

**NATCA Safety & Tech Update**  
**Week of December 19, 2016**

**COLLABORATIVE DECISION MAKING (CDM):** Kyle Andrews (ORD) is the NATCA Representative to the Surface Concept Team (SCT). Mr. Andrews forwarded the information below for the membership.

Kyle Andrews, NATCA Representative to the Surface Concept Team, reports that the SCT is scheduled to meet on January 25, 2017. Foremost on the agenda will be a proposed (with approval expected) CSG tasking to clarify and encourage SCT engagement with all parties involved with TFDm implementation. Industry will be asked to report on their effort to provide the core eleven data elements needed by TFDm automation to implement the suite of TFDm technologies, specifically Surface Metering. Likewise, the FAA will be asked to account for the progress in creating the Electronic Flight Data environment that is crucial to the success of ATC utilization of any of the TFDm technologies. The expectation is that an initial live implementation of Surface Metering will hit the scheduled fourth quarter, 2017 target date, but unless progress is made in supplying the data and the data receptor, that date may be overly optimistic.

**DATAComm:** Jim McAllister (PCT) is the Article 114 Representative for DataComm P1. Below is his update.

As of Monday afternoon at 2228z (5:28 EDT) we have officially received IOC's at all waterfall sites.

Condensed version of the information below:

- 1 Deployed to 73 Towers; DataComm (CPDLC/TEDC) to 55 Towers, Enhanced (TEDC) to 16 Towers, and Upgraded software/hardware to 2 Towers.
- 2 Training courses are currently going through the first annual maintenance update, due to be complete by 1/31.
- 3 Deployment of the newest software update (TDLS V12.2) is ongoing at all sites; 39 complete, 28 scheduled, 6 still unscheduled.
- 4 NSDA testing begins at SDF on March 17th, followed by CLT on April 30th, and final deployment scheduled June 26th.
- 5 SIB continues daily as we work through the number of AIMS issues documented with the system to date.
- 6 Core team to work on future enhancements in January.
- 7 Core team to revisit all 55 DataComm sites with best practices, facility assistance, program requirements and benefits information starting in February potentially.
- 8 Post IOC telcons continue with the 73 sites with very little participation.
- 9 Outstanding Issues:

- Review of TAS course yearly offerings vs. true need
  - Tech Routes issue in the southern CA area
  - SJU route issue
  - DCIT request for runway assignments from clearance delivery
  - Future enhancements to the TDLS system prioritization
  - Transition strategy from program office to field stabilization and support
  - Coordination for full-time usage of the Core Team through June 2017
- While their job is not yet finished, the DataComm Core Team; Chad Geyer, Ray Adams, Ross Dickinson, Tom Gray should be formally commended for their tireless efforts for the past two years or more. Without these guys, this program would have been significantly delayed and the deployments would have been severely skewed.

The DataComm SMEs were also invaluable from ILT to deployment coverage. They are; Joe Dulemba (DAL), Chris Espada (IAH), Tammy Goldener (LGA), Derrick Green (MKE), Frances Roberts (JAX), Anthony Ruffino (IAH), and Kelli Valentine (PHX). Although others were originally selected, these are the SMEs that endured the entire deployment.

We also received assistance from a few of the Tower Local DataComm Art 48 Reps. Will Hutson (IAH - now DEN), Doug Nelson (SLC), Conan Lane (IND), Anu Shreederan (LAX) and Michael Hyllberg (SDF) filled gaps during deployment and assisted with ILT. Again, while a few others may have assisted, these reps really stepped up and filled gaps with little to no notice.

Long version with full details:

We deployed some sort of improved system to 73 sites:

- 55 DataComm (CPDLC/TEDC) Towers with SJU being the last to IOC on December 9th at 2030z (3:30 EDT).
- 16 Enhanced PDC (TEDC) Towers ending with PBI IOC on November 18.
- 2 Upgraded PDC (New Software) Towers, HNL and ANC with ANC declaring IOC on December 12 at 2030z (5:28 EDT).

We are currently reviewing and updating the associated training courses; TDLS Application Specialist (TAS), CPDLC and TDLS (PDC). This task is scheduled for completion by the end of January. Additionally, some ATMs have asked for a written document mandating this training. Tom Adcock is looking at the current training orders and MOUs to assist with mandating these courses for the field.

