



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are used to seeing truly incredible feats of space technology thanks to a new age of aerospace engineering that excites and inspires us, such as SpaceX landing a rocket on a floating drone ship at sea or using the world's most powerful operational rocket to launch a Tesla into an orbit that now has made its way past Mars, en route to Venus and Mercury. Last year at NATCA's Communicating For Safety conference, we heard directly from SpaceX officials as they detailed a mission of revolutionizing space technology and set a goal of making the first passenger trip to the moon just four years from now.



With all of these dizzying developments, it's easy to forget how far we have come in space exploration. But this weekend, we have the opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of one of our nation's proudest moments from the 20th century: [the Apollo 11 mission's lunar landing](#). On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first

humans to walk on another celestial body (our Moon), achieving a goal that President John F. Kennedy had set in 1961, before Americans had even orbited our planet.

Writes NASA about what we learned: “Apollo started out as a demonstration of America’s technological, economic, and political superiority to communism. It met its goals in those areas when the United States landed astronauts on the Moon before the Soviet Union could. But a portion of Apollo, like the entire space program, was always dedicated to scientific research. Apollo taught us a lot, and not just about the Moon.”

Tonight, Trish is honored to represent NATCA at a special Apollo 50 gala dinner at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., that will include Apollo 11 crew member Michael Collins and the late Armstrong’s sons Rick and Mark.

Looking back and marveling at our history, gives us perspective as we look ahead to future possibilities. Our Union has important collaborative involvement in current commercial space activities. These efforts are plentiful and ever-evolving to meet the needs of users of both federal and commercial launch sites. We’re thrilled to have Paul Behan serving as NATCA’s national representative for our involvement in commercial space activities. Paul is a veteran member from Jacksonville Center (ZJX).



The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Traffic Organization’s Space Operations is based at the Command Center (DCC) and works collaboratively with affected facilities to develop traffic management initiatives and airspace management plans. Space Operations is a co-lead with the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST) to form the Joint Space Operations Group (JSpOG). The JSpOG is tasked with the preparation and real-time management of both DoD and FAA commercially-licensed launches.

NATCA’s priority is safety. Our Union works with the FAA to facilitate the safe and efficient integration of space launch/reentry operations into the National Airspace System (NAS). Presently, there are 20 total spaceports, including 10 commercial launch sites, seven federal launch sites, and three sole site operator sites. Seven operators all work out of Cape Canaveral in Florida, which means that our air traffic control facilities that work the vast airspace in that region – namely ZJX, Miami Center (ZMA), and New York Center (ZNY) and their associated TRACONS – are involved with these space operations.

Building on of our record of safe and efficient handling of airspace during space activities, we’re also pleased to see emerging technologies coming online. Emerging tech includes time-based launch procedures that offers more precise launch activity, so that



aircraft can be kept on their routes longer before taking them off those routes when airspace is segregated. On the horizon is technology called Space-Data Integrator (SDI), a communications platform between space operators and the FAA.

We talk often about how the diverse and growing users of our NAS benefit from the great work of our represented aviation safety professionals. When we emphasize the urgent need of a stable, predictable, funding stream for our system, it is with an eye on

keeping today's operations safe and uninterrupted, while exciting future development and exploration takes place.

Armstrong's "one small step" 50 years ago meant one giant leap for mankind. During the last 50 years, we have continued to make many additional important steps into outer space. And NATCA members are helping humanity take our next steps into the heavens.

In proud solidarity,

Paul and Trish



We Mourn Loss of Crystal Kendzierski and Want

All Members to Know: "I'm Here for You"

We lost our sister, Crystal Joy Kendzierski, last week to suicide and the extreme feelings of sadness and heartbreak we all feel are very difficult to express. It is the type of tragedy that the NATCA Family has experienced before, but we are determined to prevent it from happening again.

Crystal was just 42 years old. She was an air traffic controller for more than 15 years and served NATCA at Tulsa Riverside ATCT (RVS) as both Secretary-Treasurer and, as of last January, FacRep. But most importantly, she was a daughter, and she was a mother to three children – Allison, Tyler, and Matthew (pictured above with Crystal). We grieve for them and hold them close in our thoughts as they have spent this week saying goodbye. A GoFundMe account was set up earlier this week and it has already raised its goal of \$10,000. [But please continue to donate if you can](#), to help Crystal's children and other family members.

Crystal was well known and beloved in the local aviation community. Pilot Sam Walker, on Facebook last week, said of Crystal, "For as long as I have been flying, there has been a friendly voice who I always trusted to keep me safe when getting in and out of Riverside. She was an amazing controller, and the tower family needs our support during this time."

