday, June 18, a United Boeing 787 from Denver to Tokyo diverted to Seattle because of what the airline called an oil filter issue. (See April 25, 2013; July 25, 2013.)

June 26, 2013: JetBlue announced it had received regulatory approval from FAA to allow its pilots to use electronic flight bags during all phases of flight. JetBlue had tested the electronic flight bags with a limited number of pilots before gaining approval to equip all of its pilots. Like American Airlines it provided its pilots Apple iPads. (See April 22, 2013; February 10, 2014.)

June 27, 2013: The Senate confirmed Charlotte, NC, Mayor Anthony Fox as Secretary of Transportation. He was sworn in during a private ceremony on July 2. Vice President Joe Biden publicly swore him in on July 12. (See May 22, 2013.)

July 2, 2013: Effective this date, a new FAA rule amended design requirements in the airworthiness standards for transport category airplanes to minimize the occurrence of design-related flightcrew errors. The requirements enabled a flight crew member to detect and manage his or her errors when the errors occurred. The rule eliminated regulatory differences between U.S. and European Aviation Safety Agency airworthiness standards without affecting current industry design practices.

July 7, 2013: Asiana Flight 214 from Seoul, South Korea, crashed at San Francisco International Airport when the plane hit a seawall upon landing. The Boeing 777 had more than 300 people aboard and the accident caused 3 deaths and over 180 injuries.

July 8, 2013: The United States and the Republic of Suriname signed an Open Skies agreement, which, following a transition period, would allow unrestricted air service by the airlines of both countries between and beyond the other's territory, eliminating restrictions on how often the carriers flew, the kind of aircraft they used, and the prices they charged. This became the 110th such agreement the U.S. signed with other nations. (See May 28, 2013; July 14, 2015.)

July 12, 2013: US Airways' planned merger with AMR Corp. was approved by the company's shareholders. The vote, cast after the company's annual general meeting in New York, returned a more than 99 percent approval of the deal, which still had to be approved by AMR's bankruptcy court and U.S. regulators. (See February 13, 2013; August 13, 2013.)

July 15, 2013: A new FAA regulation went into effect requiring a second in command (first officer) in domestic, flag, and supplemental operations to hold an airline transport pilot certificate and an airplane type rating for the aircraft to be flown. An airline transport pilot certificate required a pilot be 23 years of age and have 1,500-hours total time as a pilot. (See December 21, 2011; November 5, 2013.)

July 16, 2013: FAA issued a final policy statement that permitted general aviation airports to enter into residential through-the-fence (RTTF) agreements with property owners or associations representing property owners. To gain access, the property owner was required to pay access charges; bear the cost of building and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to provide access to the airfield; maintain the property for residential, noncommercial use for the duration of the agreement; prohibit airport access from other adjacent or nearby properties; and prohibit any refueling on the property. FAA clarified that sponsors of commercial service airports were not permitted to enter into RTTF arrangements. However, the sponsors of GA airports could enter into such an arrangement if the airport sponsor complied with certain requirements contained in the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. (See February 14, 2012.)

July 19, 2013: FAA issued restricted category type certificates to a pair of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), a milestone leading to the first approved commercial UAS operations later in the summer. The newly certified UAS – Insitu's Scan Eagle X200 and AeroVironment's PUMA – were small UASs weighing less than 55 pounds. Each was about 4 ½ feet long, with wingspans of ten and nine feet, respectively. (See June 19, 2013; September 12, 2013.)

July 25, 2013: FAA issued an airworthiness directive advising airlines to inspect or remove emergency locator transmitters in Boeing's 787 Dreamliner jets. The agency published the directive in the wake of a fire linked to one of the devices. (See June 23, 2013; July 26, 2013.)

July 25, 2013: The new air traffic control tower in Palm Springs, CA, became operational.

July 26, 2013: An aviation rulemaking committee (ARC), convened by FAA recommended a broad range of policy and regulatory changes that could significantly improve the safety of general aviation aircraft while simultaneously reducing certification and modification costs for those aircraft. The committee's recommendations covered the areas of design, production, maintenance, and safety. The ARC's goal was to identify ways to streamline the certification process, making it cheaper and easier for manufacturers to incorporate safety improvements into their products, allow for upgrades to the existing fleet, and provide greater flexibility to incorporate future technological advancements.

July 26, 2013: FAA issued an airworthiness directive (AD) giving Boeing 787 operators 10 days to inspect Honeywell emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) or remove them from service. The AD, triggered by the July 12 fire on an Ethiopian Airlines 787 at London Heathrow Airport, ordered checks of the ELT, its lithium-manganese-dioxide battery, and associated wiring for discrepancies. (See July 25, 2013; September 30, 2013.)

July 31, 2013: A new ground and satellite-based air traffic control system, the wide area multilateration system went into operation at the Telluride airport in Colorado. The Colorado Division of Aeronautics, FAA, and a \$110,000 contribution by the Telluride Regional Airport Authority funded the new system, which allowed controllers to track planes below 12,000 feet all the way to the ground. (See December 3, 2012.)

July 31, 2013: FAA released its draft "Established Practices for Human Space Flight Safety" for public comment. It updated the draft with its "rationale" on September 23, 2013. According to the report's introduction, FAA developed "this document to share our thoughts about established practices for human space flight occupant safety. Ultimately, our goal is to gain the consensus of government, industry, and academia on established practices as part of our mandate to encourage, facilitate, and promote the continuous improvement of the safety of launch and reentry vehicles designed to carry humans. The outcome of this effort may also serve as a starting point for a future rulemaking project." (See April 29, 2013; December 4, 2013; September 16, 2014.)

August 11, 2013: Rockwell Collins announced it had agreed to purchase ARINC, Inc., for \$1.39 billion. The purchase, when completed, would expand Rockwell Collins' aerospace business by combining its avionics and cabin technologies with ARINC's ground-based navigational networks. (See December 2, 1929.)

August 13, 2013: FAA Administrator Michael Huerta announced that ATO COO David Grizzle would be leaving the agency in December. Grizzle's last day at FAA was December 12, 2013. (See April 24, 2011; January 16, 2013; March 21, 2014.)

August 13, 2013: The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a lawsuit claiming the proposed merger between AMR Corp. and US Airways could be illegal on more than 1,000 domestic city pairs and must be dismantled to stop a clique of national carriers

from manipulating services and ticket prices. The lawsuit was jointly filed by Justice, six states, and the District of Columbia. The states included Texas, where AMR was based, and US Airways' home state of Arizona. In a review of the proposed merger, Justice's lawsuit cited numerous public comments and internal communications by senior US Airways executives—some dating to 2006—that it said proved that competition between U.S. airlines would be weakened should the merger be approved. Both airlines reacted immediately, issuing a joint statement calling the DOJ's assessment “wrong,” and stopping “this pro-competitive merger will deny customers access to a broader airline network that gives them more choices.” (See July 12, 2013; October 28, 2013.)

August 14, 2013: UPS Flight 1354, an A300 cargo plane en route from Louisville, KY, to Birmingham, AL, crashed approximately ½-mile north of runway 18 on approach to Birmingham Shuttlesworth International Airport at about 6 am EDT, killing both pilots onboard.

August 14, 2013: NASA Administrator Charles Bolden unveiled a new strategic vision for the agency's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate to align program activities and investments toward progress in six research and technology areas (see May 9, 2013; August 22, 2013):

- Safe, efficient growth in global operations, including NextGen and technologies to improve safety;
- Innovation in commercial supersonic aircraft, including work on lowering sonic boom impacts (See March 30 2020.);
- Ultra-efficient commercial transports, including pioneering technologies for big leaps in efficiency and lessening environmental impacts;
- Transition to low-carbon propulsion and alternative fuels (See June 10, 2013; September 13, 2013.);
- Real-time, system-wide safety assurance, with emphasis on new integrated monitoring technology; and
- Breakthroughs in autonomy with high-impact applications.

August 21, 2013: FAA published its final policy regarding the procedures for aircraft owners and operators to ask FAA to limit the dissemination of their aircraft situation display to industry data. Under the new policy, owners had to document a legitimate security concern to justify the data-blocking. The FAA notice spelled out the exact information needed in the request, such as the aircraft registration number and the requestor's contact information.

August 21, 2013: FAA announced it had installed a new system, time-based flow management (TBFM) at all 20 ARTCCs. TBFM replaced the traffic management advisor. The time-based scheduling tool metered aircraft through all phases of flight to deliver the correct number of aircraft to airspace sectors and down to the runway at the exact pace at which the aircraft could be accommodated.

August 22, 2013: Updates to FAA joint order 7210.3X, the agency's operational guide to air traffic control facility management, took effect. Version three of the guide included a

new paragraph requiring facilities to develop procedures to ensure positive control during opposite-direction operations to reduce the likelihood of aircraft being placed in close proximity in a head-on conflict with high closure rates. Another change addressed the complexity of the risk of operations on closed runways. In another update, the well-used radio prefix “Lifeguard” was being replaced by the term “Medevac.”

August 22, 2013: Federal and State officials dedicated the new south runway at Port Columbus International Airport. FAA funded 63 percent of the \$140 million project.

August 22, 2013: Paul Poberezny, founder of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), died at the age of 91. He started EAA as a club for those who built and restored their own aircraft in 1953, and grew the club into an association with more than 180,000 members.

August 22, 2013: FAA Administrator Michael Huerta announced the selection of Major General Edward L. Bolton, Jr. USAF (Ret.) as the new assistant administrator for NextGen. Bolton began his Air Force career as an enlisted cost and management analyst. He was commissioned in 1983 after completing an electrical engineering degree via the Airmen Education and Commissioning Program and graduating from Officer Training School. He had over twenty years of executive-level experience in acquisition, program management, systems engineering, requirements development, policy development, strategic planning, financial management and congressional engagement. Prior to joining FAA, he has served as the deputy assistant secretary for budget in the office of the assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management and comptroller. He began his FAA duties on September 9. (See August 14, 2013; September 13, 2013.)

August 22, 2013: FAA, working with the Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), issued a final policy for improving workplace safety for aircraft cabin crewmembers. Aircraft cabin safety issues that fell under OSHA standards included information on hazardous chemicals, exposure to blood-borne pathogens, and hearing conservation programs, as well as rules on record-keeping and access to employee exposure and medical records. FAA and OSHA planned to develop procedures to ensure OSHA did not apply any requirements that could adversely affect aviation safety. On August 26, FAA clarified the policy, stating it covered “all aircraft operations that utilize at least one aircraft cabin crewmember” while the aircraft was in operation. Pilots were exempt from the policy. The new policy replaced ones from 1975 and became effective on September 26, 2013. (See November 30, 2012.)

August 28, 2013: As part of a joint research effort with FAA, the Navy, and Army, NASA dropped part of a military helicopter from about 30 feet to test improved seat belts and seats at its Langley, VA, facility. Nearly 40 cameras positioned inside and outside the fuselage recorded the effects on 13 crash dummies. The helicopter hit the ground at about 30 miles per hour under conditions meant to be severe, but survivable. (See July 30, 2003; June 29, 2017.)

September 3, 2013: FAA issued a final rule that prohibited, after December 31, 2015, the operation in the contiguous United States of jet airplanes weighing 75,000 pounds or less that did not meet Stage 3 noise levels as defined in 14 CFR Part 36. Operators of

airplanes that did not comply with Stage 3 noise levels could choose to replace them, or to incorporate noise-reduction technologies that might be available to make the airplanes Stage 3 noise compliant. (See December 4, 2012.)

September 12, 2013: ConocoPhillips made the first commercial flight of an unmanned aircraft. Under a restricted category type certification FAA awarded in July, ConocoPhillips launched an Insitu ScanEagle from the research vessel *Westward Wind* in the Chukchi Sea, part of the Arctic Ocean west of Alaska, to monitor whale migrations and ice flows in the Chukchi Sea. FAA had an agreement with ConocoPhillips to collect data about the UAVs flight operations. (See July 19, 2013; October 15, 2013.)

September 13, 2013: Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx announced the selection of a team of universities to lead a new FAA air transportation center of excellence (COE) for alternate jet fuels and the environment. Led by Washington State University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the COE would explore ways to meet the environmental and energy goals in NextGen. FAA's COE program was a cost-sharing research partnership between academia, industry and the federal government. FAA anticipated providing this COE with \$4 million a year for each of the 10 years of the program. Core team partners included Boston University, Oregon State University, Purdue University, the University of Dayton, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Washington, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Georgia Institute of Technology, Pennsylvania State University, Stanford University, the University of Hawaii, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Tennessee. (See August 14, 2013; August 22, 2013; September 18, 2013; December 3, 2013.)

September 15, 2013: FAA began operations in the new, \$33 million, 268-foot, air traffic control tower at the Boise Airport. The new tower replaced a 40-year old, 65-foot tall control tower. The new tower also housed a new TRACON. City officials formally dedicated the tower on November 17, 2013.

September 17, 2013: FAA issued an airworthiness directive (AD) identical to the August 26 Transport Canada Civil Aviation directive which required airlines to inspect Honeywell emergency locator transmitters by January 14, 2014, to prevent an electrical short and possible ignition source. The AD affected about 4,000 airplanes at a total cost of approximately \$325,720.

September 18, 2013: Richard Stockton College of New Jersey announced the college's board had authorized a three-year agreement making the aviation research park being planned near FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center an auxiliary organization of the college. The move was made in part due to a FAA request that the park, a registered nonprofit organization, find a stable development partner for the project first announced eight years ago. Long known as the NextGen Aviation Research and Technology Park, the college eliminated "NextGen" from the park's name, instead calling it the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park. (See October 19, 2009.)

September 18, 2013: FAA's national enterprise management center moved into its new building in Salt Lake City. FAA established two such centers two decades ago in Atlanta

and Salt Lake City to house redundant operations systems that collect and distribute weather data and flight plans, manage telecommunications, and host the network security gateways for external stakeholders and international users. FAA completed a new Atlanta facility in January 2011.

September 19, 2013: FAA dedicated a new air traffic control tower at Palm Springs International Airport. The \$24.5 million project — paid for, in part, with \$13.9 million in federal stimulus funds — got underway in June 2010. It replaced the control tower built in 1967.

September 20, 2013: FAA announced Ukraine complied with international safety standards set by ICAO, based on the results of a July FAA review. FAA upgraded Ukraine to Category 1 from the Category 2 safety rating the country received from FAA in June 2005. With the Category 1 rating, Ukraine's air carriers could add flights and service to the United States and carry the code of U.S. carriers. (See November 1, 2012; January 31, 2014.)

September 27, 2013: A United Airlines pilot suffered a fatal heart attack while flying en route from Houston to Seattle. He was 63 years old. The co-pilot safely landed the plane.

September 30, 2013: An advisory panel established by FAA to provide recommendations on the use of electronic devices on airplanes delivered its recommendations to the agency. The panel said airline passengers should be allowed to use their personal electronic devices to read, play games, or enjoy movies and music, even when planes were on the ground or flying below 10,000 feet. The panel said restrictions should remain on sending text messages, browsing the Web or checking e-mail after the plane's doors have been closed. Passengers should do that only when the aircraft's Wi-Fi network is turned on, typically above 10,000 feet. The use of cellphones to make voice calls, which was not part of the review, would still be prohibited throughout the flight. (See August 27, 2012; October 31, 2013.)

September 30, 2013: General Dynamics announced FAA had awarded it a \$12 million task order to provide engineering, software design and development, infrastructure, and administrative support to the NextGen integration and evaluation capability laboratory at the William J. Hughes Technical Center. FAA awarded the task order under its system engineering 2020 program, awarded to General Dynamics in 2010. (See September 13, 2013; October 31, 2013.)

September 30, 2013: Boeing Commercial Airplanes Marketing Vice President Randy Tinseth acknowledged ongoing reliability issues with the 787 Dreamliner at a press conference in Santiago, Chile. The aircraft had suffered an assortment of electrical and safety issues, the latest of which occurred on September 29 when a 787 operated by Poland's carrier LOT had to land unexpectedly in Iceland because of a problem with the plane's identification system. Over the same weekend, Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA grounded a brand new 787 Dreamliner and demanded Boeing repair it after it suffered repeated breakdowns. Tinseth said the process of improving reliability could be a long one, but said the reliability of the 787 was better than 95 percent. (See July 26, 2013; November 22, 2013.)

September 30, 2013: DOT issued a notice of proposed rulemaking seeking comments on four new proposals to strengthen the legal protections provided to consumers of charter air transportation. First, the proposal would require air taxis and commuter air carriers that sell charter air transportation, but rely on others to perform that air transportation, to make certain consumer disclosures as recommended by NTSB. This proposal would also create a new class of indirect air carriers to be called “air charter brokers” to provide as principals single entity charter air transportation of passengers aboard large and small aircraft. In addition, the proposal would codify the exemption authority granted to indirect air carriers to engage in the sale of air transportation related to air ambulance services. Finally, it would make clear and codify certain air services performed under contract with the Federal Government are in common carriage. The public had until November 29, 2013, to provide comments.

September 30, 2013: During the fiscal year that ended on this date, FAA installed 25 new aviation weather cameras in Alaska, bringing the total of installed cameras to 215. (See March 25, 2011.)

October 1, 2013: FAA discontinued direct-to-the-public individual sales of paper aeronautical charts and related paper products. FAA’s aeronautical paper products were now available through authorized sales chart agents. (See November 22, 2013.)

October 1, 2013: The lack of fiscal year 2014 appropriations resulted in a partial government shutdown. The shutdown led to about 15,500 of the approximately 46,000 FAA employees being furloughed. Late on October 16, Congress passed and the President signed early on October 17 a continuing resolution funding the government through January 15. Employees began returning to work on October 17. Prior to the furlough ending, FAA had recalled approximately 3,000 safety inspectors. (See May 9, 2013; See December 22, 2018.)

October 15, 2013: Applied Research Associates Inc. (ARA) announced FAA had issued its Nighthawk IV micro-unmanned aircraft system a special airworthiness certificate, which would allow potential customers to apply for agency approval to operate the 2-lb. aircraft in the national airspace. Capable of being operated by one or two personnel, the Nighthawk IV could be hand-launched or launched from a tube. The vehicle flew autonomously while the operator directed the route using a touchpad display. Only four hours of training were required before an operator could conduct a flight, according to ARA. (See September 12, 2013; November 7, 2013.)

October 15, 2013: Air travel provider De Pere, Wisconsin-based MetJet informed the Department of Transportation it planned to cease operations on October 26. MetJet offered flights from Austin Straubel International Airport in Ashwaubenon, WI, to Orlando and Fort Meyers, FL. MetJet’s contracted airline, Sun Country, did not cease operations.

October 17, 2013: A 10,800-foot runway opened at O’Hare International Airport as part of a larger expansion project. The new runway, 10 Center/28 Center, became the airport’s only airstrip capable of accommodating the largest planes in the commercial fleet – the

Airbus A380 and the Boeing 747-8 Intercontinental. (See November 20, 2005; October 15, 2015.)

October 21, 2013: United Airlines announced plans to equip up to 397 of its aircraft over the next six years with avionics equipment necessary to provide the pilot-to-controller digital communications under the FAA NextGen data comm avionics equipage program. United became the first carrier to commit to such equipage. On September 20, 2012, FAA awarded Harris Corp., a \$331 million data communications integrated services contract as part of the NextGen airspace modernization initiative. Among other things, the contract called for a data comm avionics equipage program, an \$80 million fund to encourage equipping a minimum of 1,900 aircraft during the course of the first six years of the contract for the future air navigation systems (FANS) 1/A. (See September 30, 2013.)

October 22, 2013: Chilton County Airport (Alabama) held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of a \$2.6 million project that included a new runway lighting system, a resurfaced runway, the installation of a new hangar housing 10 airplanes, and the clearing of six parcels of land to extend the runway to 4,000 feet. FAA and Alabama grants funded the project.

October 22, 2013: NOAA's office of coast survey announced starting April 13, the federal government would no longer print traditional lithographic (paper) nautical charts, but would continue to provide other forms of nautical charts, including print on demand charts and versions for electronic charting systems. While NOAA had the job of creating and maintaining the charts, beginning in 1999, FAA became responsible for printing them. FAA informed NOAA earlier in October it planned to stop printing the charts. FAA based its decision on several factors, including the declining demand for lithographic charts, the increasing use of digital and electronic charts, and federal budget realities. (See October 1, 2013.)

October 25, 2013: DOT fined United Airlines \$1.1 million for 13 weather-related lengthy tarmac delays that took place at Chicago-O'Hare International Airport on July 13, 2012. DOT ordered the airline to cease and desist from future violations of the tarmac-delay rule. This was the largest fine assessed for a tarmac-delay violation since the rule limiting long tarmac delays first took effect in April 2010. Of the \$1.1 million, United would pay the United States \$475,000; the remainder covered mitigation measures for affected passengers and significant corrective actions by United to enhance future compliance with tarmac delay requirements.

October 28, 2013: American Airlines, US Airways, and the U.S. Justice Department said in a court filing they had agreed to use a mediator to try to settle the government's lawsuit against the airlines' proposed merger. If mediation failed, a trial would begin on November 25. The court filing also noted most of the discovery in the case had been completed, with the airlines producing more than 1.3 million documents and the Justice Department producing 900,000 documents. The Justice Department argued the merger would lead to higher fares, reduced competition, and a cut in services to smaller cities. American Airlines and US Airways said the merger would help them better compete with other airlines that have grown bigger through mergers of their own. Separately, the judge

hearing the government's antitrust case granted the request of four airports dominated by American and US Airways — Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, Charlotte Douglas International Airport, Phoenix Sky Harbor International and Philadelphia International Airport — the chance to file friend-of-the-court briefs in support of the merger. (See August 13, 2013; November 12, 2013.)

October 31, 2013: FAA Administrator Michael Huerta announced the agency would allow airlines to permit passenger use of portable electronic devices (PEDs) during all phases of flight, and provided airlines with implementation guidance. The guidance helped airlines assess the risks of potential PED-induced avionics problems for their airplanes and specific operations. Before allowing use of PEDs, airlines had to evaluate avionics as well as changes to stowage rules and passenger announcements. Each airline had to revise manuals, checklists for crewmember training materials, carry-on baggage programs, and passenger briefings before expanding use of PEDs. FAA then had to certify PED use for each model of airplane in an airline's fleet. Each airline determined how and when they would allow passengers broader use of PEDs. FAA did not consider changing the regulations regarding the use of cell phones for voice communications during flight because the issue was under the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). On November 8, FAA approved JetBlue Airways and Delta Airlines use of PEDs, and, on November 3, approved American Airlines. By November 15, Alaska Airlines and United Airlines had joined the list of airlines approved for PED use. (See September 30, 2013; February 11, 2014.)

November 1, 2013: The City of McKinney, Texas, took over operations at Collin County Regional Airport, a general aviation airport established in 1979. The change included a new city-operated fixed base operator, McKinney Air Center. On November 6, the McKinney City Council approved changing the name of the airport to McKinney National Airport.

November 4, 2013: DOT fined US Airways \$1.2 million for failing to provide adequate wheelchair assistance to passengers in Philadelphia, PA, and Charlotte, NC. The fine was one of the largest ever assessed by DOT in a disability case. Under DOT's rules implementing the Air Carrier Access Act, airlines had to provide free, prompt wheelchair assistance upon request to passengers with disabilities. This included helping passengers to move between gates and make connections to other flights.

November 4, 2013: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced DOT, as part of its ongoing effort to ensure equal access to air transportation for all travelers, now required airline websites and automated airport kiosks to be accessible to passengers with disabilities. In addition, DOT allowed airlines to choose between stowing wheelchairs in a cabin compartment on new aircraft or strapping them to a row of seats, an option that would ensure two manual, folding wheelchairs could be transported at a time. The new rules were part of DOT's continuing implementation of the Air Carrier Access Act of 1986. (See May 7, 2008.)

November 5, 2013: FAA issued a final rule to improve pilot training. The rule stemmed in part from the tragic crash of Colgan Air 3407 in February 2009, and addressed a congressional mandate in the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration

Extension Act of 2010 to ensure enhanced pilot training. The rule was one of several rulemakings required by the act, including the requirements to prevent pilot fatigue that was finalized in December 2011, and the increased qualification requirements for first officers who fly U.S. passenger and cargo planes that was issued on July 15, 2013 (see that date). The final rule required:

- ground and flight training enabling pilots to prevent and recover from aircraft stalls and upsets. These new training standards will impact future simulator standards as well (See December 3, 2014);
- air carriers to use data to track remedial training for pilots with performance deficiencies, such as failing a proficiency check or unsatisfactory performance during flight training;
- training for more effective pilot monitoring;
- enhanced runway safety procedures; and
- expanded crosswind training, including training for wind gusts.

November 7, 2013: FAA released its first annual roadmap outlining efforts needed to safely integrate unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the nation's airspace. The plan outlined FAA's approach to ensuring widespread UAS use was safe, from the perspective of accommodation, integration, and evolution. FAA planned to establish requirements that UAS operators would have to meet to increase access to airspace over the next five to 10 years. The roadmap discussed items such as new or revised regulations, policies, procedures, guidance material, training and understanding of systems, and operations to support routine UAS operations. (See October 15, 2013; December 30, 2013.)

November 12, 2013: The Justice Department and American Airlines and US Airways settled the lawsuit brought by the Justice Department over the merger of the two airlines. The DOJ filed papers in U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia to announce the settlement that avoided a trial scheduled to start November 25. Under the terms of the settlement, the airlines agreed to sell 104 takeoff and landing slots at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington, 34 slots at La Guardia Airport in New York, and two gates each at Boston's Logan airport, O'Hare, Dallas Love Field, Los Angeles, and Miami. A judge overseeing American Airlines' bankruptcy proceeding approved the merger settlement on November 27. The two airlines continued to operate separately until FAA approved unified operations. (See October 28, 2013; December 7, 2013.)

November 14, 2013: FAA certificated the Learjet 75, a light business jet with a maximum range greater than 2,000 nautical miles at cruise speeds up to Mach 0.81. The Learjet 75 aircraft could fly four passengers and two crew members non-stop from Los Angeles to Toronto and Mumbai to Bangkok. Additionally, it was able to handle a range close to 1,950 nautical miles with eight passengers.

November 19, 2013: In an editorial published in FAA's *Federal Air Surgeon's Medical Bulletin*, Federal Air Surgeon Fred Tilton said the agency would soon implement a new policy on obstructive sleep apnea. In particular, airmen and air traffic controllers with a body mass index of 40 or more would have to be evaluated by a physician board certified as a sleep specialist. Anyone diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnea would then have to undergo treatment before being medically certificated. The policy resulted in growing

criticism from the aviation community, and a bill introduced in the House of Representatives to prevent FAA from implementing new rules pertaining to pilots with sleep apnea without adhering to the normal rulemaking process. On December 20, the *Wall Street Journal* reported FAA had put the policy on hold, while it worked with aviation stakeholder groups to provide clear guidance on the agency's plan and FAA planned to pursue a new approach to help physicians diagnose sleep disorders. (See January 23, 2015.)

November 21, 2013: FAA released a 279-page report that noted, although flying has never been safer, pilot confusion or inattention to cockpit automation has raised concerns in fatal crashes. "Pilots sometimes rely too much on automated systems and may be reluctant to intervene," the report said. The use of technology for calculations and managing flights "is increasing, including implementations that may result in errors and confusion." The report made 18 recommendations to improve safety. Beyond the recommendations in the cockpit-automation report, FAA Administrator Huerta announced FAA would establish a joint government and industry air carrier training steering group early in 2014 to prioritize outstanding recommendations from a variety of sources. He also asked participants at an industry meeting to provide him with the top five focus areas to improve air carrier training. Huerta wanted the new steering group, comprised of safety experts from the airlines, crew-member unions, government and the aviation community, to consider the recommended focus areas as the first order of business when it convened.

November 22, 2013: FAA dedicated a new, 236-foot tall air traffic control tower at Oakland International Airport. A \$33.2 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant helped pay for constructing the tower and a 14,000-square-foot base building. The grant was FAA's largest single ARRA award. The new control tower replaced two air traffic control towers that served Oakland International Airport for more than 40 years. A 158-foot-tall tower on the southern portion of the airfield was built in 1962 as a part of a terminal expansion project. In 1972, construction of a large hangar blocked some views from the south tower, requiring the Port of Oakland to build a second tower to handle traffic on the north runways. The total cost of the new tower, including site preparation, electronics, air traffic control equipment, utilities, and installation of equipment was \$51 million. (See October 15, 2010.)

November 22, 2013: Boeing issued a notice urging carriers to avoid flying 747-8 and 787 Dreamliner planes with engines made by General Electric at high altitude within 50 nautical miles of thunderstorms that might contain ice crystals. The move followed six incidents from April to November involving five 747-8s and one 787 when aircraft powered by GE's GENx engines suffered temporary loss of thrust while flying at high altitude. The problem was caused by a build-up of ice crystals, initially just behind the front fan, said a GE spokesman, adding that all of the aircraft landed at their planned destinations safely. (See September 30, 2013; November 27, 2013.)

November 27, 2013: FAA issued an airworthiness directive requiring airlines that operated Boeing 787s and 747s with GE engines steer clear of thunderstorms with clouds more than 60 miles across. FAA reported it knew of nine instances where ice was sucked

into an engine causing it to lose power and two of those incidents caused engine damage. (See November 22, 2013; March 19, 2014.)

November 23, 2013: China declared an East China Sea Air Identification Zone, and said unannounced flight in the area would face “defensive emergency measures.” On November 29, the U.S. State Department issued a statement saying U.S. airlines should respect a Chinese order to notify Beijing of flights through international airspace where the country recently claimed jurisdiction.

November 25, 2013: Officials at Barnes Regional Airport in Westfield, MA, opened a new \$13.5 million runway. The project, announced in July with groundbreaking in August, was financed with \$8.7 million in federal funds toward the total \$20 million job that, in addition to the runway, included auxiliary lighting and concrete pads for the F-15 jets.

November 27, 2013: President Barack Obama signed the Small Airplane Revitalization Act of 2013 into law. The legislation directed FAA to issue a final rule to advance the safety and continued development of small airplanes by reorganizing the certification requirements to streamline the approval of safety advancements. It also required the final rule to meet certain consensus-based standards and FAA Part 23 Reorganization Aviation Rulemaking Committee objectives, including: (1) establishment of a regulatory regime for small airplane safety; (2) the establishment of broad, outcome-driven objectives that would spur small plane innovation and technology adoption; (3) the replacement of current, prescriptive requirements under Part 23 with performance-based regulations; and (4) the use of FAA-accepted consensus standards to clarify how Part 23 safety objectives may be met using specific small plane safety designs and technologies.

November 29, 2013: Evergreen International Airlines, Inc., a cargo airline based in McMinnville, Oregon, ceased operations because of financial difficulties. The airline flew its final flight on December 2, from Travis Air Force Base in California to Victorville, California.

December 3, 2013: Shell announced it had become the first major oil company to develop a lead-free replacement for aviation gasoline (Avgas 100 and 100LL). The formulation was successfully evaluated in industry laboratory engine (bench) tests by Lycoming and in a flight test by Piper. Shell planned to engage the aviation industry, regulators, and authorities, including FAA, American Society for Testing and Materials, and European Aviation Safety Agency to obtain approvals for the unleaded Avgas. Shell also planned to work with other engine manufacturers to continue the testing and refinement program as the approvals process progressed. (See September 13, 2013; September 8, 2014.)

December 4, 2013: Pam Underwood, FAA deputy division manager at Kennedy Space Center, announced NASA astronauts would fly as “space flight participants” aboard commercial spaceships being developed to taxi crews to and from the international space station. FAA’s definition of crew required them to be employees of the licensee or subcontractor licensee. NASA astronauts are neither, so they would fly under the category of space flight participant, under current FAA regulations. The ruling did not limit the scope of the work government-employed astronauts could perform aboard

commercial space taxis, including piloting the vehicle, aborting launch if necessary, overseeing emergency response, and monitoring and operating environmental controls and life support systems. (See August 14, 2013.)

December 7, 2013: A consumer group, concerned the American Airlines and US Airways merger would lead to increased fares and fewer choices for fliers, filed for an emergency stay to block the merger in a federal appeals court in New York. When the court denied the stay, the group appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg declined to hear the stay request. (See November 12, 2013; December 9, 2013.)

December 9, 2013: FAA renewed Spaceport America's license to host suborbital and horizontal rocket launches. The renewal became effective on December 15 and would last through December 15, 2018. (See December 15, 2013.)

December 9, 2013: American Airlines exited bankruptcy and completed its merger with US Airways. The merged company, with its new stock symbol, AAL, began trading on the NASDAQ. (See December 7, 2013; October 20, 2014.)

December 10, 2013: The New York ARTCC became the last of FAA's three oceanic control areas to implement reduced oceanic separation standards for aircraft that used advanced navigation technology and fly satellite-based routes. To qualify for the standards, planes traveling through the control area had to have:

- FANS-1/A avionics, which enabled controllers to communicate clearances to pilots, pilots to submit requests to controllers, and controllers to track aircraft positions;
- Controller-pilot data link communications, or CPDLC, which streamlined conversations between pilots and controllers via text messages;
- Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Contract, or ADS-C, which reported flight positions to the center within approved timeframes

The Ocean21 automation system at the ARTCC collected data from the aircraft's equipment so controllers knew what each aircraft could do, its location, flight path, and any potential future conflicts. Controllers could then separate qualified pairs of planes by either 30 nautical miles lateral and longitudinal or 50 nautical miles lateral and longitudinal. The 30/30 standard was applied to flights that used a category of navigation known as RNP-4. The 50/50 standard was for plane pairings that used RNP-10. RNP is short for required navigation performance, a term for procedures that used satellites to guide aircraft on more precise flight paths.

December 11, 2013: The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's aviation subcommittee tasked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) with evaluating foreign civil aviation authority certification processes to see if any lessons learned could benefit both FAA's process and U.S. manufacturers. GAO's study would cover four areas: how FAA certification compared to foreign counterparts; general lessons learned; challenges U.S. manufacturers had with foreign certification; and how FAA addressed foreign challenges to U.S. approvals. (See May 3, 2013; September 15, 2014.)

December 13, 2013: FAA awarded airworthiness certification to the HondaJet HF 120 engine built by GE Honda Aero Engines.

December 15, 2013: FAA contract controllers began operations in the new \$2.8 million air traffic control tower at the Mesquite Metro Airport in Mesquite, Texas.

December 30, 2013: FAA announced the selection of the six public entities to develop UAS research and test sites around the country. These congressionally-mandated test sites would conduct critical research into the certification and operational requirements necessary to safely integrate UAS into the national airspace over the next several years. The sites included: University of Alaska; State of Nevada; New York's Griffiss International Airport; North Dakota Department of Commerce; Texas A&M University; and Virginia Tech. (See November 7, 2013; April 21, 2014.)

2014

January 4, 2014: FAA's new pilot rules (FAR 117) went into effect. Under the new rules, non-cargo pilots had to have at least 10 hours of rest between shifts, of which 8 hours had to involve uninterrupted sleep. In addition, pilots were only allowed to fly for 8 or 9 hours depending on their start times. (See December 21, 2011.)

January 10, 2014: Virgin Galactic successfully completed the third rocket-powered supersonic flight of its passenger-carrying reusable space vehicle, SpaceShipTwo. The spacecraft ascended to a record-breaking height of 71,000 feet, at a maximum speed of Mach 1.4. (See April 29, 2013; October 31, 2014; December 13, 2018.)

