

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 2, 2003

Admiral Hal Gehman
3725 Lynnfield Drive
Williamsburg, VA

Dear Admiral Gehman:

This letter is to advise you that, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §2473 (c)(1), Section 203 (c)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended, and as a result of the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia, I have formally activated the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. I am appointing you to be Chairman of this Board.

I am requesting your immediate and full cooperation with the investigation of the STS-107 Space Shuttle mishap of February 1, 2003. As Chairman of the Board, you are charged with all activities and responsibilities described in but not limited to the Columbia Accident Investigation Board Charter.

Among other things, the Board shall independently determine the facts, as well as the actual or probable causes of the Shuttle accident and recommend preventative or other appropriate actions to preclude recurrence of a similar nature. Our regulations stipulate that the Board issue a final report within 60 days from this date. However, if you feel that you need additional time to arrive at a responsible conclusion, do not hesitate to request such additional time as you deem fit. You are free to pursue whatever avenue you deem appropriate. A copy of the Charter is attached for your reference.

I have designated Mr. David Lengyel and Mr. Steven Schmidt from my staff to be your key points of contact. We will also make other staff available to directly support the Board's activities.

I am grateful for your dedication and service to our country in this time of great need. I trust that you will be diligent, thorough, and unrelenting in your work to determine the cause and prevent the recurrence of this tragedy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean O'Keefe".

Sean O'Keefe
Administrator

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Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 2, 2003

Major General John Barry
Director, Programs and Plans
Air Force Materiel Command
428 Metzger Drive
Wright Patterson AFB, OH 45434

Dear General Barry:

This letter is to advise you that, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §2473 (c)(1), Section 203 (c)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended, and as a result of the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia, I have formally activated the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. I am appointing you to be a Member of this Board.

I am requesting your immediate and full cooperation with the investigation of the STS-107 Space Shuttle accident of February 1, 2003. As a Member of the Board, you are charged with all activities and responsibilities described in but not limited to the Columbia Accident Investigation Board Charter.

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Sean O'Keefe
Administrator

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February 2, 2003

Major General Kenneth W. Hess, USAF
Commander, HQ USAF Chief of Safety
9700 G Avenue SE (Suite 240)
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-5670

Dear General Hess:

This letter is to advise you that, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §2473 (c)(1), Section 203 (c)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended, and as a result of the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia, I have formally activated the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. I am appointing you to be a Member of this Board.

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Sean O'Keefe
Administrator

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February 2, 2003

Dr. James N. Hallock
Chief, Aviation Safety Division
Department of Transportation
55 Broadway, Kendall Square
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Dr. Hallock:

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Sean O'Keefe
Administrator

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February 2, 2003

Mr. Steven B. Wallace
Director of Accident Investigation
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Wallace:

This letter is to advise you that, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §2473 (c)(1), Section 203 (c)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended, and as a result of the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia, I have formally activated the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. I am appointing you to be a Member of this Board.

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Sean O'Keefe
Administrator

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February 2, 2003

Brigadier General Duane Deal
Commander, 21st Space Wing
Peterson Air Force Base
775 Loring Avenue, Suite 205
Colorado Springs, CO 80915-1290

Dear General Deal:

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Sean O'Keefe
Administrator

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February 2, 2003

Mr. Scott Hubbard
Center Director
Ames Research Center
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

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Sean O'Keefe
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February 2, 2003

Rear Admiral Stephen Turcotte, USN
Commander, Naval Safety Center
375 A Street
Norfolk, VA 23511-4399

Dear Admiral Turcotte:

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