



Alaska Airlines 1282  
Boeing 737-9  
Portland, OR  
January 5, 2024

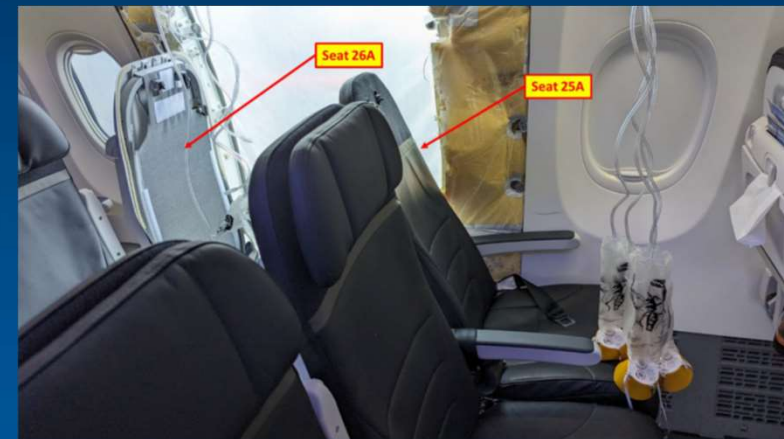
John Lovell, AS-10  
Investigator-in-Charge

## History of Flight – Flight Deck

- Climbing through 16,000 feet there was a loud bang
- Both flight crew members donned their oxygen masks
- Flight deck door was blown open during rapid decompression
- Flight deck had difficulty communicating due to noise associated with the decompression
- Declared emergency and descended while executing emergency procedures
- Returned to Portland and landed without incident.

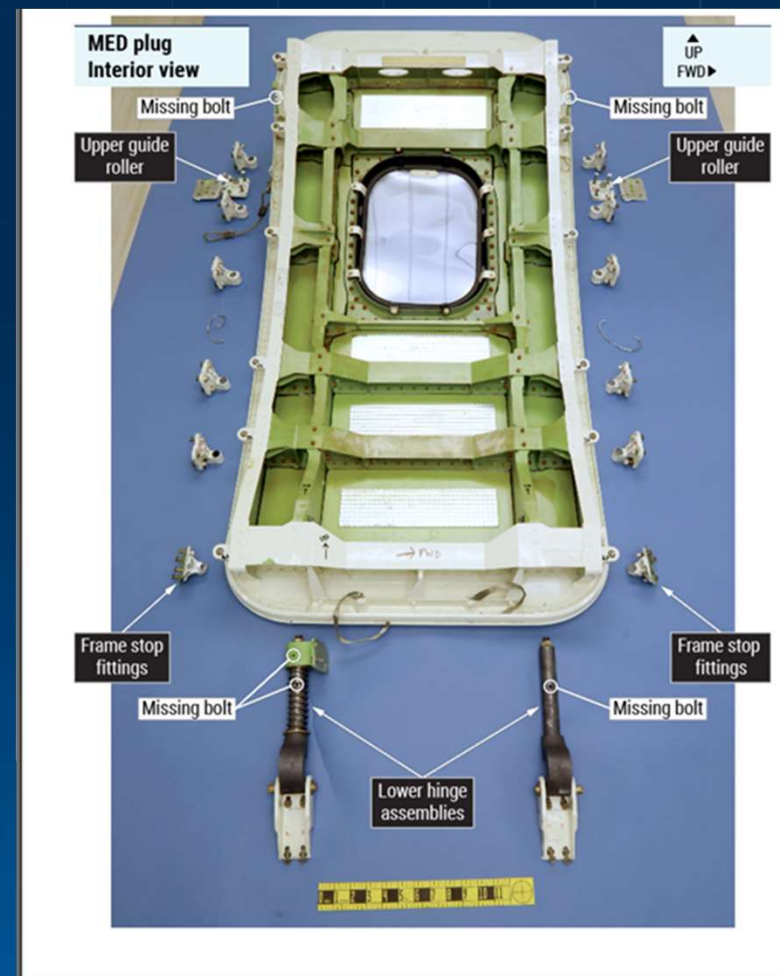
## History of Flight – Cabin

- When the depressurization occurred emergency masks deployed
- Secured the flight deck door
- Donned oxygen masks
- Attempted to communicate with the flight deck
- Assessed the cabin and assisted passengers
- Prepared cabin for emergency landing



