New British Chief Inspector of Air Accidents

The British Secretary of State for Transport, Andrew Adonis, has approved the selection of Keith Conradi to be the next Chief Inspector of Air Accidents, the head of the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB), it was announced from London on 15th February. He will take up the post later this year, when the current Chief Inspector, David King, retires after more than thirty years with the AAIB, the last five as Chief Inspector.

Keith Conradi, currently a Principal Inspector with the AAIB joined the Branch in 2002 directly from Virgin Atlantic where he flew the Airbus A340 on long haul operations. Keith has been a professional pilot for 30 years operating a wide range of military and civil aircraft. Consequently, he has amassed considerable experience of all aspects of aircraft operations and participated in a wide range of accident investigations.

The key role of the new Chief Inspector of Air Accidents will be to build on the AAIB’s reputation for excellence in air accident investigation, by ensuring that all investigations meet the standards of rigour, objectivity and integrity for which the Branch is widely acclaimed. By working closely with the industry and other stakeholders, while maintaining the essential independence of the Branch, he will ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of developing aviation safety.

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) investigates all aircraft accidents and serious incidents occurring in the UK, its overseas Territories and its Crown dependencies or occurring to British registered aircraft overseas. The sole objective of the investigation of an accident or incident is to determine the circumstances and causes of an accident, with the aim of the prevention of accidents and incidents. It is not the purpose to apportion blame or liability. Located in Farnborough, Hampshire, the AAIB is administered by the Department for Transport (DfT), but the Chief Inspector is functionally independent in the conduct of investigations