NTSB LAUNCHES TEAM TO ASSIST IN GUYANA

It was announced from Washington on 31st July that the National Transportation Safety Board had launched a team of investigators to assist the government of Guyana with its investigation into the previous day’s accident at Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Georgetown, Guyana, involving a scheduled passenger flight.

On 30th July at approximately 0125 (EDT), Caribbean Airlines flight 523, (Trinidad & Tobago registration 9Y- PBM), en route from Trinidad to Guyana, overran the runway during landing at Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Guyana.

Preliminary information from the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) indicated that one serious and multiple minor injuries were reported aboard the Boeing 737-800, carrying 156 passengers and six crewmembers.

The NTSB designated Bob Benzon as the U.S. Accredited Representative. He will lead the U.S. team, which includes seven NTSB staff with expertise in operations, meteorology, airworthiness, survival factors, and aircraft performance as well as representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing. The team was scheduled to arrive in Guyana on the evening of 31st July.

According to the NTSB communiqué the Guyana CAA is leading the accident investigation. It is understood the accident aircraft recorders have been recovered and, at the request of the CAA, will be transported to NTSB headquarters in Washington, DC to be downloaded.