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ATCA Hosts Fireside Chat with NATCA President Paul Rinaldi



NATCA President Paul Rinaldi was the guest on the first virtual chat hosted by the Air Traffic Control Association (ATCA) on Wednesday. ATCA President and CEO Pete Dumont and Paul discussed the state of the NATCA membership and the National Airspace System (NAS)

amid the COVID-19 national emergency.

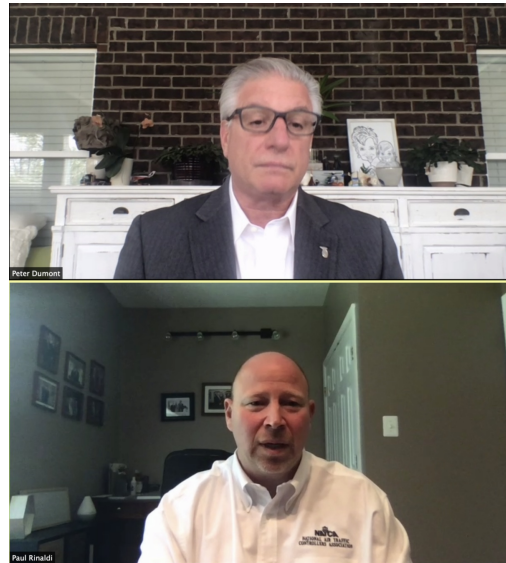
"Our members are so resilient and we're so proud of them for being able to continue doing the job as aviation safety professionals," said Paul. "You really can't social distance in aviation, but we have tried and made changes in the workplace as much as possible to adhere to the guidelines. Aviation is vital to beating back this virus and certainly vital to the economy of the United States."

Paul also spoke to the decrease in traffic levels and how NATCA has collaborated with the FAA to keep the members as safe as possible. "Levels are down 75-85% than they were this time last year and where they were projected to be this year," he said. Because of that, NATCA worked with the FAA to allow those at highest risk to be placed on excused absence and to develop isolated crew to mitigate exposure to the virus.

Paul said, "In the beginning of this, there was no playbook on what to do. As we got into the first facility incident at Chicago Midway (MDW), we were all waiting for guidance from the public health authority on what to do. While we waited, Midway was shut down for 14 days. We worked with the Agency to develop a complete process of what happens when an employee in a facility/office tests positive. As of today, we have had 115 FAA employees test positive and 43 facilities that have

had to be shut down for cleanings." The Joint Crisis Action Team (J-CAT) arranges calls which includes all the stakeholders to make a determination on the level of exposure and its effect on the workforce and overall operation, making it safe for the next crew to come in. Paul also praised FAA senior leadership for the open dialogue, clear communication, thinking outside the box, and allowing us 100 percent to be part of the solution.

Paul said it probably wouldn't be until 2022 or late 2021 until the airlines get back to normal. In addition to affecting the airlines, this pandemic has also affected the Aviation Trust Fund and funding moving forward. "We want to keep as much normalcy in people getting their paychecks. However this does have a negative effect on the trust fund," he said. "It looks like the trust fund will be zeroed-out at the end of August, and then it will be difficult building it back up. There will be no safety net after that. In essence, the FAA will be funded out of the general fund. In a normal year, 90-95% of the FAA budget has come out of the trust fund, and now it will be coming out of the general fund."



Regardless of what happens with funding, Paul is appreciative of the FAA and the three companies NATCA works with (RVA, Midwest, and Serco) that deal with Federal Contract Towers. "All have been really good to work with," he said. "When a member at a contract tower tested positive for COVID-19, the FAA helped guide them in the process on what to do. We have really strong lines of collaboration with the Agency," Paul continued. "It's been tested many times, during the shutdown (in 2019) and obviously during this time. FAA Administrator Steve Dickson, Deputy Administrator Dan Elwell, and ATO COO Teri Bristol, along with the Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, have had open lines of communications. We're able to collaborate, we're able to solve problems, we're able to talk about those problems up front, and really get to it."

Paul concluded by continuing to emphasize his main focus is "the health of our members and the FAA employees, for sure. Everyone has to get back to work and show their value. Aviation is an economic staple. Things won't ramp up immediately. Operations won't go from 30-100% overnight. But once we open up and get back to the new normal, we want to make sure our facilities are robust and training."

To view the virtual fireside chat, please [click here](#).

ATCA Scholarship Available to Children of Controllers...Deadline May 1

The Air Traffic Control Association (ATCA) offers one of its scholarships, the Buckingham Memorial Scholarship, to U.S. citizen children of air traffic control specialists enrolled half to full time in a program leading to a bachelor's degree or higher. Applications are due May 1. [Apply here](#).

Operation Traffic Counts Across the U.S.

While the COVID-19 national emergency has stopped most activities everywhere in our country, NATCA members continue to provide essential service to flights across more than 29 million square miles of airspace. Air traffic controllers are a vital part of the fight against this disease, helping move necessary goods and emergency and medical supplies and equipment and even people, coast to coast, city to city. Otherwise — as all NATCA's members know — we're continuing to see dramatically less traffic at all facilities.