## Mid Exit Door (MED) Plug

- Left MED plug was recovered in a backyard
- MED plug is a customer option
- MED plug is not intended to be opened during operations
- MED plug is only operated for inspections
- MED plug left Boeing Renton facility and was delivered to Alaska Airlines without 4 retaining bolts required to secure it to fuselage

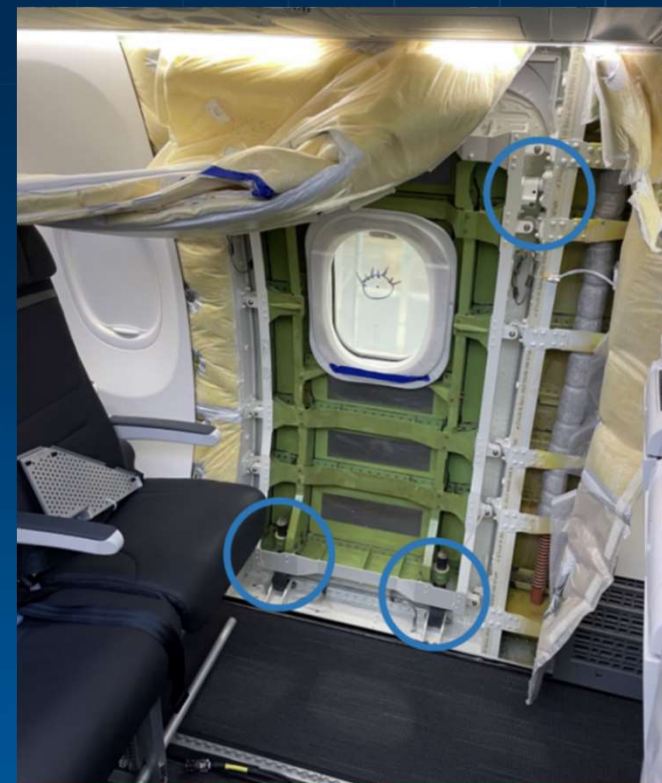


# Fuselage/MED Plug Delivery and Acceptance

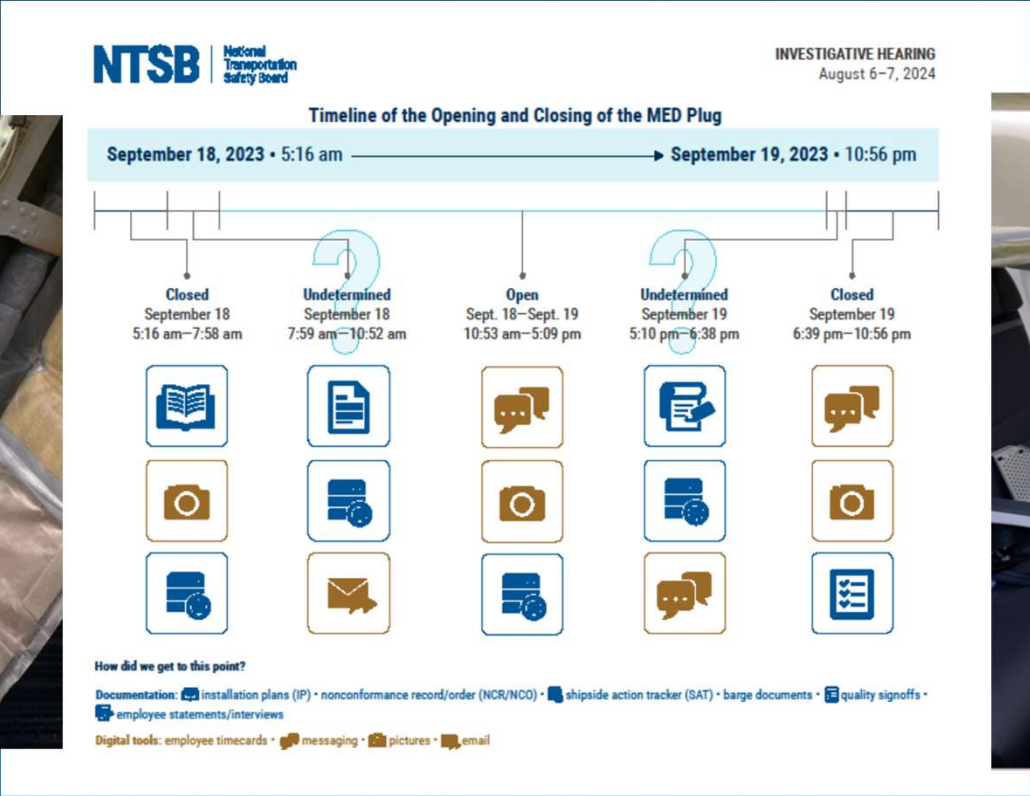
- Spirit AeroSystems
  - Left MED plug was installed and pre-rigged on fuselage on July 18, 2023
  - “Close and verify pre-rig” task completed on July 28, 2023
  - Fuselage shipped to Boeing by train
- Boeing
  - Delivered to Renton facility on August 31, 2023, and inspected and accepted
  - Evidence showed required four bolts installed. No non-conformance reports (NCRs) issued against MED Plug
  - MED plug not opened unless discrepancy found, if so, NCR is issued to do repair