We agree and have been reaching out to our brothers and sisters at both RVS and Tulsa ATCT (TUL), who are going through a terrible time and letting them know that their NATCA Family stands with them and supports them.

Southwest Regional Vice President Andrew LeBovidge visited both RVS and TUL on Tuesday, July 16 and sat in on the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) session while at RVS. He reports, "I cannot emphasize enough how good the CISM team is and how important the work that they do is for our members. I know that they had a very positive effect on the members."



Because of this tragedy, we are going to accelerate and reinforce our efforts to promote suicide prevention. It's the 10th largest cause of death, with an average of 123 suicides each day in our country. Controllers as a profession have one of the highest rates of suicide, so it's vital that we are aware of the signs of vulnerability and are there to offer appropriate help to our NATCA brothers and sisters who might be struggling. There will be many initiatives in coming weeks and months. We need to be there for our fellow members in times of need. "I'm here for you" will be a mantra you will see as part of our efforts.

Here is some guidance from NATCA Employee Assistance Program Committee Chair Carrie Uphus (St. Paul ATCT [STP]) on how we can help each other:

Be kind to others and yourself.

- Care for and about each other.
- We all grieve differently. Recognize not everyone will process these things the same.
- Allow people to express their feelings openly. Sometimes people cry. Let them.
- Help by listening. A response is not always what's needed. Sometimes just sitting with someone is enough. Don't feel the need to provide answers or find reasons for a suicide or the person's state of mind. Just be present.
- Be non-judgmental about people's feelings. Not everyone has the same feelings about death and suicide.
- Be sensitive about what you say. Avoid cliches like "I know how you feel," and "Time will heal all wounds."
- If a grieving person expresses suicidal feelings, strongly encourage them to get help.

Help ourselves.

- Ask for support from friends, family and co-workers.
- Talk with people who can be non-judgmental and supportive.

In all cases, please take advantage of support services available to you at MagellanHealth.com/member or (800) 234-1327. Our members need to be aware of the employee assistance program. We encourage you to use it. We need to remove the stigma associated with the provider and the fear surrounding anything we think may affect our medical clearance. Just seeking counseling for dealing with grief is not an issue for our employer. Someone's life always is more important than a paycheck or even a job.

That being said, we know that some members aren't comfortable with using Magellan. Other options are available, including the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](http://NationalSuicidePreventionLifeline.org) at 800-273-TALK (8255). Trish has personal experience volunteering with a suicide prevention hotline and knows that many people contemplating hurting themselves ARE saved every day! The bottom line is that help is available.

Please also know that our [CISM team](http://CISMteam.org) is available to help you. CISM is a peer-to-peer service designed to help during a post-accident time or personal crisis. Call the on-call peer coordinator at 202-505-CISM (2476). They are on call 24/7. You will reach the voicemail. Leave your contact info, and someone will call. Messages are kept strictly confidential. You also can reach them via email at CISM@natca.net.



Solidarity and Much-Needed Smiles in Oklahoma

In light of the difficult time faced by Crystal's colleagues and friends, Trish felt fortunate that her schedule brought her to Oklahoma City on Monday and Tuesday this week to spend time with many members. First, on Monday evening, there was a great night of NATCA solidarity at Topgolf for Oklahoma City ATCT/TRACON (OKC), Tulsa ATCT/TRACON (TUL), and Fort Smith ATCT/Razorback TRACON (FSM). Trish was joined by Southwest Regional Vice President Andrew LeBovidge. Thank you to TUL and FSM members for making a lengthy drive to join us for some great discussion and golf and plenty of much-needed smiles!

The next day, Trish led two of our monthly meet and greet gatherings for FAA Academy students in Oklahoma City. Joining Trish in making presentations to the nearly 60 students during these lunch and dinner events were National Organizing Committee (NOC) Chair John Bratcher, SkyOne Federal Credit Union Business Development Manager Dina Earl, NATCA's National Professional Standards Committee member Garth Koleszar, and Portland TRACON (P80) FacRep Kristen Lewandowski.



Disaster Relief: Honoring RDU Efforts in 2018, Looking Ahead to Prepare for More Storms

Congratulations to Raleigh-Durham ATCT (RDU) on receiving the Dorothy Tharnish Customer Service Team Award at the FAA Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., on July 11. NATCA RDU Secretary James Walsh and RDU ATM Ann Leaf (both pictured at right) accepted the award from Acting Administrator Dan Elwell on behalf of the facility.