DataComm, which is TDLS (PDC/TEDC) with CPDLC functionality, is a software intensive system. The future projection is for 2-3-software build per year to support enhancements, repairs and required updates. IFCET (AJW-178) is the second level organization responsible for the system. However, from my experience during this deployment, AJW-178 is not currently capable of providing the appropriate infrastructure for testing, exit briefs and

potential training for each new software delivery. As a result, I am working with the program office to develop the necessary infrastructure to pave this path forward.

We are currently installing the latest version of TDLS software; TDLS12.2 to all 73 sites. This is a site task that requires tracking from our side to ensure all sites come up in a timely manner due to implications with the flight deck (FMS). As of today, 40 sites are complete, 27 are scheduled between now and mid January, and 6 remain unscheduled. Each software up level requires tech ops to install the new software and air traffic to ensure their local adaptation is adequate. The delay, as with this one, is usually caused by tech ops unwillingness to comply with the request.

NSDA (National Single Data Authority) is the next big step for DataComm. NSDA changes the way an aircraft logs into the system from the current airport identification, to a single US identification (KUSA). Ray Adams is our primary core team member working this upgrade / deployment. This effort requires all 20 ARTCCs to be on EAD600 or later, all DataComm Towers to be on TDLS 12.3. We will test NSDA at SDF / ZID for 5 days beginning March 17th, followed by CLT / ZTL for 5 days beginning April 30th. The entire country will move to NSDA in one night on June 25th into the 26th.

The TDLS Stakeholders Information Board (SIB) is similar to an ERAM SARB / NARB combined and meets daily. The board looks at AIMS tickets and basically follows the ERAM process for triage, prioritization and packaging. Chad is currently our representative to this board. This board has now started to encompass P2 and will continue to meet daily for the foreseeable future.

We have a list of proposed future enhancements to the system. We will be meeting in January to try and schedule each enhancement for upcoming software builds and to see if other enhancements are required.

We have had a few issues at a handful of Towers since deployment. We have returned to LAS to work through their issues with great results. After hearing a few other grumbings from Towers, we have decided to return to all 55 DataComm Towers with a "best practices" tour. We are currently developing the presentations and gathering the required orders / documentation that we want to distribute during the site visit.

We started Post-IOC telcons with all of the sites several months ago. The telcons are held on the first Tuesday and second Thursday of every month to provide a program status and request feedback from the Towers. The information is revised every month to ensure it is pertinent to the sites concerning current issues, future enhancements, and any other pertinent

data. Unfortunately, our Tower participation is extremely low, averaging 9 sites per telcon (usually the same 9 sites).

#### Outstanding Issues:

- Our TAS course at the MMAC teaches the two (2) administrative personnel (one NATCA and one management) per site how to properly build local adaptation, download data, and maintain the D-ATIS functionality. Without proper training, a person could crash the entire system very easily. Within our deployment, we ensured each site had two people properly trained. However, within this year alone, we have lost several TAS' due to retirements, promotions and transfers. As a result, we currently have facilities without their required two TAS'. The original belief was there was a need for 4 classes per year resulting in 24 seats. I believe this number is too low and must be revised. I am working this issue.
- Routes are a significant issue with CPDLC and PDC in general. Old TDLS used a snapshot from the FDIO line to capture data. The new TDLS (PDC and/or CPDLC) uses its own high speed direct connect to ERAM to gather route data (TEDC). While this is not a huge issue, ensuring the information in the route structure meets the requirements of the aircraft FMS is a much bigger deal and is of great concern. Facilities in the LA basin, associated with SCT / ZLA use tec routes (terminal en-route control) for flights that stay within terminal airspace. Unfortunately, most of these routes are not compliant for the aircraft FMS and cannot be automated via PDC. We are working this issue with the affected facilities and working on a potential ERAM ER.
- We discovered an issue with a route between SJU and London Heathrow. We are still gathering data and working this issue with SJU.
- CPDLC allows the route to be uploaded to the FMS via automation. However, the SID and Transition must still be programmed into the FMS manually by the pilot. The FMS functionality only allows the SID and Transition to be automatically uploaded if we provide a runaway assignment with it. As you know, this is a change for our current behaviors / policies in our Towers. We are currently working through this saga and will keep you up to date.
- The core team and I will be meeting in January to look at the list of future TDLS enhancements. We will prioritize the ones we have and use feedback from the Towers to see if more enhancements are necessary.
- The largest issue still on my plate is a transitions strategy from deployment to field maintainability / supportability. As mentioned earlier, the second level organization for TDLS (AJW-178) has not demonstrated any ability to provide the necessary support and leadership. We need processes for build content, testing, exit briefs and training, along with ensuring that the appropriate SSMs and Thin Specs are updated accordingly. This is work in progress.
- As a result of the work outlined above, the program office has agreed that we need the core team to continue full-time for the next six months at a minimum. Last June we guessed that the need would only be 4 weeks per

