Next week more than 400 dedicated NATCAvists will join us on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Nobody knows our professions and the operation like the membership that works on the front lines of aviation safety. Attendees will have the opportunity to report what their job is like, describe how the National Airspace System runs, and explain the necessary steps to ensure the future safety and efficiency of the NAS directly to Congress.

So much has happened since we gathered last year. Proposals to reauthorize the FAA now include an alternate not-for-profit organizational structure, which would create a more stable and predictable funding stream and allow for future modernization and growth. Many issues that are crucial to your facilities - such as hiring, staffing, technology, and modernization - are directly tied to lawmakers' work on both short- and long-term planning and funding for the Agency.
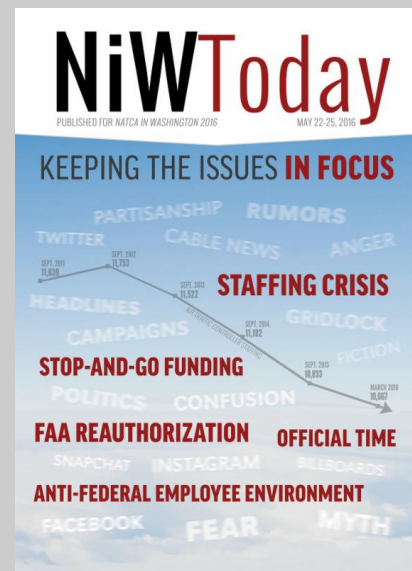
To view the issues and more in the NiW Today click here.

We look forward to a very busy and productive week!!

In Solidarity,

Paul Rinaldi - NATCA President
Trish Gilbert - NATCA EVP

Terminal Automation Modernization and Replacement (TAMR)

We have reprinted the TAMR update from the National Office Department Update as significant progress and milestones have been made with the program. None of it could have been accomplished without the dedication and commitment of the NATCA TAMR reps and certainly Mitch Herrick's leadership!!!

Mitch Herrick (MIA) is the current Article 48 Representative for TAMR. Mr. Herrick will be retiring in July and Aaron Rose (NCT) will be the next Article 48 Representative on TAMR. Below is the TAMR report.

- This week's update will be fairly concise with emphasis on reporting successes with one risk highlighted by our NATCA Surveillance Engineer Joe Yannone. Most of the team has been actively involved in testing and deployment over the past several weeks.
- Recent Transitions to STARS. N90, GRB, MYR, GEG and AMA have all made the transition to STARS since the last update.

o   N90 is extremely significant because it represents the final site in the TAMR Phase 3 Segment 1 Waterfall (P3S1) has been completed without missing a single Acquisition Program Baseline (APB) Date and within budget. A monumental event that all of NATCA should take great pride in accomplishing.
o   N90 Declared Continuous ops at 11am on May 17th.
o   GRB, MYR both transitioned on May 16th, AMA on April 29 and GEG (Including Missoula, MT) transitioned on May 5th. This brings the number of ARTS IIE sites that have transitioned over the past two years to 22 of 94. 19 more will transition this year and 32 in 2017 followed by 15 in 2018 and 10 in 2019.

- Tech Refresh of Legacy STARS sites. A number of Legacy (older) STARS sites have already been upgraded. PHL, MIA, S46, MSY, TPA, S56, F11, and A90 are all completed. The next facilities this year will be RDU and D21 and 2017 will include P50, DAB, SAT, CVG, Y90, CMH, R90, SBA PIT, TUL, ICT, IND, ABQ, A11, BHM and MCI. A number of

these facilities will receive G4 and those below 300,000 operations (Non Core 30) will receive G4 Elite. The differences between G4 and G4 Elite are predominantly hardware and some slightly different architecture that allows for a smaller backroom footprint. For the Controllers the functionality and capability is identical. The processors in the two systems are identical and possess 4 times the processing capability and capacity as the older STARS systems. Those that receive G4 Elite will have a new form of redundancy known as Direct Sensor Access (DSA) that will replace ESL.

