

NATCA Safety & Tech Update Week of March 13, 2017

ENROUTE AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION (ERAM): Julio Henriques (ZNY) leads the ERAM efforts for NATCA. This update is provided by Dan Mullen (ZID).

We met with the Ground Based Interval Management (GIM-S) team to plan how to help the sites integrate this program. The Facility Tech Reps (FTRs) from ZDV, ZAB and ZSE have already been working with GIM-S to resolve technical and procedural issues they've had in their facilities. We will conduct a GIM-S demo for all the FTRs in April so the entire National User Team (NUT) can be involved in the ongoing implementation.

EAD6002v is scheduled to be redeployed starting March 14th. The problems caused by data block changes have been addressed and controllers can expect more briefings on the changes before working on the new system. The left-justified data block and new leader line anchor points are a significant change in appearance and will take some getting used to. The delays and revisions to deployment of EAD6002 has caused a delay to the next few ERAM releases, so EAD700 will now be field tested in July, which is about two months later than planned.

EAD700 is needed before Tech Ops can begin replacing the ERAM equipment and processors. Many of those processors have been failing much sooner than expected, so getting the new equipment is time-critical. The D-side processors will get replaced first and that is planned to start late this summer and continue into next year. Also, new 24 inch D-side monitors will be installed beginning late in March 2017.

The NUT held it's quarterly meeting in Louisville, KY the week of March 6th. Some of the topics worked on include:

- Tech Refresh Early-D side
- ER 165761 Electronic Horse Collar
- ER 171534 Improved Support for UAS
- Discussion of PDRR/ABRR testing and schedule
 - TMI ID
 - Insertion of Remarks use case
- NEXRAD
 - Controller selectable weather
- ER 19563 NEXRAD Outage
- 8-1-1 Guide for EAD700
- Controller Card for EAD700
- Referred Message Guide
- ICAO Template
- ER 95932 Master Brightness
- ER 169592 VFR FP Equipment Qualifier and ER 168163

- ER 156958 MERT Coding and ER 171428 Inconsistent MERT Coding
- Site and Program Issues Discussion
- GIMMS and Path Stretch
- TTL outage robustness task team
- EAD600 site training
- Backup Radar System
- EAD700 and EAE100 Systems status
- Update on Monitor Replacement
- ERAW Update
- Handoff to Non-US
- Data Com Briefing

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

Human Factors Activities

N90 -training is ongoing at the facility, but I understand there are some issues with classes being cancelled and some follow through from facility personnel. I was supposed to travel there to observe the training this week, but was asked by AJI leadership to not attend until some issues could be worked by Dean and Jeff Vincent.

Academy training - We are developing the substance for human performance material that will be deployed at the Academy. Our intent is to reach the new hires at the very beginning and give them information that will help them to be aware of human performance issues that may impede their success. We will also have a module for them before they begin radar training. This module will address the details to be aware of when in a radar training environment. And finally we will deliver a module that will assist with the transition from Academy to facility. We hope to have the ATC survival guide ready to distribute at this time.

Center of Excellence - I attended the quarterly meeting in DAB 2 weeks ago. There are a number of projects that Tom Adcock and I are participating in. Many of the projects want to do various surveys of controllers, FLMs, academy personnel and those connected with training. I briefed the group on the approval process for surveys and that Tom and I can make the process much more streamlined if we see them and provide feedback prior to submitting them for approval.

Health & Wellness

Still working on the ATC survival guide. Plans are to distribute this to new hires as they transition from the academy to their first facility.

Have been working on materials for energy and stress management. There is a lot of good science coming out of research on maintaining energy levels for healthy lifestyles and better performance. I attended an online workshop done by Johnson and Johnson. Some of the material presented is similar to the materials that Magellan has on their website. We have been discussing the best way to get this material out to the workforce.

Fatigue

ZOA - I am told the actigraphs have been purchased. So we should be starting the fatigue study soon.

ATSAP - we are also discussing better and new ways to analyze and classify the fatigue related ATSAP reports. I will have to coordinate with Mike Blake and Steve Hansen with any suggestions that result from our discussions.

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

CFS

The OSHA committee will be attending CFS again this year and will be manning a booth. Should you have any questions stop by and chat with us? We will be raffling off 2 Disc Bags loaded with 10 discs.

Headset Tones

The Headset workgroup continued to meet. Our focus is to re-write the current headset tone guidance that was issued in 2007. Additionally, we determine whether new technology can reduce the amount of tone incidents. POC: (Jason Grider, Mike Odryna, Jon Shedden, Don Smith, Dean Iacopelli)

New Orleans Lakefront Tower Mold Issues

The remediation of the Mold has completed. But now the Agency has determined that the outside of the building was not sealed properly and still leaks. Additionally, the HVAC system and several windows need to be replaced. Once completed the build back will begin.

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

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, Deb Stewart)

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)

OSH issue reporting

If you have an OSH issue at your facility, use your normal reporting process. I.e. OCC, UCR etc. Also, contact your 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 a vacancy Great Lakes Region.

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)

PHL ATCT Housekeeping Issues

The Agency along with NATCA have started to develop a strategy to ensure the cleaning requirements set forth in the janitorial contract and TechOps requirements for equipment cleaning are adhered to.