quarter. Now we are attempting to change that former belief to keep these guys off their scheduled through June.

I am moving forward with a meeting next Tuesday in DC to ensure we have a complete picture on the P2 side of DataComm. It will be a one-day meeting just to ensure we have all of our bases covered and have not missed anything. I know we have an issue with DataComm coverage and CHI right now that will require changes.

I know this is long, but wanted you to know exactly where P1 stands and that I can type a similar update for P2 following next weeks meeting. Please let me know what else you need from the team or me.

**HUMAN PERFORMANCE:** Jay Barrett (MIA) is the Article 114 Representative for Human Performance. His report is below.

N90 -There was scheduling and resource issues, which precluded the HPT from assisting the facility in completing this project. AJI leadership had asked us to concentrate on other activities while this was discussed amongst leadership. The Nextgen office still has outstanding work to validate the certification standards as a contract satisfaction item. This past week an agreement has been reached with Eastern region leadership & NATCA to get at least 2 areas at N90 trained and using the new training/certification standards. This should move forward after the first of the year. Coordination needs to be done with a contractor to see if they can deliver the training that was developed. If not the HPT will be asked to deliver the training.

HCF/C90/ZNY - We have done human performance assessments at each of these facilities and they each are waiting for our assistance in various roles and recommendations that we made subsequent to our visits. AJI will coordinate with AJT to see what the priorities are. Currently the HPT does not have the bandwidth to accomplish everything simultaneously.

Team Resource Management workshop - The workshop is substantially complete. There is an outstanding module that needs completion, but we believe we should be able to deliver this early next year. MIA tower originally requested this training and we will more than likely demo it there first.

HPT NATCA Help - There was an AJI meeting last Friday where the NATCA leads from AJI met with AJI leadership to work through issues. The meeting was productive and we have agreed to continue the meetings going forward. I requested assistance from Terry concerning NATCA personnel to assist us in the field in HP activities.

Academy training - I have worked closely with Jason to scope out an outline of what substance we would want delivered to new hires at the academy. We

will coordinate with AJI-2 and the Academy to see how this can work. Our vision would be to deliver a Human Performance module that includes HF, Fatigue and Health and Wellness. It would be delivered through the lens of how do you survive not only the training process, but also a 30-year career in ATC.

HF Integration - One of Jason's goals in building the HPT has been to have a central clearinghouse for all HF activities in the Agency. Currently there is HF research activities being conducted by CAMI as well as the Tech Center in Atlantic City. Our office is more operationally centered, but there can be problems when the PMO, Requirements and Research activities are not coordinated or at least informed. I am slowly meeting all the people and different organizations and requesting to be informed when HF activities are taking place. I will be visiting OKC and ACY after the holidays. I am also meeting with our respective reps from each office and making an effort to coordinate with them when we have HF activities and/or issues.

HF roundtable - This is a group that contains all the HF managers across the Agency. The intent is to prioritize HF activities based on an ever-decreasing pot of money. I attended the first meeting 2 weeks ago and was impressed with the level of cooperation.

#### Health & Wellness

We are working hard to get the ATC survival guide completed. It is still in very early stages right now, but the hope is to have a product by April.

Health & Wellness professional - The office has been given tentative authority to hire another professional for the office. I have requested the person have a background in Health & Wellness activities. With any luck we should advertise this after the holidays and be able to pick someone up by 3rd qtr.

