FPAW Segment One Information Provider Panel
Three Weeks Ago Today

WestJet Flight 80 from Calgary to Halifax

- Turbulence encounter at FL390
- Pilot gave warning of turbulence but those waiting for washroom did not have time to return to seats
- Abruptly dropped 1100 feet
- Passengers hit ceiling and other passengers
- Three hospitalized (taken off by food service boom truck), one with severe cuts to legs and head
- Six more treated for minor injuries at airport
Safety/Cost Motivations

• **Turbulence is a significant safety issue**
    – ~70% of weather related injuries
    – 3 fatalities, 176 serious, 544 minor injuries
    – 665 cited turbulence as a cause or factor
      – 1,438 injuries
      – 609 fatalities (mainly GA)
  – Cost to airlines ~ $30M-$60M/year
  – Costs incl. GA and air taxi ~ $185M/year

• **Contributes to public perception that air travel is unsafe**
  – Severe encounters (PIREPS) ~ 5,500/year
  – Actual numbers probably much higher…

• **Also a capacity issue**
  – Pilots seek FL for smooth ride
Provider panel

- Steve Velotas, AeroTech Research, Inc.
  - Turbulence radar
  - Turbulence auto PIREPs
- Larry Cornman, NCAR
  - Turbulence research update
- Marc Singer, NWS AWC
  - GTG-2 status
  - Web PIREPS
- Sandra Schmidt, FAA
  - In-Situ reporting