January 11, 2014: FAA and the Academy of Model Aeronautics signed a memorandum of agreement to work jointly to ensure the continued safe operation of model aircraft in the national airspace system (NAS). (See June 19, 2013; January 2014; June 23, 2014.)

January 13, 2014: Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx appointed 10 new members to the FAA Management Advisory Council (MAC). The new members included: Steve Alterman, president, Cargo Airline Association; Bill Ayer, former chairman, Alaska Air Group; Montie Brewer, former president and CEO, Air Canada; Ray Conner, vice chairman, The Boeing Co., and president and CEO, Boeing Commercial Airplanes; Craig Fuller, president, the Fuller Co. and former president, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Jane Garvey, Meridiam Infrastructure/MITRE board member and former FAA administrator; Mayor Michael Hancock, City of Denver, CO.; Lee Moak, president, Air Line Pilots Association; John "Jack" Potter, president and CEO, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority; and, Gwynne Shotwell, president and COO, Space X. Created by the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996, the MAC met quarterly to assess and advise FAA on carrying out its aviation safety and air travel efficiency mission. Panel members served three-year terms in a volunteer capacity and retained their private sector positions. By law the MAC has 13 members. The new appointments joined the three incumbent council members: Department of Transportation Acting Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez; Department of Defense Brig. Gen. Steven M Shepro; and Paul Rinaldi, president, National Air Traffic Controllers Association. (See July 11, 2001.)

January 17, 2014: President Barrack Obama signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (PL 113-76), which, among other things, eliminated funding for the joint planning and development office (JPDO). FAA had established the office in 2003 under the Vision 100-Century of Aviation legislation that launched the NextGen modernization program. Karlin Toner, who headed the JPDO, became FAA's director of global strategy within FAA's office of policy, international affairs, and environment. In May 2014, FAA created a new interagency office to coordinate federal investment in the NextGen modernization effort following the elimination of the JPDO. FAA said it established an interagency planning office to replace the JPDO under the direction of Gisele Mohler. Consisting of employees from FAA and other federal agencies, the new office "will plan, identify and prioritize key multi-agency research to drive consensus in the development of investment choices and decisions related to NextGen. Part of its mission is to improve efficiencies, reduce redundancy and ensure compatibility across federal agencies, while pooling resources and investments." (See February 26, 2010; September 23, 2011.)

January 21, 2014: Per language in the 2014 omnibus spending bill signed by President Obama on January 17, DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration became the new Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology.

January 29, 2014: FAA announced in a *Federal Register* notice it had combined two divisions – the aircraft engineering division with the production and airworthiness division – to create the design, manufacturing, and airworthiness division within its office of aviation safety. The new group, which assumed the old engineering division's AIR-100 designation, had five branches: certification and procedures, technical and administrative support, systems and equipment standards, operational oversight and policy, and systems performance and development.

January 31, 2014: FAA down-graded India's aviation-safety ranking from Category 1 to Category 2 because of safety deficiencies. The Category 2 rating signified India's civil aviation safety oversight regime did not comply with ICAO safety standards. It also prohibited any new Indian carriers from starting service to the U.S. and opened up India's aircraft to additional inspections from FAA. (See September 20, 2013; April 8, 2015.)

January 2014: Colorado banned the use of drones in hunting; Montana followed suit in February. Idaho and Wisconsin had already included drones in their current prohibitions against the use of aircraft for hunting. (See January 11, 2014; March 7, 2014.)

January 2014: FAA announced Ethiopia had passed the agency's five-day-long safety audit, allowing the country to keep its Category 1 safety status. (See January 31, 2014; March 7, 2014; February 4, 2015.)

February 5, 2014: FAA simplified design approval requirements for a cockpit instrument called an angle of attack (AOA) indicator. AOA devices, common on military and large civil aircraft, could be added to small planes to supplement airspeed indicators and stall warning systems, alerting pilots of a low airspeed condition before a dangerous aerodynamic stall occurred, especially during takeoff and landing. An angle of attack

represents the angle between a plane's wing and the oncoming air. If the angle of attack became too great, the wing could lose lift. If a pilot failed to recognize and correct the situation, a stall could lead to loss of control of the aircraft and an abrupt loss of altitude.

February 6, 2014: Aviation Partners Boeing announced it had received supplemental type certification (STC) from FAA for split scimitar winglets to be installed on Boeing 737-800 aircraft. The company planned to develop and certify the split scimitar winglet modification for all the Boeing 737-700, -800, and -900 series aircraft, including Boeing Business Jets. On February 19, United Airlines became the first U.S. airline to use the split scimitar winglets on commercial flights. The new winglet design demonstrated significant aircraft drag reduction over the basic blended winglet, which resulted in a 2.5 percent fuel savings. On October 10, the company announced it had received FAA STC covering the installation of the new winglets on three additional configurations of the Boeing 727-800. FAA approved use of the winglets on all Boeing 737-800 and 737-900ER aircraft.

February 10, 2014: FAA certified Ohana by Hawaiian, Hawaiian Airlines' new turboprop subsidiary. Ohana planned to enter the inter-island market with flights between Honolulu International Airport and Molokai on March 11 and between Oahu and Lanai on March 18.

February 10, 2014: Microsoft announced it received FAA authorization for Surface 2 tablets to be used as electronic flight bags. (See June 26, 2013.)

February 10, 2014: FAA launched a 10-day campaign to recruit air traffic controller (ATC) trainees. Candidates had to have a high school diploma or three years work experience. FAA's collegiate training initiative (CTI) program graduates had to reapply under the new program. All applicants had to pass the normal ATC aptitude test (AT-SAT), as well as a new biographical test. In addition, a single vacancy announcement would be used for all applicant sources, and a single nationwide referral list would be generated containing all candidates who met the qualification standards and passed the assessments. Location preferences would no longer be used as a determining factor for referral or selection. Centralized selection panels would no longer be convened to make selection from the referral list. Selection would now be fully automated, grouping candidate by assessment scores and veteran's preference. FAA notified the 36 CTI schools of the impending change on December 30, 2014, and held a telecon with the schools on January 8, 2014, to discuss the changes. The changes in hiring policy came after FAA released a barrier analysis of air traffic control hiring in April 2013. (See March 7, 2007; April 4, 2010.)

February 11, 2014: FAA issued a final rule prohibiting flightcrew members in operations under Part 121 from using a personal wireless communications device or laptop computer for personal use while at their duty station on the flight deck when the aircraft was being operated. The rule became effective on April 14, 2014. (See October 31, 2013.)

February 13, 2014: A federal judge threw out Santa Monica's lawsuit to wrest control of its airport from the U.S. government. Santa Monica sued in October 2013 to free itself from a 1948 agreement that transferred ownership of the property and its 5,000-foot runway back to the city after World War II on the condition that it remain an airport unless the government approved a change in use. The judge ruled Santa Monica had 12 years under the Quiet Title Act to sue to gain unconditional ownership, but that time had expired by 1960. The judge's decision threw out another contention that the government's control of the airport amounted to an illegal taking of municipal property without just compensation. The judge noted the city failed to first seek compensation in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. On March 25, the Santa Monica City Council voted 6-0 in favor of a plan to take control of the city-owned portion of Santa Monica Airport, and voted to "scale back flight operations, cut the 5,000-foot runway by 2,000 feet, and reduce aviation related services." The Council was open to repaying a \$250,000 grant and prepared for additional legal battles to take control over the site and its use. FAA repeated its position that Santa Monica was required to operate the airport unless the agency granted a change.

February 19, 2014: FAA Administrator Michael Huerta unveiled his four strategic initiatives at a FAA-wide town hall event. He noted that while the transformational agenda would span beyond the next four years, he expected to see significant progress toward the vision in that timeframe. The four initiatives were titled: risk-based decision making; the NAS; global leadership; and workforce of the future. (See September 30, 2003.)

February 20, 2014: FAA issued a final rule requiring helicopter operators, including air ambulances, to have stricter flight rules and procedures, improved communications, training, and additional on-board safety equipment. Under the new rule, all Part 135 helicopter operators were required to:

- Equip their helicopters with radio altimeters.
- Have occupants wear life preservers.
- Equip helicopters with a 406 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) when a helicopter is operated beyond power-off glide distance from the shore.
- Use higher weather minimums when identifying an alternate airport in a flight plan.
- Require pilots be tested to handle flat-light, whiteout, and brownout conditions and demonstrate competency in recovery from an inadvertent encounter with instrument meteorological conditions.

In addition, all air ambulance operators were required to:

- Equip with Helicopter Terrain Awareness and Warning Systems (HTAWS).
- Equip with a flight data monitoring system within four years.
- Establish operations control centers if they are certificate holders with 10 or more helicopter air ambulances.
- Institute pre-flight risk-analysis programs.
- Ensure their pilots-in-command hold an instrument rating.

- Ensure pilots identify and document the highest obstacle along the planned route before departure.
- Comply with Visual Flight Rules (VFR) weather minimums, Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations at airports/heliports without weather reporting, procedures for VFR approaches, and VFR flight planning.
- Conduct the flight using Part 135 weather requirements and flight crew time limitation and rest requirements when medical personnel are on board.
- Conduct safety briefings or training for medical personnel.

The rule was to be effective on April 22, 2014. On April 17, 2014, FAA extended the deadline to April 22, 2015, after the agency determined the rule's original effective date did not provide adequate time for affected certificate holders to implement the new requirements. (See October 12, 2010.)

March 4, 2014: FAA issued a final rule adopting more stringent noise certification standards for helicopters certificated in the U.S. The rule applied to applications for a new helicopter type design. It also allowed applicants to upgrade Stage 1 and Stage 2 helicopters to Stage 3 when applying for a supplemental type certificate. A helicopter type-certificated under this standard would be designated as a Stage 3 helicopter. This rule adopted the same noise certification standards for helicopters that existed in ICAO standards. The effective date of the new regulation was May 5, 2014. (September 18, 2013.)

March 7, 2014: FAA issued a notice appealing a March 6 decision by an NTSB Administrative Law Judge in the civil penalty case *Huerta v. Pirker*. That decision dismissed a proposed civil penalty for unauthorized use of an unmanned aircraft system. FAA proposed a \$10,000 civil penalty in August 2011 against Raphael Pirker for acting as pilot-in-command of a Ritewing Zephyr UAS for compensation without possessing a pilot certificate. FAA further charged the UAS was operated "in a careless or reckless manner so as to endanger the life or property of another." Pirker appealed the decision to NTSB, arguing there was no valid rule in the federal aviation regulations covering model aircraft flight operations. While FAA argued model aircraft by definition were aircraft, NTSB said such an "interpretive argument would lead to a conclusion that those definitions include as an aircraft all types of devices/contrivances intended for, or used for, flight in the air." The extension of that conclusion would then result in the risible argument that a flight in the air of, e.g., a paper aircraft, or a toy balsa wood glider, could subject the 'operator' to the regulatory provisions of FAA Part 91." FAA appealed the decision to the full NTSB, which had the effect of staying the decision until the full NTSB ruled. The agency expressed concern that the decision could impact the safe operation of the national airspace system and the safety of people and property on the ground. On April 7, FAA filed its administrator's appeal brief with NTSB. (See January 2014; November 18, 2014.)

March 7, 2014: FAA granted the Republic of Azerbaijan a Category 1 rating for aviation safety after an assessment determined it complied with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) safety standards. The country previously did not hold an

international aviation safety assessment rating and no carrier of Azerbaijan had provided service to the U.S. According to a FAA statement, the Republic of Azerbaijan's air carriers could now add flights and service to the U.S. and carry the code of U.S. carriers. (See January 2014; April 10, 2014.)

March 8, 2014: Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, a Boeing 777, disappeared en route to Beijing with 239 people on board. On May 1, as the search for the missing plane continued in the Indian Ocean, the Malaysian government issued a preliminary report on the plane's disappearance. The five-page report included the recordings of communication between the flight-crew and air traffic controllers, which appeared routine. It also noted that it took four hours for the Malaysian search and rescue center to be activated from the time Vietnam told Malaysia the plane was missing.

March 12, 2014: NTSB Chairwoman Deborah Hersman announced she would be leaving the agency on April 24 to become president and CEO of the National Safety Council.

March 19, 2014: FAA released the findings of a review team formed in January 2013 to review the Boeing 787's design, manufacture, and assembly processes. The joint team of FAA and Boeing technical experts found the aircraft soundly designed, met its intended safety level, and the manufacturer and FAA had effective processes in place to identify and correct issues that emerged before and after certification. The team identified issues in the manufacturing and supplier quality areas and made four recommendations to Boeing, including the need to: continue to implement and mature gated design and production processes; ensure suppliers were fully aware of their responsibilities; establish a way to ensure suppliers identified realistic program risks; and required its suppliers to follow industry standards for personnel performing Boeing-required inspections. The team made parallel recommendations to FAA for improved, risk-based FAA oversight to account for new business models. The team recommended FAA should: revise its order on certificate management of manufacturers to recognize new aircraft manufacturing business models; revise its order on production approval procedures to more fully address complex, large-scale manufacturers with extended supply chains; and revise other orders to ensure engineering conformity inspections for all projects are based on risk. Based on the team's recommendations, FAA planned to revise its policies, orders, and procedures: to use risk tools to ensure manufacturing surveillance was conducted at the highest risk facilities; to assess risks related to emerging technologies, complex manufacturing processes, and supply chain management; and to make engineering conformity determinations using standardized, risk-based criteria. (See November 27, 2013; May 28, 2014.)

March 20, 2014: FAA issued its second study of general aviation (GA) airports called "ASSET 2: In-Depth Review of the 497 Unclassified Airports." The original ASSET, study completed in 2012, categorized nearly 3,000 GA airports into four areas: national, regional, local, and basic. In addition, the study defined the vital and diverse roles small airports play in the national air transportation system. However, 497 airports did not fit into a category under the original study. In January 2013, FAA began working with airport sponsors, state aviation offices, and industry stakeholders to conduct an in-depth

review of the unclassified airports to consider all available information. As a result, FAA placed 212 airports into one of the four categories. The study also discovered four airports closed to the public or no longer serving as active airfields. The remaining 281 airports were unable to meet minimum criteria for an existing category. Although the agency could not determine a federal role for these airports, they remained in the national plan of integrated airport systems (NPIAS) plan as unclassified. FAA planned to monitor their activity level and role for possible changes.

March 21, 2014: FAA extended the expiration date of the prohibition of flight operations within the Tripoli Flight Information Region (FIR) by all U.S. air carriers; U.S. commercial operators; and persons exercising the privileges of an airman certificate issued by FAA, except when such persons operated a U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier. FAA believed the extension of the expiration date to March 21, 2015, necessary to prevent a potential hazard to persons and aircraft engaged in such flight operations. (See March 20, 2015.)

March 21, 2014: FAA Administrator Michael Huerta announced he had selected acting ATO COO Teri Bristol as the new ATO COO. Prior to this appointment she had served as deputy COO; vice president for technical operation services; vice president for the service center; director of terminal mission support; director of terminal operations for the western service area; and the director of terminal program operations. (See August 13, 2013.)

March 21, 2014: FAA and the Experimental Aircraft Association announced an agreement for the next nine years under which FAA would provide, as it had in past years, air traffic control and other personnel for AirVenture, with the EAA covering the cost of travel, accommodations, and other expenses for air traffic control personnel.

March 26, 2014: NTSB cautioned airline pilots to exercise vigilance in the approach phase of a flight to avoid “potentially catastrophic mistakes.” The safety alert came after wrong-airport landings by Southwest Airlines in January and Atlas Air in November 2013.

March 27, 2014: Facebook announced it the purchase of Ascenta, a U.K.-based aerospace company for \$20 million to help deliver the Internet to underserved areas by building drones, satellites, and lasers. On April 14, Google announced the purchase of Titan Aerospace, a New Mexico company that manufactured high-altitude drones.

March 28, 2014: FAA published a revised version of AC No: 20-138D that clarified and added new guidance material to the airworthiness approval process for a variety of GPS systems, including augmented GPS and required navigation (RNAV) equipment for required navigation performance (RNP) operations and baro-Vnav equipment. Several changes covered: the differences between equipment capability and installed limitations; clarification of the database configuration and equipment capability; adding step-down fixes to navigation databases; and a new appendix for demonstrating radius to fix (RF) leg capability and RNP prediction guidance for RNP authorization-required approaches.

April 2, 2014: FAA dedicated its new air traffic control facility at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, TX. The 47,500-square-foot terminal radar approach control (TRACON) facility replaced an outdated structure commissioned more than 40 years ago.

April 2, 2014: The Supreme Court ruled unanimously “an airline had the right to dump a frequent flier who complained too much.” The Court said airlines “have sole discretion to drop frequent fliers.” The case “involved Rabbi Binyomin Ginsberg, who was ousted from Northwest Airlines’ WorldPerks loyalty program for complaining too often about getting bumped from flights and repeatedly seeking compensation the airline considered unfair.” The airline argued that frequent-flier programs “operate at the sole discretion of the airline,” and that airlines “can’t tailor their programs to a patchwork of consumer laws in 50 states.” Writing for the court in overturning the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, Justice Samuel Alito said “that travelers have protection from being mistreated because they could sue for possible breach of contract, just not for covenants that Justice Ruth Ginsberg had argued were implied by participating in a loyalty program.”

April 3, 2014: FAA began using "climb via" phraseology for route transitions and/or the assignment of RNAV standard instrument departure (SID) procedures containing speed and altitude restrictions. These new and revised air traffic procedures were the result of a collaborative effort between the ATO and flight standards personnel, National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), and industry stakeholders. Concurrent with climb via, FAA also implemented expanded guidance on speed adjustment phraseology. FAA implemented the new phraseology in FAA Order 7110.65V.

April 10, 2014: FAA reinstated a Category 1 rating to the Republic of the Philippines following the agency’s determination in March the country met ICAO safety standards. The country held a Category 1 rating until January 2008, when FAA downgraded it to a Category 2 because of its failure to meet certain safety criteria. (See March 7, 2014; June 27, 2014.)

April 14, 2014: FAA issued a final rule prohibiting flightcrew members in operations under Part 121 from using a personal wireless communications device or laptop computer for personal use while at their duty station on the flight deck while operating the aircraft.

April 14, 2014: FAA announced the nationwide installation of the automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) radio network that supported a satellite-based surveillance system that tracks aircraft with the help of GPS. Of the 230 air traffic facilities across the country, 100 were using the system to separate traffic. FAA expected to be connected and operating at all 230 facilities by 2019. By January 1, 2020, all aircraft operating in controlled airspace were required to be equipped with ADS-B Out avionics that broadcast the plane’s location by January 1, 2020. (See June 9, 2013; August 27, 2015.)

April 15, 2014: American Airlines Group and AEA management changed the name of American Eagle Airlines to Envoy Air Inc. to differentiate the airline from other regional airlines flying as American Eagle.

April 21, 2014: FAA announced the first of six test sites chosen to perform UAS research was operational more than 2 ½ months ahead of the deadline specified for the program by Congress. FAA granted the North Dakota Department of Commerce team a certificate of waiver or authorization (COA) to begin using a Draganflyer X4ES small UAS at its Northern Plains Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Site. The COA was effective for two years. The team planned to begin flight operations during the week of May 5. (See December 30, 2013; May 5, 2014.)

April 21, 2014: EquuSearch, a nonprofit organization that used drones to search for missing persons, filed a petition for review with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia asserting a FAA inspector had wrongly ordered it in a February 2014 email correspondence to cease and desist search and rescue operations using its UASs. On July 18, a three-judge panel for a federal appeals court dismissed the lawsuit. In its ruling, the court said it could not review the case because the email Texas EquuSearch had received did not represent FAA's final conclusion on the use of drones. Final rules on drone use were not expected until 2015.

April 23, 2014: Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis announced the designation of the 1956 Grand Canyon TWA-United Airlines Aviation Accident Site, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ, as a national historic landmark. The designation was the first landmark to commemorate something that happened exclusively in the air. On June 30, 1956, a Trans World Airlines Super Constellation L-1049 and a United Airlines DC-7 collided in uncongested airspace 21,000 feet over the Grand Canyon in Arizona, killing all 128 people onboard the two flights. The tragedy spurred an unprecedented effort to modernize and increase safety in America's postwar airways, culminating in the establishment of the Federal Aviation Agency. (See June 30, 1956.)

April 24, 2014: FAA issued a *Federal Register* notice seeking public comment on a proposed policy change to protect airspace for emergency operations when an aircraft engine failed during departure. Aircraft operators had to plan for the potential of an engine failure (one engine inoperative, or OEI) during take-off in accordance with 14 CFR Parts 25, 121, and 135. An engine failure could prevent the aircraft from climbing at the normal climb rate and structures near an airport could, under such circumstances, create a safety risk. The agency evaluated certain airport clear zones assuming both engines were operating. The proposal wanted to consider a common departure path for all aircraft in the event of a power failure. The 60-day comment period on the new policy closed on June 24, 2014.

April 25, 2014: FAA issued a special federal aviation regulation (SAFR) prohibiting "certain flight operations" in a portion of the Simferopol Flight Information Region (FIR) by all U.S. airlines and commercial operators, and, with few exceptions, those with a U.S.

airman certificate and operators of U.S.-registered civil aircraft. This prohibited area included sovereign Ukrainian airspace over the Crimean Peninsula and the associated Ukrainian territorial sea, as well as international airspace managed by Ukraine over the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. The SFAR would remain in effect for one year. FAA said the rule was prompted by the Russian Federation's issuance of a notice to airmen (NOTAM) on March 28 "purporting to establish unilaterally a new FIR, effective April 3, 2014, in a significant portion of the Simferopol (UKFV) FIR," following Russia's annexation of Crimea. (See July 17, 2014.)

April 30, 2014: FAA issued a ground stop, stopping takeoffs at Southern California airports as a result of a problem with its en route automation modernization (ERAM) computer system at the Los Angeles air route traffic control center (ARTCC). The ground stop, lasting approximately one hour, led to the cancellation or delay of hundreds of flights. On May 5, both the Department of Defense (DOD) and FAA said a U2 plane in the area created the computer problem. The ERAM system interpreted the U2 flight, flying at about 60,000 feet, as a more typical low-altitude operation, and began processing it for a route below 10,000 feet. The extensive number of routings that would have been required to de-conflict the aircraft with lower-altitude flights used a large amount of available memory and interrupted the computer's other flight-processing functions. FAA subsequently increased the amount of flight-processing memory on the computer system. (See June 18, 2012; April 30, 2015.)

May 5, 2014: FAA announced the University of Alaska's UAS test site was the second of six to become operational. FAA granted the University of Alaska Fairbanks a certificate of waiver or authorization authorizing flights by an Aeryon Scout small UAS for animal surveys at its Pan-Pacific UAS test range complex in Fairbanks. The COA was effective for two years. The team began the wildlife flight operations on this date. (See April 21, 2014; June 9, 2014.)

May 9, 2014: FAA issued a special security NOTAM advising due to terrorist activities and civil unrest in Yemen, there was a significant risk to civil flight operations in that country. FAA warned that "terrorists and insurgents in the region possess man-portable air defense systems (manpads) and indirect fire weapons, and have threatened and targeted both international civil aviation and airports in country, most notably, Sanaa International airport. U.S. operators planning to fly in the territory and airspace of Yemen at or below FL240 had to obtain current threat information, comply with all applicable FAA regulations and directives, and provide advance notice to FAA" with specific flight details.

May 13, 2014: Smoke resulting from a burning electrical motor at the terminal radar control (TRACON) facility in Elgin, IL, resulted in an evacuation of the facility, causing more than 1,000 flights to be cancelled at O'Hare International Airport and Midway International Airport. FAA stopped flights in and out of the two airports for approximately four hours.

May 28, 2014: FAA approved extended operations for Boeing's 787 Dreamliner, allowing the plane to fly for up to 330 minutes (5.5 hours) away from an airport rather than the previous 180 minutes. FAA's approval allowed new routings, such as nonstop flights from Los Angeles to Melbourne. It also allowed the longer-range version of the 787, called the 787-9, to fly polar routes. (See March 19, 2014; December 2, 2014.)

May 28, 2014: FAA and Virgin Galactic signed an agreement setting parameters for how routine space missions launched from Spaceport America would be integrated into the NAS. In particular, the agreement spelled out how FAA's Albuquerque ARTCC and the New Mexico Spaceport Authority would work with Virgin Galactic to safely provide clear airspace for SpaceShipTwo. (See January 10, 2014; October 31, 2014.)

June 9, 2014: FAA announced the State of Nevada's UAS test site was ready to conduct research vital to integrating UAS into the nation's airspace. Nevada was the third of six congressionally mandated test sites to become operational. FAA granted the State of Nevada team a two-year certificate of waiver or authorization to use an Insitu ScanEagle at the Desert Rock Airport located in Mercury, NV. Desert Rock Airport, owned and operated by the Department of Energy, was a private airport and not for general use. The ScanEagle would fly at or below 3,000 feet, monitored by a visual observer and mission commander. Nevada's research concentrated on UAS standards and operations as well as operator standards and certification requirements. The site's activities also included a concentrated look at how air traffic control procedures would evolve with the introduction of UAS into the civil environment and how those aircraft would integrate with NextGen. (See May 5, 2014; June 20, 2014.)

June 10, 2014: FAA gave approval for energy corporation BP and unmanned aircraft systems manufacturer AeroVironment to fly an AeroVironment Puma AE for aerial surveys in Alaska – the first time FAA had authorized a commercial UAS operation over land. FAA issued a certificate of waiver or authorization to survey BP pipelines, roads, and equipment at Prudhoe Bay, AK, the largest oilfield in the United States. (See June 9, 2014; June 20, 2014.)

June 20, 2014: National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis signed a policy memorandum directing all national park superintendents to write rules barring the launching, landing, or operation of drones. Unmanned aircraft had already been prohibited at several national parks. Those parks initiated bans after noise and nuisance complaints from park visitors, an incident in which park wildlife were harassed, and concerns about the safety of park visitors. (See June 10, 2014; June 20, 2014; October 5, 2017.)

June 20, 2014: FAA granted the Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi team a two-year certificate of waiver or authorization to use an AAI RS-16 UAS. The RS-16 weighed approximately 85 pounds and had a wingspan of almost 13 feet. Texas A&M Corpus Christi's research concentrated on multiple areas, including safety of operations and data gathering in authorized airspace, UAS airworthiness standards, command and control link technologies, human-factors issues for UAS control-station layout, and detect-and-avoid

technologies. The site was the fourth of six to become operational. (See June 9, 2014; June 20, 2014; August 7, 2014.)

June 23, 2014: FAA published a notice in the *Federal Register* on its interpretation of the statutory special rules for model aircraft in the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. The guidance came after incidents involving the reckless use of unmanned model aircraft near airports and involving large crowds of people. FAA restated the law's definition of "model aircraft," including requirements they not interfere with manned aircraft, be flown within sight of the operator, and be operated only for hobby or recreational purposes. The agency also explained model aircraft operators flying within five miles of an airport must notify the airport operator and air traffic control tower. FAA could take enforcement action against model aircraft operators who operated their aircraft in a manner that endangered NAS safety. In the notice, FAA explained its enforcement authority was designed to protect users of the airspace as well as people and property on the ground. FAA reaffirmed that the act's model aircraft provisions applied only to hobby or recreation operations and did not authorize the use of model aircraft for commercial operations. The notice provided examples of hobby or recreation flights, as well as examples of operations that would not meet that definition. (See January 11, 2014.)

June 24, 2014: A strike by one of France's air traffic controller unions, UNSA-INCA, forced the cancellation of flights throughout Europe. The controllers' union SNCTA did not join in the strike, which was scheduled to last through June 29. The striking union accused the French government of a lack of investment in air traffic control infrastructure and urged modernization of the system.

June 26, 2014: FAA certified the Instant Eye small UAS, which was used by an energy company to conduct research, development, and training to see if the system was practical for inspecting infrastructure such as pipelines, power lines, and insulators on towers. It was the first unmanned quadrotor to receive FAA certification. Physical Sciences Incorporated developed Instant Eye with funding from the combating terrorism technical support office, the Army research laboratory, and the Defense Department's newly renamed emerging capabilities and prototyping office. (See June 20, 2014; August 7, 2014.)

June 27, 2014: FAA announced the Republic of Serbia complied with ICAO safety standards and had been granted a Category 1 rating. The Republic of Serbia had held a Category 2 rating since 2006. A Category 2 rating meant a country either lacked laws or regulations necessary to oversee air carriers in accordance with minimum international standards, or that its civil aviation authority was deficient in one or more areas, such as technical expertise, trained personnel, record-keeping, or inspection procedures. The Category 1 status was based on a March 2014 FAA assessment of the safety oversight provided by the Civil Aviation Directorate of the Republic of Serbia, and an FAA verification of necessary corrective actions during a follow-on visit to the Republic of Serbia this month. With the Category 1 rating, the Republic of Serbia's air carriers, which were able to secure the requisite FAA and DOT authority, could establish service to the United States and carry the code of U.S. carriers. (See April 10, 2014.)

July 2, 2014: NTSB denied a petition for reconsideration of its findings in the investigation of the 1996 TWA Flight 800 crash. The TWA 800 Project, which filed the petition, claimed a detonation or high-velocity explosion could have caused the crash. NTSB said the crash was the result of an oxygen buildup in a partially empty fuel tank that caused an explosion that destroyed the plane in flight.

July 2, 2014: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced a final rule that expanded the Department's requirement that air carriers report to the Department incidents involving the loss, injury, or death of an animal during air transport. The revised rule required, for the first time, all covered carriers file a calendar-year report that included the total number of animals transported in the calendar year as well as the total number of animals that were lost, injured, or died during air transport in the calendar year, if any. The rule would become effective on January 1, 2015.

July 8, 2014: Embry-Riddle announced it had become the first school to receive approval from FAA for its airline transport pilot (ATP) certification training program. Under a rule, effective August 1, 2014, FAA required all airline pilots to complete an ATP certification training program to qualify to take the ATP airman knowledge test, a prerequisite for employment as a commercial airline pilot in the U.S.

July 14, 2014: NASA transferred to FAA a new NextGen software technology, called terminal sequence and spacing, that allows air traffic controllers to maximize the benefits of performance based navigation (PBN) procedures on the approach to the runway. With the new technology, controllers see circles – called slot markers – on their display screens that indicate where an aircraft should be to fly a RNAV or required navigation performance route. The software enabled the use of PBN procedures to become more routine, requiring less vectoring, fewer level-offs of aircraft, and less communication between controllers and pilots. FAA, which received an initial technology transfer of the terminal sequence and spacing from NASA in September 2013, planned to make a full investment decision by the end of the year.

July 17, 2014: FAA issued a notice to airman prohibiting, until further notice, U.S. flight operations in the airspace over eastern Ukraine because of recent events and the potential for continued hazardous activities. A Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 flying over the Ukraine had been shot down earlier in the day with a suspected surface-to-air missile, with the loss of all 290 people onboard. The restricted area included the entire Simferopol and Dnepropetrovsk flight information regions (FIRs). This action expanded a prohibition of U.S. flight operations issued by FAA in April over the Crimean region of Ukraine and adjacent areas of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. No scheduled U.S. airlines flew routes through this airspace. (See April 15, 2014; December 29, 2014; October 13, 2015; October 18, 2018.)

July 22, 2014: In a notice to airmen issued at 12:15 EDT, FAA prohibited U.S. airlines from flying to or from Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport for a period of up to 24 hours. FAA issued the notice in response to a rocket strike which landed approximately one mile from the airport on the morning of July 22, 2014. The order, which affected 12

U.S. flights per day, was issued to reduce the chance of air travelers becoming casualties in the war between Israel and Hamas. FAA extended the ban for an additional 24 hours on July 23, but later cancelled the notice at 11:45 p.m. ETD.

July 24, 2014: An Air Algerie MD-83 en route from Burkina Faso to Algeria crashed in Mali. All 116 persons on board died in the crash.

August 4, 2014: DOT issued new standards to strengthen safety conditions for the shipment of lithium cells and batteries. These changes, some of which focus specifically on shipments by air, will better ensure that lithium cells and batteries are able to withstand normal transportation conditions and are packaged to reduce the possibility of damage that could lead to an unsafe situation. The rule, which became final six months after DOT issued the notice of proposed rulemaking:

- Enhanced packaging and hazard communication requirements for lithium batteries transported by air.
- Replaced equivalent lithium content with watt-hours for lithium ion cells and batteries,
- Adopted separate shipping descriptions for lithium metal batteries and lithium ion batteries.
- Revised provisions for the transport of small and medium lithium cells and batteries including cells and batteries packed with, or contained in, equipment.
- Revised the requirements for the transport of lithium batteries for disposal or recycling.
- Harmonized the provisions for the transport of low production and prototype lithium cells and batteries with the ICAO technical Instructions and the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code.
- Adopted new provisions for the transport of damaged, defective, and recalled lithium batteries. (See July 25, 2013; October 8, 2015.)

August 7, 2014: FAA announced the Griffiss International Airport UAS test site in Rome, NY, was ready to conduct research vital to integrating UAS into the NAS. The site was the fifth of six test sites to become operational. In addition to providing invaluable information for the integration of UAS into the NAS, the research at the Griffiss test site planned to evaluate methods for scouting agricultural fields using different types of sensors, including visual, thermal, and multispectral equipment, which would benefit farmers regionally and nationally. The research would enhance current methods of monitoring crops and provide additional information for continuing field research efforts. (See June 26, 2014; August 13, 2014.)

August 8, 2014: FAA issued a new notice to airmen restricting U.S. operators from flying in the airspace above Iraq because of the hazardous situation created by an armed conflict. The new NOTAM superseded previous FAA guidance for this airspace.

August 12, 2014: FAA issued a no-fly zone over Ferguson, MO, to last until August 18, after tensions escalated in the town following the fatal shooting of an unarmed teen. The agency restricted the airspace above the St. Louis suburb to provide a safe environment

for law enforcement activities. Only operations under the direction of the state of Missouri could be carried out. On August 18, FAA renewed the ban on aircraft from operating under 3,000 feet through August 25; however, FAA lifted the ban on August 22.

August 12, 2014: FAA issued a final rule allowing the agency to deny an application for a new repair station certificate if the applicant or certain associated key individuals had materially contributed to the circumstances that caused a previous repair station certificate revocation action. The rule also added a new section prohibiting fraudulent or intentionally false entries or omissions of material facts in any application, record, or report made under the repair station rules, and provided that making the fraudulent or intentionally false entry or omitting or concealing the material fact was grounds for imposing a civil penalty and for suspending or revoking any certificate, approval, or authorization issued by FAA to the person who made or caused the entry or omission. (February 12, 2013.)

August 13, 2014: FAA announced that the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University's UAS test site program was ready to conduct research vital to integrating UAS into the nation's airspace. The site was the last of six nationwide to be declared operational. FAA granted Virginia Tech seven certificates of waiver or authorization for two years. They were for: Smart Road Flyer, eSPAARO, Aeryon Sky Ranger, MANTRA2, Sig Rascal, and two AVID EDF-8 micro UASs. (See August 7, 2014; August 31, 2014.)