#### Fatigue

ZOA - Jeff Richards, Erina and I participated in the Article 7 briefing for the actigraphy study. We should be starting this after the holidays as well. There were no major issues. We insisted that the tracking form that will be used to cross reference the actigraph watches be destroyed before the data is delivered to the HPT.

I will be on leave from Wednesday 12/21 until 1/4. I will still answer phone call and email, but will be at home in the Keys.

**INTEGRATED DISPLAY SYSTEM REPLACEMENT (IDS-R):** Richie Smith (N90) leads NATCA's efforts on the IDS-R project as the Article 114 Representative. Below is Mr. Smith's report.

After the testing failure of the new NIDS operating system in November new test dates have been set for the week of January 9, 2017. Included in this test suite will be a new NIDS build (3.6.1) containing fixes to memory and page freeze issues being experienced at such facilities as SCT, I90 and F11. Some of these problems have been linked to the amount of pages that can be stored in the browser history, which is utilized by the "back button" function. Others are a bit more complex on the first view but simple after analysis. For example, in the SCT network certain sites have been experiencing workstation freezing and very slow page loads. A large amount of time and energy was wasted during the program office's blaming the vendor for the issues. During this time NATCA was asking the engineers involved to scour through the specific database and look for something different compared to other sites. It was discovered that some background photographs on the pages were much larger than anticipated and this unconventional size was causing extra memory and processing power to be used, thus slowing down the system to the point of freezing. New pictures were sent to SCT for installation.

The latest and last IOC (Initial Operational Capacity) for NIDS was achieved during the week of December 12, 2016. This did not go as smoothly as anticipated and, at this point, the CMH/DAY network is considering falling back to their previous IDS-5 system. It's easy to blame the program office for the issues encountered at the site but at least some of the blame can be attributed to the fact that this is the one (and only) IDS-5 to NIDS transition in the waterfall. The plan for the network IOC was, in retrospect, poorly placed in the workweek (Thursday morning) and close to the moratoriums and holiday.

2017 will be a quiet year for NIDS as the installation waterfall is complete and all that is left is Operational Readiness Decisions and the associated removal of the old IDS systems. Software updates and testing will continue and should be a focus in the upcoming year.

**OSHA:** Mike Odryna (ZBW) is the Chairman of NATCA's OSHA Committee. He has provided an update for the membership.

### **New Orleans Lakefront Tower Mold Issues**

The first stage had included removal of failed caulking and the application of an exterior sealant. This process will take several weeks depending on weather. Weekly Air Monitoring continues to show interior mold levels at acceptable levels. To date the contractor has not been able to fix all the leaks in the facility, and has actually caused more. The project to seal the exterior of the Base Building will continue. Once completed a project to remove all areas affected by mold in the interior of the building will begin.

POC: (Mike Odryna, Geoff Bacci, Nichol Bell, Lawrence Pharr)

### **Dallas Love (DAL) Tower Mold Issues**

An ongoing water intrusion issue is being investigated at DAL Tower. Several employees had voiced concerns about the IAQ at the facility that is caused by areas within the facility that have been showing signs of Water Intrusion for many years. The Agency hired an independent Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) to investigate. The CIH found an area within the Breakroom that showed signs of mold. Also, areas in the stairwell that appear to have been moist in the past. They also identified areas outside the tower where the chalk is failing and must be repaired. The Agency is working on a plan to move forward.

POC: (Shannon Smith, Mike Odryna)

### **Great Falls (GTF) Tower/TRACON Mold Issues**

Shawn Kramer received reports of water continuously infiltrating the first and second floors of the facility at Fort Smith. It turned out that TechOps was aware of the problem and allowed it to continue with plans to fix it in the next fiscal year. The FACREP was instructed to immediately file a UCR. Subsequently the FAA appeared on site to initiate a short-term fix to the leaks and remove the wet sheetrock and carpet.

POC: (Shawn Kramer)

### **Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) MOU Webinar**

The OSHA Committee, along with Geoff Bacci, held a webinar regarding the Indoor Air Quality MOU on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1pm Eastern. The telecom was well attended and fostered many good questions. We will be redoing the webinar again towards the end of January. Watch for posting in the NATCA Insider and the OSHA Committee Facebook page for future dates.