- Merge Software. Many of our TAMR Team members have been spending a great deal of time at the Tech Center testing "The Merge Software." The merge software is another monumental achievement because it represents software that will be used across all platforms and configurations of STARS including DOD, G4, G4 Elite as well as Legacy STARS. Once the ARTS IIE replacement known as Phase 3 Segment 2 (P3S2) is completed the entire NAS will be utilizing the same software so development and testing of new technology will be far easier and quicker as well as costs savings will be enormous.
- Surveillance report submitted by Joe Yannone-Region X.

o   **Major Risk**Common Terminal Digitizer (CTD): The CTD is an integral part of the back end of the TAMR Segment 2 waterfall to digitize the remaining ASR-8 radars, as a STARS system only accepts a digital radar feed. CTD First Article shipment to WJHTC was completed on February 19. This system will be used for onsite DTE and OTE testing. Initial DTE testing was halted due to poor performance of the system. The contractor has re-evaluated and is currently re-assessing parameter changes to provide a better performing system. Evaluations will occur the week of May 18 and if the system is still performing poorly, then the primary contractor will deploy their engineers from Belgium to re-optimize the system. The two keysites for the CTD are Rockford (RFD) and Roanoke (ROA). As the first keysite, RFD will also be utilized for additional "delta OTE" testing and AT User Evaluations including side-by-side comparison of the analog ASR-8 feeding the ARTS2e with the CTD-digitized ASR-8 feeding the TAMR system, this currently targeted for October of this year. These activities are now at risk due to the current state of the test system.

- Radar Performance Issues:

o   Centennial, CO Tower (APA) - The false tag ups at APA are due to false beacon targets that are coming from the Parker (QPK) long range radar site. CARTS previously masked out these false targets in the past, whereas STARS has a higher standard for radar performance. Attempt made by OSF and TSLE personnel to mask these false targets via STARS adaptation have helped but is not completely successful. There are limits and without a STARS software fix these false targets coming from QPK will continue to clutter the displays unless some optimization is done at the QPK radar site. The QPK radar work effort has started but has taken awhile to get going mainly due to the Center's Tech Ops management's resistance to any changes to the QPK radar. A change to the radar's STC has been proposed and a evaluation test will occur May 19.

o   Miami, FL (MIA) - The radar will occasionally reconfigure into IBI mode due to an overload caused by mis-wired aircraft taxiing close to the radar. While the best solution would be to ensure that all aircraft were fixed with regard to the mis-wiring condition (an unrealistic short term approach), analysis uncovered that the second best way to attack this issue was at the source - i.e. eliminate the overload condition by ceasing these aircraft from replying while taxiing near the antenna. Discussions between various stakeholders, led to the conclusion that the removal of the Terra Fix at the this radar would be the quickest and most effective solution. An SRM panel was held May 5th to accommodate this request. Implementation will occur after the SRDM has been approved.

o   Elmira, NY (ELM) - A tower raise is a necessity at this facility. Tree growth has been an ongoing issues at the radar site where coverage has suffered due to the foliage blocking radar line of sight. There have been several engineering studies that address the requirement for a tower raise. The issue, as it has been for years now, is the funding for such and the previous lack of prioritization of an ELM tower raise. Setting aside the entire safety aspect of these existing coverage problems due to the tree growth, another impact would be to TAMR deployment. The ELM radar would not pass the STARS performance requirements to certify the system to be used into STARS without coverage improvements. Funding for the tower raise has now been approved and the time frame for the new, higher radar tower, optimization and flight check is currently scheduled to be

completed by June 2017 which should not impact TAMR deployment at this facility. The TAMR ELITE Initial Site Survey occurred the week of May 9.

o   Pensacola, FL (P31) - An ongoing issue with primary only false targets when opening in fusion. Several attempts have been made on the ASR-11 systems feeding P31 to fix this issue as well as changes to STARS adaptation. While there have been improvements, there have been numerous days where the clutter has been unmanageable. Several telecoms have occurred with various groups to push progress towards a better presentation. After two parts are installed in the PNS radar to fix a weather problem, AJW-147 and TSOG will re-optimize the PNS radar, already having several parameters mapped out for changes to improve the performance.

o   Potomac TRACON (PCT) - Several issues with false targets had been identified by TSLE and passed along for evaluation. The MRB radar was providing some lengthly beacon false tracks intermittently. After further investigation it was discovered that MRB was configured incorrectly. The correct PRF was installed and the intermittent false tracks have vanished. Additionally, the DCA radar was also providing a number of reflections in close to the airport. These were causing "zoomers" on the displays. Between an adaptation change at the radar as well as the installation of the new STARS R3C Drop 7s software, initial analysis by OSF and TSLE appears that the zoomers have been rectified.