August 13, 2014: FAA issued a legal opinion ruling against peer-to-peer general aviation flight-sharing Internet-based operations that allowed private pilots to offer available seats on flights they intended to take. AirPooler, Inc., had asked FAA for an interpretation of the regulations seeking to confirm a pilot participating in the AirPooler service would not be receiving compensation as prohibited by FAR 61.113, and whether pilots participating in AirPooler were commercial operators and thus required to hold a certificate under Part 119. FAA stated arranging for flights and passengers through the AirPooler website met all elements of common carriage and were not legal under Part 91. FAA noted its position forbidding website-based ride-sharing operations was consistent with rulings it had made previously on nationwide initiatives involving expense-sharing flights. Ride-sharing programs were offered by both AirPooler and Flytenow, both of which argued FAA had overstepped its bounds in the interpretation.

August 18, 2014: The World Health Organization urged countries affected by Ebola (Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) to conduct exit screening at international airports, seaports, and land crossings. The recommendation came from a task force that included health officials, the International Civil Aviation Organization; the International Air Transport Association representing 240 airlines; and Airports Council International. (See October 11, 2014.)

August 18, 2014: FAA issued a notice to airmen restricting U.S. operators from flying in the Damascus flight information region, which included all of Syria. It advised U.S.

operators against flying in that airspace and required them to contact FAA before operating in that airspace. Because of the presence of anti-aircraft weapons among the extremist groups and ongoing fighting in various locations throughout Syria, there was a continuing significant potential threat to civil aviation operating in Syrian airspace. (See December 30, 2014; December 10, 2018.)

August 24, 2014: A magnitude 6.0 earthquake caused damage in Northern California. The quake, the largest in the Bay Area since the deadly Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, struck three miles northwest of American Canyon. Most of the windows were blown out of the air traffic control tower at the Napa County Airport. The structure was unusable and the Oakland ARTCC took over control of the airspace. FAA sent two temporary towers to the airport – one began operations on August 28 and the other was delivered on September 4. (See October 17, 1989.)

August 31, 2014: For the first time, FAA permitted an UAS/drone technology demonstration at a national air show at Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland, OH. The demonstration featured 10 drones, both fixed-wing and multi-rotors flying simultaneously. (See August 13, 2014; September 10, 2014.)

September 8, 2014: FAA announced the selection of four unleaded fuels for further evaluation as part of the piston aviation fuels initiative (PAFI), a government and industry initiative designed to help the general aviation industry transition to an unleaded aviation gasoline. Shell and TOTAL, with one fuel each, and Swift Fuels, with two fuels, worked with FAA on Phase 1 testing, which began in the fall of 2014 and was scheduled to conclude in fall 2015. Based on the results of the Phase 1 laboratory and rig testing, FAA anticipated the selection of two or three fuels for Phase 2 engine and aircraft testing. That tests would generate standardized qualification and certification data for candidate fuels, along with property and performance data. FAA expected the testing process to conclude in 2018. (See June 10, 2013.)

September 10, 2014: FAA approved an emergency certificate of waiver or authorization for the use of an UAS in the search for a missing woman near Dallas, TX. The agency approved emergency certificates for natural disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other urgent circumstances. Under the emergency COA, Texas EquuSearch could operate its aircraft from September 11 until sunset September 15. FAA issued the COA to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of Gaithersburg, MD, at the request of the Plano Police Department. NIST had a previously existing relationship with Texas EquuSearch, a non-profit organization that assisted with locating missing individuals. (See August 31, 2014; September 25, 2014.)

September 15, 2014: FAA put into place a new certification process, detailed in a standard operating procedure document. Under the new process, FAA would permit complex projects to move forward even if the agency had to limit certain aspects until resources became available. FAA would weigh the availability of designees – company-provided resources approved to verify that projects were done per FAA’s requirements – as it sequenced projects. Under the guidelines, FAA resources would be allocated based

on a project index. The highest weight would be given to a project's safety index (SI), which factored in overall safety, passenger safety, and fleet size. SI – and the entire sequencing system – was weighted so that airworthiness directives had top priority. Applications also were judged based on the number of “findings” they contain and how many had to be handled by FAA staff vs. organizational designees. (See December 11, 2013.)

September 16, 2014: FAA released the “Recommended Practices for Human Space Flight Occupant Safety” report, which provided a framework for industry to use in developing consensus standards. The recommended safety practices were broadly written and primarily performance-based, stating a safety objective to be achieved, and leaving the design or operational solution up to the designer or operator. In developing the document, FAA's office of commercial space transportation reviewed existing government and private sector requirements and standards to tap into the wealth of information that has been accrued through 50 years of human space flight. FAA also consulted with a wide audience, including the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee, NASA, FAA's Civil Aerospace Medical Institute, and FAA's Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation. (July 31, 2013.)

September 16, 2014: NASA awarded contracts to Boeing and SpaceX to ferry astronauts to the International Space Station. The two companies planned to begin ferrying astronauts in 2017. (See May 22, 2012; January 17, 2016.)

September 17, 2014: FAA approved a space launch site license for Midland International Airport in Texas. Renamed the Midland International Air & Space Port, the airport was the first primary commercial airport to gain FAA certification as a spaceport. It was the ninth commercial spaceport license issued by FAA. (See September 30, 2010; June 30, 2015.)

September 19, 2014: Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport opened a new runway. The project, which cost \$826 million, gave the airport two parallel runways to accommodate more flights and reduce delays.

September 25, 2014: Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx announced FAA had granted regulatory exemptions to six aerial photo and video production companies in a first step to allowing the film and television industry to use unmanned aircraft systems in the NAS. FAA determined that the UAS to be used in the proposed operations did not need an FAA-issued certificate of airworthiness based on a finding they did not pose a threat to national airspace users or national security. (See September 10, 2014; December 10, 2014.)

September 25, 2014: FAA evacuated the Chicago ARTCC in Aurora, IL, just before 6:00 a.m. local time, because of a fire reported in a basement telecommunications room. FAA managed traffic through adjacent high-altitude radar centers in Cleveland, Indianapolis, Kansas City, and Minneapolis. Those facilities worked with the TRACON facility in Elgin, IL, and other surrounding large TRACONs in areas such as South Bend, IN,

Rockford and Moline IL, and Milwaukee, WI, to track flights on radar and manage departures and arrivals in Chicago ARTCC airspace. FAA re-routed overflights around the airspace. FAA brought in a clean-up crew at the ARTCC to begin drying out water-damaged equipment and to clean and sanitize the area after a fire and attempted suicide in the telecommunications room. After inspecting the damaged equipment, FAA decided to replace the central communications network in a different part of the same building to restore the system as quickly as possible. The agency restored services at the Chicago ARTCC on October 13. (See November 24, 2014.)

September 30, 2014: FAA issued an updated version of its AIP Program Handbook (Order 5100.38D). FAA's office of airports streamlined the handbook and replaced guidance with references to more appropriate source of guidance (such as in other orders or advisory circulars). This included deleting guidance on airport planning, capital planning, labor rates, and civil rights. The references appeared as the basic publication number without any suffix. The intent was for the reader to use the latest version of the referenced publication. It also had been reorganized and revised to incorporate the Plain Language Act of 2010; to differentiate what was required by law and policy; and to incorporate program guidance letters issued prior to July 30, 2012.

October 8, 2014: DIGITALiBiz announced it had been awarded a prime contract to continue supporting FAA's flight standards service flight technologies and procedures division under a contract called technical, engineering, administrative, and programmatic support. The scope of work under the contract, valued at nearly \$45 million over the next five years, included: providing support in developing policies and procedures for improving flight safety and efficiency; assisting in developing regulations and policy recommendations governing instrument flight procedures and safety, capacity, and efficiency improvements, based on advanced technology and innovative concepts; and supporting flight test or simulator test programs, simulator setup, pilot briefings, and observer responsibilities specifically for data collection in support of test plans.

October 8, 2014: Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced its flagship Gulfstream G650ER had been certified by FAA. The G650ER could travel 7,500 nautical miles/13,890 kilometers at Mach 0.85 and 6,400 nm/11,853 km at Mach 0.90. This represented an increase of up to 500 nm/926 km over the range of the G650, which entered service in 2012. Like the G650, the G650ER had a maximum speed of Mach 0.925. Gulfstream expected to deliver the first fully outfitted G650ER business jets to customers ahead of the projected 2015 delivery date.

October 8, 2014: FAA and the NextGen advisory committee agreed on the "NextGen Priorities Joint Implementation Plan" that would accelerate the delivery of key NextGen initiatives over the next three years. FAA delivered the plan to Congress on October 17. According to the plan, FAA would institute new NextGen procedures through the use of multiple runway operations at 36 airports nationwide and deploy satellite-based navigation procedures known as performance based navigation at three key metropolitan areas – Northern California, Atlanta, and Charlotte – to provide more direct flight paths; improve airport arrival rates; enhance controller productivity; increase safety and fuel

savings, and a reduce aviation's environmental impact. The plan also called for FAA to increase surface operations data-sharing to increase predictability and provide actionable and measurable surface efficiency improvements at the nation's airports. In addition, FAA planned to prioritize its work on data communications services, which would upgrade communication between pilots, air traffic controllers, and airline operations centers from voice to digital. (See March 2010; October 17, 2014.)

October 11, 2014: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Homeland Security began Ebola screening passengers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. Enhanced screening began at Washington Dulles, Newark, Chicago O'Hare, and Atlanta International airports on October 14. CDC sent additional staff to each of the five airports. After passport review:

- Travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone were escorted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) agents to an area of the airport set aside for screening.
- Trained CBP staff would observe them for signs of illness, ask them a series of health and exposure questions and provide health information for Ebola as well as reminders to monitor themselves for symptoms. Trained medical staff took their temperature with a non-contact thermometer.
- If the travelers had fever, symptoms, or the health questionnaire revealed possible Ebola exposure, they would be evaluated by a CDC quarantine station public health officer. The public health officer would again take a temperature reading and make a public health assessment. Travelers, who after this assessment, were determined to require further evaluation or monitoring were referred to the appropriate public health authority.
- Travelers from these countries who had neither symptoms/fever nor a known history of exposure received health information for self-monitoring. (See August 18, 2014; October 11, 2014.)

October 11, 2014: Great Britain announced it planned to introduce measures at airports and rail terminals to screen passengers from countries affected by Ebola. Prime Minister David Cameron said enhanced screening would initially be implemented at London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports and Eurostar terminals. Under the new screening procedures, travelers from Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea would be questioned about their travel history and could be assessed by medical personnel. (See October 11, 2014; October 21, 2014.)

October 14, 2014: A new FAA rule went into effect permitting informal conferences to occur before the agency took certain actions against certificate holders and/or other parties. The informal conference covered orders issued by the agency that did not involve certificate suspensions/revocations or civil penalties, since the option was already available to such actions. The rule applied to orders of compliance, cease and desist orders, and orders of denial, among others. FAA regulations had already permitted affected parties to request a hearing or to reply in writing to an order. This rule added the informal conference as a third option that could open the possibility of a resolution of an

issue or a narrowing of the issue. This could save money and time for both FAA and affected parties. (See June 26, 2015.)

October 17, 2014: FAA released the “NextGen Priorities Joint Implementation Plan,” to Congress. The plan summarized the high-level commitments agreed upon by FAA and the aviation community and provided a timeline of capability milestones and locations. The plan also identified four core priorities designed to cut down on wait time between flights taking off and landing: optimizing airports with multiple runways; reconfiguring the navigation system from radar to GPS-based; increasing the efficiency of surface operations; and improving communications between aircraft and the ground through digital communication systems. (See October 8, 2014.)

October 20, 2014: American Airlines and US Airways completed combining their cargo operations into the new American Airlines Cargo. This was the first time the operating divisions of the two carriers had become fully combined since receiving approval for their merger. The two airlines expected to receive FAA approval to combine passenger operations in 2015. (See December 9, 2013; April 8, 2015.)

October 20, 2014: FAA type certificated Embraer Executive Jets’ fly-by-wire Legacy 500.

October 21, 2014: The Obama Administration announced all passengers arriving to the U.S. from Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea must land at one of the five airports with enhanced Ebola screening: John F. Kennedy, Dulles, O’Hare, Newark, or Atlanta. On October 23, Center for Disease Control Director Tom Frieden announced that starting October 27 passengers from the three countries most affected by Ebola would be required to report their temperature daily for 21 days and call a state hotline if they showed any symptoms of the illness. The program began in six states — New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Maryland and Virginia – and later expanded to other states. (See October 11, 2014.)

October 24, 2014: Alan Eustace, a senior vice president at Google, parachuted from a balloon near the top of the stratosphere. He fell faster than the speed of sound and broke the world altitude record. A balloon filled with 35,000 cubic feet of helium had lifted Eustace to an altitude of more than 25 miles. Eustace, who wore a special space suit, cut himself loose from the balloon with the aid of a small explosive device. His descent took approximately 15 minutes at speeds which peaked at 822 miles per hour.

October 28, 2014: An unmanned Orbital Sciences Antares rocket carrying a Cygnus spacecraft loaded with cargo and supplies for the crew of the International Space Station exploded moments after liftoff at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility in VA. Orbital subsequently indicated an issue in the first stage of the Antares rocket led to a loss of thrust, which led an operator to activate an onboard self-destruct system.

October 31, 2014: Virgin Galactic’s SpaceShipTwo exploded in midair during a test flight, killing one test pilot and injuring another. Virgin Galactic was testing the craft,

built by Scaled Composites, in preparation for commercial space tourism. (See May 28, 2014; January 10, 2014; June 26, 2015.)

November 3, 2014: FAA issued a final rule broadening the coverage of its icing certification standards. The updated standards required U.S. manufacturers to show transport airplanes could operate safely in freezing drizzle or freezing rain conditions that constitute the icing environment known as supercooled large drops. The standard also included ice crystal weather conditions. (See June 29, 2013.)

November 12, 2014: FAA type certificated the Airbus A350-900. The European Aviation Safety Agency approved the jetliner in September. The aircraft seated approximately 300 passengers and was designed to compete with Boeing Co.'s larger 787 Dreamliners and 777 jets.

November 13, 2014: In a rule effective this date, FAA eased the pilot pairing requirement for pilots over the age of 60 on international flights. Pilots over the age of 60 could now fly internationally as long as they had a second pilot to back them up, regardless of the other pilot's age. Previously the other pilot had to be under the age of 60. The rule did not apply to domestic flights. (See December 13, 2007; June 12, 2015.)

November 18, 2014: NTSB affirmed FAA's position the regulation prohibiting operation of an aircraft in a careless or reckless manner applied to unmanned aircraft. FAA had appealed an earlier decision by a NTSB Administrative Law Judge in *Huerta v. Pirker* after the judge dismissed the Agency's order requiring Raphael Pirker to pay a civil penalty of \$10,000 for operating an unmanned aircraft in a careless or reckless manner at the University of Virginia in October 2011. Before FAA could impose a fine, an administrative law judge would have to make a factual determination on the careless and reckless nature of the UAS operation. (See March 7, 2014.)

November 21, 2014: The Department of Transportation announced a new air service agreement had been reached between the United States and Mexico that expanded opportunities for passenger and cargo carriers and strengthen the economic ties between the two countries. The new agreement included unlimited market access for U.S. and Mexican air carriers, improved intermodal rights, pricing flexibility, and other important commercial rights. In addition, cargo airlines, for the first time, would have expanded opportunities to provide service to new destinations. The agreement would go into force on January 1, 2016.

November 24, 2014: In the aftermath of the Chicago ARTCC fire, FAA announced a series of changes that would lead to faster disaster recovery and more secure facilities and equipment. FAA's three-stage plan included: making radar, voice radios, flight planning data and weather and aeronautical information more rapidly available to support operations in a new configuration; reducing or eliminating the manual nature of operations by recreating specific sectors and services of the off-line facility at surrounding facilities; and enhancing NextGen capabilities to make services available even more quickly if a facility had a catastrophic loss. (See September 25, 2014.)

November 25, 2014: Because of law enforcement reports of gunshots fired into the air, FAA activated a temporary flight instruction over Ferguson, MO. For safety reasons, only law enforcement aircraft were permitted to fly through the area. The restricted area was three miles in diameter, up to 3,000 feet above sea level. It remained in effect from 10:15 p.m. Central on November 24, to 4:15 a.m. Central on November 25.

November 2014: Midway Airport became the first airport to install a new type of arrestor bed to stop aircraft in the event of a runway overrun. Made by Runway Safe, the bed was made of recycled glass, formed into lightweight glass rocks. Until Runway Safe developed its product, Engineered Arresting Systems was the only FAA-approved manufacturer of arresting-bed technology. (See October 1, 2010.)

December 2, 2014: Boeing announced it had completed the world's first flight using green diesel, a sustainable biofuel widely available and used in ground transportation. The company powered its ecoDemonstrator 787 flight test airplane with a blend of 15 percent green diesel and 85 percent petroleum jet fuel in the left engine. (See February 13, 2013; October 23, 2015.)

December 3, 2014: FAA issued a final rule in the *Federal Register*, effective January 20, 2015, increasing the number of hours a pilot could log toward an instrument rating using approved aviation training devices. The rule raised the limit to 20 hours in advanced training devices versus 10 hours under the old rules. Under the rules, Part 61 students could log up to 20 hours of instrument time in an approved advanced aviation training device (AATD) or up to 10 hours of time in an approved basic aviation training device (BATD). Part 141 students would be allowed to accomplish up to 40 percent of their total flight training hour requirements in an aviation training device. In addition, students would no longer be required to wear view-limiting devices while training in AATDs. (See November 5, 2013.)

December 10, 2014: FAA granted five regulatory exemptions for UAS operations to four companies representing several industries that showed promise to benefit from UAS technology. Trimble Navigation Limited, VDOS Global, LLC, Clayco, Inc., and Woolpert, Inc. (two exemptions) received exemptions to fly UAS to perform operations for aerial surveying, construction site monitoring, and oil rig flare stack inspections. FAA earlier granted exemptions to seven film and video production companies. (See September 25, 2014; February 15, 2015.)

December 28, 2014: AirAsia Flight QZ8501, an Airbus A320-200 flying from Surabaya to Singapore, disappeared in Indonesian airspace with 162 people on board. Indonesian authorities leading the rescue efforts believed the plane went down in the Java Sea between the islands of Belitung and Borneo.

December 29, 2014: FAA amended special federal aviation regulation (SFAR) No. 113, “Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Simferopol (UKFV) flight information region (FIR),” which prohibited certain flight operations in a portion of the Simferopol FIR by all U.S. air carriers, U.S. commercial operators, persons exercising the privileges of a U.S. airman certificate, except when such persons operated a U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier, and operators of U.S.-registered civil aircraft, except when such

operators were foreign air carriers. The action expanded the area in which flight operations by people subject to SFAR No. 113 were prohibited, to include all of the Simferopol (UKFV) FIR, as well as the entire Dnipropetrovsk (UKDV) FIR. (See July 17, 2014; October 22, 2015.)

December 30, 2014: FAA expanded its prohibition of certain flight operations in the Damascus FIR by all U.S. air carriers; U.S. commercial operators; persons exercising the privileges of a U.S. airman certificate, except when such persons operated a U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier; and operators of U.S.-registered civil aircraft, except when such operators were foreign air carriers. FAA previously prohibited such flight operations in NOTAM 4/4936, issued on August 18, 2014, which would have remained in effect until December 31, 2014. The SFAR adopted the prohibitions then in effect via the NOTAM, and required compliance with the prohibitions for 2 additional years unless FAA determined it was necessary to amend or rescind the rule based on the situation in the region. (See August 18, 2014; August 28, 2017.)

Calendar year 2014: According to Ascend, a Flighthglobal advisory service, 2014 was the best year ever for airline safety. Ascend's director of air safety and insurance, Paul Hayes, stated the global airline fatal accident rate in 2014 was one fatal accident per 2.38 million flights. On this basis 2014 was, narrowly, the safest year ever. The figures excluded the loss of Malaysia flight MH17 on the grounds that it was shot down by a missile and was considered a war risk loss, not an accident. Although doubts exist about the status of missing Malaysia flight MH370, that incident was included in the fatal accident rate.

2015

January 5, 2015: The Department of Transportation issued a final rule to implement Section 403 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 regarding the carriage of musical instruments as carry-on baggage or checked baggage on commercial passenger flights operated by air carriers. Effective March 6, the rule required carriers to allow a passenger to carry into the cabin and stow a small musical instrument, such as violin or a guitar, in a suitable baggage compartment (for example, the overhead bin or under the seats) in accordance with FAA safety regulations. The rule also encouraged carriers to consider modifying their programs to allow the stowage of large musical instruments in passenger seats, provided all safety requirements were met.

January 7, 2015: FAA issued a final rule requiring most U.S. commercial airlines to have safety management systems (SMS) in place by 2018. The rule built on the programs many airlines already used to identify and reduce aviation risk. Airlines had to submit their implementation plans to FAA within six months. The rule also required a single accountable executive to oversee SMS. A SMS defined what was expected rather than how the requirement had to be met. This allowed each air carrier to design an SMS to match the size, complexity, and business model of its organization. (See January 30, 2012.)

January 8, 2015: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to replace the orders limiting scheduled operations at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), and LaGuardia Airport (LGA). This proposal was intended to provide a longer-term and comprehensive approach to slot management at JFK, EWR, and LGA. FAA proposed to maintain the limits on scheduled and unscheduled operations in place under the previous orders, limit unscheduled operations at JFK and EWR, and require the use of an allocated slot 80 percent of the time for the same flight or series of flights to retain historic precedence. FAA also proposed five alternatives for a secondary market that would allow carriers to buy, sell, lease, and trade slots. (See May 14, 2009; November 10, 2015.)

January 23, 2015: FAA issued revised guidance to address sleep apnea, a disorder that might result in daytime sleepiness, impaired alertness, mood changes, and fatigue. The new guidance did not rely on a pilot's body mass index (BMI) to diagnose obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). Rather, the new policy stated, "The risk of OSA will be determined by an integrated assessment of history, symptoms and physical/clinical findings." It incorporated guidance from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine in determining a pilot's airworthiness. Pilots determined to be at significant risk for OSA should receive a regular medical certificate and undergo a sleep apnea evaluation. The evaluation could be performed by any physician, including an aviation medical examiner (AME), and did not require a sleep study unless the physician believed one was needed. Pilots had 90 days to complete the evaluation and forward the results to FAA's aerospace medical certification division, the regional flight surgeon's office, or the AME. (See November 19, 2013.)

January 26, 2015: The Wichita Airport Authority renamed Wichita Mid-Continent Airport the Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport.

February 4, 2015: FAA issued a final rule removing the prohibition against certain flights within the territory and airspace of Ethiopia contained in SFAR No. 887. (See January 2014.)

February 6, 2015: In a letter to United Continental Holdings, Inc., FAA informed the company it would increase oversight of the airline because of concerns over recurring safety violations. United provided FAA a plan in March on how it would remedy concerns involving pilot training and scheduling.

February 15, 2015: FAA proposed a framework of regulations that would allow routine use of certain small UAS in the national airspace system while maintaining flexibility to accommodate future technological innovations. The proposal covered safety rules for small UAS (under 55 pounds) conducting non-recreational operations. The rule would limit flights to daylight and visual-line-of-sight operations. It also addressed height restrictions, operator certification, optional use of a visual observer, aircraft registration and marking, and operational limits. The proposed rule included extensive discussion of the possibility of an additional, more flexible framework for "micro" UAS under 4.4 pounds. FAA asked the public to comment on this possible classification to determine whether it should include the option as part of a final rule. FAA also asked for comment

about how the agency could further leverage the UAS test site program and an upcoming UAS Center of Excellence to further spur innovation at “innovation zones.” (See December 10, 2014; April 10, 2015; May 19, 2017.)

February 25, 2015: FAA dedicated a new \$16.4 million, state-of-the-art airport traffic control tower at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. The new facility’s 117-foot tall airport traffic control tower was topped by a 525-square foot tower cab. A 7,200-square foot, single-story base building housed training rooms, administrative offices, and equipment rooms. FAA began working from the new tower on November 4, 2014.

March 4, 2015: FAA issued a final rule amending the maintenance regulations for domestic, flag, and supplemental operations, and for commuter and on-demand operations for aircraft type certificated with a passenger seating configuration of 10 seats or more (excluding any pilot seat). The new rules required affected air carriers and operators to develop policies, procedures, methods, and instructions for performing contract maintenance acceptable to FAA; the rules also mandated the new policies, procedures, methods, and instructions be included in the air carrier and operator maintenance manuals. The rules required the air carriers and operators to provide FAA with a list of their maintenance personnel.

March 20, 2015: FAA extended the prohibition of flight operations within the Tripoli FIR by all: U.S. air carriers; U.S. commercial operators; persons exercising the privileges of an airman certificate issued by FAA, except when such persons operated a U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier; and operators of U.S.-registered civil aircraft, except operators of such aircraft that were foreign air carriers. The extension of the expiration date was necessary to address a potential hazard to persons and aircraft engaged in such flight operations. Additionally, FAA made clear operations by sub-contractors under a U.S. Government department, agency, or instrumentality's contract, grant, or cooperative agreement might be included in an approval request. The action extended the prohibition to March 20, 2017. (See March 21, 2014; March 15, 2017.)

March 31, 2015. A pilot program that allowed people to use an automated complaint system for reporting helicopter noise to FAA began operating. FAA hoped the collected data collected would help “identify patterns and trends in helicopter operations, improve an understanding of community reaction to helicopter noise, and inform future efforts to develop and implement noise abatement measures.” FAA contracted with Brüel & Kjaer to operate the system, which was funded through March 2016.

April 8, 2015: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced India complied with international safety standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and had been granted a Category 1 rating. (See January 31, 2014; December 19, 2018.)

April 8, 2015: FAA granted American Airlines and US Airways the authority to operate as a single carrier. The decision allowed the two airlines to combine work forces, websites, and reservations systems, starting in the fall of 2015. (See October 20, 2014; October 16, 2015.)

April 10, 2015: Auburn University announced it had received FAA approval to operate the nation's first UAS flight school. (See February 15, 2015; May 6, 2015.)

April 30, 2015: Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx announced the completion of the en route automation modernization (ERAM) program. The first ERAM system went online at the Salt Lake City air route traffic control center (ARTCC) in March 2012, and the last system went online in March 2015 at the New York ARTCC. ERAM used nearly two million lines of computer code to process critical data for controllers, including aircraft identity, altitude, speed, and flight path. The system almost doubled the number of flights that could be tracked and displayed to controllers. (See April 30, 2014.)

May 4, 2015: Science Applications International Corp. announced FAA had awarded it an indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract to provide all training and training program support services under the FAA controller training contract. The single-award, firm-fixed price and time-and-materials contract had a 3-year period of performance; two 1-year options, with an estimated contract value of \$425 million; and a maximum contract ceiling of \$727 million. (See September 9, 2008.)

May 6, 2015: FAA announced a partnership with industry to explore the next steps in UAS beyond the type of operations the agency proposed in the draft small UAS rule it published in February. Under the new Pathfinder program, FAA would work with industry partners on focus areas, including:

- Visual line-of-sight operations in urban areas – CNN would examine how UAS might be safely used for newsgathering in populated areas.
- Extended visual line-of-sight operations in rural areas – this concept involved UAS flights outside the pilot's direct vision. UAS manufacturer PrecisionHawk would explore how this might allow greater UAS use for crop monitoring in precision agriculture operations.
- Beyond visual line-of-sight in rural/isolated areas – BNSF Railway would explore command-and-control challenges of using UAS to inspect rail system infrastructure.
- UAS in the vicinity of airports – in October 2015, FAA signed an agreement with CACI International, Inc., to evaluate how the company's technology could help detect UAS in the vicinity of airports. (See April 10, 2015; May 8, 2015.)

May 6, 2015: FAA demonstrated its new smartphone application called B4UFLY, designed to help model aircraft and unmanned aircraft users know if it was safe and legal to fly in their current or planned location. FAA intended to release the new app to approximately 1,000 beta testers during the summer. (See April 10, 2015; May 8, 2015.)

May 8, 2015: FAA selected a Mississippi State University team as FAA's center of excellence (COE) for unmanned aircraft systems. The COE focused on research, education, and training in areas critical to safe and successful integration of UAS into the nation's airspace. The team brought together 15 of the nation's leading UAS and aviation universities that had a proven commitment to UAS research and development as well as the necessary resources to provide the matching contribution to the government's

investment. Congress appropriated \$5 million for the 5-year agreement with the COE, which would be matched by the team members. In addition to Mississippi State University, the other team members included: Drexel University; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Kansas State University; the University of Kansas; Montana State University; New Mexico State University; North Carolina State University; Oregon State University; University of Alabama, Huntsville; University of Alaska, Fairbanks; University of North Dakota; and Wichita State University. (See May 6, 2015; June 14, 2015.)

June 12, 2015: FAA removed the requirement for a pilot-in-command who had reached age 60 to be paired with a pilot under age 60 in international commercial air transport operations by air carriers conducting flag and supplemental operations, as well as for other pilots serving in certain international operations using civil airplanes on the U.S. registry. The removal of this restriction allowed all pilots serving on airplanes in international commercial air transport that had more than one pilot, to serve until age 65 without having to be paired with a pilot under age 60. (See November 13, 2014.)

June 14, 2015: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the recreational use of drones because existing rules did not recognize launch and recovery operations for high-powered amateur rockets in the United States. The rulemaking included proposals to require FAA to issue temporary flight restrictions (TFRs) for so-called “Class 2 and 3” amateur high-powered rocket launches, and to make those launch, reentry, and amateur rocket operation zone TFRs apply to foreign-registered aircraft as well as to U.S.-registered aircraft. A TFR excluded flight in airspace defined by lateral and vertical dimensions over a certain period of time. (See May 8, 2015; August 4, 2015.)

June 15, 2015: Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Bill Shuster (R-PA), announced he was drafting legislation to create a federally chartered, but independent, not-for-profit corporation to operate and modernize the U.S. air traffic control system. Some airlines, industry officials, and lawmakers expressed support for privatization proposals, and Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx responded to Shuster’s announcement, saying, “This country deserves a serious conversation about the future of our transportation system.” (See February 3, 2016.)

June 26, 2015: FAA Administrator Michael Huerta issued a national policy titled “Federal Aviation Administration Compliance Philosophy.” The new philosophy, in part, stated, “FAA recognizes that some deviations arise from factors such as flawed procedures, simple mistakes, lack of understanding, or diminished skills. The Agency believes that deviations of this nature can most effectively be corrected through root cause analysis and training, education or other appropriate improvements to procedures or training programs for regulated entities, which are documented and verified to ensure effectiveness. However, reluctance or failure in adopting these methods to remediate deviations or instances of repeated deviations might result in enforcement.” (October 14, 2014.)

June 26, 2015: FAA Administrator Michael P. Huerta and French National Space Agency President Jean-Yves Le Gall signed a memorandum of cooperation to cooperate on research and development related to the safety of private sector orbital space launches and re-entry activities. The research-related, non-binding arrangement was the first of its kind covering research into commercial orbital space operations. FAA also had non-binding arrangements or exchanges of letters with Curaçao, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom that covered FAA assistance with development of domestic regulations relating to commercial space transportation. (See October 31, 2014.)

June 30, 2015: FAA granted a commercial spaceport license to Houston's Ellington Airport, making it the 10th licensed spaceport in the country. (See September 27, 2014; August 17, 2018.)

July 14, 2015: The United States and Ukraine signed an open skies agreement. (See July 8, 2013.)

July 22, 2015: FAA announced it had selected Alexandria International Airport in Alexandria, La., to participate in the military airport program (MAP). Alexandria International was a nonhub primary airport that would participate in the program for three years. The MAP selection would help the airport complete a major apron rehabilitation project. Since 1990, FAA had provided MAP sponsors with approximately \$690 million for a variety of projects, such as building or rehabilitating surface parking lots, fuel farms, hangars, utility systems, access roads, cargo buildings, and other airfield needs. Some of these project types were not normally eligible for airport improvement program funding, but the MAP program carried unique eligibility rules to help convert the airports to civilian or joint-use. (See August 17, 2016.)

August 4, 2015: FAA announced it had issued 1,008 exemptions to businesses to fly unmanned aircraft in the national airspace. The majority of the exemptions went to companies interested in aerial filming for motion picture productions, precision agriculture, and real estate photography. (See June 14, 2015; October 14, 2015.)

August 15, 2015: A glitch in newly installed ERAM system at the Washington ARTCC resulted in a large number of flight cancellations for flights flying in to and out of Washington, DC, area airports.

August 27, 2015: In a response to a petition by airlines, FAA issued a decision saying it would consider extending the deadline for replacing older GPS receivers with newer technology to 2025, but no later. Extensions would be based on individual airline requests. The exemptions would not affect the deadline to implement ADS-B Out by 2020. (April 14, 2014; October 30, 2015.)

August 31, 2015: CSC announced FAA had awarded its team – including Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, and other strategic business partners – a contract to deliver cost-effective cloud services, data center consolidation, and cloud migration capabilities. The single-award indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract was valued

at \$108,992,884 with the potential to reach \$1 billion over 10 years. Under the contract, CSC's team would consolidate FAA data centers and migrate FAA data and systems to a hybrid cloud environment.

September 8, 2015: FAA announced \$100 million contract awards to eight companies to develop and demonstrate technologies that reduced fuel consumption, emissions, and noise under the second phase of its Continuous Lower Energy, Emissions, and Noise (CLEEN II) program. Under CLEEN II, FAA selected eight companies: Aurora Flight Sciences; The Boeing Co.; General Electric (GE) Aviation; Delta TechOps/MDS Coating Technologies/America's Phenix; Honeywell Aerospace; Pratt & Whitney; Rolls-Royce-Corp.; and Rohr, Inc./UTC Aerospace Systems. The companies would match or exceed FAA's investment, bringing the total to at least \$200 million. The eight awardees worked to develop a variety of airframe and engine technologies. Each effort would culminate in a demonstration aimed at bringing the product to market. CLEEN II would nurture these technologies through crucial phases in their maturation, including full-scale ground and flight test demonstrations. (See June 24, 2010.)

September 8, 2015: An engine on British Airways Flight 2276, a Boeing 777, caught fire while waiting to take off from McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. NTSB investigators subsequently found evidence of disk failure in the engine. No passengers or crew suffered major injury while evacuating the plane.

September 14, 2015: In line with the Agency's new compliance philosophy, FAA issued guidance to offices that handled pilot certificate action, offering an alternative tool for handling FAA violations through remedial training. FAA said it put the new guidance in place in an effort to make the national airspace system safer by correcting deviances through training rather than litigation. The FAA safety team (FAASTeam) would facilitate the remedial training. FAA published the information in a notice directed to affected FAA offices and added into the compliance and enforcement section of FAA's compliance and enforcement program as well as Order 8900.1. The remedial training guidance served as an alternative to administrative or legal enforcement action when appropriate. In addition, because runway incursions were a particularly common violation, the document offered specific guidance for runway incursion remedial training. It also included a specific section in Order 8900.1 dedicated to runway incursions. FAA developed a standardized ground-training curriculum called the runway incursion remedial training program (RIRTP). The RIRTP program would be applied to first-time runway incursions. Repeat offenders who had already completed the RIRTP could be offered the program again or could face litigation. (See June 26, 2015.)

September 14, 2015: Airbus, based in Toulouse, France, opened its first jetliner factory in the United States, in Mobile, AL. Airbus hoped the new plant could produce 50 narrow body jets a month by 2017.