Last year, RDU became the central hub for organizing relief efforts after Hurricane Florence swept through the North Carolina area. Due to the devastation, RDU's airport traffic quickly tripled. Our RDU members knew how important supply drops by air would be, as the only quick and feasible way to help those in areas where roads were cut off by flooding. They provided services to more than 12,000 operations in the days following the storm's landfall, which resulted in nearly 3,000 pounds of supplies being flown into the southern part of the state. While many members were themselves affected by the storm's devastation, everyone put their distractions aside and worked together to ensure the operations were safe and successful. Trish visited with RDU members during a tour of several North Carolina facilities in June.

“I was honored to accept the award on behalf of my facility,” James said. “We were not expecting to be recognized for doing our jobs to the best of our abilities, but were glad to be able to provide assistance to those in need in any way possible.”



The award ceremony came just a few hours before the first named storm of the 2019 hurricane season to make landfall - Barry - struck Louisiana. Our Disaster Response Committee (DRC) was ready to deliver supplies. Thankfully, they were not needed this time. But it's important that we grow our DRC resources so that we can respond quickly and effectively when any member needs help. Please consider a donation to our disaster relief fund:

Automatic Payroll Deduction: Please use [this form](#).

GoFundMe: [Please click here](#)

PayPal: Use natcarelief@natcadc.org

Checks: Payable to “DRF” or “Disaster Relief Fund.” Mail to:
NATCA
Attn.: Accounting Department
1325 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C., 20005

National Training Initiative

This week, we held a teleconference to rollout the new jointly-developed Air Traffic Training Initiative. The call was open to the leadership on both sides and included facility FacReps and ATM's. We presently have a significant number of employees in various stages in training, and both the FAA Air Traffic Organization (ATO) and NATCA agree there must be a mutual effort to address our shared goal of increasing certifications.

A common understanding of the goals and expectations will allow us to more efficiently and effectively help trainees progress into certified professional controllers while allowing facilities to communicate impediments to the training process and/or the inability to meet the expectations. The impediments will be reviewed collaboratively at each level in order to provide support as necessary.

The success of this initiative will be in large part predicated upon a thorough understanding of the process and the support of our leadership at the facility level.

Every Day is a Training Day



“Excellence has got to be the norm, not the deviation,” says risk management expert and 2018 NATCA Sentinel of Safety Award winner Gordon Graham in the second installment of his new video series promoting both the theme for [NATCA’s Communicating For Safety \(CFS\) conference](#) (Sept. 16-18, Bally’s Las Vegas) and NATCA’s ongoing effort to change the way the workforce perceives training. Gordon emphasizes it is not OK to be excellent only most of the time. It must be all of the time. “We’re not occasionally excellent. Excellence has got to permeate everything we do,” he said. “Your job is so filled with risk. We have got to make sure that everyone understands what their role is, regardless of what you do in your facility.” [View video](#)



Promoting the Benefits of the Global ATC Alliance and Thanking Our New Zealand Friends

Last month, we both spoke as part of the Global Air Traffic Controllers Alliance panel at the New Zealand Air Line Pilots' Association (NZALPA) annual conference in Auckland. The panel was moderated by NZALPA's ATC Director Kelvin Vercoe.

Tweeted NZALPA: "We are grateful to our colleagues for travelling to be with us and for the insights they shared."

During the visit and conference, we presented our New Zealand brothers and sisters with "I Survived the Shutdown" shirts in thanks for their solidarity.

NATCA members are proud and grateful that together we survived the shutdown with a little help from our friends. Over and over, they and many of our international colleagues voiced their concern for the well-being of our members. With their encouragement and solidarity through every unpaid shift, NATCA members didn't let unacceptable circumstances get in the way of safety. They remained always professional. We thank our friends for their support through that hardship.

The gathering of international speakers, stakeholders, and partners brought to life the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations theme of 'Building Bridges,' and afforded many opportunities to celebrate and advance collaboration and solidarity.



Remote Tower Visit at FNL in Colorado

On July 12, Article 114 Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL) Remote Tower Rep Shawn Reuth hosted Trish and several other NATCA officials for a site visit to the FNL Remote Tower System in Loveland, Colo. Shawn demonstrated the capabilities of the second system to be installed in the United States, joining Leesburg, Va. (JYO) The FAA NextGen office manages both remote tower projects.

The FNL system was installed last fall and testing should begin later this year or in early 2020. NATCA will continue to be involved in the testing and refinement of this technology as it grows in the NAS. Those members attending Communicating For Safety in Las Vegas, Sept 16-18, can learn more.