POC (Mike Odryna)

### **OSH issue reporting**

If you have an OSH issue at your facility, use your normal reporting process. I.e. OCC, UCR etc. Also, contact you NATCA Regional OSHA rep. The regional OSH Rep's work as liaisons between the lines of business.

If you have a concern about something occurring at your facility, you can fill out the following form to request a member of the OSHA Committee contact you to discuss your concerns.

[OSHA Committee Information Request Form](#)



**Committee Membership:**

We still have vacancies in both the Southwest and Great Lakes Regions.

POC: (Mike Odryna)

**ALB ATCT Water Intrusion and Mold**

The Agency along with NATCA continues attempts to determine the source of chronic leaks in the Tower.

POC: (CJ Jacques)

**Cape TRACON Water Intrusion and Mold**

A drainage trough in the floor at the Cape TRACON has backed up with sewage. The facility began to get infested with Sewage flies and a bad odor. An insecticide was used in conjunction with a cleaning plan to help with the sewage fly issue. Fans are being used to help with odor.

Currently a plan in place to clean up the trough and solve the drainage failures.

POC: (Scott Robillard, Mike Odryna)

**Regional OSHECCOMs**

The NATCA Air Traffic Regional Reps and Region X reps attended their respective Regional OSHECCOM meetings throughout November and December in the New England, Eastern, and Southern Regions. Minutes from the Regional OSHECCOM meetings can be found at:

[OSHECCOM KSN Site](#)

**Fire Drill Requirement**

All FAA employees are required to participate in a fire drill annually. Ask your local management for the status of fire drills at your facility.

POC: (Mike Odryna)

**NATCA Rep. OSHA Training**

Mike Odryna met with the agency to update NATCA Rep training requirements and offerings. An updated list of training available for all NATCA OSH Reps will be available ASAP

POC: (Mike Odryna, Dominic Petrelli)

**PAD Program Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Update**

Phil Barbarello, Dean Iacopelli, Ryan Smith, Mike Odryna and Drew Macqueen, met with the Agency regarding the Current AED program. The group discussed current costs and funding, contractor renewal, and future considerations for the program to move ahead to facilities that have 10 or more people. A commitment was made for the agency (AJW-23) to continue to work with Mike Odryna to look for area to produce cost savings in an effort to expand the program.

POC: (Mike Odryna)

**National OSHECCOM Meeting**

Mike Odryna, Dominic Petrelli and Larry Trottini attended the National OSHECCOM meeting in Washington DC on October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Discussions and updates to include the National PAD Program, 3900.19B Revision, FAA OSH Program Update, Injury and illness reports, and Facility OSH Inspection Findings.

POC: (Mike Odryna, Larry Trottini, Dominic Petrelli)

**Current Facility issues being worked by the committee and others.**

FAY: Fumes	BTV Tower/TRACON: Mold and Water Intrusion
NEW: IAQ Mold	FAI/ATCT: Roof Fix and repair Tower Cab Ladder
FAI FSS: New Roof and HVAC Unit	YNG: Roof Replacement
Alaska FSS: OTZ Housing/FAI HVAC-ROOF Replacement	ARR Overall Facility Condition
GRR: Odor, ASR Contamination	PHF: Mold/IAQ
Hurricane Matthew water intrusion issues	KET FSS-FSS Facility Rehab
NWM Regional Office: Water Quality Issues: New Regional Office Build	New NWM Regional Office Design
DAL ATC: Water intrusion and Mold	SGF Mold/IAQ
ANC ATCT: IAQ Article 53 Investigation	ZAN: Seismic Upgrade
DSM SSC Office: Comprehensive Mold Evaluation	FSM: Water Intrusion, IAQ
ANC ZAN- Seismic upgrade	SGF ATCT: HVAC Project
PHL: Water Intrusion, Mold	Cape TRCAON: Sewer flies, Odor, Plumbing issues.
GTF: Mold	NWM Regional Office: Water Testing
STL Tower: Elevator	ZAN: Drinking Water Issues
Mansfield Tower: Water, Security, FLS	HSV: IAQ, Fumes