September 15, 2015: Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx announced the Department of Transportation would provide \$5.5 million to help 11 small communities in 11 states develop solutions to improve their local air service needs under the small

community air service development program. The communities receiving grant awards included: Tallahassee, FL (\$750,000); Salmon, ID (\$150,000); Presque Isle, ME (\$250,000); Traverse City, MI (\$750,000); Great Falls, MT (\$385,000); Fargo, ND (\$500,000); Redmond, OR (\$500,000); Sioux Falls, SD (\$500,000); College Station, TX (\$475,000); Pasco, WS (\$750,000); and Riverton, WY (\$481,810).

September 16, 2015: FAA announced the award of \$24.5 million in grants to 14 airports around the country to reduce emissions and improve air quality through FAA's voluntary airport low emission (VALE) and zero emissions airport vehicle (ZEV) programs. VALE was designed to reduce all sources of airport ground emissions in areas that did not meet air quality standards. FAA established the program in 2005 to help airport sponsors meet their air quality responsibilities under the Clean Air Act. Through these programs, airport sponsors could use airport improvement program (AIP) funds and passenger facility charges to help acquire refueling and recharging stations, electrified gates, low-emission vehicles, and other airport-related air quality improvements. The ZEV program, created through the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, allowed airport sponsors to use AIP funds to purchase vehicles that produce zero exhaust emissions. AIP funds could cover up to 50 percent of these total project costs.

September 30, 2015: President Barack Obama signed a 6-month extension of FAA authorization and an additional extension that appropriated funding for federal agencies to continue operations until December 11. (See February 14, 2012).

October 8, 2015: FAA issued a safety alert to encourage carriers to alert passengers at the point of ticket sales and check-in that spare lithium batteries were prohibited in checked and carry-on luggage. The alert stated: "To reduce the risk of lithium battery fires, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR), and equivalent International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods (ICAO TI), prohibit spare lithium batteries from checked baggage." (See August 4, 2014; October 26, 2015.)

October 13, 2015: Dutch Safety Board Chairman Tjibbe Joustra said Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 crashed on July 2014 "as a result of the detonation of a warhead outside the airplane," and investigators found "tell-tale fragments of a Russian-made BUK missile" in the bodies of the plane's pilots. Russia rejected the findings, responding the missile was no longer in its arsenal. (See July 17, 2014.)

October 14, 2015: The Los Angeles City Council approved an ordinance that made violations of drone regulations a misdemeanor that "could be punished with up to \$1,000 in fines and six months in jail." Previously, violations resulted in a fine and confiscation of the drone. (See August 4, 2015; October 19, 2015.)

October 15, 2015: Chicago O'Hare International Airport opened a new \$516-million runway as part of its \$9-billion modernization project. (See October 17, 2013.)

October 16, 2015: FAA announced the Republic of Nicaragua complied with ICAO safety standards and was granted a Category 1 rating. With the Category 1 rating, the Republic of Nicaragua's air carriers could secure the requisite FAA and DOT authority, establish service to the United States, and carry the code of U.S. carriers.

October 16, 2015: US Airways made its last flight prior to its merger with American Airlines. (See April 8, 2015.)

October 19, 2015: Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and FAA Administrator Michael Huerta announced the creation of a task force to develop recommendations for a registration process for UAS. Comprising the task force were 25 to 30 diverse representatives from the UAS and manned aviation industries, the federal government, and other stakeholders who would advise the Department of Transportation on which aircraft should be exempt from registration due to a low safety risk (toys and certain other small UAS were included in this evaluation). The task force also explored options for a streamlined system that would make registration less burdensome for commercial UAS operators. Secretary Foxx directed the group to deliver its report by November 20, 2015. On that date, DOT published information on the establishment of the task force and an explanation on the need for registration of UAS in the *Federal Register* on this date. (See October 24, 2015; October 29, 2015.)

October 22, 2015: FAA extended the prohibition against certain flight operations in the Simferopol and Dnipropetrovsk flight information regions (SFAR No. 113) by all U.S. air carriers; U.S. commercial operators; persons exercising the privileges of a U.S. airman certificate, except when such persons are operating a U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier; and operators of U.S.-registered civil aircraft, except when such operators are foreign air carriers. The prohibition was to expire on October 27, 2016. (See December 29, 2014.)

October 23, 2015: FAA and the Indonesian Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) signed an agreement to promote the development and use of sustainable, alternative aviation fuels as well as additional environmental collaboration between the two nations. The memorandum of understanding built on the Obama Administration's efforts to protect the environment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, and provide the United States and the broader global community with more sustainable energy resources. The agreement also created additional partnership opportunities between the U.S. Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative (CAAIFI) and Indonesia's Aviation Biofuels and Renewable Energy Task Force (ABRETF). Both organizations shared similar goals and successes, such as developing alternative fuels that could be used in existing engines. (See December 2, 2014; June 5, 2019.)

October 26, 2015: Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued an interim final rule to prohibit passengers and crewmembers from carrying battery-powered portable electronic smoking devices (e.g., e-cigarettes, e-cigs, e-cigars, e-pipes, personal vaporizers, electronic nicotine delivery systems) in checked baggage and prohibit passengers and crewmembers from charging

the devices and/or batteries on board the aircraft. On January 22, 2015, FAA had issued a safety alert for operators recommending that air carriers require their passengers to carry e-cigarettes and related devices exclusively in the cabin of the aircraft. On June 9, 2015, ICAO published an addendum to its technical instructions for the safe transport of dangerous goods by air that prohibited the carriage of e-cigarettes in checked baggage and restricted the charging of these devices while on board the aircraft. (See October 8, 2015.)

October 27, 2015: Delta Air Lines notified Airlines for America, a trade group representing U.S. airlines, it planned to leave the group on April 26, 2016. Delta, which has not supported many Airlines for America decisions, said it could use the \$5 million it paid in annual dues to the organization to invest in employees and products.

October 28, 2015: Delta Air Lines announced it would stop flying to Dubai, effective February 1, 2016. Delta had accused three rival airlines in the Persian Gulf of receiving \$42 billion in subsidies from their government owners during the last decade. The Gulf carriers – Emirates, Etihad, and Qatar – denied getting subsidies, and argued their U.S. competitors had received unfair advantages from bankruptcy law unavailable in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. (See December 9, 2015.)

October 29, 2015: FAA Administrator Michael Huerta announced the membership of the UAS registration task force. Task force members included:

- Nancy Egan – 3D Robotics
- Richard Hanson – Academy of Model Aeronautics
- George Novak – Aerospace Industries Association
- Chuck Hogeman and Randy Kenagy – Air Line Pilots Association
- Jim Coon – Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
- Sean Cassidy – Amazon Prime Air
- Ben Gielow – Amazon Retail
- Justin Towles – American Association of Airport Executives
- Brian Wynne – Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International
- Parker Brugge – Best Buy
- Douglas Johnson – Consumer Electronics Association
- Brendan Schulman – DJI
- Paul Feldman – General Aviation Manufacturers Association
- Dave Vos – GoogleX (Co-Chair)
- Tony Bates – GoPro
- Matt Zuccaro – Helicopter Association International
- Mike Fergus – International Association of Chiefs of Police
- John Perry – Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors
- Brandon Delet – Measure
- Randall Burdett – National Association of State Aviation Officials
- Sarah Wolf – National Business Aviation Association
- Baptiste Tripard – Parrot
- Tyler Collins – PrecisionHawk

- Gregory McNeal – Small UAV Coalition
- Thomas Head – Walmart
- Earl Lawrence – FAA (Co-Chair)

The task force held its first meeting on November 3, 2015. (See October 14, 2015; November 23, 2015.)

October 30, 2015: Effective this date, a new FAA rule required air carriers conducting domestic, flag, and supplemental operations to make available on their websites information to enable passengers to determine which child restraint system could be used on airplanes in these operations. Specifically, the rule required air carriers to make available on their websites the width of the narrowest and widest passenger seats in each class of service for each make, model, and series of airplane used in passenger-carrying operations. (See September 2006.)

October 30, 2015: FAA announced the Austin air traffic control tower and TRACON facility sustained water damage during flooding from heavy rain. Air traffic controllers provided limited services while FAA assessed the damage. The Houston ARTCC, which normally controlled high-altitude traffic over the area, provided radar separation for flights in the Austin area. Because repairs to the facility were likely to take some time to complete, FAA evaluated options for providing longer-term radar services for lower-altitude aircraft from another facility. Meanwhile, the agency brought in a portable air traffic control tower from storage in Kansas City. For safety reasons, FAA increased the spacing between aircraft using Austin Bergstrom International Airport, which may have resulted in delays during busy periods. The tower and TRACON reopened on November 4.

October 30, 2015: FAA asked RTCA Special Committee 186, the group that created ADS-B industry standards, to consider the feasibility of encrypting ADS-B Out messages to prevent eavesdropping by the public on aircraft identification, position, speed, and other data available on the satellite link. Unlike with radar surveillance, the public could easily acquire low-cost receivers that captured the unencrypted ADS-B Out data from a growing number of equipped aircraft in the United States and globally. (See August 27, 2015; November 11, 2015.)

October 31, 2015: A Russian passenger jet, Metrojet Flight 9268, crashed in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. All 224 people on board the 18-year old Airbus A321-200 died. Debris from the wreck was scattered over 7.7 miles. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) subsequently took credit for placing a bomb on the aircraft.

November 4, 2015: The Houston Airport System (HAS) and NASA entered into an agreement that allowed the new commercial spaceport developing at Ellington Airport to tap into the federal space agency's assets and expertise, expanding the possibilities for the growing commercial spaceflight industry. Under the agreement, HAS and NASA would collaborate and NASA would provide access to a number of the unique capabilities at the

Johnson Space Center (including safety-specific training, facilities, and technology capabilities) to support suborbital operations and commercial spaceflight endeavors.

November 5, 2015: FAA announced it would create a working group to review helicopter safety regulations, saying regulators could do a better job increasing the chances that helicopter occupants survived a crash or hard landing. In a notice published in the *Federal Register*, FAA said it would ask the working group to scrutinize current crash safety regulations, develop cost-benefit estimates for possible changes, and formulate a list of recommendations for the agency to consider.

November 10, 2015: The Department of Justice filed an anti-trust lawsuit with a federal court in New Jersey, alleging a recently proposed deal between United Airlines and Delta Air Lines to exchange landing and takeoff slots at Newark and JFK airports would expand United's dominant presence in the New York market at the expense of other carriers. (See January 8, 2015.)

November 10, 2015: A 10-seat Hawker H25 jet crashed into an apartment building in Akron, Ohio, killing all nine people on the plane but no one on the ground.

November 11, 2015: Members of the United Nations Telecommunication Union announced at the World Radio Communication Conference a deal had been reached for nations to set aside common radio frequencies so that airplanes equipped with ADS-B could be tracked by satellite. The tracking system, done in response to the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in 2014, would become effective worldwide in November 2016. (See October 30, 2015.)

November 13, 2015: After coordinated attacks on civilian targets in Paris, the French government closed its borders to help restore order, prompting transportation officials around the world to come up with emergency plans on how to handle traffic into and out of the country. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks, which killed 129 people and injured over 300 others. (See November 23, 2015.)

November 23, 2015: The State Department issued a worldwide alert to American citizens traveling abroad. Officials warned that the "likelihood of terror attacks will continue as members of ISIL/Da'esh return from Syria and Iraq. Additionally, there is a continuing threat from unaffiliated persons planning attacks inspired by major terrorist organizations but conducted on an individual basis." The travel alert was to expire on February 24, 2016. (See November 13, 2015).

November 23, 2015: GSA announced it had signed a lease to move FAA's Northwest Mountain Regional Headquarters from Renton, WA, to Des Moines, WA. The new building, when completed in 2018, would consolidate regional employees into one facility. (See June 8, 2016.)

November 23, 2015: FAA's drone task force recommended, among other things, that:

1. Drones between 0.55 pound and 55 pounds operated outdoors needed to be registered.
2. The free registration was owner-based, so a number of drones could be registered to one owner.
3. Registration would be mandatory at the time of operation and not the point of sale.
4. Minimum age to register was 13.
5. A registration certificate would be mailed to the owner.
6. The registration number would need to be put on each drone.

FAA planned to use the recommendations, as well as public input, to draft a proposed drone rule. (See October 29, 2015; December 14, 2015.)

November 24, 2015: Airbus announced FAA and the European Aviation Safety Agency had issued a type certificate to the A320neo (new engine option), powered by Pratt & Whitney's Pure Power PW1100G-JM engine.

November 24, 2015: The Airline Operators and Pilots Association reported FAA had released a list of the first 35 of 74 VORs it planned to decommission through 2020. More than 200 more would be decommissioned through 2025. FAA planned to retain more than half of the VORs as it established a minimum operational network to serve as a backup to satellite systems. The list of 35 approved VORs, the first in line to be decommissioned, was spread among 17 states. At the time of the announcement, FAA owned and operated 957 VORs in the continental United States. An additional 100 nonfederal VORs were in operation around the country. Included in the list of VORs to be decommissioned were 12 VORs, 155 VOR/DMEs, and 141 VORTACs. The majority were located in the eastern and central regions of the United States. In the case of VOR/DMEs and VORTACs, the DME and TACAN portions of the units would be left in place to facilitate RNAV requirements.

November 25, 2015: DOT issued a notice reminding airlines they were required to compensate passengers for damage to wheels, straps, zippers, handles, and other protruding parts of checked baggage beyond normal wear and tear. The notice also reminded airlines of their obligation to accept all reports of mishandled baggage from consumers even if an airline's agent believed the airline was not liable. The notice was a result of airport inspections, which uncovered the fact that certain airlines routinely excluded liability for damage to specific parts of checked baggage. DOT's office of aviation enforcement and proceedings planned to take enforcement action against airlines that were not in compliance by January 9, 2016.

December 1, 2015: FAA announced the Kingdom of Thailand did not comply with ICAO safety standards and had been assigned a Category 2 rating based on a reassessment of the country's civil aviation authority. A Category 2 rating meant the country either lacked laws or regulations necessary to oversee air carriers in accordance with minimum international standards – or its civil aviation authority (a body equivalent to FAA for aviation safety matters) was deficient in one or more areas, such as technical expertise,

trained personnel, record-keeping, or inspection procedures. With a Category 2 rating, Thailand's carriers could continue existing service, but not establish new service, to the United States.

December 8, 2015: FAA certified HondaJet's model HA-420 business jet. The new jet could seat up to seven and cost approximately \$4.5 million.

December 8, 2015: A group of U.S. and Mexican investors opened Cross Border Xpress, one of the largest privately operated U.S. air terminals. The terminal linked Tijuana International Airport with the new terminal at the San Diego airport. It allowed passengers flying into Tijuana to walk across a 390-foot bridge to enter the United States. The fee to cross was \$18.00, and passengers were met by U.S. border inspectors. Prior to the opening of the bridge, passengers entering the United States from Tijuana had to drive about 15 minutes to a congested land crossing where they waited up to several hours to enter San Diego by car or on foot.

December 9, 2015: United Airlines announced it would end its flights from Washington Dulles International Airport to Dubai on January 25, 2016. United said in a statement: "Even though we successfully operated the Washington-Dubai route for the past seven years, the entry of subsidized carriers such as Emirates Airline and Etihad Airways into the Washington, D.C., market has created an imbalance between supply and demand to the United Arab Emirates." (See October 28, 2015; May 11, 2018.)

December 14, 2015: FAA announced a streamlined and user-friendly web-based aircraft registration process for owners of small UAS weighing more than 0.55 pounds (250 grams) and less than 55 pounds (approx. 25 kilograms) including payloads such as on-board cameras. Under the rule, any owner of a small UAS who had previously operated an unmanned aircraft exclusively as a model aircraft prior to December 21, 2015, had to register no later than February 19, 2016. Owners of any other UAS purchased for use as a model aircraft after December 21, 2015, had to register before the first flight outdoors. Owners could use either the paper-based process or the new streamlined, web-based system. Owners using the new streamlined web-based system had to be at least 13 years old to register. Registrants needed to provide their name, home address, and e-mail address. Upon completion of the registration process, the web application would generate a certificate of aircraft registration/proof of ownership that included a unique identification number for the UAS owner, which had to be marked on the aircraft. Owners using the model aircraft for hobby or recreation would only have to register once and could use the same identification number for all of their model UASs. The registration was valid for three years. The normal registration fee was \$5, but in an effort to encourage as many people as possible to register quickly, FAA waived the fee for the first 30 days (from December 21, 2015 to January 20, 2016). (See November 23, 2015.)

December 16, 2015: The United States and Cuba reached a bilateral arrangement to establish scheduled air services between the two countries. The agreement continued to allow charter operations and established scheduled air service, which would facilitate an increase in authorized travel, enhance traveler choices, and promote people-to-people

links between the two countries. While U.S. law continued to prohibit travel to Cuba for tourist activities, a stronger civil aviation relationship would facilitate growth in authorized travel between the two countries. (See February 16, 2016.)

December 18, 2015: The United States signed a new air transport agreement with Mexico. The agreement benefited U.S. and Mexican airlines, travelers, businesses, airports, and localities by allowing increased market access for passenger and cargo airlines to fly between any city in Mexico and any city in the United States. Cargo carriers now had expanded opportunities to provide service to new destinations not available under the former, more restrictive agreement.

December 21, 2015: Southwest Airlines agreed to pay a \$2.8 million civil penalty to settle a lawsuit over maintenance of dozens of its Boeing 737 aircraft. The case involved fasteners and supporting equipment that ensured that plane fuselages withstood the forces of flying at different altitudes and temperatures. Southwest could still face \$5.5 million in deferred penalties if it failed to enhance oversight and control of other companies, which performed maintenance on its aircraft, to ensure they met FAA safety regulations

December 22, 2015: FAA announced a comprehensive settlement agreement with Boeing Commercial Airplanes (BCA) that resolved multiple pending and potential enforcement cases. Under the agreement, BCA pledged to implement and improve several certification processes to further enhance the airworthiness and continued compliance of all BCA products. BCA's obligations committed the company to meet specific performance targets. The targets were designed to enhance BCA's early discovery and self-disclosure of potential regulatory compliance problems, as well as the timely development and implementation of effective corrective actions. The company also had to make an immediate payment to the United States Treasury in the amount of \$12 million and would face stiff penalties for failing to follow through on its commitments.

2016

January 14, 2016: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish a new noise standard for certain subsonic jet airplanes and subsonic transport category large airplanes. The noise standard, known as Stage 5, would apply to any person submitting an application for a new airplane type design with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of 121,254 pounds or more on or after December 31, 2017; or with maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 121,254 pounds on or after December 31, 2020. This change would reduce the noise produced by new airplanes and harmonize the noise certification standards for those airplanes certificated in the United States with the ICAO noise standard in Annex 16, Chapter 14. (See August 4, 2005; November 17, 2017.)

January 17, 2016: SpaceX launched its Falcon 9 v1.1 rocket, successfully sending NASA's Jason-3 ocean-measuring satellite into orbit. The rocket, however, failed to make a return landing to a drone platform in the Pacific Ocean. (See September 16, 2014; June 15, 2016.)

February 3, 2016: Republican leaders in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee introduced a \$69 billion funding bill, the Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act, that would move air traffic control operations from FAA to a not-for-profit corporation. Bill Shuster (R-PA) sponsored the bill. NATCA and Airlines for America, a trade group for most major airlines, backed the legislation. The committee held hearings on the bill on February 11, and approved the bill the following day. The bill did not go to the full House for a vote. (See June 15, 2015; June 5, 2017.)

February 8, 2016: The U.S. and 22 other countries reached agreement on the first-ever global carbon standards for commercial aircraft. When fully implemented, the standards were expected to reduce carbon emissions more than 650 million tons between 2020 and 2040, equivalent to removing over 140 million cars from the road for a year. The technology standards, agreed to at ICAO, would apply to aircraft manufacturers when formally adopted by the ICAO Council.

February 16, 2016: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Charles Rivkin, Cuban Minister of Transportation Adel Yzquierdo Rodriguez, and President of the Cuban Civil Aviation Institute, Ministry of Transportation Colonel Alfredo Cordero Puig signed an arrangement that provided for the re-establishment of scheduled air services between the United States and Cuba. (See December 16, 2015; August 31, 2016.)

February 16, 2016: FAA and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore signed the first set of maintenance implementation procedures between the U.S. agency and an Asian counterpart. The deal established reciprocal acceptance of maintenance oversight, among other benefits. It built upon a bilateral aviation safety agreement in place since 2004. (See July 12, 2017.)

February 22, 2016: ICAO voted to ban cargo shipments of lithium ion batteries on passenger planes. The ban became effective on April 1, 2016. (See October 26, 2015; September 8, 2016.)

February 24, 2016: FAA established the performance standards and requirements for micro unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) aviation rulemaking committee (ARC). The committee provided a forum for discussion and development of recommendations that would be submitted to FAA for consideration in developing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) regarding the classification and operation of micro UAS. The ARC was specifically tasked to consider recommendations for a performance-based standard that would allow for micro UAS to be operated over people who were not directly participating in the operation of the UAS or under a covered structure. (See December 21, 2015; March 10, 2016.)

February 25, 2016: Republic Airways, a regional carrier, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

March 4, 2016: DOT published a final rule in the *Federal Register* banning passengers on all U.S. and foreign airlines within, into, or out of the U.S. from smoking electronic cigarettes. The ban took effect on April 3. (See October 26, 2015; May 18, 2016.)

March 9, 2016: FAA issued a NPRM to overhaul the airworthiness standards for small general aviation airplanes (Part 23). FAA's proposal, based on industry recommendations, would reduce the time it took to get safety enhancing technologies for small airplanes into the marketplace, while also reducing cost. (See December 16, 2016.)

March 10, 2016: Australian startup Flirtey made the first FAA-approved package delivery by an UAS to a house. During the test, working with the University of Nevada at Reno, Flirtey's six-rotor small unmanned aerial system flew a preprogrammed route to deliver a package of food, water, and a first-aid kit to an unoccupied house in a sparsely inhabited area of Hawthorne, near Reno. Navigating by the global positioning system (GPS), with visual observers keeping the UAS within line of sight and a ground pilot on standby, the autonomous UAS flew approximately a half-mile, and then hovered to lower the package to the ground on a tether. In July 2015, Flirtey conducted the first FAA-approved package-delivery demonstration with its UAS making three trips over a 2-hour period to ferry medical supplies from a nearby airport to a free clinic held in fairgrounds near Wise, VA. (See February 24, 2016; December 28, 2016.)

March 29, 2016: FAA announced that it had selected unleaded fuel formulations from Shell and Swift Fuels for Phase 2 engine and aircraft testing. Test data would help the companies obtain an ASTM international production specification for their fuels and allow FAA to authorize the existing general aviation fleet to use the unleaded replacement fuels. The testing was scheduled to conclude in 2018. (See September 8, 2014.)

March 30, 2016: FAA issued two new rules dealing with flight simulators and aviation training devices to improve airline pilots' response to a number of unusual situations they might encounter, and give pilots more credit toward the requirements for an instrument rating. The rules set new standards for flight simulator evaluation and qualification, designed to make simulator training and testing more accurate and realistic in scenarios involving stalls, upset recognition and recovery techniques, maneuvers in icing conditions, takeoffs and landings in gusting crosswinds, and bounced landing recovery. FAA required training for most of these maneuvers in a rule published on November 12, 2013. The new rule also addressed a possible lack of simulator fidelity identified in several National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) safety recommendations and provided greater harmonization with international guidance for flight simulator training. Air carriers had to develop training programs using simulators that met the upgraded requirements by March 12, 2019. (See November 5, 2013.)

March 30, 2016: President Barack Obama signed a short-term extension of aviation programs, giving lawmakers three and a half more months to work on a long-term bill. The measure (HR 4721) extended aviation authorization through July 15. The previous authority (PL 114-55) expired on this date. (See September 30, 2015; July 15, 2016.)

April 1, 2016: Under a new rule effective this date aviation medical examiners could no longer issue student pilot certificates. Instead, new pilots had to use a process similar to that used by private pilots. Student pilots had to apply for certificates through their certified flight instructor, a designated pilot examiner, FAA examiner, or Part 141 flight school certificate representative. The changes gave the Transportation Security Administration time to review student pilot applications as part of an anti-terrorism screening program mandated by Congress.

April 6, 2016: The Micro UAS ARC issued its report and recommended FAA regulate small drones based on the risk they pose to people and set standards manufacturers and operators should meet. FAA planned to examine the recommendations as it formulated a new proposal specific to micro drones. FAA expected to release its next full proposal on drone use in December 2016. (See March 10, 2016; May 4, 2016.)

April 11, 2016: FAA issued a final rule that increased the aviation training device (ATD) hours pilots could credit toward an instrument rating – up to 10-hours credit in a basic ATD and up to 20-hours credit in an advanced ATD, not to exceed a maximum of 20 total hours under Part 61. The previous maximum allowance was 10 hours in an FAA-approved aviation-training device. (See December 3, 2014.)

April 18, 2016: The Department of Transportation (DOT) tentatively approved Norwegian Air's request to begin service into the U.S. from a base in Ireland, ending a two-year review of the request that elicited significant opposition from U.S. carriers. DOT planned to hold a number of public information sessions prior to giving final authority. (See December 2, 2016.)

April 20, 2016: FAA issued a notice of proposed policy to reduce the number of radio frequencies used by flight service stations to communicate with aircraft in flight. Under the proposal, 666 remote communications outlets would be decommissioned. Frequencies especially designated for emergency or military use or for use in Alaska were not included in the proposal.

May 4, 2016: FAA announced it would immediately begin allowing students to operate UAS for educational and research purposes without first obtaining a Section 333 exemption. They still, however, had to follow the rules for model aircraft. (See April 6, 2016; July 1, 2016.)

May 9, 2016: Robinson Helicopters announced FAA had certificated its new R44 Cadet helicopter.

May 18, 2016: The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued a final rule prohibiting passengers and crewmembers from carrying battery-powered portable electronic smoking devices (e.g., e-cigarettes, e-cigs, e-cigars, e-pipes, personal vaporizers, and electronic nicotine delivery systems) in checked baggage and prohibited

passengers and crewmembers from charging the devices and/or batteries on board an aircraft. (See March 24, 2016.)

May 19, 2016: EgyptAir Flight 804 en route from Paris to Cairo crashed about 260 miles from Cairo. All 66 passengers and crew died. Black box data indicated there was a fire inside the Airbus 320 at the time of the crash.

June 6, 2016: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and FAA Deputy Administrator Michael G. Whitaker broke ground for a new 370-foot-tall air traffic control tower and terminal radar approach control (TRACON) facility at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

June 8, 2016: FAA broke ground for the Northwest Mountain regional headquarters located in Des Moines, WA. FAA expected the new building to open in February 2018. (See November 23, 2015.)

June 9, 2016: FAA announced steps to address mental health problems among pilots. FAA said it would not require psychological testing for airline pilots. Rather, the agency said it would enhance training for medical examiners who test pilots being hired by airlines and expand mental health assistance for pilots. FAA's goal was "to break down resistance to seeking treatment because pilots can be grounded for certain medical problems or medications."

June 15, 2016: Culminating five years of work, FAA replaced the practical test standards (PTS) for the private pilot certificate and the instrument rating with the new airman certification standards (ACS). ACS improved upon the PTS by adding aeronautical knowledge and risk management elements that supported each PTS skill task.

June 15, 2016: Bombardier Commercial Aviation announced FAA and the European Aviation Safety Agency had certificated the CS100 aircraft.

June 15, 2016: Space X's attempt to land a Falcon 9 rocket booster on a drone ship at sea failed. It was SpaceX's eighth attempted sea landing, and the fifth time that the rocket did not survive. Before this mission, the company had landed three Falcon 9 boosters in a row over the course of the previous three months. (See January 17, 2016; September 1, 2016.)

June 17, 2016: Piper Aircraft announced that FAA had type certificated the Piper M600, a single-engine turboprop.

June 21, 2016: Terrafugia announced FAA approved its 2014 petition for exemption, allowing a vehicle in the Transition® street-legal airplane configuration to be certified as a light sport aircraft (LSA) with a maximum takeoff weight of 1,800 pounds. This was a significant increase over the allowance received in 2010 which granted the Transition® a 1,430-pound weight limit, the same as currently imposed on amphibious LSA. The 1,800-pound weight allowed the Transition® to incorporate automotive occupant protection

safety features, including a safety cage, energy absorbing crumple zones, and cabin features that are commonplace in today's automobiles but unavailable in most general aviation aircraft. (See March 23, 2012.)

June 22, 2016: FAA commissioned the new TRACON at Palm Beach International Airport.

June 24, 2016: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, joined by representatives from the FAA, National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), American Airlines, celebrated the official opening of a new airspace technology demonstration (ATD-2) laboratory at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. This laboratory was part of a five-year test project aimed to streamline the arrival and departure of aircraft and improve surface operations to increase safety and efficiency and reduce fuel use in the nation's aviation system.

June 30, 2016: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced \$5.15 million in grants would go to nine small communities to help them improve local air service. The grants were provided through the small community air service development program (SCASDP), which began in 2002 to help small communities address the economic challenges of maintaining local air service. Receiving grants were: Bullhead City, AZ (\$750,000); Inyokern, CA (\$450,000); Stockton, CA (\$650,000); Hailey, ID (\$500,000); Billings, MT (\$750,000); Missoula, MT (\$600,000); Santa Fe, NM (\$500,000); Amarillo, TX (\$750,000); and Port Angeles, WA (\$200,000).

July 1, 2016: FAA announced expansion of the part of its pathfinder program that focused on detecting and identifying UASs flying too close to airports. FAA signed cooperative research and development agreements (CRDAs) with Gryphon Sensors, Liteye Systems Inc., and Sensofusion. The CRDAs with Gryphon, Liteye and Sensofusion expanded upon collaborative efforts with industry to develop system standards to identify unauthorized UAS flights near airports, which could pose a hazard to manned aircraft. (See May 4, 2016; August 2, 2016.)

July 7, 2016: Lockheed Martin announced a FAA contract award of \$344 million to develop and deploy the terminal flight data manager (TFDM) system. The system would provide electronic flight strips as well as improved surface management tools that would allow streamlined operations in the air traffic control towers for busy airports. The TFDM contract period of performance had a five-year base with seven one-year options.

July 14, 2016: FAA and NATCA signed a new six-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement went into effect on July 24. (See March 14, 2012.)

July 15, 2016: President Obama signed the FAA Extension, Safety and Security Act of 2016, a stopgap fix that funded aviation security and other programs for 14 months. The legislation reauthorized FAA through September 2017, providing funding for airport improvement and security programs and additional regulations for drones. (See March 30, 2016; November 22, 2016.)

July 16, 2016: FAA banned flights to and from Turkey following an attempted coup in the country. FAA lifted the ban on July 18.

July 18, 2016: FAA Administrator Michael Huerta announced Victoria Wassmer would serve as acting deputy administrator. Deputy Administrator Michael Whitaker had left the agency at the end of June. (See June 28m 2017.)

July 20, 2016: Moon Express Inc., a Florida-based firm started in 2010, announced FAA had granted it permission to conduct an independent moon landing.

August 1, 2016: Virgin Galactic announced FAA's office of commercial space had granted it a commercial license to operate its SpaceShipTwo. The license reauthorized Virgin Galactic to continue its commercialization process after its spaceship broke up during a rocket-powered test flight over California's Mojave Desert in October 2014. (See October 31, 2014; May 24, 2018.)

August 2, 2016: FAA announced plans to charter an UAS safety team that would include a wide variety of stakeholders from the drone and aviation industries. Similar to the highly successful commercial aviation safety team, this group would analyze safety data to identify emerging threats that drones may pose to aircraft, people, and property. It would also develop mitigation strategies to address these threats and prevent future accidents. The group held its first meeting on October 21. (See July 1, 2016; August 2, 2016.)

August 2, 2016: FAA announced it planned to hire 1,400 new controllers to help meet its future workforce demands. Applicants had a one-week window to apply, August 8-15.

August 2, 2016: FAA granted permission for Google parent company Alphabet to test delivery drones in designated areas. The company could conduct an operational research study, flying drones less than 400 feet, to develop an airspace management system. The data gathered would be shared with government partners to help regulators study questions about critical safety and human factors regarding unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) cargo deliveries. (See August 2, 2016; August 29, 2016.)

August 12, 2016: FAA announced the selection of the University of Oklahoma and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to lead its new transportation center of excellence for technical training and human performance. The center would conduct research and development on technical training for air traffic controllers, aviation safety inspectors, engineers, pilots, and technicians. (See May 8, 2015.)

August 15, 2016: FAA announced Indonesia complied with ICAO safety standards and had been granted a Category 1 rating. FAA first assessed Indonesia's civil aviation authority in September 1997 and found it in compliance with ICAO standards and then lowered the rating from Category 1 to Category 2 in April 2007. The Category 1 rating was based on a March 2016 FAA assessment of the safety oversight provided by Indonesia's Directorate General of Civil Aviation. A Category 1 rating means the

country's civil aviation authority complied with ICAO standards. With the Category 1 rating, Indonesian air carriers that were able to secure the requisite FAA and DOT authority, could establish service to the United States and carry the code of U.S. carriers. August 15, 2016: FAA rejected an appeal by Santa Monica to overturn a recent FAA decision that required the city's airport to remain open at least until 2023. (See)

August 17, 2016: FAA selected Brunswick Executive Airport in Brunswick, ME, to participate in the fiscal year 2016 military airport program (MAP). The MAP used federal funds to convert former military airports to civilian use and supported improvements to joint-use airports. The MAP funding was a set-aside of the airport improvement program that helped increase civilian aviation capacity by financing projects such as building or rehabilitating parking lots, fuel farms, hangars, utility systems, access roads, cargo buildings, and other airfield projects at former military airports. (See July 22, 2015; June 9, 2017.)

August 21, 2016: The air transport agreement between the United States and Mexico, signed on December 18, 2015, went into effect. This new agreement expanded travel and trade between the United States and Mexico, and facilitated broader economic growth in both countries.

August 23, 2016: The Santa Monica city council voted to close the Santa Monica airport as soon as legally permitted, with a goal of on or before July 1, 2018. (See August 15, 2016; September 15, 2016.)

August 28, 2016: Air traffic controllers at McCarran International Airport began working in a \$99 million, 352-foot tall control tower. The new tower doubled the height of the original tower, and became the second-tallest air traffic control tower in the country.

August 29, 2016: FAA implemented the first operational rules for routine non-hobbyist use of small UAS, or drones. The provisions of the new rule – formally known as Part 107 – were designed to minimize risks to other aircraft and people and property on the ground. (See August 2, 2016; September 16, 2016; December 28, 2016.)

August 31, 2016: As part of the Obama Administration's effort to normalize relations with Cuba, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx arrived in Cuba on the first scheduled flight to the island in over 50 years, on a JetBlue Airways flight from Fort Lauderdale to Santa Clara. (See February 16, 2016; October 25, 2019.)

September 1, 2016: The SpaceX Falcon 9 launch vehicle exploded during a static fire test at Cape Canaveral, FL. The test was in advance of a September 3 launch of the Amos-6 communications satellite for Israeli satellite operator Spacecom. (See June 15, 2016; March 30, 2018.)