Pictured above, from left to right: Shawn Reuth, Denver TRACON FacRep Kevin Wright, Denver Center FacRep Josh Waggener, Northwest Mountain Regional Vice President Alex Navarro III, Trish, Director of Safety and Technology Jim Ullmann, National Safety Committee Chair Steve Hansen, and Article 114 NextGen Rep Adam Rhodes.



Solidarity and Organizing Milestone Provide Reasons to Celebrate in Northern California

Paul joined Western Pacific Regional Vice President Joel Ortiz and members and their families from Northern California TRACON (NCT), Oakland Center (ZOA), Oakland ATCT (OAK), Sacramento ATCT (SMF), and Concord ATCT (CCR) on July 10 at a solidarity event hosted by NCT in Roseville, Calif.

The occasion was also an opportunity to celebrate a great Union organizing milestone at NCT, a facility of 174 NATCA bargaining unit employees. Two areas - C and D, with 31 members each - recently became 100 percent NATCA membership! Two of three larger areas are just one BUE away from also becoming 100 percent NATCA.

Unum Long-Term Disability Insurance - One of the Most Valuable Benefits NATCA Offers

There is still time to sign up for Unum long-term disability insurance, but don't delay, the deadline is July 31.

There is a special email for the membership to ask questions, Unum@natca.net. In addition, anyone with questions may reach out to Membership Board of Trustees Chair John Bratcher directly at john.bratcher@natca.net.

Many of our members who never expected to use their Unum insurance were relieved that they did sign up for it the moment they realized they needed it. It allowed their families to survive even when they were without a medical for

months at a time. Even in the worst-case scenarios - permanent loss of medical clearance - this insurance kicks in to help members and their families.

Sign up today. The deadline is July 31. [Click here](#) for more information.



Ongoing Retirement Seminars and Webinars

Another important member benefit that NATCA provides is expert planning and guidance about your retirement. We are pleased to offer you retirement seminars in cities throughout the country, provided by 4 Square Financial Literacy Partners, Inc.

Each location is hosting two financial literacy workshops: one standard seminar geared toward members with more than 15 years of service (the first day), and one Career Optimization and Retirement Education (C.O.R.E.) seminar geared towards members in the first 15 years of their career (the second day). The schedule for the remainder of the year is below. Additionally, there are three remaining retirement webinars scheduled for July 18, Oct. 3, and Dec. 5. They each begin at 10 a.m. CT.

To register for both the seminars and the webinars, use the [NATCA Portal](#). Click on the “events” tab in the main menu at the top of the screen. First time using the Portal? [Click here](#) to register. Forgot your username (member number)? [Click here](#). Forgot password? [Click here](#).

For more information, [please click here](#). For questions or any problems with registration, please send an email to retirement@natca.net.

Remaining 2019 Seminar Schedule (view online [chronologically](#), or [alphabetically](#) by city):

July 31-Aug. 1 Olathe, Kan.	Aug. 13-14 Spokane, Wash.	Aug. 27-28 Albuquerque, N.M.	Sept. 3-4 Fort Worth, Texas
Sept. 5 Fort Worth, Texas (Special Hybrid)	Sept. 6 Fort Worth, Texas (Region X)	Sept. 10-11 Denver	Sept. 24-25 Knoxville, Tenn.

Session)

Oct. 1-2 Montgomery, Ala.	Oct. 9-10 San Diego	Oct. 22-23 Long Island, N.Y.	Oct. 22-23 Nashua, N.H.
Oct. 24-25 Burlington, Vt.	Nov. 5-6 Anchorage, Alaska	Nov. 7-8 Fairbanks, Alaska	Nov. 12-13 Oberlin, Ohio
Nov.13-14 Warrenton, Va.	Nov. 14-15 Indianapolis		

NATCA Policy Change: Cellular Service National Level Reimbursement Policy

The NATCA National Executive Board (NEB) recently discussed supporting labor friendly wireless carriers and voted unanimously that effective Nov. 1, 2019, NATCA will provide reimbursement from the national level only for preferred wireless service providers. It was decided that a wireless service provider whose employees are represented nationally by an AFL-CIO union could be considered a NATCA-preferred wireless service provider. Currently, AT&T is the only major U.S. wireless carrier with a union-represented workforce. About half of AT&T's employees are union-represented, primarily by the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

This policy applies only to members eligible to receive reimbursement from the national level. It's does not affect local reimbursement. If you have questions about this new policy, email natcanationaloffice@natcadc.org.