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Press Release

2005 Was Quiet Year for Air Terrorism Worldwide

Atlanta, May 1, 2006: The world was relatively free of air terrorism during 2005. That's the good news. The bad news is that major risks remain. These are facts contained in a report from McKinley Conway, global futurist, who heads the group that sponsors the annual Safe Skies award.

Established in 1990 to recognize those who make outstanding contributions to the protection of air travelers from acts of terrorism, the award has focused special attention on those who intervened in hijacking attempts at the risk of their own lives.

Among award winners have been:

- Indian Airlines Capt. Devi Sharan, who maintained calm and flew safely during a hijacking that lasted eight days.
- A Turkish anti-terrorism SWAT team and Turkish Airline pilots who captured a hijacker at Ankara.
- Ethiopian Airlines Capt. Leul Abate and Copilot Yonas Mekuria who crash-landed in the surf with minimum loss of life as a hijacker attacked them in the cockpit.
- The Greek Police Anti-Terrorist Squad who broke up a hijacking attempt at the Athens airport.
- The Gendarmerie Nationale Intervention Unit (GIGN) of France that, after a bloody gun battle, stopped a hijacking at the Marseilles airport.
- An elite Indian police squad that thwarted the hijacking of an Indian Airlines Boeing between New Delhi and Srinigar.
- Most notably, Conway presented the award to Deena Burnett and Sandy Dahl in recognition of the heroic actions of the pilot and crew of United Flight 93 that was hijacked during the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States.

Burnett, who lost her husband, Tom, father to their three young daughters, said, "It is my honor to accept this award on behalf of the passengers and crew of

Flight 93. The result of their heroic actions is that our government buildings in Washington [the White House or Capitol] are still standing."

Dahl, whose husband, Jason, was the pilot of Flight 93, said, "I am so grateful for people like Mr. Conway, who understand the true value of trained professionals in the air."

In concluding that there would be no award for 2005, Conway said there were fewer incidents requiring investigation. A passenger claiming to have a gun was killed by security guards at Miami, and there was a crash of an air-carrier aircraft in Egypt, but neither was thought to be the result of a planned act of terrorism.

"The threat of hijacking seems to be declining, perhaps due to increased security programs," Conway said, "but there is growing concern about the risk of attacks by terrorists using shoulder-mounted missiles. As yet, we have no adequate defense against these weapons."

About the Sponsor

The sponsor of the annual Safe Skies Award is [McKinley Conway](#), chairman of the World Development Federation and [Conway Data, Inc](#) , an international publishing and management company headquartered in Atlanta.

Mr. Conway, an active pilot for over 50 years, is an aeronautical engineer, former NACA/NASA scientist, airport planner and publisher of [Site Selection](#) magazine. He is author of such books as *Principles of High-Speed Flight* and [The Airport City](#).

(For background information on the Safe Skies Award or on Conway Data, please go to www.wdf.org or www.conway.com.)

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