September 2, 2016: FAA issued a finding of no significant impact/record of decision for the Southern California Metroplex project. The decision enabled the agency to move forward with the project, which would replace dozens of existing conventional air traffic

control procedures with new satellite-based procedures. FAA planned to begin phasing in the new procedures starting in November 2016 and continuing through April 2017. The project included 99 new satellite-based procedures, consisting of 41 departures, 37 arrivals, and 21 approach procedures. (See March 26, 2020.)

September 8, 2016: FAA issued a statement advising airline passengers not to turn on or charge their Samsung Electronics Company, Ltd., Galaxy Note 7 smartphones during flights or stow them in checked baggage, because of concerns over the phones' fire-prone ion-lithium batteries. Samsung subsequently recalled the phones. (See February 22, 2016; October 14, 2016.)

September 15, 2016: The city of Santa Monica served Atlantic Aviation and American Flyers eviction notices and ordered them to leave Santa Monica airport by October 15 (later extended to November 4). Beginning in June, the city began informing airport tenants that they would not receive new leases. Attorneys for the two companies asked FAA to determine whether the airport's leasing policy violated federal agreements with the city. On September 26, FAA issued a notice of investigation to the City of Santa Monica informing the city it was initiating an investigation into the city's strategy to close the airport by evicting tenants and recommended the city postpone the evictions. (See August 23, 2016; December 13, 2016.)

September 15, 2016: The Astronautics Corporation of America announced a FAA contract to research and develop a way to identify and assess potential aircraft cybersecurity threats as they relate to aircraft certification and operational safety.

September 16, 2016: FAA's new drone advisory committee (DAC) met for the first time. Brian Krzanich, Chief Executive Officer of Intel Corp., chaired the committee. FAA had announced plans to establish the committee the previous February. The DAC was formed under the RTCA federal advisory committee and planned to meet at least three times a year. Members discussed key issues and challenges associated with integrating unmanned aircraft in the world's busiest and most complicated airspace system. (See August 29, 2016; May 29, 2018.)

September 19, 2016: FAA's automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) rebate website went online. It provided general aviation aircraft owners the opportunity to apply for a \$500 rebate to help offset the cost to equip eligible aircraft. ADS-B Out, which FAA required by January 1, 2020, transmitted information about a plane's altitude, speed, and location to air traffic control and other nearby aircraft. ADS-B allowed aircraft to receive traffic and weather information from ground stations and to see nearby aircraft that were broadcasting their positions through ADS-B Out. Owners could choose to install only ADS-B Out equipment to meet the 2020 requirement, or they could purchase an integrated system that also included ADS-B In. (See April 14, 2014; June 26, 2018.)

September 23, 2016: FAA dedicated the new air traffic control tower at Tucson International Airport. The new tower was 252 feet tall – about double the height of the old tower, which had served the airport for 58 years. It sat atop a 13,000 square-foot base

building that housed computer equipment, administrative offices, and a backup power system designed to activate automatically in case of a commercial power outage. FAA expected a 1,600-panel solar farm adjacent to the base building to generate enough power to support all of the facility's electrical needs for several hours a day on sunny days. The total project cost, including computer equipment, electronics, fire suppression systems, and heating and air conditioning, was approximately \$40 million.

September 29, 2016: FAA announced Administrator Michael Huerta had approved the performance-based navigation (PBN) national airspace system navigation strategy. The strategy, which had been in development for two years, set a clear vision of PBN as the daily basis for operations at all locations in U.S. airspace. It established near-, mid- and long-term goals for implementing PBN approaches across the NAS and identified navigation capabilities and services that would be available over the next 15 years. (See October 8, 2014.)

October 1, 2016: FAA transitioned from its traditional domestic instrument flight rules (IFR) flight plan (Form 7233-1) to the ICAO IFR flight plan (Form 7233-4) for domestic flight plan filing. The agency said the change was intended to simplify the flight planning process and align U.S. flight plans with ICAO standards.

October 3, 2016: Rockwell Collins announced FAA had renewed its aeronautical mobile communications service agreement. Under the agreement, the company would continue to provide air traffic control communications, including position reports, aircraft requests and air traffic control clearances, between FAA and aircraft flying in U.S. oceanic airspace.

October 7, 2016: FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to require air carriers conducting domestic, flag, and supplemental operations to provide new-hire pilots with an opportunity to observe flight operations to become familiar with procedures before serving as a flightcrew member in operations; revise the curriculum; provide leadership and command and mentoring training for all pilots in command; and establish pilot professional development committees.

October 10, 2016: Ground was broken on a new \$240 million airport in Williston, North Dakota. FAA provided funding for 50 percent of the project cost, while the city of Williston and the state of North Dakota funded the rest.

October 11, 2016: FAA and local officials dedicated the new control tower at San Francisco International Airport. Located between Terminals 1 and 2, the tower featured a 147-foot-tall ribbon of glass running down the middle of the structure. The facility also included a three-story, 44,000 square-foot base building, which housed administrative offices, computer equipment, a backup generator, and secure corridors that allowed passengers to transit between terminals without affording access to the tower.

October 14, 2016: The Department of Transportation, with FAA and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, announced an emergency order banning all

Samsung Galaxy Note7 smartphone devices from air transportation in the United States. Individuals who owned or possessed a Samsung Galaxy Note7 device could not transport the device on their person, in carry-on baggage, or in checked baggage on flights to, from, or within the United States. This prohibition became effective on October 15, 2016. (See September 8, 2016; January 10, 2017.)

October 17, 2016: Orbital ATK's Cygnus spacecraft lifted off from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at Wallops Island, VA, carrying supplies for the International Space Station. This was the first launch from the spaceport since an Antares rocket and its Cygnus spacecraft were lost in October 2014. (See October 28, 2014.)

October 18, 2016: FAA and federal and local officials dedicated the new air traffic control tower at Las Vegas' McCarran International Airport. The facility included a 352-foot tall air traffic control tower and a 59,000 square-foot base building, which housed the TRACON, air traffic control training simulators, administrative offices, and equipment.

October 18, 2016: Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced a number of actions to enhance protections for air travelers and promote competition in the airline industry. The announced actions included (See July 24, 2012):

- Requiring Refunds for Delayed Baggage
- Expanding the Number of Carriers Required to Report Data
- Requiring the Reporting of Data on Flights Operated by Code-Share Partners
- Providing Consumers with a Clearer Picture of Baggage Delivery
- Prohibiting Undisclosed Bias by Airlines and Online Ticket Agents
- Protecting Air Travelers with Disabilities
- Giving Consumers a Voice by extending its advisory committee for aviation consumer protection. New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu was selected to serve as chair of the committee (See November 15, 2018.)

October 27, 2016: FAA extended the prohibition against certain flight operations in the Simferopol and Dnipropetrovsk flight information regions by all U.S. air carriers; U.S. commercial operators; persons exercising the privileges of a U.S. airman certificate, except when such persons operated a U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier; and operators of U.S.-registered civil aircraft, except when such operators were foreign air carriers. The ban would remain in effect through October 2018. (See October 22, 2015.)

October 27, 2016: The campaign plane carrying Republican vice-presidential candidate Mike Pence skidded off the runway after landing at New York's LaGuardia Airport. The engineered material arresting system located at the end of the runway safely stopped the aircraft, which carried 37 passengers and crew. (See October 1, 2016.)

October 31, 2016: Cirrus Aircraft announced FAA had awarded it a FAR Part 23 Type Certificate for its \$1.96 million, 300-kt. single-engine turbofan SF50 Vision Jet.

November 10, 2016: FAA Administrator Michael Huerta outlined the agency's Caribbean initiative. Through this Initiative, FAA's technical experts would work with their Caribbean partners and ICAO to increase airport safety and certification in the region and to improve air traffic flow management through collaborative decisionmaking.

November 22, 2016: DOT's office of aviation enforcement and proceedings, a unit within the office of the general counsel, issued a new enforcement policy on extended tarmac delays in light of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016. Under the new policy, the DOT would not take enforcement action against U.S. and foreign airlines for lengthy tarmac delays on departing flights so long as airlines returned their aircraft to the gate or another suitable disembarkation point no later than three hours for domestic flights and no later than four hours for international flights after the main aircraft door had closed in preparation for departure. (See July 15, 2016.)

November 23, 2016: FAA issued a request for information seeking vendors of remote air traffic control tower systems to compete for a contract to build a system at Northern Colorado Regional Airport. FAA said the remote tower system must allow controllers to provide Class D services with a facility that is local or remote to the airport. FAA was already evaluating a remote-tower demonstration project run by Saab and the State of Virginia at the Leesburg Executive Airport. (See March 1, 2015.)

November 28, 2016: American Airlines Flight 17 landed in Havana, the first U.S. scheduled airline with service to that city in over 50 years. The airline planned to fly four daily flights from Miami International Airport to Havana.

December 2, 2016: The Department of Transportation gave final approval to allow Norwegian Air International (NAI) to fly to the U.S. NAI, a subsidiary of European low-cost carrier Norwegian Air Shuttle, had applied in December 2013 to serve the U.S. Many U.S. domestic airlines, their unions, and some lawmakers opposed approval arguing that NAI was trying to skirt labor and safety laws, by being headquartered in Ireland, and potentially hiring Asian crews for below-market wages. (See April 18, 2016; May 11, 2018.)

December 6, 2016: The Justice Department approved the \$2.6 billion Alaska Airlines acquisition of Virgin America. As a condition of the acquisition, Alaska Airlines was required to "slim down its code-sharing agreement with American Airlines." Alaska Air and American would be banned from booking passengers on one another's flights on routes where Virgin and American competed, as well as any routes Alaska Air might start in the future. (See December 14, 2016.)

December 6, 2016: FAA opened its new structures and materials laboratory at its William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The 10,000 square foot building with a 32-foot high ceiling cost \$2 million to construct.

December 8, 2016: DOT announced a proposal to require airlines and ticket agents to disclose in advance to consumers if the carriers operating their flights allowed passengers

to make voice calls using mobile wireless devices. Federal Communications Commission rules prohibited the use of mobile devices on certain radio frequencies onboard aircraft, including for voice calls. However, the existing Federal Communications Commission rules did not cover WiFi and other means by which it might become possible to make voice calls. DOT also sought comment on whether disclosure was sufficient or whether it should simply ban voice calls on flights within, to, or from the United States.

December 13, 2016: FAA issued a cease and desist order to the City of Santa Monica to preserve the status quo while it completed its investigation of the issues in the earlier notice of investigation and the complaints filed by American Flyers and Atlantic Aviation over their letters of eviction from the Santa Monica airport. The City had 30 days to file a response. (See September 15, 2016; January 28, 2016.)

December 14, 2016: Alaska Air Group completed its \$2.6 billion acquisition of Virgin America. The two airlines now planned to work with FAA to operate as a single carrier. (See December 6, 2014).

December 14, 2016: FAA awarded type validation to the Bombardier CS300 airliner.

December 16, 2016: FAA issued a new Part 23 rule, which established performance-based standards for airplanes that weighed less than 19,000 pounds with 19 or fewer seats and recognized consensus-based compliance methods for specific designs and technologies. It also added new certification standards to address general aviation loss of control accidents and in-flight icing conditions. Overall, the rule streamlined the approval process, reduced the time it took to move safety enhancing technologies for small airplanes into the marketplace, and lowered overall costs for aviation manufacturers. The rule affected airplane manufacturers, engine manufacturers, and operators of affected equipment. (See March 9, 2016; August 30, 2017.)

December 19, 2016: DOT announced it had selected 25 stakeholders representing a cross-section of airport officials, state aviation officials, regional airline executives, consultants, and academicians to serve on its working group on improving air service to small communities. DOT created the working group in accordance with Section 2303 of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (Reauthorization Bill), P.L. 114-190. The bill established the group and directed the Secretary of Transportation to issue a report to Congress by July 2017. The group would operate completely independently from DOT. Their deliberations would be guided by the provisions of the statute, specifically those directing the group to:

- consider whether funding for essential air service program (EAS), small community air service development program (SCASDP) and airport improvement program (AIP) is sufficient, and
- identify initiatives to help increase the supply of commercially qualified pilots.

December 28, 2016: FAA approved a certificate of authorization for the Northern Plains UAS Test Site to oversee unmanned aircraft operations that go beyond the line of sight of the operator. The North Dakota test site was the first in the nation to have such beyond-

line-of-sight operability. This meant the test site would be able to support the development, testing, and evaluation of a wide range of new applications for UAS technology. (See March 10, 2016; April 9, 2018.)

2017

January 10, 2017: FAA announced that U.S. airlines would no longer be required to make a pre-boarding notification to passengers that the Samsung Galaxy Note7 phone was prohibited from transport on aircraft. The devices were still prohibited on both passenger and air cargo aircraft, but the DOT lifted the requirement that the airlines make the specific pre-boarding notification. (See October 14, 2016.)

January 13, 2017: The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued two guidance documents emphasizing federal law guaranteed all passengers the right to fly free from discrimination. The documents superseded prior non-discrimination guidance issued by DOT and were developed in collaboration with representatives of airlines and civil rights organizations. The first document, “Guidance for Airline Personnel on Nondiscrimination in Air Travel,” contained example scenarios to help airline employees and contractors understand their legal obligation not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or ancestry in air travel. The second document, “Passengers’ Right to Fly Free from Discrimination,” used a question-and-answer format to assist the flying public understand their rights when flying on commercial airlines.

January 20, 2017: Donald J. Trump took the oath of office as the President of the United States.

January 28, 2017: FAA and the City of Santa Monica, CA, announced a settlement agreement to resolve longstanding litigation over the future of Santa Monica Airport. The agreement required the city to maintain continuous and stable operation of the airport for 12 years, until December 31, 2028, and after that the city had the right to close the airport. In recognition of the city's authority to make decisions regarding land use, the agreement allowed Santa Monica to shorten the airport's single runway to 3,500 feet from its then current length of 4,973 feet. The city obligated to enter into leases with private aeronautical service providers to ensure continuity of those services until the runway was shortened and it decided to provide such services on its own. (See December 13, 2016; June 12, 2018.)

January 31, 2017: Elaine Chao became the Secretary of Transportation.

February 27, 2017: FAA announced Kenya complied with international safety standards and had been granted a Category 1 rating. A Category 1 rating meant Kenya’s civil aviation authority met International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards. With the Category 1 rating, Kenyan air carriers that secure the requisite FAA and DOT authority could establish service to the United States and carry the code of U.S. carriers. FAA had not previously assessed Kenya's civil aviation authority for compliance with ICAO standards.

March 15, 2017: FAA extended the prohibition of flight operations in the Tripoli flight information region (FIR) by all U.S. air carriers; U.S. commercial operators; persons exercising the privileges of a U.S. airman certificate, except when such persons operated a U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier; and operators of U.S.-registered civil aircraft, except when such operators were foreign air carriers. FAA found the action necessary because of the continued hazards to persons and aircraft engaged in such flight operations. The prohibition, which was scheduled to remain in effect until March 20, 2017, would now remain in effect until March 20, 2019. (See March 20, 2015.)

April 24, 2017: Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao announced FAA had accepted the City of St. Louis's preliminary application for St. Louis Lambert International Airport to participate in the agency's Airport Privatization Pilot Program. Lambert was the second medium hub airport to join the program. On February 25, 2013, Luis Muñoz Marín Airport in Puerto Rico was the first medium hub airport to join the program. (See April 22, 1997.)

April 27, 2017: FAA published more than 200 facility maps to streamline the commercial drone authorization process. The maps depicted areas and altitudes near airports where an unmanned aerial system (UAS) could operate safely. Drone operators still needed FAA authorization to fly in those areas. This marked a key first step as FAA and industry worked together to automate the airspace authorization process. The maps helped drone operators improve the quality of their Part 107 airspace authorization requests and helped FAA process the requests more quickly. (See December 28, 2016; June 21, 2017.)

May 1, 2017: The BasicMed rule became effective, providing general aviation pilots an alternative to FAA's medical qualification process for third class medical certificates. General aviation pilots may take advantage of the regulatory relief in the BasicMed rule or opt to continue to use their FAA medical certificate. Under BasicMed, a pilot was required to complete a medical education course every two years, undergo a medical examination every four years, and comply with aircraft and operating restrictions. For example, pilots using BasicMed could not operate an aircraft with more than six people onboard and the aircraft must not weigh more than 6,000 pounds.

May 19, 2017: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit struck down a FAA rule requiring owners of large recreational drones and other model aircraft to registers their devices. FAA had announced the rule in 2015 in response to growing reports of drones flying near aircraft and airports. The Court ruled that federal law prohibited FAA from issuing rules and regulations pertaining to model aircraft. (See February 15, 2015; December 12, 2017.)

June 5, 2017: President Donald J. Trump announced plans to reform FAA by separating air traffic control from the agency into a non-profit, self-financing organization. On June 22, House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) introduced H.R. 2997, FAA reauthorization legislation that would separate air traffic control from FAA. On June 27, the full Transportation and

Infrastructure Committee approved the bill by a vote of 32 to 25. The bill did not go to the full House for a vote. (See February 3, 2016; September 28, 2017.)

June 9, 2017: FAA announced it had extended the participation of two airports in the Military Airport Program (MAP) – Millington Regional Jetport in Millington, TN, and Waynesville-St. Robert Regional Airport in Waynesville, MO. The program used federal funds to convert former military airports to civilian use and supports improvements to joint-use airports. The MAP funding was a set-aside of the airport improvement program (AIP) that helped increase civilian aviation capacity by financing projects such as building or rehabilitating parking lots, fuel farms, hangars, utility systems, access roads, cargo buildings, and other airfield projects at former military airports. The other airports participating in the program included: Brunswick Executive Airport, Brunswick, ME; Alexandria International Airport, Alexandria, LA; and Jose Aponte de la Torre Airport, Ceiba, PR. (See August 17, 2016.)

June 21, 2017: FAA established a new aviation rulemaking committee (ARC) to help the agency create standards for remotely identifying and tracking unmanned aircraft during operations. The rulemaking committee held its first meeting on June 21-23 in Washington, DC. The group's membership represented a diverse variety of stakeholders, including the unmanned aircraft industry, the aviation community and industry member organizations, manufacturers, researchers, and standards groups. The rulemaking committee's tasks included:

- Identify, categorize, and recommend available and emerging technologies for the remote identification and tracking of UAS.
- Identify requirements for meeting the security and public safety needs of law enforcement, homeland defense, and national security communities for remote identification and tracking.
- Evaluate the feasibility and affordability of the available technical solutions, and determine how well they address the needs of law enforcement and air traffic control communities. (See April 27, 2017; December 19, 2017.)

June 22, 2017: Bell Helicopter announced FAA certification of its new Model 505 Jet Ranger X.

June 28, 2017: FAA announced the appointment of Dan Elwell as deputy administrator. Elwell previously served as FAA assistant administrator for policy, planning and environment from 2006 to 2008. Most recently, he had been the senior advisor on aviation to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao. Before returning to public service, Elwell was president and managing partner of Elwell and Associates, an aviation consulting firm. Elwell also was senior vice president for safety, security and operations at Airlines for America and a vice president at the Aerospace Industries Association. (See July 18, 2016.)

June 29, 2017: FAA and NASA researchers dropped a 5,180-pound cross-section cut from a 68-passenger regional jet with 10 crash dummies on board from the NASA Langley Research Center's gantry. Both agencies planned to use the data from the drop to

help inform the development of the next generation of aircraft frames. (See August 28, 2013.)

July 12, 2017: FAA signed a maintenance agreement guidance (MAG) with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CASS). It provided guidance for the implementation of the previously agreed-upon maintenance implementation procedures (MIP). In cases where there were sufficient certificated facilities in both partner countries, MIPs could reduce the number of surveillance activities, free up inspector resources for the authorities, and reduce the regulatory burden on industry. There were 58 FAA-approved repair stations located in Singapore. The MAG furthered the MIP agreement signed by FAA Administrator Michael Huerta and CAAS on February 16, 2016. That agreement was the first of its kind in Asia and reduces costs by allowing the reciprocal acceptance of Singapore and the United States' surveillance of maintenance work. (See February 16, 2016; February 8, 2018.)

July 23, 2017: FAA restructured its aircraft certification service, which realigned the organization based on function. The organization was structured into five functionally-aligned divisions:

- Policy and Innovation - to improve standards and policy with a particular focus on enabling new technology and innovative business models;
- Compliance and Airworthiness - to maintain and improve the record for certifying and assuring continued airworthiness of specific products;
- System Oversight - to coordinate and integrate safety oversight for the aircraft design and manufacturing community.
- Organizational Performance - to monitor performance relative to internal metrics and leads in planning and implementing strategic changes to improve performance;
- Enterprise Operations - to provide core services including human resources, finance, information management, and workforce development support to assure effective management of resources needed to accomplish the Service's mission.

An executive director led the organization and is supported by two deputies. One deputy focused on tactical regulatory operations and the other is focused on strategic initiatives.

July 28, 2017: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said FAA must take a second look at its policies in regard to airline seat sizes.

August 20, 2017: FAA's flight standards service made organizational adjustments that enabled it to operate with greater accountability, better use of resources, and more readiness to adapt to change. Organizational changes included the elimination of regional flight standards offices and the creation of four functional organizations within flight standards: air carrier safety assurance; general aviation safety assurance; safety standards; and foundational business.

August 21, 2017: Robison Helicopter announced it had received FAA type certification for its R66 Turbine Newscopter.

August 25, 2017: Hurricane Harvey, a Category 4 hurricane, made landfall near Rockport, Texas. After striking land, the storm moved over the Copano Bay and made a second landfall in Texas just north of Holiday Beach as a Category 3 hurricane. It then weakened to a tropical storm and stalled just inland, dropping very heavy rainfall and causing widespread flash flooding. On August 29, Harvey made its third and final landfall just west of Cameron, Louisiana. During the storm, more than 800 Houston area flights were canceled, including 704 at George Bush Intercontinental Airport and 123 at William P. Hobby Airport. Both airports eventually closed to traffic until storm damage had been assessed and repaired.

August 25, 2017: FAA Administrator Michael P. Huerta and local and state officials dedicated a new, 8,600-foot runway at Taos Regional Airport, New Mexico. Federal grants totaling about \$25 million paid for most of the project cost.

August 28, 2017: FAA reissued a prohibition of certain flight operations in the Damascus Flight Information Region by all U.S. air carriers; U.S. commercial operators; persons exercising the privileges of an airman certificate issued by FAA, except such persons operating a U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier; and operators of U.S.-registered civil aircraft, except where the operator was a foreign air carrier. FAA found the action necessary to safeguard against continuing hazards to persons and aircraft engaged in such flight operations. (See December 30, 2014.)

August 30, 2017: The final rule overhauling airworthiness standards for general aviation airplanes published in December 2016 went into effect. The new part 23 revised standards for airplanes weighing 19,000 pounds or less and with 19 or fewer passenger seats by replacing prescriptive requirements with performance-based standards coupled with consensus-based compliance methods for specific designs and technologies. The rule also added new certification standards to address GA loss of control accidents and in-flight icing conditions. (See December 16, 2016.)

August 30, 2017: FAA issued a notice of final policy announcing it would reduce the number of radio frequencies used by flight service stations to communicate with aircraft in flight. Remote communications outlets (RCOs) in 641 locations would be decommissioned beginning in late fiscal year 2017. FAA planned to issue notices to airmen (NOTAMs) as it decommissioned each frequency. According to the notice of final policy, the current RCO network was “designed at a time when FSS personnel were handling over 10,000 radio calls per day . . . Today, they handle less than 1,000 calls per day.” In addition to lower usage, the RCO infrastructure also included “duplicate, overlapping and seldom used frequencies.” Frequencies in Alaska and those designated for emergency or military were not included.

September 4, 2017: Hurricane Irma made landfall at Barbuda as a Category 5 storm. Irma made successive landfalls at approximately on Sint Maarten, and on Ginger Island and Tortola, in the British Virgin Islands. The storm caused catastrophic damage in Barbuda, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands. On September 10, Irma

made landfall in Cudjoi Key, Florida, and then again on Marco Island, and at Naples, Florida.

September 13, 2017: A FAA mobile tower began operations at the Cyril E. King International Airport in St. Thomas to provide air traffic services for all of the aircraft operating in and out of Key West in support of the relief and recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Irma. The existing air traffic control tower at the airport was badly damaged by the storm, and controllers managed air traffic from a tent on the airfield for several days before the mobile tower arrived. FAA shuttled controllers back and forth from San Juan, Puerto Rico to St. Thomas every day to staff the facility. In addition to the air traffic controllers, FAA sent an airport certification safety inspector to St. Thomas to ensure the airport was safe before air carrier operations resumed.

September 17, 2017: A FAA mobile air traffic tower arrived at Key West International Airport, Florida, to provide air traffic services for all of the aircraft operating in and out of Key West in support of the relief and recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Irma. In addition to the mobile tower, FAA deployed a trailer to the site to support the tower controllers with an air-conditioned break room and lavatories. Before the tower arrived, controllers managed air traffic airport from a small tent. FAA also authorized drone operations in Florida to aid rapid damage assessment. FAA authorized over 170 drone operations for the area damaged by Hurricane Irma. The primary authorized drone operations supported power and insurance companies.

September 20, 2017: Hurricane Maria, a category 4 storm, made landfall on Puerto Rico, after causing substantial damage in the Caribbean, especially on the island of Dominica. Puerto Rico sustained significant damage from winds and floods.

September 20, 2017: SAE International and Airlines for America presented the annual Better Way Award to a team of researchers from Sandia National Laboratories, FAA, Delta Airlines, NORDAM, and NDT Solutions. They received the award in recognition of efforts for furthering the efficacy and science of nondestructive testing. The recipients include Russell Jones and David Westlund of FAA; John Bohler, Robert Hager and Alexander Melton of Delta; Stephen Neidigk, Tom Rice and Dennis Roach of Sandia; Daryl Graham and Jeff Harper of NORDAM; and Larry Culbertson of NDT Solutions.

September 21, 2017: The first known mid-air collision between a drone and an aircraft occurred when a civilian drone collided with a U.S. Army UH-60 helicopter east of Staten Island, NY. The Army helicopter sustained damage to its main rotor blade, window frame, and transmission deck. NTSB investigators recovered a motor and arm from the drone, identified as a DJI Phantom 4. On December 14, 2017, NTSB said the collision was caused by the drone operator's failure to see the helicopter.

September 24, 2017: FAA hurricane recovery efforts began supporting more than a dozen commercial passenger flights per day at Luís Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico. As the agency continued to restore radars, navigational aids, and other equipment damaged during Hurricane Maria, the agency also implemented a slot

reservation system to manage the demand for ramp space at the airport and to separate safely aircraft in the air.

September 28, 2017: FAA air traffic controllers handled the landing of the first commercial air carrier flight in weeks into the Cyril E. King International Airport in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Working from a mobile air traffic tower FAA moved to the island the previous weekend, the controllers began managing a mix of commercial, military, relief, and recovery flights to and from the storm-ravaged island.

September 28, 2017: The House and Senate passed the Disaster Tax Relief and Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2017, which extended extend FAA's authority to operate for six months through March 30, 2018. (See June 5, 2017; October 5, 2018.)

October 3, 2017: Ohio Country (WVA) Commission Administrator Greg Stewart announced the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport manager had received a letter from FAA stating the agency would not renew airport's air traffic control tower when it expired on September 30, 2019. Two contract controllers manned the tower between 8 am and 8 pm.

October 5, 2017: Effective this date, FAA and the Department of Interior agreed to restrict drone flights up to 400 feet within the lateral boundaries of these sites: Statue of Liberty National Monument, New York, NY; Boston National Historical Park (U.S.S. Constitution), Boston, MA; Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, PA; Folsom Dam; Folsom, CA; Glen Canyon Dam; Lake Powell, AZ; Grand Coulee Dam; Grand Coulee, WA; Hoover Dam; Boulder City, NV; Jefferson National Expansion Memorial; St. Louis, MO; Mount Rushmore National Memorial; Keystone, SD; and Shasta Dam; Shasta Lake, CA. (See June 20, 2014; December 18, 2017.)

October 3, 2017: In a speech on the House Floor, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) announced his air traffic control privatization bill would ensure that the new private, non-profit air traffic control corporation would not receive any appropriations or support from the federal government. The proposal would ensure general aviation users would not have to pay user fees, would be able to nominate two members to the new organization's board, and that the general aviation community would not have any airspace restrictions. (See June 5, 2017.)

October 5, 2017: Tetra Tech, Inc., announced it had received a \$356 million contract to provide engineering and technical support services to FAA. Under the five-year navigation technical assistance contract II (NAVTAC II), Tetra Tech would support FAA in the planning, research, development, implementation, maintenance, and decommissioning of FAA's navigation, landing, and lighting systems.

October 18, 2017: CNN reported it had received a Part 107 waiver from FAA allowing it to fly a small UAS over groups of people – the first FAA waiver of its kind. (See June 21, 2017; October 25, 2017.)

October 25, 2017: President Donald Trump directed Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao to launch an initiative that would safely test and validate advanced drone operations in partnership with state and local governments in select jurisdictions. The initiative – the unmanned aircraft systems integration pilot program – would:

- Give state, local and tribal governments a voice and a stake in the development of a federal regulatory framework for aviation;
- Allow companies and governments to operate drones in ways currently restricted by FAA regulations – including beyond-visual-line-of-sight flights, nighttime operations and flights over people; and
- Collect essential operational data on expanded UAS operations and community participation. (See October 18, 2017; November 8, 2017; October 30, 2020.)

October 26, 2017: A new runway opened at the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport; the first new runway opened in the state in 30 years.

October 27, 2017: FAA and the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) announced the signing of an implementing agreement under the U.S.-China Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement recognizing each other's regulatory systems with respect to the airworthiness of aviation products and articles. The agreement allowed both FAA and the CAAC to submit applications for validation for all categories of aviation products and addresses globalization challenges such as complex business models separating design and production. (See April 6, 2004; June 3, 2020.)

October 30, 2017: Workers at Alaska's Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) airport removed a seal estimated to weigh 450 pounds from the runway. Workers from North Slope Animal Control used a sled to haul the seal off the runway. Alaska's Department of Transportation joined the fun by issuing a warning to pilots of "low sealings" at the airport.

November 8, 2017: FAA issued information in the *Federal Register* on the UAS integration pilot program and providing instructions on how to apply to participate in the program. Those interested had to submit to FAA a notice of intent by November 28. (See October 25, 2017.)

November 16, 2017: U.S. Transportation Secretary Chao announced plans to create a pilot program, called "Forces to Flyers," to help train and certify military veterans as commercial airline pilots.

November 16, 2017: Airbus announced that both the European Safety Agency and FAA type certificated its A350-1000.

November 17, 2017: Effective this date, FAA adopted a new noise standard for certain newly certificated subsonic jet airplanes and subsonic transport category large airplanes. The noise standard, known as Stage 5, applied to any person submitting an application for a new airplane type design with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of 121,254 pounds (55,000 kg) or more on or after December 31, 2017; or with maximum

certificated takeoff weight of less than 121,254 pounds (55,000 kg) on or after December 31, 2020. As a result of the rule, new large airplane type designs in the subsonic jet airplanes and subsonic transport category will operate at least 7 decibels (dBs) quieter than airplanes in the current fleet. (See January 14, 2016.)

December 5, 2017: Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao withdrew an Obama Administration proposal to require airlines and ticket agents to disclose fees for carry-on and checked baggage from the beginning of a fare inquiry. Chao also ended a rulemaking process begun in 2011 that would have required airlines to submit detailed data on ancillary fee revenue to DOT four times per year. (See January 24, 2012.)

December 7, 2017: FAA released a test version of a federal pilot records database, which provided airlines federal information on potential pilot hires. This allowed airlines to check the qualifications and backgrounds of pilots before they were hired. The database will eventually expand to include airline and state driving records. (See March 30, 2020.)

December 8, 2017: President Trump signed legislation providing appropriations to fund the government for two weeks through December 22.

December 12, 2017: President Trump signed the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which among other things, restored FAA's right to require small UAS to be registered and marked. (See May 19, 2017.)

December 13, 2017: FAA announced the United States and European Union (EU) signed amendments to two US-EU agreements that would expand areas for joint efforts on aviation safety and air traffic management harmonization. An amendment to the U.S-EU aviation safety agreement enabled FAA and the EU to finalize arrangements for reciprocal acceptance of approvals associated with flight simulator training devices and pilot licensing. It also allowed for future collaboration in aircraft operations and air traffic safety oversight. A second amendment expanded collaboration in the area of air traffic management modernization.

December 18, 2017: FAA announced it would ban UAS flights over seven Department of Energy facilities, effective December 29. The ban included Washington State's Hanford Site, Idaho National Laboratory, New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratory, South Carolina's Savannah River National Laboratory, Texas' Pantex Site, and Tennessee's Y-12 National Security Site and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. (See October 5, 2017.)

December 19, 2017: The Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Identification and Tracking ARC chartered in June submitted its report and recommendations to the agency on technologies available to identify and track drones in flight and other associated issues. (See June 21, 2017; May 9, 2018; December 26, 2019.) Those recommendations included:

- FAA should consider two methods for remote ID and tracking of drones: direct broadcast (transmitting data in one direction only with no specific destination or

- recipient) and network publishing (transmitting data to an internet service or group of services).
- The data collected must include a unique identifier for unmanned aircraft, tracking information, and drone owner and remote pilot identification.
 - FAA should promote fast-tracked development of industry standards while a final remote ID and tracking rule is developed.
 - FAA should implement a rule in three stages, with an ultimate goal that all drones manufactured or sold within the United States that comply with the rule must be so labeled.
 - FAA should coordinate any ID and tracking system with the existing air traffic control system and ensure it does not substantially increase workloads.
 - FAA should exempt drones operating under air traffic control or those operating under the agency's discretion (public aircraft operations, security or defense operations, or with a waiver).
 - FAA should review privacy considerations, in consultation with privacy experts and other federal agencies, including developing a secure system that allows for segmented access to the ID and tracking information. Within the system, only persons authorized by FAA (e.g., law enforcement officials, airspace management officials, etc.) would be able to access personally identifiable information.

2018

January 7, 2018: Michael Huerta's 5-year term as FAA Administrator ended. Deputy Administrator Daniel Elwell became the agency's acting administrator. (See March 27, 2012.)

January 11, 2018: FAA approved an operating license for Alaska Airlines and Virgin American to operate as a single airline. Alaska Airlines had announced the purchase of Virgin America in April 2016.

January 15, 2018: A number of airlines, American, Alaska, Hawaiian, Delta, United, and Southwest, prohibited passengers to fly with smart bags that contained nonremovable lithium batteries. The policy change applied to checked- and carry-on bags that used lithium batteries to power high-tech features such as a USB charging station and a location tracker. Other airlines followed suit.

January 19, 2018: FAA approved Boeing's 787-10 Dreamliner for commercial use. (See December 2, 2014; August 28, 2020.)

February 6, 2018: FAA announced it had signed an enhanced Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement Implementation Procedures for Airworthiness (BASA-IPA) with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS). The BASA-IPA provided for the mutual recognition of airworthiness of civil aeronautical products, and included an expanded scope of modifications and repairs allowed beyond cabin interiors. These enhancements reduced duplicate certification activities for design approvals issued to air operators and

aeronautical design industries from both the U.S. and Singapore, resulting in significant time and cost savings. (See July 12, 2017.)

February 16, 2018: FAA certificated the Boeing 737 MAX-9 jet for commercial operations. (See October 29, 2018.)

February 28, 2018: The Brazilian Civil Aviation Agency, FAA, and the European Aviation Safety Agency certified the Embraer E190-E2.

