

# FPAW Segment One Information Provider Panel



Federal Aviation  
Administration



# 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**
  - CAST analysis (1983-1999) of NTSB “accident” data
    - ~70% of weather related injuries
    - 3 fatalities, 176 serious, 544 minor injuries
  - Independent MCR Federal study of NTSB data 1983-1997
    - 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