NATCA 101 Online Class

NATCA Reloaded is excited to offer an online NATCA 101 class.

The next one is scheduled for Monday, June 6 at 11 a.m. EDT.

This interactive course is taught via Go-To-Meeting. To sign up, visit portal.natca.org. For questions and information, please contact Jacqui Smith at jsmith@natcadc.org.
Be part of the solution!

Get involved in NATCA today!

NATCA CONVENTION - REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

- NATCA members planning to attend the convention in San Diego this summer (Aug. 30 - Sept. 2) can now register using this link.

- Local convention subsidy form click here.

- NATCA has secured child care for the 2016 Convention. It will be available to all families attending, at no cost, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, Thursday, Sept. 1, and Friday, Sept. 2. NATCA will also host child care during evening events from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 30 through Friday, Sept. 2. The cost is $40 per child, per night, and it includes dinner. For more information on the company, please visit www.KiddieCorp.com. You must register your child beforehand to use the child care at convention. Register your child today!

Expect the proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions package to arrive in the mail within the next two weeks. Contents are being formatted and

will be sent to the printer for mailing very soon.

NATCA Academy Schedule 2016

Federal Contract Tower	June 14-15	NATCA HQ - DC
Training Review Board	September 13-14	Las Vegas, NV
Secretary/Treasurer Training	September 13-14	Las Vegas, NV
Basic Legislative Activism Training	September 19-20	Las Vegas, NV
Basic Representative Training	September 26-30	Las Vegas, NV
Advanced Representative Training	October 17-20	Las Vegas, NV
Arbitration Advocacy Training - II	November 28-December 1	Phoenix, AZ
Basic Representative Training	December 5-9	Las Vegas, NV
Basic Legislative Activism Training	December 7-8	Las Vegas, NV

Contract Negotiations

We have made significant progress in reaching agreement on approximately 98% of the open provisions, which includes articles and mid-term agreements such as MOUs and other practices.

While the number of open items is very low, as is normal during term negotiations, those that remain open until nearing the end are significant and important to both sides. We are continuing our weekly negotiating sessions with the Agency to reach agreement utilizing the principles of interest based bargaining on the remaining articles and provisions.

Everybody covered by the CBAs gets the June pay raise as negotiated. The work rules stay in place until renegotiated. We are doing that now. We should be done in the next month or so even if we have to mediate and arbitrate.

New NATCA OSHA Committee Webinar!

When: May 26, 1 p.m. EDT

What: Roof Replacement Challenges - This webinar describes the process of roof replacement and what we as professionals can do to protect and inform occupants of these challenges.

The roof of a building is important, but like most things, it does not last forever. Roofs can begin to fail in 20 years or so after they

are built and that time can be even shorter if they are not maintained properly. When they start to leak it can lead to problems like mold growth.

Roof replacement is a serious construction project. It can potentially expose building occupants to asbestos and volatile organic compounds. It can also expose the building to water infiltration and mold growth if temporary protection between the roof removal and re-roofing is not effective. At the very minimum, it will introduce some new odors inside the building.

Register today!

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) is actively recruiting controllers that are eligible to retire and/or

Internet Reimbursement Reminder

As a reminder, in accordance with SRF-22, locals that are covered by SRF-12 (annual dues less than $4,500) are entitled to $50 per months for internet access.

SRF-22 Internet for Smaller Locals
NATCA shall reimburse up to $50 per month to Locals covered by SRF-12, for internet access. Wireless cards, hot spots, and internet in the facility are reimbursable, home service is not.

Any questions, please contact your [Regional Vice President](#).