March 1, 2018: *Aviation Week* announced its 62nd Annual Laureate Award winners. The FAA/Industry Commercial Safety Aviation Safety Team/Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing Initiative won the commercial safety award.

March 22, 2018: FAA published an emergency order regarding “doors off” and “open-door” operations. The agency issued the order to all operators and pilots of flights for compensation or hire with the doors opened or removed or using aircraft registered in the United States for doors off flights. It prohibited the use of supplemental passenger restraint systems that could not be released quickly in an emergency in doors off flight operations. The order also prohibited passenger-carrying doors off flight operations unless the passengers were at all times properly secured using FAA approved restraints.

March 30, 2018: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) gave formal approval to a plan by SpaceX to build a global broadband network using satellites. The FCC said the decision was “the first approval of a U.S.-licensed satellite constellation to provide broadband services using a new generation of low-Earth orbit satellite technologies.” (See September 1, 2016; November 15, 2020.)

April 2, 2018: NASA announced it had awarded Lockheed Martin a \$247.5 million contract to design and build a new X-plane, known as the Low-Boom Flight Demonstrator (LBFD), which may soar silently over the U.S. by 2022.

April 9, 2018: FAA granted a beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) waiver to Xcel Energy, the first such waiver for utility inspection operations. Xcel planned to operate a small BVLOS helicopter weighing less than 55 pounds within a designated area approximately 20 miles north of Denver International Airport. On September 12, Xcel launched its first such drone to inspect electric power lines near Fort St. Vrain Generating Station in Platteville, Colorado. (See December 28, 2016; August 20, 2018.)

April 10, 2018: Bye Aerospace’s prototype Sun Flyer 2, an electrically powered fixed-wing aircraft, made its first flight. (See April 26, 2018.)

April 17, 2018: Southwest flight 1380, A Boeing 737, en route from New York LaGuardia Airport to Dallas Love Field, suffered an engine failure and made an emergency landing at Philadelphia International Airport. One passenger died when an explosion involving the left engine blew out a window and caused the cabin to

depressurize. The passenger fatality was the first on a U.S. airline since 2009. (See February 12, 2009.)

April 20, 2018: FAA issued an emergency airworthiness directive (EAD) that required operators to inspect fan blades on certain CFM56-7B engines within 20 days. The agency based the directive on a CFM International Service Bulletin issued on this date and on information gathered from the investigation of the Southwest Airlines engine failure. Engines with more than 30,000 total cycles from new had to complete inspections within 20 days. The engine manufacturer estimated the corrective action affected 352 engines in the U.S. and 681 engines worldwide.

April 26, 2018: FAA issued an airworthiness certificate to Slovenia-based light aircraft maker Pipistrel for its Alpha Electro all-electric plane. The two-seat electric trainer, tailored to the needs of flight schools, had an all-composite body with electric motor and 20 kWh battery packs. (See April 10, 2018; June 6, 2019.)

May 9, 2018: Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao announced DOT had selected 10 participants for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Pilot Program. First announced in October 2017, the initiative partnered FAA with local, state, and tribal governments, which then partnered with private sector participants to safely explore the further integration of drone operations. (See December 19, 2017; July 20, 2018.) The 10 selectees included:

- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Durant, OK
- City of San Diego, CA
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority, Herndon, VA
- Kansas Department of Transportation, Topeka, KS
- Lee County Mosquito Control District, Ft. Myers, FL
- Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority, Memphis, TN
- North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, NC
- North Dakota Department of Transportation, Bismarck, ND
- City of Reno, NV
- University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK

May 11, 2018: The DC Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower-court ruling in favor of the Transportation Department's decision to approve flights into the U.S. by Norwegian Air International. Brought by four unions representing 135,000 aviation workers, the appellate case centered on language in so-called Open Skies agreements the U.S. negotiated with other countries. (See December 2, 2016.)

May 11, 2018: The United States and the United Arab Emirates resolved a years-old disagreement over alleged Emirati government subsidies to its airlines and accusations of unfair competition in the U.S. Under the deal, Dubai-based Emirates and Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways agreed to voluntarily publish annual financial statements consistent with international accounting standards. The major U.S. carriers – Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, and United Airlines – had long alleged those financials reports obscured billions in hidden subsidies by the government. The more sensitive issue related

to flights operated by Emirates that departed from the UAE, made stops in a second nation, and then continued on to the United States was not included in the deal. Emirates operated two such routes, known in the industry as "Fifth Freedom" flights, with one going from Dubai to Athens to Newark and the other going from Dubai to Milan to New York. The U.S. airlines had sought a binding commitment from the Gulf airlines that they would not start additional Fifth Freedom flights. Instead, they got a letter in which the Emiratis stated they currently had no plans to add more such flights. (See December 9, 2015.)

May 15, 2018: The Department of Transportation issued a statement instructing U.S. airlines to continue allowing the transport of the most common service animals. The Department said it "wants to ensure that individuals with disabilities can continue using their service animals while also helping to ensure that the fraudulent use of other animals not qualified as service animals is deterred." The Department said it planned to ask for public comment about amending its existing regulations. (See October 5, 2018.)

May 24, 2018: President Donald Trump signed a policy directive to pursue sweeping regulatory reforms the administration said would encourage commercial space innovation. He gave Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao until February 2019 to review space launch and re-entry licensing process and make changes where the regulatory regime proved inefficient, costly, and burdensome to private enterprise. It specified areas of the licensing process that should receive specific attention during the reform process, including the possibility of requiring just one license for all forms of commercial space launch and re-entry. (See August 1, 2016.)

May 25, 2018: A three-judge panel of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals held that "the FAA can require an insulin-dependent diabetic to submit to expensive and invasive glucose-monitoring to establish that he is medically fit to fly commercial aircraft." (See June 22, 2020.)

May 29, 2018: RTCA's umbrella charter agreement with the FAA as a federal advisory committee expired. As a result, FAA reestablished its Drone Advisory Committee and the NextGen Advisory Committee as separate entities with their own charters. RTCA had served as a federal advisory committee since 1976. (See September 16, 2016.)

June 12, 2018: The NBAA filed a petition to overturn a controversial settlement agreement between the FAA and Santa Monica, California, concerning the city's airport. The subsequent ruling by the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit did not address the merits of the filing by the NBAA, but rather denied the petition on procedural grounds. (See January 28, 2017.)

June 18, 2018: FAA approved Boeing's design for the 777X, which featured retractable wings. The design expanded the wingspan to 235 feet, which was too wide for most airports. As a result, Boeing designed the new wings so they could retract and reduce the span to 212 feet – small enough to continue using terminals designed for older 777s. FAA added special conditions to its approval to ensure the plane's safety, such as lockouts and

alarms to eliminate any chance of an aircraft attempting to take off while the wingtips were stowed or the wingtips being inadvertently folded in flight.

June 22, 2018: FAA and the European Commission signed an agreement – called Bilateral Oversight Board Decision 0008 (BOB 0008) – which reduced involvement of the validating authority and opened the door to lower the fees EASA charged U.S. manufacturers. The agreement also permitted the agencies to approve basic aircraft type certifications with minimal scrutiny.

June 23, 2018: FAA began operations in the new air traffic control tower at Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport. FAA and the Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority (SMAA) built the new, 525 square-foot tower under a unique agreement. The FAA funded the new tower design and engineering and electronic equipment. Agency technicians and engineers installed the electronics and maintained the equipment. SMAA funded, constructed, and owned the new tower. SMAA maintained the facility, which included a 9,000 square foot base building that housed equipment, administrative offices, and training rooms. FAA dedicated the new tower on September 10, 2018.

June 26, 2018: FAA Acting Administrator Dan Elwell signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Department of Defense to guide joint efforts on ADS-B Out implementation. Secretary of the Air Force signed the agreement on July 17. FAA required aircraft that fly in most U.S. controlled airspace to be equipped with a Version 2 ADS-B Out system as of 2020. Under the MOA, the agencies “are jointly pursuing a post-2020 accommodation strategy that assures the Defense Department the same level of access to the national airspace system that it continues to have prior to the mandate.” “The accommodations will address those Defense Department aircraft that will not be equipped with ADS-B Out by 2020, as well as certain national security mission sets conducted by aircraft that are ADS-B Out equipped.” Some military aircraft may not be equipped until 2029. (See September 19, 2016; October 12, 2018.)

July 20, 2018: In a policy statement, FAA said it had exclusive authority over aircraft operations, including unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), within navigable airspace, although it allowed state and local governments to regulate landing sites. Flight paths, altitudes, or operational bans within navigable airspace – defined by federal regulation as airspace at or above prescribed minimum flight altitudes, including airspace needed for safe takeoff and landing – remained within FAA’s purview. (See May 9, 2018; October 1, 2018.)

July 20, 2018: FAA issued Gulfstream Aerospace a production certificate for its G500 twin-engine business jet.

August 10, 2018: A suicidal employee of Horizon Air stole an Air Bombardier Q400 turboprop at Seattle’s SeaTac International airport and crashed it on Ketron Island.

August 17, 2018: FAA granted Spaceport Colorado its operator license making it the 11th spaceport in the country. Located at Front Range Airport, the new spaceport could

accommodate space planes that take off like a normal jet and then engage rockets. The airport said it planned to change its name to Colorado Air and Space Port. (See June 30, 2015; May 5, 2020.)

August 20, 2018: In a reorganization of its flight standards organization, FAA moved all flight standards elements under four functionally aligned areas: Office of Air Carrier Safety Assurance, Office of General Aviation Safety Assurance, Office of Safety Standards, and Office of Foundational Business.

August 20, 2018: General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. flew the first large drone approved by the FAA to fly beyond the line of sight of the pilot and without using a manned airplane to observe the flight. The flight took place at the Northern Plains Test Site in Grand Forks, North Dakota. (See April 9, 2018; October 16, 2018.)

September 4, 2018: FAA granted Boeing's KC-46 mid-air refueling tank a supplemental type certificate.

September 9, 2018: FAA issued a notice to airmen updating guidance advising U.S. aircraft operators to exercise caution when flying within or adjacent to the Tehran Flight Information Region (FIR) because of military activities in the Middle East region. Among the threats to civil aviation, FAA listed Russian air-launched cruise missile attacks overflying Iran toward targets in Syria and naval missiles launched from the Caspian Sea. The agency also warned of the potential of Iranian surface-to-surface missile launches from western Iran, targeting Islamic State positions in the region, as well as Iranian GPS jammers. (See June 21, 2019.)

September 18, 2018: In dual order extensions, the FAA continued restrictions dating to its 1968 High-Density Rule (HDR) that limited arrivals and departures at the New York's LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International airports during peak demand periods to reduce congestion. With the phase-out of the HDR in 2007, the FAA ordered temporary limits at LGA and JFK that periodically had been extended, most recently in 2016 at both airports.

September 18, 2018: FAA extended the prohibition against certain flight operations in the Pyongyang Flight Information Region (SFAR 79) to September 18, 2020, because of the hazardous situation created by North Korean military capabilities and activities. (See September 8, 2020.)

September 21, 2018: FAA signed separate agreements with Brazil's Agência Nacional de Aviação Civil (ANAC) and Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA), which made it easier to approve each country's aircraft and aviation products. The agency signed the first FAA-ANAC Implementation Procedures Agreement (IPA) in September 2006, with two amendments thereafter. The latest revision expanded the IPA to include Part 23 (general aviation aircraft) as well as risk based decision criteria for the U.S. and Brazil to validate each other's aviation products. FAA and TCCA signed a Shared Surveillance

Management Plan that defined the process by which they recognized each other's surveillance of manufacturers and their suppliers in the United States and Canada. The Plan ensured manufacturers, certificate holders, production approval holders, and suppliers complied with the responsible countries' applicable regulatory requirements.

September 28, 2018: FAA received a NASA-developed technology called flight deck interval management (FIM). FIM operated with terminal spacing and sequencing technology to help air traffic controllers manage aircraft arrivals and pilots determine appropriate flight speeds. Using the system, controllers received visual aids with trajectory information they used to guide pilots. The pilots received the information and enter their assessments into the FIM. The technology transfer was part of Air Traffic Management Technology Demonstration 1, a government-industry effort aiming to identify new technologies to help airports reduce delays in arrivals.

September 28, 2018: FAA announced it would automatically refer cases of drone interference with first responders for legal enforcement action.

October 1, 2018: FAA announced nine new partners to its Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) initiative, a collaboration between the FAA and the drone industry that provided near real-time processing of airspace authorizations for Part 107 drone operators nationwide who fly in controlled airspace. The new partners included: Aeronyde, Airbus, AiRXOS, Altitude Angel, Converge, DJI, KittyHawk, UASidekick and Unifly. The nine joined five companies – AirMap, Harris Corp., Project Wing, Skyward and Thales Group. The companies already met the technical and legal requirements to provide LAANC Services. (See July 23, 2019.)

October 5, 2018: President Trump signed a five-year FAA reauthorization bill (PL 115–254), which provided one of the longest reauthorization periods for the agency since the 1980s. Among other things, the legislation required FAA to: establish minimum standards for seat size and pitch on commercial airliners; prohibit airlines from bumping passengers once they were on board; banned the placement of live animals in storage bins and set policies for support animals in the cabin (See May 15, 2018; August 8, 2019.); prohibited customers from using cell phones in flight; required FAA to establish an aviation consumer advocate and create an Office of Spaceports; and determine whether airlines provided adequate lavatory access. The bill also required airlines to provide more information to customers about the assistance they provided in event of weather delays. It established a task force to study in-flight sexual assaults and required most commercial airlines to install a second security barrier – a wire mesh gate – to guard against cockpit intrusions. In addition, it gave FAA, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Federal Communications Commission 270 days to make a determination on what spectrum drones could use to communicate and report its finding to Congress. (See September 28, 2017.)

October 12, 2018: FAA announced a relaunch of its \$500 ADS-B rebate program effective immediately and ending October 11, 2019. The Agency made \$4,900,000 available under the program, which would fund 9,792 ADS-B Out installations. Under

the previous rebate program, which ran from September 19, 2016, to September 18, 2017, the FAA issued more than 10,000 rebate payments. (See June 26, 2018; October 11, 2019.)

October 16, 2018: FAA announced it would provide \$40.9 million to Piedmont Triad International Airport toward building a 180-foot air traffic control tower. When completed, the tower would accommodate up to eight positions for air traffic controllers in a 550-square-foot tower cab. It would replace a 90-foot-tall tower that had been in operation since 1974. A 15,650-square-foot base building would anchor the new tower, which would house the terminal radar approach control with up to 10 radar positions for air traffic controllers. The base building also would include administrative offices and a training classroom. The FAA planned to begin construction in early 2019 and commission the facility in early 2022.

October 16, 2018: Avitas Systems, a GE venture, received the first FAA approval to fly a 55-plus-pound UAS beyond the visual line of sight with no spotter for commercial purposes. Operating on Shell oil facilities in the Permian Basin in part of Loving County, Texas, the company used ground-based radar as its primary enabling technology. (See August 20, 2018; January 8, 2019.)

October 18, 2018: FAA announced U.S. airlines and code-share partners could resume flights at three Ukrainian airports and over parts of the Black Sea, citing improved safety and security in parts of Ukraine. The agency had barred flights over the war zones of the Crimea and Ukraine in April 2014, and expanded prohibitions after Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was shot down while it flew over eastern Ukraine, killing nearly 300 people on board. FAA said it would maintain prohibitions on flights over the Crimea and parts of Ukraine. It would, however, allow takeoffs and landings at Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia international airports in Ukraine. (See July 17, 2014.)

October 26, 2018: FAA, in cooperation with DoD and the U.S. Coast Guard, restricted drone flights near U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels operating in the vicinity of Naval Base Kitsap in Washington State and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Georgia. Drone operations were required to maintain a distance of at least 3,000 feet laterally and 1,000 feet vertically from these vessels. FAA had earlier imposed restrictions on drone flights near other Department of Defense and Justice facilities.

October 29, 2018: Indonesian Lion Air Flight JT610, a Boeing 737 Max 8 jet, crashed shortly after takeoff. None of the 189 people onboard survived the crash. After recovering the plane's flight data recorder, the Indonesian National Transportation Safety Committee indicated the Lion Air jet experienced erroneous input from one of its angle of attack sensors. On November 7, Boeing issued a bulletin to airlines worldwide warning of erroneous readings from flight-control software on the Max 8. FAA also issued an emergency notice to all operators of Max 8 and 9 planes. The agency warned airlines that erroneous sensor inputs like the one that came into play in the October 29 crash "could cause the flight crew to have difficulty controlling the airplane," leading to "possible impact with terrain." (See February 16, 2018; March 10, 2019.)

November 1, 2018: A new airline, California Pacific, began operations with flights from Carlsbad, CA, to San Jose, CA, and Reno, NV. It expanded flights to Las Vegas, NV, and Phoenix, NV, on November 15. Its fleet included four, 50-seat Embraer SA E145 jets. FAA granted its operating certificate in May 2018.

November 7, 2018: Bombardier Business Aircraft announced its Global 7500 aircraft had received FAA type certification.

November 9, 2018: In the aftermath of an incapacitated controller found in the Las Vegas airport tower on November 7, the FAA issued a new controller staffing policy. The agency said major airport towers no longer would be able to combine controller responsibilities to one position prior to midnight and 90 minutes after the start of the shift, allowing another controller to go on break.

November 14, 2018: The Sioux County Iowa officials dedicated the new Sioux County Regional Airport near Maurice, Iowa.

November 15, 2018: Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced she had reconstituted the Aviation Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (ACPAC) and established the National In-Flight Sexual Misconduct Task Force as an ACPAC Subcommittee. The task force would review practices, protocols, and requirements of U.S. airlines in responding to and reporting allegations of sexual misconduct by passengers on board commercial aircraft. It would also provide recommendations on best practices relating to training, reporting, and data collection. (See October 18, 2016.)

November 30, 2018: FAA announced the U.S. and Argentina signed a new bilateral aviation safety agreement during the G20 summit in Buenos Aires. The agreement replaced an accord the two countries signed in 1989, and allowed the FAA and Argentina's National Civil Aviation Administration (ANAC) to increase collaboration on airworthiness certification of civil aviation products and in the areas of design, production, flight operations, environmental certification and aircraft maintenance. Paired with a new Implementation Procedures for Airworthiness understanding, the agreement permitted ANAC to work on behalf of the U.S. in Argentina, reducing duplication of certification activities for design approvals issued to operators and manufacturers, FAA said. FAA expected the new bilateral agreement to take effect in 2020.

December 4, 2018: FAA opened its new Atlanta Flight Operations Facility at Cobb County International Airport in Kennesaw, Georgia. The 32,050-square-foot facility, accommodated six King Air 300 aircraft and included shop space for aircraft maintenance and repair and space to accommodate 26 FAA employees.

December 10, 2018: FAA extended a ban on flights over Syria until 2020, citing the "threat to civil aviation from the multifaceted conflict and extremist threat, and militant activity." The prohibition originally issued in December 2014, applied to all U.S. carriers and commercial operators, as well as anyone flying with a FAA-issued airman certificate or operating a U.S.-registered civil aircraft, except when flown by a foreign carrier.

While the ban did not extend to foreign carriers, Transportation Department codeshare authorizations forbid foreign carriers using a U.S. partner's code from operating in prohibited airspace. (See August 18, 2014.)

December 13, 2018: Virgin Galactic launched a spacecraft more than 50 miles high, reaching FAA's definition of space. The spacecraft reached a height of 51.4 miles, hitting a top speed of Mach 2.9, before descending and returning the company's space port in Mojave, CA. Although it did not reach orbit, the flight became the first launch of a spacecraft from U.S. soil with humans on board to reach the edge of space since the Space Shuttle was retired in 2011. (See January 10, 2014.)

December 18, 2018: India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation announced that after a FAA audit completed in July 2018, India had retained its Category 1 aviation safety rating. FAA conducted the audit to confirm India's adherence to ICAO standards. (See April 8, 2015.)

December 22, 2018: Because of a lack of 2019 appropriations funding, the FAA, among other agencies, furloughed employees. Many employees in essential positions, such as air traffic controllers, remained on the job, but without pay. The furlough ended on January 28, when the President signed a continuing resolution providing agencies affected by the lack of an appropriation, funding for three weeks. (See October 1, 2013.)

2019

January 8, 2019: State Farm announced it received a long-term FAA waiver to fly drones beyond the operator's visual line of sight (BVLOS) and over people. FAA granted State Farm the first such national waiver to operate drones for damage-assessment flights after natural disasters. The waiver would expire in November 2022. The company had received previous waivers to fly drones BVLOS and over people following Hurricanes Florence in September and Michael in October 2018. (See October 16, 2018; July 31, 2019.)

January 18, 2019: Effective this date, FAA recalled 2,200 furloughed aviation safety inspectors and engineers back to work.

January 25, 2019: President Donald Trump signed a measure to end the 35-day-long partial federal government shutdown.

February 14, 2019: FAA announced Vietnam complied with international safety standards and had been granted a Category 1 rating under the agency's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) program. FAA based the Category 1 status on its August 2018 assessment of the safety oversight provided by the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam. A Category 1 rating means Vietnam's civil aviation authority met International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards for personnel licensing, operations, and airworthiness. (See May 13, 2019.)

February 23, 2019: Effective this date, FAA required drone operators to display their aircraft registration numbers on the outside of the drone.

February 23, 2019: An Atlas Air Boeing 767 cargo jet operated on behalf of Amazon Air crashed east of Houston, TX, killing all three people onboard.

February 27, 2019: The Department of Transportation issued an interim final rule prohibiting passenger airlines from carrying rechargeable lithium-ion batteries as cargo, because of the potential for causing uncontrollable fire in cargo holds. The rule also required lithium-ion cells and batteries to be shipped at not more than a 30 percent state of charge when carried aboard cargo-only aircraft.

March 4, 2019: Commercial service began at Paine Field in Everett, WA, as Alaska Airlines began operations from the airport's new passenger terminal. The airport, also called the Snohomish County Airport, had previously been used only for Boeing's test flights. FAA had approved the start of commercial flight at the airport on February 20, 2019.

March 8, 2019: FAA and European Union (EU) officials signed two decisions associated with the Airworthiness Annex of the US/EU Safety Agreement. The Bilateral Oversight Board (BOB) Decision 0008-0001 (PDF) enabled reductions of the EU's European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) fees for validation of U.S. aerospace products. The decision covered simple design modifications such as basic supplemental type certificates. The second decision, BOB Decision 0009, amended the US/EU Safety Agreement to remove country specific limitations associated with aeronautical products and parts eligible for import into the United States. This amendment treated all EU Member States equally under the agreement and recognized EASA's oversight and standardization processes throughout their jurisdiction.

March 10, 2019: A Boeing 737 Max 8 operated by Ethiopian Airlines crashed shortly after takeoff killing all 157 people onboard. A Lion Air Boeing 737 Max 8 had crashed on October 29, 2018, killing all 189 people onboard. China immediately ordered Chinese airlines to ground all 96 Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft used on domestic flights. Twenty-two airlines and several countries followed China's lead in grounding the aircraft. On March 13, FAA grounded the Boeing 737 Max when it became aware of new satellite data suggesting a link between the Ethiopian air crash and the earlier crash in Indonesia. Canada had grounded the aircraft earlier in the day. (See October 29, 2018; March 25, 2019.)

March 25, 2019: Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chow announced plans to establish a committee of experts to review how FAA certified the Boeing 737 Max 9. She had asked the Department's Inspector General on March 19 to audit the FAA's certification process.

April 15, 2019: The Embraer E195-E2 jet received simultaneous type certification from three major regulatory authorities: Brazilian Civil Aviation Agency; FAA; and the European Aviation Safety Agency. (See March 10, 2019; October 11, 2019.)

April 18, 2019: FAA grounded the fleet of Cirrus Vision SF50 light aircraft because of issues with the aircraft's angle of attack sensor. The agency issued an emergency airworthiness directive following three incidents on Cirrus SF50 aircraft in which the stall warning and protection system or electronic stability and protection system engaged even though there was sufficient airspeed and proper angle of attack for normal flight. Before further flight, the aircraft's angle of attack sensor had to be replaced with an improved sensor.

April 19, 2019: A custom-made drone flew a human kidney 2.8 miles to a nearby hospital in Baltimore in the world's first drone delivery of a human organ. The nighttime drone flight followed a three-year collaboration among doctors, researchers, engineers, and aviation experts at the University of Maryland Medical Center and the Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland, a Baltimore-based organization that oversees organ procurement in the state.

April 23, 2019: Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao announced FAA had awarded the first air carrier certification to a drone delivery company, Wing Aviation. The certification paved the way for Wing Aviation to begin commercial package delivery in Blacksburg, VA. Wing partnered with the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership and Virginia Tech, as one of the participants in the Department's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program.

April 25, 2019: Local and state officials officially opened the new Greensburg Municipal Airport in Greensburg, Kansas.

April 30, 2019: Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) and the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) announced the creation of a Blue Ribbon Task Force on UAS Mitigation at Airports comprised of representatives from associations representing airports and unmanned aircraft systems to address the challenge of drone incursions at U.S. airports. Former FAA Administrator Michael Huerta and Deborah Flint, CEO of Los Angeles World Airports, served as the task force co-chairs. The task force hoped to inform UAS mitigation efforts at other facilities, including landmarks, stadiums, prisons, and military bases.

May 13, 2019: FAA announced the Republic of Costa Rica did not comply with ICAO safety standards and had been assigned a Category 2 rating based on a reassessment of the country's civil aviation authority. A Category 2 rating meant the country either lacked laws or regulations necessary to oversee air carriers in accordance with minimum international standards, or its civil aviation authority – a body equivalent to the FAA for aviation safety matters – was deficient in one or more areas, such as technical expertise, trained personnel, record-keeping, or inspection procedures. In 1996, FAA assigned Costa Rica an initial Category 1 rating. FAA conducted an in-country reassessment of Costa Rica under the IASA program in October 2018. (See February 14, 2019; November 11, 2019.)

May 15, 2019: With the approval of the Secretary of State and in close coordination with the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary of Transportation Chao issued an order suspending air service between the United States and Venezuela. The Acting Secretary of Homeland Security requested the action based on an assessment of security conditions in Venezuela.

May 31, 2019: FAA announced a collaborative effort with the Air Force to counter the national aircrew shortage. Through this effort, the FAA and Air Force agreed to explore options and establish goals to address aviation workforce issues, with a particular focus on cross-agency collaboration. The work of this collaboration will identify and support solutions based in the following areas:

- Priming the pipeline: What can be done to attract new people to critical aviation professions?
- Pathways to proficiency: How can efficiency in training be maximized?
- Productive partnerships: How can we promote productive partnerships with government, Department of Defense, academia and industry?

June 5, 2019: FAA broke ground for a new air traffic control tower and terminal radar approach control facility at Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro, NC. FAA planned to invest \$61 million in the new facility. The tower would be 180 feet tall, topped by a 550-square-foot tower cab to accommodate up to eight positions for air traffic controllers. The 15,650-square-foot base building would anchor the new tower and house the terminal radar approach control (TRACON) facility. FAA expected to commission the facility in 2020.

June 5, 2019: United Airlines debuted its Flight for the Planet aircraft, a Boeing 737-900ER. The plane was the first known aircraft to use sustainable aviation biofuel, zero cabin waste efforts, and carbon offsetting. (See October 23, 2015; November 20, 2020.)

June 6, 2019: Ampaire unveiled its prototype electric-powered airplane, the Ampaire 337, in a test flight from Camarillo Airport in California. The twin-engine airplane, which could carry seven passengers, was based on the Cessna 337 Skymaster. (See April 26, 2018; January 7, 2020.)

June 21, 2019: FAA issued an emergency order to U.S. civil aircraft prohibiting all American aircraft operators from entering the Tehran Flight Information Region in the area above the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, the region where a U.S. drone was shot down on June 20. (See September 9, 2018; August 20, 2019.)

June 21, 2019: FAA and NASA performed a crashworthiness test on a Fokker F28 aircraft at the Landing and Impact Research Facility at NASA's Langley Research Facility in Hampton, VA. Data from the test will help researchers ascertain how portions of the cabin interior and occupants of the aircraft react in a crash. In addition, test results will support the development of a new performance based rule that will simplify the certification process by eliminating or minimizing the use of special conditions to certify aircraft.

June 26, 2019: Secretary of Transportation Chao and Argentine Minister of Transport Guillermo Dietrich signed a Protocol of Amendment that modernized the 1985 Air Transport Services Agreement between the two countries. The agreement allowed for increased competition and service to more destinations between the two countries. It included unrestricted capacity and frequency, open route rights, a liberal charter regime, and open code-sharing opportunities.

June 28, 2019: FAA's new airmen certification standards for the airline transport pilot rating became effective. The standards brought together the previously used practical test standards with additional requirements for the certificate, updates to the knowledge exam, and notes formerly distributed across a variety of source materials.

June 28, 2019: Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. announced FAA type and production certification of its new Gulfstream G600.

July 23, 2019: Effective this date, FAA expanded the use of the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) to recreational drone uses. LAANC was previously available only to commercial operators. Drone hobbyists could use LAANC to obtain near real-time authorization to fly below 400 feet in controlled airspace around airports. Through the LAANC system, operators request flight authorizations using mobile applications offered by FAA-approved UAS Service Suppliers. The apps match flight plans with airspace grids on FAA UAS facility maps that depict preapproved areas and altitudes where a drone can safely fly. (See October 1, 2018; November 21, 2019.)

July 31, 2019: Pilots and researchers from the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration conducted the first official BVLOS unmanned aircraft flight in the country approved by the FAA. (See January 8, 2019; August 14, 2019.)

August 8, 2019: The Department of Transportation issued guidance designed to clarify rules already in place regarding service animals. The Department limited the number of service animals on a flight, and airlines could deny boarding to an animal too large or heavy or younger than four months. (See October 5, 2019; December 2, 2020.)

August 12, 2019: Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao swore in Stephen M. Dickson as the FAA's 18th Administrator. Dickson had recently retired as the Senior Vice President of Flight Operations for Delta Air Lines. He also flew in line operations as an A320 captain, and previously had flown the B727, B737, B757, and B767 during his career. A former United States Air Force Officer and F-15 fighter pilot, Dickson was a Distinguished Graduate of the Class of 1979 at the United States Air Force Academy, as well as a graduate of the Georgia State University College of Law, magna cum laude. He had been confirmed by the Senate on July 24.

August 13, 2019: Drone delivery system developer Flytrex and jet charter and management company Causey Aviation announced they had received FAA approval to begin food deliveries by drone in Holly Springs, North Carolina. The approval allowed flights of Flytrex multirotor drones along a predetermined delivery route between the Holly Springs Towne Center shopping mall and Ting Park, a nearby outdoor sports and recreation facility.

August 14, 2019: The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) announced it had received permission to conduct the first ever BVLOS drone operation in the nation leveraging only onboard detect-and-avoid systems. This was the first FAA authorized operation to fly without a requirement for visual observers or ground-based radar and was the result of the 31-member Kansas Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program (IPP) team effort to advance drone technologies. In a collaborative effort between Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus (K-State Polytechnic), Westar Energy, Iris Automation, and KDOT, the Kansas IPP team flew a nine-mile track to evaluate technologies to inspect power lines in rural Kansas. (See July 31, 2019; November 21, 2019.)

August 16, 2019: The Italian aircraft manufacturer Tecnam announced FAA had awarded a type certificate to its P2012 Traveller, an 11-seat commuter plane. The aircraft first flew in July 2016 and received EASA type certification in December 2018.

August 20, 2019: FAA issued guidance to U.S. airlines and other commercial flight operators warning of an “increasing inadvertent risk” to aircraft flying over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. “Iran has publicly made threats to U.S. military operations in the Gulf region,” the FAA said in a notice. Iran possessed a variety of missiles and military jets capable of intercepting airliners, according to the agency. (See June 21, 2019.)

August 22, 2019: Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chow announced the appointment of 22 members to the Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee (SOCAC) to advise her on safety issues including aircraft and flight standards, certification processes, safety management systems, risk-based oversight efforts, and the delegation of oversight responsibilities to manufacturers. The committee, chaired by former Alaska Airlines Chairman and CEO William Ayer, included Boeing VP-Safety, Security and Compliance Beth Pasztor, as well as officials from Delta Air Lines, GE Aviation, Gulfstream Aerospace, Pratt & Whitney and United Airlines. Other members included representatives from trade associations and unions such as the National Air Transportation Association, Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, and AFL-CIO.

August 27, 2019: FAA began requiring all pilots filing flight plans to use the ICAO flight plan format. According to FAA, using the ICAO form allowed for a greater variety of entry types in departure and destination fields including special flight rules area flight plans, transmission of the supplemental pilot data field to the destination facility with the VFR flight plan to reduce search and rescue response times, integration of performance

based navigation, and use of more detailed equipment codes to identify better aircraft capabilities.

August 28, 2019: FAA and local officials broke ground for a new air traffic control tower at Southwest Florida International Airport. The new 200-foot tower and terminal radar approach control facility, scheduled to open in 2022, replaces a tower built in 1982.

August 2019: Chattanooga, became the first American airport to be 100 percent solar powered. The \$5 million dollar solar farm project took seven years to complete, and received funding from the FAA's voluntary airport low emissions program.

September 13, 2019: Secretary Chao announced the formation of the Air Ambulance and Patient Billing Advisory Committee. The committee will advise the Secretary about issues relating to air ambulance services and patient billing, review options to improve the disclosure of charges and fees for air medical services, better inform consumers of insurance options for such services, and protect consumers from balance billing. Based on its review, the committee will make recommendations regarding disclosure of charges and fees for air ambulance services and insurance coverage, as well as consumer protection and enforcement authorities of both the DOT and state authorities, and the prevention of balance billing to consumers.

September 20, 2019: Secretary Chao announced the formation of the Air Carrier Access Act Advisory Committee. The committee will advise the Secretary about issues relating to the air travel needs of passengers with disabilities. It will identify and assess disability-related access barriers encountered by air travelers with disabilities, evaluate the extent to which DOT's programs and activities are addressing these disability-related access barriers, and recommend actions to improve the air travel experience of passengers with disabilities. The committee planned to submit its recommendations on or before November 20, 2020.

October 1, 2019: FAA awarded air carrier and operator certification to UPS Flight Forward. Flight Forward received the first Part 135 Standard certification for drones. The certification allowed the drone and cargo to total 55 pounds and fly at night; previous restrictions that governed earlier UPS flights. It also allowed UPS to expand its drone delivery service to hospital campuses around the country and provide customers outside of the healthcare industry with delivery options.

October 7, 2019: FAA announced it had completed the operational rollout of ADS-B baseline services with the implementation at the last two of 155 airports slated for the technology, Akron-Canton and Mansfield Lahm Regional airports in Ohio, in September.

October 9, 2019: Secretary Chao announced FAA's establishment of a Women in Aviation Advisory Board. The Board will focus on analyzing industry trends; coordinating efforts among airlines, nonprofit organizations, and aviation and engineering associations to facilitate support for women pursuing aviation careers;

expanding scholarship opportunities; and enhancing training, mentorship, education, and outreach programs for women interested in aviation careers. (See May 15, 2020.)

October 10, 2019: Williston Basin International Airport, in North Dakota, opened. Williston's old airport, Sloulin Field International, which opened in 1947, had closed the day before. The new airport cost \$273 million, financed with \$106 million from the FAA, \$55 million from the state, and \$112 million from bonds supported by airport revenue.

