

April 25, 2019 – Scottsdale, AZ - Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association

Vice Chairman Bruce Landsberg spoke to the safety professionals and operators of Regional Cargo carriers at the RACCA Annual Conference. The typical mission for these operators is to fly cargo and packages under Federal Air Regulation Part 121 and Part 135 from smaller airports to larger cities where the loads are consolidated for transport by larger aircraft to sorting centers.

Since these operators often fly at night, Landsberg discussed a landmark incident that almost resulted in a major accident in San Francisco. The incident, and possible disaster involved Part 121 passenger carrying aircraft but could theoretically happen to any operator.



From Aviation International News – Kim Rosenlof

“Officials from the FAA, NTSB, and Cargo Airline Association all provided key insights into government policy, regulations, and safety protocols for the airline and cargo industries at the 17th annual Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association (RACCA) Spring Conference held in Scottsdale, Arizona, in April.

NTSB vice chairman Bruce Landsberg kicked off the general sessions by citing a 2017 incident where an Air Canada Airbus A320 on final approach to San Francisco International Airport (KSFO) at night mistakenly lined up to land on a taxiway and missed colliding with other airliners by an estimated 14 to 29 feet upon go-around. The near-miss involving up to 1,000 people prompted the NTSB to launch a full investigation.

“There is no question the [Air Canada] crew was badly fatigued,” Landsberg said. “The captain had been up for 19 hours. It was 3 in the morning according to their circadian rhythm time. A lot of cargo runs are at night, and there are ways to cope with this, but it is something we have to be cognizant of.”

Landsberg said that as part of that incident, the NTSB made a recommendation to Transport Canada to revise flight crew fatigue regulations, which were “not as restrictive as those in the U.S.” The new regulations were issued in December 2018.” (Rec # A-18-029)

More than 300 pilots, dispatchers, management, and association professionals attended the RACCA Conference.