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SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Week ending April 8, 2016

HUMAN PERFORMANCE: Jay Barrett (MIA) is the Human Performance Liaison for NATCA. His report to the membership is below.

- Mr. Barrett has completed a 5 year implementation draft for the Human Performance team. He did this in response to a request from Terry Biggio to “paint a picture” of what Mr. Barrett and his FAA Co-Lead believe they can and want to do. The plan involves some regional advocates that will have to be extensively trained in all the activities we are involved in such as assisting in investigations, facility training, OJTI, Leadership, teamwork and Cultural/generational differences workshops. Our vision is to eventually imbed human performance experts in all the major facilities and geographic areas. Terry Biggio (FAA) is understandably concerned about resources.
- The fatigue office activities include:
 - At CFS Mr. Barrett discovered that the communications office at FAA has acquired the license and distribution capability to build resident applications for Android and iPhones. To say he was aggravated is an understatement. They have been working with Infina for two years now trying to get an alertness fatigue app built (as you may remember from past updates). They were never able to offer us a downloadable resident application, but instead provided us with a very clunky web based app.
 - Mr. Barrett will be discussing this with Mr. Biggio and the communication folks this week to see if we can get the alertness app built in this way rather than on the web.
 - Mr. Barrett attended the ICAO fatigue symposium in Montreal this past week and came away with a few good ideas for taking the FRM to a new level in the FAA.
 - While at the symposium in Montreal, Jeff Richards (NATCA Fatigue Lead) and Mr. Barrett met with reps from the International Trade Federation (ITF) who are very interested in where ICAO is going to go as far as fatigue guidance and rules for ANSPs. The ICAO SARPs are 3/4 of the way completed and there is some nervousness about ITFs concerns not being considered from a labor standpoint. They agreed to keep in contact and assist them as best they can.
- The human factors office activities include:
 - The vetting of the certification standards have been completed at N90. They are still being consolidated by the contractor and Mr. Barrett has not seen the finished product. We have begun working on how implementation will look. This will be the hard part as everyone has a

strong opinion on how to use the standards on a day to day basis. As of now we are still on track for July implementation after N90 finishes transition to STARS.

- Mr. Barrett will be assisting with the development of the CADRE course for the new OJTI training class. Should happen in early May as of right now.
- Mr. Barrett participated in a CWG panel discussion at CFS. He thinks it went very well. They also did Human Factors break out sessions on human error and resiliency engineering.
- HCF has been moved up on our priority list by AJI leadership. They had a series of telcons to see what the HP office could offer them to assist with their training, teamwork and cultural issues. Our concern is that our activities are not a “one and done” type and that there will need to be a number of visits and followups to ensure the concepts and recommendations are being implemented and not forgotten.
- The Health and Wellness activities:
 - They connected with the EAP Magellan folks and have begun discussing the services they provide and how we might leverage their products and services with what the team is contemplating. They were very receptive and willing to assist the team.
 - Mr. Barrett has communicated with Mike O'Ddyrna (NATCA OSHA) to receive assistance in finding out what can be done for the horrible conditions the controllers at ARR are working in.

NAS VOICE SYSTEM (NVS): Jon Shedden (ZFW) is the NVS Article 48 Representative. His update for this week is below

- **NAS Voice Systems (NVS)** demo labs are currently running on Build 11, with Build 12 currently in development (these are beta builds). This is the beginning of the final development stretch leading into Factory Acceptance Testing (FAT) scheduled to begin in November 2016.
 - Mr. Shedden was in Melbourne, FL on March 29th and 30th with Tom Adcock (A48 Training) for the NVS Training Guidance Conference. Development of the NVS training materials is set to begin immediately, and will continue up to 1st course conduct and the training of key site controllers in September 2018.
 - NVS and ERAM began working together to ensure installation compatibility in the DSR console. There will be an NVS demo given to the ERAM CHI team the week of May 9th at the Tech Center in Atlantic City. In addition to the NVS Demonstration lab at the Tech Center, NVS now has an implementation lab dedicated to the hardware installation of the system.
- **Next Generation Air-Ground Communication (NEXCOM)** continues deployment of new CM300/350 V2 radios to terminal facilities across the country. Deployment is going well. 18 new radios are in work or are going operational in March/April at

various sites across the NAS.

- In May, **Houston Center (ZHU)** is set to begin testing the new RCAG replacing the ARINC's VHF Extended Range Network (VERN) in Cancun. The FAA successfully replaced the Key West VERN last summer. These RCAG/VERN radios provide long-range directional radio coverage in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Shedden participated in a telcon on March 22nd with the program office and ZHU area Representative Shawn Sharpless to discuss the upcoming test procedures.
- **NAS Voice Recorder Program (NVRP)** is the replacement for existing NAS voice recorders (DALR, DALR2, DVRS, DVR2). Vendor meetings occurred between November 19th and December 3rd. There was an NVRP Stakeholder meeting on January 21st discussion requirements and information from the vendor RFI's (Request For Information). There was a meeting on March 24 for the Integrated Requirements Team to begin to validate and shape requirements for the initial Program Requirements document.
- The **Headset** contract (Plantronics) is expiring in June of 2016. The FAA program office is currently in the vendor selection process and expected to announce the selected vendor in the spring 2016 time frame. There will likely be changes to the availability of existing headset models regardless of the vendor selected, although the most popular models will remain unchanged. Mr. Shedden is working with Bill Howard (Program Office) to finalize the Headset Guide and briefing document.
- **Grand Rapids Tower/TRACON (GRR)** is reporting multiple issues with their aging voice switch. The Voice Switching Team in Oklahoma City (AJW-173) is working closely with GRR to resolve their issues. There's also a radio coverage/spectrum issue being worked, as well as an issue with Tech Ops staffing and training. There are now additional issues, mostly environmental, keeping ATC and Tech Ops out of the TRACON delaying work on the comm issues.
- **Waterloo Tower/TRACON (ALO)** is reporting issues with the phone system used operationally in the tower. One of the issues has been resolved (inaudible phone) while the second one remains in work.

NEXTGEN: Kevin McLaughlin (SCT) is the NATCA National NextGen Representative. Mr. McLaughlin's update to the membership is below.

- Participated in a NextGen/SESAR Global Harmonization Panel on CFS Day 1. Other participants included representatives from IFATCA, Eurocontrol, and FAA. During this panel I gave a brief introduction to 4 Dimensional Trajectory, a key component of both NextGen and SESAR Oceanic path modeling.
- Participated in numerous Leesburg Remote Tower telcons, as one of the alternate NATCA Reps on the program to primary Rep. Kieron Heflin. The program is currently evolving through the Requirements phase.

- Participated in multiple telcons on the Colorado Remote Tower Program, the State of Colorado has received an overture from a single vendor to provide the equipment but no programmatic support.
- Participated in multiple meetings of the NextGen Facilities Outreach Workgroup. This workgroup is focusing on laying a collaborative foundation between ARTCC and underlying Terminal facilities 16-24 months prior to arrival of NextGen technologies to the workplace.
- Met with Steve Bradford, NextGen Chief Scientist, to discuss impacts of new funding parameters.
- Participated in Path Stretch Technology HITL at MITRE/CAASD. Path Stretch is a key component of TBFM.
- Participated in Collaborative Decision Making Stakeholders Workgroup, advocating for a Charter rewrite that includes NATCA as a member of the Stakeholder Group.
- Regained currency at SCT, completing Recurrent, Refresher, Elms, etc



Dale Wright
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