October 11, 2019: FAA announced the ADS-B rebate program for general aviation aircraft owners had ended. The agency had provided 20,000 rebates. (See October 12, 2018.)

October 11, 2019: The Joint Authorities Technical Review (JATR) team, staffed by representatives from nine civil aviation agencies and NASA, delivered its findings and recommendations to FAA after a five-month review. The JATR urged FAA to "review the B737 MAX compliance" with three regulations—Part 25.1329 (Flight Guidance System), 25.1581 (Airplane Flight Manual-General) and 25.201 (Stall Demonstration) – "and ensure the consistent application and interpretation of regulatory guidance material for the system safety assessment, handling qualities rating method, and conformity requirements for engineering simulators and devices." The task force found that FAA's derivative certification approval process evaluated specific changes from a previous design, but did not always ensure if the changes had an adverse impact on unchanged areas. It also highlighted an insufficient amount of human factors expertise in the certification process. FAA Administrator Steve Dickson thanked the group and said he would "review every recommendation and take appropriate action." The JATR's 28-member team comprised representatives from Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Transport Canada, the Civil Aviation Administration of China, the European Aviation Safety Agency, Indonesia's Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore and the United Arab Emirates' General Civil Aviation Authority, FAA, and NASA. Former NTSB Chairman Chris Hart led the team. (See March 25, 2019; October 23, 2019.)

October 18, 2019: Wing Aviation and FedEx Express completed the first scheduled package delivery by drone to a house in Christiansburg, VA. The delivery by Wing's Hummingbird aircraft made use of the first Part 135 air carrier certificate granted by the FAA for a drone operation.

October 23, 2019: The Department of Transportation Inspector General released a 58-page report saying FAA needed to restore public confidence in the aircraft certification process following the two Boeing 737 MAX crashes. The report said FAA faced a "significant oversight challenge" to ensure the companies conducting delegated certification tasks "maintain high standards and comply with FAA safety regulations." (See October 11, 2019; October 25, 2019.)

October 25, 2019: The Department of Transportation announced that as of December 10, 2019, it would ban all flights by U.S. airlines between the U.S. and Cuba with the

exception of flights in and out of Havana. The Department took action at the request of the State Department as a means of protesting Cuba's support of the Venezuelan regime and because of Cuba's repression of its own people. (See August 31, 2016; August 13, 2020.)

October 25, 2019: Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee released its report on the Lion Air Boeing 737 Max jet accident. The committee reported a combination of design flaws by Boeing and inadequate pilot training and maintenance lapses by Lion Air that led to the crash. Investigators listed nine contributing factors including an automated system's reliance on a single sensor; the miscalibration of that sensor during repairs; a lack of flight and maintenance documentation; and a failure by the flight crew to manage the chaos in the cockpit as emergency warnings sounded. (See October 23, 2019; November 22, 2019.)

October 31, 2019: FAA announced that runway status lights (RWSL), the first technology to provide direct warning to pilots about potential runway conflicts, was now operational at all 20 sites approved to receive the technology. The technology alerted pilots and vehicle operators to stop when runways and taxiways were not safe to enter, cross, or begin takeoff. Red lights embedded in the pavement illuminated when the presence of other traffic creates a potential conflict. RWSL used the airport's surface surveillance system to determine the location of aircraft and vehicles. (See June 11, 2009.)

November 6, 2019: Epic Aircraft announced FAA had granted type certification to its E1000 all-carbon fiber aircraft design.

November 11, 2019: FAA found that the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) did not meet ICAO safety standards and received a Category 2 rating based on a reassessment of the country's civil aviation authority. A Category 2 IASA rating meant CAAM was deficient in one or more areas, such as technical expertise, trained personnel, record-keeping, and/or inspection procedures. In 2003, Malaysia was assigned a Category 1 rating. FAA conducted an in-country reassessment of Malaysia in April 2019, and met with the CAAM in July 2019 to discuss the results. With a Category 2 rating, Malaysia's carriers could continue existing service to the United States, but would not be allowed to establish new service to the United States. (See May 13, 2019; December 13, 2019.)

November 12, 2019: New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced completion of a 50-mile unmanned traffic management corridor running from Syracuse International Airport to Rome, New York. The corridor would be used to test unmanned aerial systems and unmanned traffic management technologies. On November 7, Cuomo announced FAA had approved BVLOS drone operations within the first segment of the corridor, an 8 x 4-mile section of airspace between Griffiss International Airport in the city of Rome and the New York State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany. The State of New York invested approximately \$30 million in the UAS corridor project, first introduced in 2016.

November 21, 2019: FAA announced an expansion of the LAANC. Four airports – Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, Dulles International Airport, William P. Hobby Airport in Houston and Newark Liberty International Airport – joined the list of approximately 400 air traffic facilities covering about 600 airports where LAANC was available. (See August 14, 2019; December 26, 2020.)

November 22, 2019: In a low key ceremony at its Renton, Washington, plant, Boeing unveiled its 737 Max 10, the largest version of the Max jet.

November 26, 2019: FAA notified Boeing that it would retain authority over the issuance of airworthiness certificates for all newly manufactured 737 Max aircraft. The agency would conduct the final approval of factory-fresh Boeing Co. 737 Max jets rather than allowing company employees to handle routine sign-offs before the planes were delivered. (See October 25, 2019; December 16, 2019.)

December 2, 2019: FAA Administrator Stephen Dickson approved a reorganization of the agency's commercial space organization. The organization created two new directorates within the office. An operational directorate became responsible for licensing, permitting, safety, and compliance. The other handled issues such as policy, research and development, stakeholder outreach, support services, and the new Office of Spaceports.

December 3, 2019: Leidos announced FAA had awarded it a contract to continue supporting the general aviation community under the agency's FAA's Future Flight Services Program. Under the contract, Leidos would provide weather data, aeronautical information and flight planning services to the general aviation community across mainland U.S., Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. The single award, firm-fixed-price contract had a five-year base period of performance followed by ten one-year option periods, at an approximate value of \$1 billion, if the FAA exercised all options. FAA had awarded Leidos the predecessor Automated Flight Service Station (AFSS) contract in 2005. (See September 2010.)

December 11, 2019: FAA announced the selection of 12 organization to advise the agency in developing test administration requirements for the recreational UAS aeronautical knowledge and safety test:

1. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
2. Drone Launch Academy Southeastern University
3. Science Applications International Corp.
4. DJI
5. Horizon Hobby, LLC.
6. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Coach
7. King Schools
8. Unmanned Safety Institute
9. First Person View Freedom Coalition
10. Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
11. Academy of Model Aeronautics

12. Drone Racing League

December 13, 2019: FAA announced the Venezuelan regime did not comply with ICAO safety standards under the IASA program and had been assigned a Category 2 rating. A Category 2 IASA rating means the country either lacked laws or regulations necessary to oversee air carriers in accordance with minimum international standards, or its civil aviation authority was deficient in one or more areas, such as technical expertise, trained personnel, record-keeping, inspection procedures, or resolution of safety concerns. (See November 11, 2019.)

December 16, 2019: Boeing announced it would halt production on the 737 Max airplanes indefinitely beginning in January 2020. The announced followed the FAA Administrator's earlier decision the FAA would not re-certify the aircraft by the end of 2019. (See November 26, 2019; December 23, 2019.)

December 23, 2019: Media reported Chicago Executive Airport had launched a sound-insulation program to reduce aircraft noise for nearby residents. Under the program, insulating materials will be provided at no cost to owners of eligible homes, with the FAA funding 90% of the cost and the remainder coming from the airport. The work was expected to extend into 2021 and beyond.

December 23, 2019: Boeing announced president and CEO Dennis Muilenburg had resigned effective immediately. CFO Greg Smith stepped in as interim CEO until David Calhoun, current non-executive chairman of the Boeing board of directors, took over the roles on a permanent basis starting January 13. (See December 16, 2019; September 11, 2020.)

December 23, 2019: Bombardier announced it had received FAA type certification of its Global 5500 and Global 6500 business jets. The milestone follows Transport Canada and European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) certification and entry-into-service in September 2019.

December 26, 2019: FAA released a 319-page unpublished proposed rule outlining requirements for drones to transmit identifying information to the ground. The proposal described "standard" and "limited" categories of remote identification, with a third category for non-equipped UAS. A drone operated as standard would be capable of connecting to the internet and transmitting data to a Remote ID USS, and of broadcasting its identity directly from the aircraft. A limited-category drone would be capable of transmitting remote identification message elements through an internet connection, while being restricted to operating no more than 400 feet from its control station. The rule would prohibit small drones from using automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast out transponders to send identity and position data. Persons operating drones not equipped for remote identification would have to fly the aircraft within visual line of sight in an "FAA-recognized identification area," such as a flying site established by a community organization (See November 21, 2020). FAA published the proposal as a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register on December 31. The cost of the rule to

all parties would be \$582 million over 10 years, the FAA estimated. (See December 18, 2017.)

2020

January 5, 2020: Boeing and FAA confirmed they were reviewing a wiring issue that could potentially cause a short circuit on the grounded 737 MAX. During an inspection, Boeing found two bundles of wiring close together, which, if not properly separated, could led to a short circuit. (See December 16, 2019; June 29, 2020.)

January 7, 2020: Chinese drone maker Ehang demonstrated its autonomous air taxi in the United States for the first time after FAA granted permission for the flight. The all-electric two-seat plane took a five minute flight above a test track south of Raleigh, North Carolina. The Ehang 216, powered by 16 electric rotors, flew along a pre-planned route at over 80 mph. The aircraft weighed about 600 pounds and could carry another 500 to 600 pounds of cargo or passengers. (See June 6, 2019; May 28, 2020.)

January 7, 2020: The Alaska Volcano Observatory announced Shishaldin Volcano had erupted at 5 a.m. The volcano is located 679 miles southwest of Anchorage near the center of Unimak Island, the largest island in the Aleutians. It sent up an initial ash cloud to 19,000 feet, it then seismicity diminished for a few hours, but increased again. During the increase, the volcano spewed an ash cloud to 25,000 feet, with an increased volume of ash. The ash plume extended approximately 90 miles. The observatory immediately issued a “Code Red” warning for air traffic around the Shishaldin area and FAA issued a warning to aircraft in the area.

January 8, 2020: Ukraine International Flight 752 crashed shortly after it took off from Tehran, Iran, bound for Kyiv. The Boeing 737-800 carried 176 people; there were no survivors. Iranian forces mistakenly shot down the airliner. The incident came shortly after Iran had fired missiles at U.S. military installations in Iraq in retaliation for a January 3 drone strike by the U.S. that killed an Iranian general. Shortly after the crash, FAA issued a notice to airmen banning U.S. airlines from flying in the airspace over Iran and Iraq and the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf Oman. On January 15, FAA loosened restrictions on U.S. aircraft flying over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to allow flights into and out of certain airports in the region. The new notice allowed flights to and from airports in Doha, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, and Muscat as long as operators flew on a published instrument procedure or under the direction of air traffic control and minimized overwater flight to the greatest extent possible. The agency still prohibited flights from entering the Tehran Flight Information Region, which covered the airspace over Iran and extended from southern Iran part way into the airspace over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. FAA lifted the flight restrictions in February. (See July 11, 2020.)

January 14, 2020: FAA announced it had opened a new indoor fire research facility in December 2019 at its Technical Center to conduct performance tests of potential

replacement fire extinguishing agents. The work conducted in this new \$5 million, 2,500 square-foot facility supported research on fluorine-free firefighting foams.

January 16, 2020: The Special Committee to Review the Federal Aviation Administration's Aircraft Certification Process, appointed by Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao in April 2019 after crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people, issued its report. The committee concluded FAA correctly treated certification of the Max jet as an update to older 737s and not as a new type of plane, which would have subjected it to more examination. The group, gave high marks overall to FAA's process for certifying planes, calling it safe and effective and a boost to the U.S. aerospace industry. (See January 5, 2020.)

January 25, 2020: Boeing announced it had completed a successful first flight of its new model 777X jetliner. The flight, over Washington State, lasted three hours and 51 minutes. (See June 18, 2019.)

January 31, 2020: President Donald Trump issued a proclamation, effective February 2, limiting entry of travelers from the Republic of China into the United State as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak in the Wuhan Province. A second proclamation on January 28 restricted entrance of travelers from Iran into the United States because of a COVID-19 outbreak in that country. As the virus spread to other countries, the President updated the proclamation banning travelers from those countries entry into the United States. U.S. airlines began reducing/cancelling flights into China.

February 2, 2020: Acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad F. Wolf directed all flights from China and all passengers who had traveled to China within the previous 14 days to be routed through one of eight U.S. airports (three airports added later) where the United States Government had established enhanced screening procedures and the capacity to quarantine passengers, if needed. Additionally, U.S. citizens who had been in China's Hubei province within 14 days of their return were subject to up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine to ensure they had proper medical care and health screening. U.S. citizens who had been in other areas of mainland China also had to undergo proactive entry health screening and up to 14 days of self-quarantine with health monitoring to ensure they had not contracted the virus and did not pose a public health risk. Generally, foreign nationals (other than immediate family of U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and flight crews) who had traveled in China, would be denied entry into the United States. The airports with enhanced screening included:

- John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), New York
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), Illinois
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO), California
- Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), Washington
- Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL), Hawaii
- Los Angeles International Airport, (LAX), California
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), Georgia
- Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD), Virginia
- Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), New Jersey

- Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), Michigan
- Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport (DFW), Texas

February 13, 2020: Airbus announced it had received joint type certification from the FAA and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for its A330-800.

March 3, 2020: FAA announced the expansion of its weather camera safety program to Colorado. FAA entered into a \$226,000 cost-reimbursement agreement with the State of Colorado Division of Aeronautics to install weather cameras on 13 automated weather observing systems (AWOS) in mountainous areas, beginning in the spring of 2020. The 13 Colorado cameras were the first to be integrated into the weather camera program outside of Alaska. Under the terms of the agreement, FAA would assist the state with the camera installations, but the state would own and maintain the cameras. (See September 30, 2013; August 4, 2020.)

March 11, 2020: FAA temporarily waived minimum slot-use requirements at U.S. airports to help airlines that canceled flights due to the Coronavirus. Under normal circumstances, airlines could lose their slots at congested airports if they failed to use them at least 80 percent of the time. FAA waived the 80-percent-use requirement through

May 31, 2020. The waiver of the slot usage requirement, applied to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), New York LaGuardia Airport (LGA), and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Additionally, at four other U.S. airports where the agency has a formal schedule review and approval process – Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), and San Francisco International Airport (SFO) – FAA gave credit to airlines for flights that were canceled due to the Coronavirus through May 31, 2020. FAA later extended the waiver through October 24. On September 15, FAA proposed to extend through March 27, 2021, the COVID-19-related limited waiver of the minimum slot usage requirement at JFK, LGA, and DCA. The FAA also proposed to extend, through December 31, 2020, its COVID-19-related policy for prioritizing flights canceled at designated International Air Transport Association (IATA) Level 2 airports in the United States. These IATA Level 2 airports include ORD, EWR, LAX, SFO. On October 2, FAA extended the slot waiver and the policy for prioritizing flights through March 27, 2021.

March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a state of national emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

March 17, 2020: FAA temporarily closed the air traffic control tower at Chicago Midway International Airport after several technicians tested positive for the coronavirus. Other FAA facilities also temporarily closed after employees tested positive for COVID-19. After thorough cleanings the facilities reopened. This was the first of a number of facilities that were temporarily closed for cleaning throughout the year.

March 18, 2020: After a 5.7-magnitude, early morning tremor centered in north-central Utah, FAA temporarily evacuated the air traffic control tower at Salt Lake City International Airport and halted flights, diverting inbound aircraft to other airports. FAA's Salt Lake air route traffic control center, which is housed separately from the airport control tower, handled all air traffic in the area until the tower reopened.

March 20, 2020: FAA announced it would allow air carrier personnel to perform temporarily flight dispatch and flight following duties from their homes on a case by case basis, provided carrier personnel could show they could do so safely.

March 21, 2020: FAA suspended all departures to Kennedy, LaGuardia, Newark, and because of coronavirus-related staffing issues at a regional air-traffic control center. The agency lifted the restriction after about 30 minutes.

March 23, 2020: FAA approved certain requirements for passenger flights to Puerto Rico to help with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All scheduled and unscheduled commercial air carrier flights had to land at Luis Munoz Marin International Airport (SJU) where public health officials screened arriving passengers. All domestic and foreign general aviation and charter flights arriving from a location outside Puerto Rico were required to land first at SJU, Isla Grande Airport (SIG), or Rafael Hernandez Airport (BQN) for passenger screening before continuing to their final destinations. The restrictions did not apply to air cargo or maintenance flights into Puerto Rico.

March 24, 2020: The global COVID-19 pandemic led to flight reductions throughout the airline industry. As a result, FAA issued CertAlert #20-02 Temporary Parking of Overflow Aircraft (PDF), for airport operators who were working with airlines on temporary parking plans for their aircraft. The CertAlert contained a list of recommendations an airport operator should consider when making decisions for overflow aircraft parking. On May 5, FAA issued additional information and examples for airport operators to use when producing NOTAMs that closed runways and/or taxiways to temporarily park aircraft.

March 25, 2020: FAA amended its cockpit oxygen-mask regulation to reduce the potential for pilots to be exposed to any pathogens that may be on the masks.

March 26, 2020: FAA granted certain training exemptions to scheduled and on-demand air carriers because of the unprecedented circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The exemptions gave operators grace periods for completing certain training and qualification requirements, and gave crewmembers relief from having to don protective breathing equipment or oxygen masks in training, checking, or evaluation.

March 26, 2020: FAA began implementation of the Denver Metroplex Project, which would improve the efficiency of airspace in the Denver Metroplex area by optimizing aircraft arrival and departure procedures to and from various airports, including:

- Denver International Airport (DEN)
- Centennial Airport (APA)

- Greeley-Weld County Airport (GXY)
- Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL)
- Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (BJC)

The project would use satellite navigation to move air traffic safely and efficiently through the area. It included 29 new routes and modifications to 15 existing routes. (See September 2, 2016.)

March 26, 2020: FAA issued a policy stating it would not take enforcement action against certain pilots or flight engineers who fly domestically with medical certificates that expired between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020. The following week, FAA granted an exemption that extended until June 30, 2020, the duration of medical certificates for certain pilots and flight engineers who conducted scheduled and on-demand operations outside the United States if those medical certificates expired between March 31, 2020, and May 31, 2020.

March 27, 2020: President Donald Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Under the \$2.2 trillion bill, FAA received \$10 billion for its Airport Improvement Program, distributed by formula, to maintain operations at airports across the nation that faced a record drop in passengers. The legislation also included:

Direct grants:

- \$25 billion for commercial airlines.
- \$4 billion for cargo air carriers.
- \$3 billion for contractors who employ baggage handlers, wheelchair attendants, cabin cleaners, food service workers and others at airports.

Conditions:

- The aid must "exclusively be used for the continuation of payment of employee wages, salaries and benefits."
- Grant recipients cannot cut jobs, pay or benefits through Sept. 30, 2020, and they cannot buy back their stock or pay stock dividends through Sept. 30, 2021.
- The airlines must maintain service to all the destinations they served on March 1, 2020, through March 1, 2022, which could mean continuing to fly empty or near-empty planes.

Loans and loan guarantees:

- \$25 billion available to passenger airlines.
- \$4 billion for cargo air carriers.
- \$17 billion in loans and loan guarantees to aerospace "businesses critical to maintaining national security," which industry and congressional sources say in essence means Boeing and its suppliers.

Conditions:

- The companies taking out the loans are prohibited from buying back stock and paying stock dividends during the lifetime of the loan.
- There are limits on compensation, bonuses and golden parachutes for executives earning more than \$425,000.

- Recipients of the loans must maintain March 24, 2020, employment levels "to the extent practicable" and under no circumstance can they cut more than 10% of the company's workforce.
- The federal government may require an equity stake in the companies as collateral for the loans.

March 27, 2020: FAA allowed aircraft dispatcher certification course providers to deviate from some standard practices, including instituting or expanding distance-based training for currently enrolled students and suspending course administration.

March 28, 2020: FAA issued guidance for states, localities, and territories that had implemented or might consider implementing quarantine, travel restrictions, and screening requirements on individuals entering from certain locations within the United States and territories. The guidance stated there should be coordination with aviation stakeholders 48 hours before a restriction was imposed; air transportation workers, federal aviation and security personnel were exempt from any restrictions; and no measure could be taken to close a federally funded airport without FAA approval.

March 30, 2020: FAA issued a noise certification notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that proposed to add landing and takeoff noise standards for a certain class of new supersonic airplanes. The NPRM followed a 2019 proposed rule to update the requirements to apply for a special flight authorization for flying above Mach 1 in the United States. (See August 14, 2013; August 4, 2020.)

March 30, 2020: FAA published a NPRM that would require air carriers to enter and share pilot records in a FAA-managed pilot records database before making hiring decisions. Under the proposal, pilots would be required to provide consent for an air carrier to access their records during the hiring process. The records-sharing requirement also would apply to commercial drone operators holding Part 107 remote pilot certificates when an unmanned aircraft system was used in air carrier operations. (See December 17, 2017.)

March 31, 2020: FAA issued a policy statement regarding the use of real-time and recorded video to perform prototype conformity inspections, engineering and ground tests, engineering compliance inspections, production conformity inspections, and inspections for issuing 8130-3s, or airworthiness approval tags. Applicants that wanted to use remote technology had to work with their local aircraft certification office and incorporate specific details in certification, engineering test, or conformity inspection plans. Production-approval holders that used remote technology for 8180-3 inspections had to have the procedures in their quality systems. Organization designation authorization holders could also incorporate remote inspections into their programs.

April 5, 2020: RavnAir announced that because of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented loss of 90% of passenger revenue at all three of its airlines (RavnAir Alaska, PenAir, and RavnAir Connect) it was:

- Parking all seventy-two (72) of its aircraft;

- Stopping all operations; and
- Temporarily laying off all remaining staff until the company was in a position to cover the costs of rehiring, resuming flights, and operating to the many communities it served throughout Alaska.

Because of the company's critical need for additional funding, Ravn also filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. Ravn's lenders agreed to provide financing during the pendency of the Chapter 11. The filing allowed the company to await word on its Federal CARES Act grant applications and other sources of financial assistance that would allow it to get through the Coronavirus crisis and successfully restart operations. The company also sought private investment. (See June 25, 2020.)

April 6, 2020: FAA authorized pilot schools to temporarily use distance learning programs or suspend operations for a period of time because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

April 8, 2020: FAA announced it was taking steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 in air traffic control facilities. Each air traffic control facility established separate teams of controllers that would stay together throughout the duty week. Each crew would contain the same employees, limiting the possibility of cross-exposure to COVID-19 that would come through normal shift rotations. If a person on one team got sick, the only people who would be exposed were the other people on that team.

April 8, 2020: FAA issued an exemption to help protect flight attendants from contracting COVID-19. The exemption allowed flight attendants to relocate from the seats they normally occupied so they could observe social distancing. It also excused them from having to demonstrate the use of certain emergency equipment including life preservers and oxygen masks, allowing for alternative methods to inform passengers regarding the use of such equipment. The exemption ran through June 30. The agency subsequently amended the seat exemption through January 31, 2021, and the deadline for the exemption which gave crewmembers relief from having to don protective breathing equipment or oxygen masks in training, checking, or evaluation through November 30.

April 27, 2020: Effective this date, FAA required air carriers conducting domestic, flag, and supplemental operations to provide new-hire pilots with an opportunity to observe flight operations and become familiar with procedures before serving as a flightcrew member in operations; to revise the upgrade curriculum; and to provide leadership and command and mentoring training for all pilots in command. (See October 7, 2016.)

April 11, 2020: Upon the request of the Wyoming governor, President Trump declared a major disaster existed in the state because of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the declaration, federal funding became available to state, tribal, and eligible local governments, as well as certain nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures. This was the first time in U.S. history that all 50 states were under a major disaster declaration at the same time.

April 13, 2020: Attorney General William P. Barr issued guidance to Department of Justice components regarding counter-unmanned aircraft systems (C-UAS) actions authorized under the Preventing Emerging Threats Act of 2018. The guidance, a product of extensive collaboration between the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, and FAA, outlined the process by which authorized department components could request designation of facilities or assets for protection under the act. It ensured coordination with the FAA when any C-UAS action authorized under the act might affect aviation safety, civilian aviation and aerospace operations, aircraft airworthiness, and the use of the airspace. This included conducting a risk-based assessment in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation to examine potential airspace impacts and other considerations.

April 14, 2020: Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin announced Alaska Airlines, Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, JetBlue Airways, United Airlines, SkyWest Airlines, and Southwest Airlines had agreed in principle to accept \$25 billion in grants from the government as part of the Trump Administration's \$2 trillion economic stimulus program to combat the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the terms of the deal, 70 percent of the money would be given to the airlines outright and 30 percent would have to be paid back to the government. In addition, the airlines would give the government warrants equal to 10 percent of the amount the carriers received. Warrants are securities that give the holder the right, but not the obligation, to buy a certain number of securities (usually the issuer's common stock).

April 14, 2020: FAA issued guidance barring pilots from flying if they had taken the antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine within the past 48 hours. FAA stated "Chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine were both reviewed by the FAA Federal Air Surgeon when they entered the market and have long been considered generally incompatible for those performing safety related aviation duties."

April 15, 2020: Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao announced the award of approximately \$10 billion to commercial and general aviation airports from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Airport Grant Program. The funding provided support for continuing operations and replacement of lost revenue resulting from the sharp decline in passenger traffic and other airport business because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funds were available for airport capital expenditures, airport operating expenses, including payroll and utilities, and airport debt payments.

April 15, 2020: FAA issued a safety alert (SAFO 20008) allowing passenger airlines to turn their planes into cargo-only aircraft provided they took steps to prevent fires and kept weight balanced. Existing FAA rules also required that carriers perform a risk assessment of the new operations. Airlines could remove seats from cabins to accommodate cargo. The tracks beneath the floor that held seat rows could be used to attach cargo, provided the plane was certified to hold such loads. On May 15, FAA issued

information and guidance for agency safety inspectors about the carriage of cargo in the cabin of passenger-carrying planes when no passengers were on board.

April 16, 2020: Because the COVID-19 public health emergency affected airport sponsors' operations and ability to meet the original 2020 Airport Improvement Program (AIP) deadlines, FAA extended those deadlines to May 4, 2020, to give notice of intent, and to June 15, 2020, to submit the final grant application.

April 22, 2020: FAA announced it planned to temporarily adjust the operating hours of approximately 100 control towers nationwide as a result of a significant reduction in flights because of the pandemic.

April 24, 2020: Boeing announced a planned merger with Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer had been cancelled. The \$4.2 billion merger, first announced in 2018, would have given Boeing an 80 percent controlling stake in Embraer.

April 29, 2020: The Department of Transportation issued a Notice to all essential air service (EAS) air carriers that it would authorize payment of 50 percent of the contracted per-flight subsidy for flights not being operated because of the pandemic as long as the EAS air carriers serving a community in the continental United States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico completed at least one round trip flight a day, six days a week, for the EAS community, and an EAS air carrier serving a community in Alaska completed at least 50 percent of its weekly schedule for that EAS community. In addition, the Department would not initiate enforcement action against EAS air carriers for failing to comply with the statutory level-of-service requirements in situations where the noncompliance took place during the effective period of the notice, the significant reduction in passenger demand due to the COVID-19 public health emergency was the cause of the noncompliance, the EAS air carrier complied with the level-of-service requirements provided in the Notice, and the eligible communities did not object to the change in service levels. The plan applied to all 160 communities in the United States and Puerto Rico that received EAS subsidized service, but it did not apply to the 8 communities receiving alternate EAS grants. The action was retroactive to March 1, 2020, and was in effect through June 30, 2020; later extended through September 30, 2020. On September 21, the deadline was extended again, this time through December 31, 2020.

April 30, 2020: To ensure the continuity of air ambulance operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, FAA granted an exemption to the timeframes for completing recurrent training and testing requirements for certain air ambulance personnel. Operators had to fulfill specific requirements to exercise the relief offered in the exemption.

May 5, 2020: FAA issued its 12th spaceport license to the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority allowing for commercial space launches from the Space Coast Regional Airport in Titusville, Florida. (See August 17, 2020.)

May 5, 2020: FAA announced the selection of eight companies to assist the agency in establishing requirements for future suppliers of Remote Identification (Remote ID).

Remote ID would enable unmanned aircraft systems to provide identification and location information while operating in the nation's airspace. The companies selected included: Airbus; AirMap; Amazon; Intel; One Sky; Skyward; T-Mobile; and Wing. FAA selected the companies through a Request for Information process, which began in December 2018. (See December 26, 2019; December 28, 2020.)

May 8, 2020: FAA announced it had assigned a Category 2 rating to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) because it did not comply with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) safety standards under the FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) program. A Category 2 IASA rating meant that laws or regulations lacked the necessary requirements to oversee air carriers in accordance with minimum international standards, or that a civil aviation authority was deficient in one or more areas, including technical expertise, trained personnel, record-keeping, inspection procedures or resolution of safety concerns. Although the OECS's carriers could continue existing service to the United States, they were not allowed to establish new service to the United States. The OECS provided aviation safety oversight for members Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines. (See December 13, 2019.)

May 10, 2020: Colombian airline Avianca filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the U.S. Southern District of New York, citing coronavirus-related travel restrictions as the reason for the bankruptcy filing.

May 15, 2020: Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao announced the appointment of 30 board members to the newly-formed Women in Aviation Advisory Board (WIAAB). Former U.S. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson served as chair of the board. At the time of her appointment Wilson was the president of the University of Texas at El Paso. The WIAAB had been mandated by the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. The purpose of the WIAAB was to develop strategies and recommendations to encourage women and girls to enter the field of aviation. The WIAAB assessed education, training, mentorship, outreach, and recruitment of women in the aviation industry. (See October 9, 2019.)

May 18, 2020: Piper Aircraft announced the Piper M600/SLS had received FAA type certification for its new HALO safety system making it the first Garmin Autoland-equipped aircraft in the world to receive certification.

May 20, 2020: FAA issued an exemption allowing U.S. airlines to carry cargo on seats in airplane cabins when no passengers were being transported. FAA determined the exemption would reduce the chance that movement of critical cargo would be interrupted as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. To exercise the exemption, airlines had to submit a letter of intent and receive specific authorization from FAA, and observe a number of conditions and limitations. The exemption was effective through December 31, 2020.

May 22, 2020: Pakistan International Airlines Flight 8303, an Airbus A320, crashed in Model Colony, a densely populated residential area of Karachi not far from the runway,

while on a second final approach to Jinnah International Airport. There were 91 passengers and eight crew on board the aircraft. Ninety-seven of them died, while two passengers survived with injuries. Eight people on the ground were also injured. A preliminary investigation report, published by Pakistan's civil aviation authority, reported the plane's engines had scraped the runway three times on the pilot's first attempt to land, causing friction and sparks. The contacts with the runway may have caused possible damage to the engines' oil tank and fuel pump. (See July 1, 2020.)

May 26, 2020: Chile's LATAM Airlines Group, the largest carrier in Latin America, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. LATAM's CEO Roberto Alvo cited coronavirus-related travel restrictions as the primary reason for bankruptcy.

May 26, 2020: Waco Aircraft delivered its first YMF-5F open cockpit biplane on amphibious floats after receiving FAA certification.

May 28, 2020: A modified Cessna Caravan turboprop powered by electricity made its first flight at Moses Lake, Washington. (See January 7, 2020.)

May 29, 2020: FAA extended through July 31, 2020, four regulatory exemptions it previously issued to scheduled and on-demand U.S. air carriers. The exemptions gave operators grace periods for completing certain training and qualification requirements, and gave crewmembers relief from having to don protective breathing equipment or oxygen masks in training, checking, or evaluation. The exemptions originally were set to expire on May 31.

May 30, 2020: SpaceX's Falcon 9 launched Crew Dragon's second demonstration mission from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The following day, Crew Dragon autonomously docked to the International Space Station. With this flight, which delivered NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley to the space station, the Dragon spacecraft returned human spaceflight to the United States. On August 2, the two astronauts splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico, the first time in 58 years that astronauts used the Gulf as a landing site. (See September 1, 2016; November 15, 2020)

June 3, 2020: The Department of Transportation took regulatory action in response to the failure of China to permit U.S. carriers to perform scheduled passenger air services in accordance with China's obligations under the U.S.-China Air Transport Agreement. On June 4, the Civil Aviation Authority of China responded by revising its restrictions to permit U.S. carriers the ability to operate one flight per week each. As a result, the Department revised its June 3 order and granted Chinese carriers, in aggregate, the right to operate two weekly passenger flights to the United States. On June 15, Chinese officials notified the Department of Transportation that U.S. carriers had been approved to fly four weekly flights to China. In return, the Department amended its order to allow the Chinese air carriers to continue to fly four weekly flights between China and the United States. On July 30, DOT issued an order disapproving future schedules that Chinese carriers filed with the Department pursuant to the original May 22 order. None

of the schedules that Chinese carriers filed could be operated because of the Chinese government's restrictions on international flights. DOT conveyed to its Chinese counterparts that the order was a procedural matter. "The Department continues to indicate our willingness to revisit our action should the Chinese aviation authorities adjust their policies to bring about the necessary improved situation for U.S. carriers in which both they and the Chinese carriers could fully exercise their bilateral rights." On August 18, DOT announced it would allow the four Chinese airlines that had scheduled passenger service to the U.S. to increase their flights to eight weekly round-trip flights. DOT approved the increased service after China permitted, on August 12, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines to increase their number of flights into China. (See October 27, 2017.)

June 5, 2020: Indonesia's largest low-cost airline Lion Air suspended all flights citing poor passenger carriage as travelers struggled to fulfill the strict requirements needed to fly during the pandemic. The announcement also affected Lion Air Group subsidiaries Batik Air and Wings Air. (See October 25, 2019.)

June 13, 2020: Sky Harbor Regional Airport in Duluth, Minnesota, opened a new 2,600-foot runway. FAA funded nearly the entire cost of the \$13.2 million project.

June 22, 2020: The Department of Transportation issued an order requiring Indian air carriers to apply to the Department for statements of authorization prior to conducting charter flights. The Department took the action because the Government of India engaged in unfair and discriminatory practices with respect to U.S. charter air transportation services to and from India. The order allowed the Department to scrutinize charter flights by Indian carriers on a case-by-case basis. The Department wanted to restore a level playing field for U.S. airlines, as provided for in the U.S.-India Air Transport Agreement. A subsequent agreement between the two nations allowed commercial flights to resume on July 23.

June 22, 2020: Southwest Airlines Flight 370 became the first United States commercial flight flown by a pilot with insulin-treated Type A diabetes at the controls. (See May 25, 2018.)

June 25, 2020: United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware approved RAVN Air's Plan of Liquidation that included an auction of the company and its three airlines. The auction would offer Ravn, with its secured lenders, an opportunity to sell the company and all or a substantial portion of its assets in a sale that would be approved by the Court on July 9. Approximately 30 bidders had expressed interest in buying all or some of the Air Group's assets. Of these, five buyers submitted bids. (See April 5, 2020; July 7, 2020.)

