Air Traffic Control

Hilton (Pete) W. Hall, Jr.
ATC Group Chairman
Controller Responsibilities

• Provide to the flight crew
  – NOTAM
  – Taxi clearance
  – Takeoff clearance
• Monitor aircraft
NOTAM Information

• Automatic Terminal Information Service (ATIS)
  – Current weather
  – NOTAM information, such as taxiway closures

• NOTAM omitted from broadcast

• Controller did not provide information to the flight crew
Controller’s Taxi Clearance

- Instructed flight crew to runway 22
- Clearance to cross intermediate runways, such as runway 22, not required
- Pilot responded, “taxi two two”
Safety Recommendations

• A-00-67 and A-00-68
  – Require air traffic controllers to issue explicit runway crossing instructions

• Current status: Open – Unacceptable Response

• No FAA action at the time of the accident
Controller’s Takeoff Clearance

- Controllers required to issue takeoff clearances and resolve potential conflicts
- No other aircraft were present
- Issued takeoff clearance
  - Scanned runway 22
  - Checked radar display for traffic
ATC  “Comair 191, Lexington tower, fly runway heading, cleared for takeoff”

F/O  “Runway heading, cleared for takeoff, 191”
Actions After Takeoff Clearance

- Performed radar function for previous flight
- Controller responsible for Comair flight radar services
- Began administrative task
Tower Radar Display and Console

Tower radar display

Center console
Actions After Takeoff Clearance

• FAA’s first priority: separating aircraft and issuing safety alerts
• Use good judgment in prioritizing other tasks
• Administrative task not critical to flight safety
Tower and Radar Functions

- Controller responsible for both functions
- Contrary to FAA policy
- No radar functions interfered with tower tasks for Comair 5191