## Rivet Work Required MED Plug Opened

- Boeing production has 9 factory flow day positions of which 6 can affect the MED Plug
- On September 1, 2023, NCR created for 5 damaged rivets on edge frame, forward of left MED plug on flow day 9
- Rivet work required left MED plug opened
- On September 19, 2023, rivets replaced
- Photo documentation indicate left-hand MED plug closed some time between September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, without 4 retaining bolts installed



# Timeframe MED Plug Opened and Closed



## NTSB Staff

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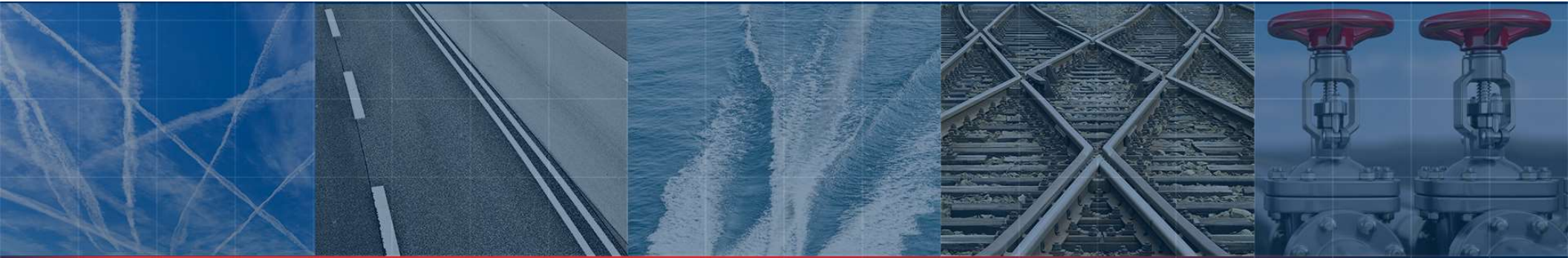
Eric Weiss

Dr. Sabrina Woods



# Parties to the Investigation

- Air Line Pilots Association
- Alaska Airlines
- Association of Flight Attendants
- Boeing Commercial Airplanes
- Federal Aviation Administration
- International Association of Machinists
- Spirit AeroSystems



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