June 29, 2020: FAA and Boeing began a series of certification flights to evaluate Boeing's proposed changes to the automated flight control system on the 737 MAX. The flights included a wide array of maneuvers and emergency procedures to assess whether

the changes met FAA certification standards. Test pilots and engineers from FAA and Boeing conducted the tests. (See January 25, 2020; August 4, 2020.)

June 30, 2020: The European Union announced it would open its borders to the residents of 25 nations. Travelers from the United States, Russia, and Brazil were among those banned from going into the European Union because of the number of COVID-19 cases in those countries.

July 1, 2020: The Department of Transportation banned Pakistan International Airlines from flying into United States for six months after it was revealed that about a third of its pilots were flying with “inaccuracies with their licenses.” (See May 22, 2020; July 13, 2020.)

July 1, 2020: FAA issued SAFO 20011, “Operations in Oceanic Airspace During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.” The SAFO advised flightcrews of the potential loss of air traffic control services in the event of an oceanic ATC facility shutdown and recommended mitigating procedures.

July 2, 2020: Transportation Secretary Chao announced public health guidance to airlines and airports for the recovery of the air transportation system from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Departments of Transportation, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security developed the “Runway to Recovery.” It provided general guidance and recommended specific public health measures airlines and airports should take to mitigate risks associated with COVID-19. The recommendations included:

The measures included:

- Educating and communicating with passengers and employees
- Passengers should wear face coverings everywhere in the air transportation environment
- Promoting social distancing
- Enhancing disinfection and cleaning procedures
- Requiring health assessments from passengers and employees
- Collecting passenger contact information to enable notification in the event of suspected or confirmed exposure to COVID-19, a process known as contact tracing
- Protecting employees and separating passengers and crew
- Minimizing in-person interaction and shared objects, documents and surfaces
- Reporting the daily status of public health risk mitigation efforts
- Enhancing airport security checkpoint operations to reduce exposure
- Using new technology to support mitigation measures

July 6, 2020: FAA issued Safety Alert for Operators (SAFO) 20012 advising air carriers and other commercial operators on how to continue operating safely in terminal airspace when an ATC facility with responsibility for that airspace closed unexpectedly.

July 7, 2020: At an auction, RavnAir Group sold 15 of its Cessna planes for \$10 million to Grant Aviation; four Cessnas to Fairbanks-based Wright Air Service, which also

bought Ravn buildings and equipment in Fairbanks, the North Slope communities of Utqiagvik and Deadhorse, and the Yukon River village of Galena for a total of \$12.8 million; 14 Cessna planes to Bethel-based Yute Commuter Service for \$1.5 million as well as two of Ravn's buildings, in Bethel and St. Mary's; and 8 Beechcraft planes to Anchorage-based ACE Air Cargo for \$5 million. A bankruptcy court approved the sales on July 8. On July 9, Ravn announced the sale of six Dash-8 planes and two of its Part 121 federal operating certificates to Float Shuttle, a California commuter flight service, for \$8 million. Float Shuttle intended to take advantage of a \$31.6 million payroll support loan the Trump administration offered to a Ravn successor. The \$8 million sales price was far below the \$19 million Ravn had originally asked for as a minimum bid at a failed auction for the certificates and nine Dash-8 planes. (See June 25, 2020; August 7, 2020.)

July 8, 2020: FAA and the Switzerland Federal Office of Civil Aviation announced they had reached an agreement to harmonize domestic and international safety standards for UAS. The two nations planned to collaborate under a declaration of intent (DOI) on UAS issues of mutual interest and benefit. The primary objectives of the DOI were to provide opportunities to engage in research and development; exchange ideas, personnel, and information; provide coordination with other government entities and stakeholders; and to collaborate on other initiatives and projects determined to be of mutual interest and benefit in relation to UAS operations.

July 10, 2020: FAA gave permission to passenger aircraft operators to remove passenger seats and transport cargo on the floor of the cabin in aircraft being deployed on cargo-only flights. The exemption to existing regulations governing aircraft operations would last for one year. FAA also extended until July 10, 2021, its prior ruling that airlines could fly with cargo strapped into the seats through the end of this year.

July 11, 2020: Iran's Civil Aviation Organization said "a misaligned missile battery, miscommunication between troops and their commanders, and a decision to fire without authorization led to Iran's Revolutionary Guard shooting down a Ukrainian jetliner in January, killing all 176 people on board." (See January 8, 2020.)

July 13, 2020: FAA downgraded Pakistan's air safety rating after the agency raised concerns about pilot certifications. The previous month, Pakistan had grounded almost a third of its pilots after discovering they might have falsified their qualifications. (See July 1, 2020.)

August 4, 2020: Virgin Galactic and its subsidiary, The Spaceship Company, introduced a new supersonic jet design concept aimed at the long-distance commercial aviation segment. In addition, the companies announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Rolls-Royce to develop and design "engine propulsion technology for high speed commercial aircraft." According to Virgin Galactic, the FAA's Center for Emerging Concepts and Innovation reviewed the project direction last week and authorized FAA resources to work with the company on outlining a certification framework for the design. (See March 30, 2020.)

August 4, 2020: FAA proposed an airworthiness directive that listed requirements Boeing had to meet before the 737 Max would be allowed to fly again. The changes included installing new flight control computer software; revising the existing airplane flight manual to incorporate new and revised flightcrew procedures; installing new display system software; changing the horizontal stabilizer trim wire routing installations; completing an angle of attack sensor system test; and performing an operational readiness flight. FAA gave the public 45 days to comment. (See June 29, 2020.)

August 4, 2020: FAA and the Colorado Division of Aeronautics announced the availability of 53 new weather cameras installed on the Division's network of 13 AWOS sites. The initiative was funded by the Division with \$226,000 of funds and allocated to FAA under a reimbursable agreement. Under the arrangement, the FAA and the Governor's Office of Information Technology installed and configured four weather cameras on each of Colorado's Mountain 13 AWOS units. These were the first weather cameras installed outside of Alaska. (See March 3, 2020.)

August 5, 2020: FAA proposed two civil penalties totaling \$1.25 million against The Boeing Company for alleged violations in the program that allowed the aircraft manufacturer to perform certain functions on behalf of FAA. The agency alleged that Boeing managers exerted undue pressure or interfered with the work of FAA designees at the company's plant in South Carolina.

August 7, 2020: Float Shuttle announced it had completed acquisition of the RAVNAir assets it purchased at auction. It anticipated the newly named RAVN Alaska would begin flying as a charter service in November serving Homer and a few other remote Alaska communities. On October 13, RAVN Alaska announced FAA granted permission for it to begin flying charter flights, and the DOT issued what's called a "show cause order," which opened a 14-day window for anyone to show cause for the DOT not to find the air carrier fit, willing, and able to provide scheduled air service. On November 13, Ravn Alaska began flying scheduled public chartered flights between Anchorage and Unalaska, Sand Point, Homer, Kenai, and Valdez. (See July 7, 2020.)

August 11, 2020: New York's Monroe County Legislature approved the renaming of Rochester's airport the Frederick Douglass – Greater Rochester International Airport. The decision did not require FAA approval, but the airport had to file paperwork with the agency to change the airport's name.

August 13, 2020: DOT issued an order suspending all charter flights between the United States and all airports in Cuba, except for authorized public charters to and from Havana and other authorized charter flights for emergency medical purposes, search and rescue, and other travel deemed to be in the interest of the United States. DOT took the action at the request of the Department of State. For most charter carriers, the suspension allowed a 60-day wind-down period and became effective on October 13, 2020. (See October 25, 2019.)

August 17, 2020: FAA, Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued guidance to help non-federal public and private entities better understand the federal laws and regulations that might apply to the use of capabilities to detect and mitigate threats posed by UAS operations. The “Advisory on the Application of Federal Laws to the Acquisition and Use of Technology to Detect and Mitigate Unmanned Aircraft Systems” provided a brief overview of various provisions of the U.S. criminal code enforced by DOJ, as well as federal laws and regulations related to aviation safety and efficiency, transportation and airport security, and the radiofrequency spectrum administered respectively by the FAA, DHS, and FCC.

August 18, 2020: FAA announced it had selected 26 schools to participate in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Collegiate Training Initiative (UAS-CTI), which it launched in April. The program allowed educational institutions to collaborate with the agency to prepare students for careers in UAS. Participating institutions would work with FAA, other participants, general industry, local governments, law enforcement, and regional economic development entities to address labor force needs. FAA selected the following schools to participate in the program:

- Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton, Oregon
- Central Oregon Community College, Bend, Oregon
- Dakota College, Bottineau, North Dakota
- Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL, Prescott, AZ, and Worldwide Campus
- Green River College, Auburn, Washington
- Gulf Coast Community College, Panama City, Florida
- Hazard Community and Technical College, Hazard, Kentucky
- Hinds Community College, Bolton, Mississippi
- Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho
- Indiana State University, Terra Haute, Indiana
- MiraCosta College, Carlsbad, California
- Mountain Empire Community College, Big Stone Gap, Virginia
- Mountwest Community and Technical College, Huntington, West Virginia
- Niagara Community College, Sanborn, New York
- North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Northeastern Technical College, Cheraw, South Carolina
- Northland Community and Technical College, Thief River Falls, Minnesota
- Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse, Michigan
- Oklahoma City Community College, Stillwater, Oklahoma
- Palomar College District, San Marcos, California
- Santa Rosa Junior College, Windsor, California
- Southwestern College, Chula Vista, California
- Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee, Florida
- University of Maine at Augusta, Augusta, Maine
- University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota
- WSU Tech, Wichita, Kansas

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254) required the FAA to establish a collegiate training initiative program relating to unmanned aircraft and to establish a process to designate consortia of public, two-year institutions of higher education as Community and Technical College Centers of Excellence in Small Unmanned Aircraft System Technology Training. On September 16, FAA announced 15 more schools have been selected to participate in the program.

The new schools included:

- Austin Community College, Austin, Texas
- Atlantic Cape Community College, Mays Landing, New Jersey
- Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake, Washington
- Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, Martinsburg, West Virginia
- Carroll Community College, Westminster, Maryland
- Clark State Community College, Springfield, Ohio
- Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, North Carolina
- Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
- Fullerton College, Fullerton California
- Kansas State Polytechnic, Salina, Kansas
- Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia
- Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- Mitchell Technical College, Mitchell, South Dakota
- Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, Mount Gay, West Virginia
- Yavapai College, Prescott, Arizona

August 21, 2020: FAA announced it planned to evaluate technologies and systems that could detect and mitigate potential safety risks posed by unmanned aircraft. The agency planned to test and evaluate at least 10 technologies or systems. It expected to begin the evaluations at its Technical Center in New Jersey in 2020. After the initial testing and evaluation in New Jersey, the agency expected to expand the effort to four additional U.S. airports.

August 25, 2020: FAA awarded Leidos a prime contract to design and develop a system to provide real-time access to essential weather, aeronautical, and NAS information through a common, NAS-wide Enterprise-Information Display System (E-IDS). The new system replaced five legacy systems as part of FAA's NextGen modernization program. The single award contract had an approximate value of \$292 million. It included a four-year base period and 11 one-year options.

August 28, 2020: Boeing announced it had found manufacturing defects on eight of its 787 Dreamliners. The company said the planes had to be inspected and repaired before they could be flown. It was working with the FAA to determine the cause of the problem. Boeing did not identify the exact problem and did not identify the airlines flying the eight planes. On September 8, Boeing announced it had discovered an issue on the tails of two-aisle 787s after finding that pieces were clamped together too tightly, which could lead to premature fatigue of the horizontal stabilizer. The company said that the problem could affect 893 of the nearly 1,000 787s built. Boeing delayed deliveries of the 787s while it

inspected the aircraft. Boeing later confirmed it had uncovered a manufacturing problem with 787 vertical fins – the fourth production-quality issue linked to the widebody twinjet program. (See January 19, 2018.)

August 31, 2020: FAA announced it had issued a Part 135 air carrier certificate to Amazon for its fleet of Prime Air drones and would allow Amazon to begin testing drone deliveries to customers on a limited basis. FAA had previously allowed UPS and Alphabet’s Wing to test drone deliveries.

September 2, 2020: Magician David Blaine flew about 24,500 feet into the air tethered to 52 weather balloons. He lifted off from the Page airport in Arizona, and landed safely in the desert near the airport. FAA approved flight on September 1. The FAA deemed the flight a research and development project and classified his balloons as an experimental aircraft. The agency required Blaine to get licensed for hot-air balloon piloting before the stunt.

September 4, 2020: The Gulf Shores (Alabama) Airport Authority broke ground for a new federal contract air traffic control tower at Jack Edwards National Airport. The authority received \$6.13 million in funding from the FAA and the Cares Act to help pay for the construction. The Authority expected the new tower to open in mid-2021.

September 8, 2020: FAA announced an Aviation Maintenance Technical Workforce Development Grant Program to recruit students for careers in aviation maintenance. The program was designed to support projects such as establishing new educational programs, providing scholarships or apprenticeships, supporting career outreach efforts, and enhancing aviation maintenance technical education. Congress appropriated \$5 million in fiscal year 2020 to fund projects to address the projected shortages of aviation maintenance technical workers. Eligible groups could apply for grants from \$25,000 to \$500,000 for any one grant in any one fiscal year. (See September 9, 2020.)

September 8, 2020: FAA extended the special federal aviation regulation from September 18, 2020 to September 18, 2023, that prohibited certain flight operations in the Pyongyang Flight Information Region by all: U.S. air carriers; U.S. commercial operators; persons exercising the privileges of an airman certificate issued by the FAA, except when such persons are operating U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier; and operators of U.S.-registered civil aircraft, except when the operator of such aircraft is a foreign air carrier. (See September 18, 2018.)

September 9, 2020: FAA issued a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the Aircraft Pilots Workforce Development Grant Program. The program was designed to help expand the pilot workforce and help high school students receive training to become aerospace engineers or unmanned aircraft systems operators. The program also would help prepare teachers to train students for jobs in the aviation industry. In fiscal year 2020, Congress appropriated \$5 million to create and deliver a training curriculum to address the projected shortages of aircraft pilots. Eligible groups could apply for grants from \$25,000 to \$500,000. (See September 8, 2020.)

September 11, 2020: The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) announced it had completed Boeing 737 MAX flight testing, clearing the way for joint regulatory agency evaluations of the grounded model's updated training. In the next step in its evaluation of the aircraft for return to service, EASA began analyzing the data and other information gathered during the flights tests in preparation for the Joint Operations Evaluation Board (JOEB). The JOEB includes participation from Brazilian, Canadian, European, and U.S. pilots and regulators and was planned to start on September 14 at London Gatwick Airport. The board evaluated proposed MAX training for pilots and fed an FAA-led Flight Standardization Board report that established minimum training curriculum. (See December 23, 2019; September 17, 2020.)

September 17, 2020: The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee issued final 238-page report on the design, development and certification of 737 MAX, citing Lion Air and Ethiopian crashes were a horrific culmination of a series of faulty technical assumptions by Boeing engineers, a lack of transparency by Boeing management to compete with Airbus and deliver profits, and insufficient oversight by the FAA. (See September 11, 2020; September 30, 2020.)

September 18, 2020: FAA announced its policy for approving drone designs as a special class of aircraft. The policy statement confirmed a notice the agency released in February. The earlier notice informed the public of its plan to treat drones as a special class of aircraft under its Part 21.17 regulation for very light airplanes when assessing if the design of a model complies with airworthiness standards. With the new policy, the FAA began issuing type certificates, or design approvals, for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) under a Part 21.17(b) process. The agency said it could still tailor design approvals for some drones, where appropriate, using airworthiness criteria from other categories of airplanes and helicopters under Part 21.17(a).

September 24, 2020: FAA announced had added 133 additional air traffic facilities to its Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) system. LAANC provided near-real-time approval for qualified drone pilots making requests to fly below 400 feet in controlled airspace. Nationwide beta testing for the program began in April 2018 and included nearly 300 air traffic facilities covering almost 500 airports. (See November 21, 2019.)

September 28, 2020: FAA announced it had certified the largest commercial jet engine ever built, the General Electric GE9x, designed for Boeing's new fleet of 777X aircraft. The new engine had 16 blades and delivered 110,000 pounds of thrust at takeoff.

September 30, 2020: FAA Administrator Steve Dickson flew the Boeing 373 Max in a two-hour test flight during which he flew high angle-of-attack patterns and activated the flight control software that provide erroneous information on the MAX crash flights in Indonesia and Ethiopia that killed 346 people. Dickson went through new pilot training procedures for the aircraft, plus spent time in a 737 Max simulator ahead his flight. Before the plane can return to service, several steps need to be completed: Flight Standardization Board (FSB) Report, Final Design Documentation and Technical

Advisory Board Report, Continued Airworthiness Notification to the International Community (CANIC) & AD, rescinding grounding order, issuing Certificates of Airworthiness, and finalizing training programs. (See September 18, 2020; October 6, 2020.)

September 30, 2020: U.S. Ambassador Earl R. Miller and Bangladesh Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Senior Secretary Mohamed Mohibul Haque signed the Air Transport Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. This bilateral Agreement established a modern civil aviation relationship with Bangladesh consistent with U.S. Open Skies international aviation policy. It included unrestricted capacity and frequency of services, open route rights, a liberal charter regime, and open code-sharing opportunities. FAA had to conduct an inspection before carriers could begin direct air services.

September 30, 2020: Regional airline ExpressJet Airlines ceased operation. As one of the country's largest regional airlines, ExpressJet had operated flights for a number of larger airlines, including American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and, most recently, United Airlines.

October 6, 2020: The FAA placed the draft Boeing 737 MAX Flight Standardization Board (FSB) report online. The report incorporated the recommendations from the Joint Operations Evaluation Board (JOEB) which was comprised of civil aviation authorities from the United States, Canada, Brazil, and the European Union. The FAA planned to publish a final FSB report after reviewing and addressing public comments on the draft. Several key milestones remained before the Boeing 737 Max could fly again:

- Final Design Documentation and Technical Advisory Board (TAB) Report – The FAA must review Boeing's final design documentation to evaluate compliance with all FAA regulations. The multi-agency TAB would also review the final Boeing submission and issue a final report prior to a final determination of compliance by the FAA.
- Continued Airworthiness Notification to the International Community (CANIC) & AD – The FAA will issue a CANIC providing notice of pending significant safety actions and will publish a final AD that addresses the known issues for grounding. The AD will advise operators of required corrective actions before aircraft may re-enter commercial service.
- FAA Rescinds Grounding Order – This marks the official ungrounding of the aircraft, pending completion by operators of the work specified in the AD, along with any required training.
- Certificates of Airworthiness – The FAA will retain its authority to issue airworthiness certificates and export certificates for all new 737 MAX airplanes manufactured since the grounding. The FAA will perform in-person, individual reviews of these aircraft.
- Operator Training Programs – The FAA will review and approve training programs for all Part 121 operators.

These actions were applicable only to U.S. air carriers and U.S.-registered aircraft. (See September 30, 2020; November 20, 2020.)

October 15, 2020: FAA issued the Streamlined Launch and Reentry Licensing Requirements Final Rule (PDF) for commercial space transportation launches and reentries. The rule consolidated four regulatory parts and applied a single set of licensing and safety regulations for all types of vehicle operations. The final rule's application processes allowed:

- A single operator's license that can be used to support multiple launches or reentries from potentially multiple launch site locations.
- Early review when applicants submit portions of their license application incrementally.
- Applicants to negotiate mutually agreeable reduced time frames for submittals and application review periods.
- Applicants to apply for a safety element approval with a license application, instead of needing to submit a separate application.
- Additional flexibility on how to demonstrate high consequence event protection.
- Neighboring operations personnel to stay during launch or reentry in certain circumstances.
- Ground safety oversight to be scoped to better fit the safety risks and reduce duplicative requirements when operating at a federal site.

This rule became effective 90 days after issuance. Legacy licenses could be used for up to five years after the rule's effective date.

October 19, 2020: A 7.5 magnitude earthquake, centered near Sand Point, Alaska, and a subsequent tsunami warning disrupted air traffic in the region for a short period. The quake was felt widely in communities along the southern coast, including Sand Point, Chignik, Unalaska, and the Kenai Peninsula, according to the Alaska Earthquake Center, which reported a magnitude 5.2 aftershock 11 minutes later.

October 30, 2020: Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao announced the three-year Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program successfully concluded on October 25. Eight of the nine state, local and tribal governments that participated in the program have signed new agreements with the FAA to continue to tackle remaining UAS integration challenges. (October 25, 2017.) This new initiative called BEYOND, included the following participants:

- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority of Virginia
- Kansas Department of Transportation
- Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority
- North Carolina Department of Transportation
- North Dakota Department of Transportation
- City of Reno, Nevada
- University of Alaska-Fairbanks

November 4, 2020: FAA issued a Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) to advise owners and operators of transport category airplanes of important airworthiness information and guidelines with respect to disinfecting airplane interiors. The information and guidelines might also apply to other categories of aircraft. FAA warned, although disinfection is not directly related to aircraft airworthiness, too frequent or improper application could result in negative impacts, which could include the following conditions:

- Corrosion
- Embrittlement
- Increased flammability
- Electrical short circuit

Depending on the system or part affected, any of these conditions could create either an immediate or latent airworthiness issue, according to FAA.

November 12, 2020: Aireon announced an agreement with FAA allowing the agency access to its satellite-routed aircraft surveillance data to evaluate different air traffic control (ATC) applications. Under the agreement, FAA “will have broad, intra-agency access” to Aireon’s space-based automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) data feed to integrate in its ATC automation platforms, Aireon said. L3Harris Technologies, which operated FAA’s ground-based ADS-B surveillance network, will act as prime contractor. Aireon receiver payloads carried by Iridium Next satellites capture ADS-B messages that are continuously broadcast by transponder-equipped aircraft below, then stream the data to Aireon’s ground-based teleport network. Aireon processes the data and distributes it to air navigation service providers that subscribe to its service. FAA plans to evaluate the use of Aireon’s data feed for airspace safety analysis, search and rescue, airport surface applications and commercial space launch operations, according to the announcement.

November 15, 2020: A SpaceX capsule carried four astronauts to the International Space Station in SpaceX’s “first regular NASA mission to the” station. The Crew-1 mission was also the first human orbital flight licensed by FAA, which had responsibility for public safety because the flight was conducted by a commercial company. (See May 30, 2020; December 9, 2020.)

November 17, 2020: The US and the UK officially signed a new Open Skies agreement on, ensuring air transport between the nations continues seamlessly in a post-Brexit environment. The accord allowed nonstop passenger flights operated by US and UK airlines from one country to another to continue unimpeded. US all-cargo carriers will also receive additional traffic rights on US-UK routes. Air traffic between the US and the UK had been covered under the US-European Union (EU) Open Skies regime, but the UK’s exit from the EU made a new agreement necessary. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo signed the agreement on behalf of the US on November 10. British transport minister Grant Shapps signed the agreement on November 17 on behalf of the UK.

November 19, 2020: The FBI arrested a Hollywood, California, man on charges that he crashed a drone into a Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) helicopter in September. According to a press release issued by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, the collision took place during the early morning of September 18 as the helicopter crew responded to a report of a burglary at a pharmacy in Hollywood, which is part of Los Angeles. The impact caused the pilot to make an emergency landing at the LAPD's rooftop Hooper Heliport. The helicopter sustained damage to its nose, antenna and bottom cowlings. After colliding with the helicopter, the drone fell to the ground and damaged a car parked near the pharmacy, according to the press release. Its operator, a 22-year-old man living across the street from the pharmacy, faced a misdemeanor charge of unsafe operation of an unmanned aircraft, which carried a maximum sentence of one year in federal prison. The case against the man "is believed to be the first criminal case in the nation alleging the unsafe operation of an unmanned aircraft," the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

November 20, 2020: FAA Administrator Steve Dickson signed an order that paved the way for the Boeing 737 MAX to return to commercial service. Administrator Dickson's action followed a comprehensive and methodical safety review process that took 20 months to complete. In addition to rescinding the order that grounded the aircraft, the FAA published an airworthiness directive specifying design changes that must be made before the aircraft returns to service, issued a continued airworthiness notification to the international community, and published the MAX training requirements. These actions did not allow the MAX to return immediately to the skies. The FAA had to approve 737 MAX pilot training program revisions for each U.S. airline operating the MAX and would retain its authority to issue airworthiness certificates and export certificates of airworthiness for all new 737 MAX aircraft manufactured since the FAA issued the grounding order. Furthermore, airlines that had parked their MAX aircraft had to take required maintenance steps to prepare them to fly again. On November 25, Brazil adopted the FAA requirements for the 737 Max to return to service. (See October 6, 2020; December 1, 2020.)

November 20, 2020: The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture announced it had received a one-year \$250,000 grant from the FAA to study the possible use of certain farming biomass in the production of jet fuel. The institute said the FAA "grant will fuel a one-year study that looks into the use of pennycress, soybean, canola, carinata and camelina and softwood logging residues." The study "is expected to involve airports around Nashville; Memphis; Chattanooga; Birmingham, Alabama; and Atlanta, Georgia." According to the university, "The use of biomass feedstock may reduce greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 80% compared to petroleum-based fuels." (See June 5, 2019.)

November 27, 2020: The Department of Transportation issued a final rule codifying its longstanding definitions for the terms "unfair" and "deceptive" when the Department used its statutory authority to prohibit unfair or deceptive practices by airlines or ticket agents. Most of the Department's aviation consumer protection regulations, such as the Department's tarmac delay rule and rules on overbooking, are based on the Department's

authority to prohibit unfair or deceptive practices. As defined by the final rule, a practice is “unfair” to consumers if it causes or is likely to cause substantial injury, which is not reasonably avoidable, and the harm is not outweighed by benefits to consumers or competition. The final rule also stated a practice is “deceptive” to consumers if it is likely to mislead a consumer, acting reasonably under the circumstances, with respect to a material matter. A matter is material if it likely affected the consumer’s conduct or decision with respect to a product or service. Proof of intent is not necessary to establish unfairness or deception.

December 1, 2020: The Department of Transportation announced that all necessary regulatory measures had been taken for the safe, rapid transportation of the COVID-19 vaccine by land and air. Transportation agencies and Operation Warp Speed officials coordinated with the private sector companies that plan to carry the vaccines from manufacturing facilities to the distribution centers and inoculation points. The Department established the appropriate safety requirements for all potential hazards involved in shipping the vaccine, including standards for dry ice and lithium batteries. In October, the FAA COVID-19 Vaccine Air Transport Team was established as part of the Department’s effort to support the safe and expedited transportation and distribution of approved COVID-19 vaccines, including providing support to Operation Warp Speed. Key to this effort has been coordination with the Department’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to ensure the safe transportation of hazardous materials.

December 1, 2020: FAA extended through March 31, 2021, two regulatory exemptions (18509, 18512) it previously issued to scheduled and on-demand U.S. air carriers. The exemptions gave crewmembers relief from having to don protective breathing equipment or oxygen masks in training, checking, or evaluation. They originally were going to expire on November 30, 2020.

December 1, 2020: FAA announced it had issued its first airworthiness certificate for a Boeing 737 MAX built since March 2019. Boeing had about 450 737 MAX airplanes built since 2019 awaiting approval by the FAA before they could be delivered to airlines. (See November 20, 2020; December 9, 2020.)

December 2, 2020: The Department of Transportation issued a final rule revising its Air Carrier Access Act regulation on the transportation of service animals by air. (See August 8, 2019.) The Traveling by Air with Service Animals final rule:

- Defined a service animal as a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability
- No longer considered an emotional support animal to be a service animal
- Required airlines to treat psychiatric service animals the same as other service animals
- Allowed airlines to require forms developed by DOT attesting to a service animal’s health, behavior, and training, and if taking a long flight attesting that the service animal can either not relieve itself, or can relieve itself in a sanitary manner

- Allowed airlines to require individuals traveling with a service animal to provide the DOT service animal form(s) up to 48 hours in advance of the date of travel if the passenger's reservation was made prior to that time
- Prohibited airlines from requiring passengers with a disability who are traveling with a service animal to physically check-in at the airport instead of using the online check-in process
- Allowed airlines to require a person with a disability seeking to travel with a service animal to provide the DOT service animal form(s) at the passenger's departure gate on the date of travel
- Allowed airlines to limit the number of service animals traveling with a single passenger with a disability to two service animals;
- Allowed airlines to require a service animal to fit within its handler's foot space on the aircraft
- Allowed airlines to require that service animals be harnessed, leashed, or tethered at all times in the airport and on the aircraft
- Continued to allow airlines to refuse transportation to service animals that exhibit aggressive behavior and that pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others
- Continued to prohibit airlines from refusing to transport a service animal solely based on breed

On December 29, Alaska Airlines became the first U.S. airline to announce, that beginning January 11, 2021, it would only transport service dogs specially trained to perform tasks for the benefit of a qualified individual with a disability.

December 4, 2020: The airport in Burlington, Vermont, opened its new \$35.4 million taxiway paralleling the main runway. FAA funded 90 percent of construction through an airport improvement program grant.

December 9, 2020: Brazil's Gol Linhas Aéreas began flying the Max, the earliest of any global airline, on domestic routes from Sao Paulo. On December 29, American Airlines became the first U.S. airline to fly scheduled Max flights. (See December 1, 2020.)

December 9, 2020: A full-size prototype of SpaceX's heavy-lift Starship launch vehicle soared high into the atmosphere in a test flight over South Texas, and successfully guided itself to a beachside landing site before exploding at touchdown. (See November 15, 2020.)

December 10, 2020: The U.S. Air Force gave a safety endorsement to Joby Aviation's electric-powered vertical-takeoff-and-landing (eVTOL) vehicle – the first safety endorsement the service has given to an eVTOL. The endorsement allows Joby Aviation to use its vehicle to transport military equipment, but industry and military officials said the endorsement could be the first step towards eventual civilian certification.

December 17, 2020: FAA and the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) announced an agreement to establish a flight corridor for testing civil supersonic aircraft. The Kansas Supersonic Transportation Corridor (SSTC), a 770-nm, racetrack-shaped flight route, ran the length of the state at Flight Level 390 (39,000 ft.) and above. Located

in low-volume airspace just north of the Kansas-Oklahoma border, the route supported sustained flight speeds to Mach 3 and was within reach of numerous airports. Aircraft entered the SSTC at specific points and operators were required to clear flight routes prior to takeoff. The KDOT Division of Aviation, FAA's Central Region and its Kansas City Air Route Traffic Control Center, and Lemasters Group Consulting wrote new procedures to provide safety margins during supersonic flights.

December 21, 2020: Under FAA Exemption No. 19685, FAA increased the time frame for a check airman to conduct a proficiency or competency check under the observation of an FAA inspector or an aircrew designated examiner from 24 to 36 months. FAA also granted a petition to extend relief on crew training deadlines for completing recurrent training and qualification requirements for ground personnel and crewmembers through March 31, 2021. The extension provided relief for requirements due in January, February, and March 2021.

December 27, 2020: President Trump signed into law H.R. 133, an Act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, providing coronavirus emergency response and relief, and for other purposes. The bill included mandates for FAA to reform its certification processes. Among other things, the bill:

- Required aviation manufacturers to adopt safety management systems;
- Ordered an independent review of Boeing's organization delegation authorization (ODA), safety culture, and capability to perform FAA-delegated functions;
- Reformed the FAA's greater oversight of manufacturer's ODA units and FAA-designees working within those units;
- Authorized civil penalties against aviation manufacturer supervisors who interfere with or place undue pressure on other employees who are empowered to act as FAA designees in finding that a design or product complies with design requirements;
- Required FAA to approve each new designee who performs those functions;
- Authorized more than \$75 million over three years for FAA to recruit and retain engineers, safety inspectors, human factors specialists, software and cybersecurity experts, and other qualified technical experts;
- Required FAA to consider whether there comes a point at which a derivative of an old aircraft design should no longer be certificated as a derivative instead of as a new design;
- Locked in new requirements on the disclosure of safety-critical systems;
- Expanded whistleblower protections;
- Required FAA to review pilot training, including manual flying skills training, and the assumptions relied upon by FAA and manufacturers when designing an airplane, and to work with the international community to improve pilot training globally; and
- Ensured better understanding of human factors and how to integrate them into the aircraft certification process.

December 28, 2020: FAA announced final rules for unmanned aircraft. The new rules required Remote Identification (Remote ID) of drones and allow operators of small

drones to fly over people and at night under certain conditions. Remote ID will help mitigate risks associated with expanded drone operations, such as flights over people and at night, and both rules support technological and operational innovation and advancements. The Remote ID rule (PDF) applies to all operators of drones that require FAA registration. There are three ways to comply with the operational requirements:

1. Operate a standard Remote ID drone that broadcasts identification and location information of the drone and control station;
2. Operate a drone with a Remote ID broadcast module (may be a separate device attached to the drone), which broadcasts identification, location, and take-off information; or
3. Operate a drone without Remote ID but at specific FAA-recognized identification areas.

The Operations Over People and at Night rule applied to Part 107 operators. The ability to fly over people and moving vehicles varies depending on the level of risk a small drone operation presents to people on the ground. The rule allowed for operations at night under certain conditions. The final rule required that small drone operators have their remote pilot certificate and identification in their physical possession when operating, ready to present to authorities if needed. This rule also expanded the class of authorities who may request these forms from a remote pilot. The final rule replaces the requirement to complete a recurrent test every 24 calendar months with the requirement to complete updated recurrent training that included operating at night in identified subject areas. Both rules became effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. The Remote ID rule included two compliance dates.

Drone manufacturers had 18 months to begin producing drones with Remote ID, with operators having an additional year to start using drones with Remote ID. (See May 5, 2020.)

December 28, 2020: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized emissions standards for airplanes used in commercial aviation and large business jets. This action will align U.S. standards with the international carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), ensuring domestically manufactured aircraft remain competitive in the global marketplace.

December 28, 2020: Effective this date, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention required that anyone traveling from the United Kingdom to the United States Passengers get a viral test (i.e., a test for current infection) for COVID-19 within three days before their flight from the U.K. to the U.S. departs, and provide written documentation of their laboratory test result (in hard copy or electronic) to the airline. Airlines had to confirm the negative test result for all passengers before they boarded the aircraft. If a passenger chose not to take a test, the airline had to deny boarding to the passenger.

December 31, 2020: The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) (H.R. 133), signed into law by the President on December 27, 2020,

included \$2 billion in funds to be awarded as economic relief to eligible U.S. airports and eligible concessions at those airports to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency. To distribute these funds, FAA announced establishment of the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program. The agency plans to make grants to all eligible airports that are part of the national airport system, including all commercial service airports, all reliever airports, and some public-owned general aviation airports. Under this new grant program:

- Primary commercial service airports, those with more than 10,000 annual passenger boardings, will share \$1.75 billion based on the number of annual boardings, in a similar way to how they currently receive Airport Improvement Program (AIP) entitlement funds.
- Primary commercial service airports will share an additional \$200 million based on the number of annual boardings, and these funds will then be available for these airports to provide relief from rent and minimum annual guarantees to on-airport car rental, on-airport parking, and in-terminal airport concessions. Airports will provide this relief to each airport concession based on its proportional share of the total annual rent and minimum annual guarantees for the airport.
- Non-primary commercial service and general aviation airports will share \$45 million based on their airport categories, such as National, Regional, Local, and Basic. Of that \$45 million, airports that participate in the FAA Contract Tower Program will divide \$5 million equally.