POC: (CJ Jacques)

Regional OSHECCOMs

The NATCA Air Traffic Regional Reps and Region X reps attended their respective Regional OSHECCOM meetings throughout February and March in the Great Lakes, Southwest, Central, Northwest Mountain, New England and Eastern Regions. Minutes from the Regional OSHECCOM meetings can be found at:

[OSHECCOM KSN Site](#)

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)

PCT Housekeeping Issues

The Agency along with NATCA have started to develop a strategy to ensure the cleaning requirements set forth in the janitorial contract and TechOps requirements for equipment cleaning are adhered to.

POC: (CJ Jacques)

National OSHECCOM Meeting

Mike Odryna, Dominic Petrelli and Larry Trottni will attend the National OSHECCOM meeting on March 15th and 16th.

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

Current Facility issues being worked by the committee and others.

FAY: Fumes	NEW: IAQ Mold
FAI FSS: New Roof and HVAC Unit	YNG: Roof Replacement
FAI ATCT: HVAC-ROOF Replacement	ARR: Overall Facility Condition
GRR: Odor, ASR Contamination	PHF: Mold/IAQ
NWM Regional Office: Water Quality Issues: New Regional Office Build	New NWM Regional Office Design
DAL ATC: Water intrusion and Mold	SGF Mold/IAQ
HSV: IAQ, Fumes	ZAN: Seismic Upgrade
DSM SSC Office: Comprehensive Mold Evaluation	FSM: Water Intrusion, IAQ
NWM Regional Office: Water Testing	SGF ATCT: HVAC Project
GTF: Mold	Cape TRCAON: Sewer flies, Odor, Plumbing issues.
Mansfield Tower: Water, Security, FLS	Nome: Asbestos in the floor tile Mastic
CRP: IAQ	PTK: Mold Remediation
DTW: IAQ Investigation	Tallahassee: Water Leaks
San Juan Tower: CAB Glass Replacement	Wilmington: Doors Broken
ABE: Overall House Keeping	PHL: Overall House Keeping, Rodents
BTV: Post Remediation Rebuild	BGR: Ongoing remediation Efforts
SIT: Drinking Water	BRW: Ongoing REHAB
DLG: Generator fumes causing IAQ issues	KTN: Facility REHAB

VOR MINIMUM OPERATING NETWORK (MON): John Vogelsang (P31) is the Article 114 Representative on the VOR MON project. His update is below.

There are no significant changes to the FY 17/18 waterfall at the present time. If anyone would like to know when a specific VOR is slated for discontinuance, email me at vormon@natca.net and I can get you that info. We held a briefing in Chicago on March 8 to familiarize the Chicago area facilities on the VOR MON program and how it will specifically affect their area. We plan on having several more of these briefings around the country over the next year with info tailored towards the area where the briefings are held. Here are the latest VORs, which have begun the NR process in the last month:

LWB Lewisburg, WV

ATL Atlanta, GA

SLK Saranac Lake, NY

MMJ Montour Pittsburgh, PA

ITH Ithaca, NY

HAB Hamilton, AL

LYH Lynchburg, VA

HLL Handle Panama City, FL

CSX St Louis, MO

VNN Mt Vernon, IL

MTW Manitowac, WI

MSP Minneapolis, WI

LJT Timmerman Milwaukee, WI

BUU Burlington, WI

LWV Lawrenceville, IL

WAKE TURBULENCE: Kevin Connelly (SAT) is the Article 114 Representative to the Wake Turbulence Office for NATCA. His update for the week is below.

February began with the Initial Site Visit to MIA Tower/TRACON and a briefing of the program to the facility and FLL via webinar. MIA had previously decided not to go RECAT under phase 1.5 due to some issues with departing parallel runways with Large and Small aircraft but these problems were resolved for all but small aircraft weighing less than 15,500lbs in RECAT Phase 2.0. After a productive meeting with NATCA/FAA Leadership it was determined that MIA would be best served with RECAT Phase 2.0 Appendix A with the frequency of A388 arrivals at MIA International. Fort Lauderdale International and other satellite airports were going to take some items away from the site briefing and hope to have a decision on going RECAT or not by the end of the first of March. An approximate timetable on IOC for RECAT at MIA Tower/TRACON was set for June 27th.

Next up for the program was site testing of the STARS Patch for RECAT at M98 the second week of February. This testing took place over one day at the facility and the patch showed no issues in the ETG lab at the facility. Scheduled IOC for March 14th is still on schedule with training starting the following week and continuing through the first week of March.

The third week of February was spent beginning training at MSP/M98 and Data Review for NextGen at Volpe in Boston. Training being covered I attended the data review for the final session on Phase 2.5 for the program. The review between Volpe, MITRE, and FAA NextGen went very well with most of the data showing that the program is ready to move forward. Paired Departures will be the big showcase of Phase 2.5 and with having the data to prove the program will work it will move to SRM Panels for approval. The meetings took place over 4 full days and at the end was some discussion/ideas on Phase 3.0 and beyond for the program but nothing to report there as of yet.

The last week of February was spent at Tech Center in Atlantic City, NJ with NextGen to look at HITL studies and possibilities of new advancements to ATPA for increased wake categories. This trip was spent speaking with all the labs about the capabilities of each of the SIMs to run the program and what would be most cost effective while being able to accomplish what is needed for testing. This is also in the very early stages but the team believes we can accomplish what is needed easily at WHJTC without needing full simulators with multiple ghost pilots. More to come on this as we look to develop the study.

The end of the month finished with MSP/M98 completing training for the entire facility inside of 2 weeks! That gave us the first week of March open and not needed for training with limited leave being requested at the end of February. Everything is on track for the IOC on March 13th and that is all for the program this month.