Aviation System Performance Metrics (ASPM)

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

ASPM77 Airport Ops

-67.8%

18,700 CURRENT OPS
58,262 SEASONAL AVG

Core Airport Ops

-72.6%

10,200 CURRENT OPS
37,182 SEASONAL AVG



Center Ops

-72.1%

var from baseline

36,460 CURRENT OPS

Top 7 TRACONs

-64.4%

var from baseline

11,545 CURRENT OPS

SOURCE: Federal Aviation Administration

A Closer Look: A Collaborative Process to Clean Facilities after Positive or Presumed Positive COVID-19 Test

Over the course of the last six weeks during this COVID-19 national emergency,

NATCA and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have used a thorough and standardized cleaning process in over 40 facilities ([view full list](#)) after an employee's positive or presumed positive test for the virus. It is a very collaborative process that has been effective at ensuring that affected facilities are clean and safe for employees to return.

Step 1 of the process is convening a call organized by the Joint Crisis Action Team (J-CAT). The purpose of the J-CAT call is to have all stakeholders including NATCA and aerospace medicine on the line to make a determination on the level of exposure and its effect on the workforce and overall operation.

The stakeholders discuss the situation and investigate these three things: when was the affected employee in the facility, when did the employee become symptomatic, and where in the facility was the employee.



Cleaning that took place at Houston Center (ZHU) on March 30.

The next question is where was the affected employee and what is their test status. If it's a presumed positive case, the facility receives a Level 2 cleaning but the facility does not need to vacate the operation and shut down.

However, if the employee tests positive, the next steps are determining every place they've been for the last 14 days, having the facility undergo a Level 3

cleaning. ATC services are then limited but can sometimes be handled remotely, as was the case recently at Palm Beach and Orlando, where ATC was still able to be handled safely from a parking garage and the Delta Air Lines ramp tower, respectively.

The cleaning job takes about six hours, regardless of the size of the facility. The company used for the cleaning brings in a crew sized for the facility.

How COVID-19 is Affecting Fellow Members of The Alliance

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL UNIONS & THE COVID-19 GLOBAL EMERGENCY



CATCA
Canadian Air Traffic
Control Association



prospect atcos' branch
uk air traffic controllers & atm specialists
your safety, our profession



NATCA President Paul Rinaldi and Executive Vice President Trish Gilbert are in frequent communications with the other members of the Global Air Traffic Controllers Alliance where they discuss what is happening with aviation traffic, air traffic control, the member unions of the Alliance, and air navigation service provider's (ANSP's) in member countries due to the COVID-19 global emergency.

The Alliance was formed in 2018 among leaders of like-minded air traffic control unions in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Spain, and New Zealand. The partnership among NATCA, Prospect ATCO, CATCA, NZALPA, Civil Air Australia, and USCA (Spain) strengthens ties and establishes a collective voice to speak on a range of subjects.

Below is a synopsis of what is happening because of COVID-19 in other Alliance countries:

Australia (The Civil Air Operations Officers' Association of Australia)-

Traffic is down 75-85%. In some parts of the country, general aviation is up, and some air carrier traffic has not declined due to flights only allowing a few passengers so as to social distance. The reduction in overtime and forcing ATC (air traffic control) to take leave now to reduce that liability later has helped with the ANSP's bottom line.

Canada (The Canadian Air Traffic Control Association [CATCA]) - Traffic is down almost 90% on average across the country with some carriers suspending operations. CATCA and NAV Canada worked tirelessly together to establish and

implement an ad hoc scheduling system to allow and maintain social distancing within the workplace. All non-essential ATCO's are working from home while operational staff are now mainly working crew systems to avoid contact with others. Precautions have been implemented everywhere possible to limit exposure to others while at work.

ATCO trainees are primarily on paid administrative leave with the exception of those that were close to full qualification who remained in the operation.

In late January the latest round of Collective Bargaining concluded. Over the weekend the membership voted to defer back pay from April 1, 2019 as well as their salary increase due April 1, 2020. This will improve liquidity for NAV Canada.

New Zealand (The New Zealand Air Traffic Control Council [NZALPA])- They are on a full country lockdown and closed borders so traffic is down 95%. Their ANSP has received a short term government bailout. The members offered to defer their pay increase with almost all of their membership voting for it. Their union (NZALPA) is made up of controllers and pilots. They have had many of their pilots (members and the bulk of their union) furloughed. Current trainees are not assured of employment.

Many regional towers have temporarily closed during the lockdown, but their CEO has proposed that some will close permanently to save costs, although this is being challenged. Without other cost savings there could be controller layoffs.

Spain (Unión Sindical de Controladores Aéreos [USCA]) - 2% of active controllers have tested positive with another 2.5% at home with symptoms. Traffic is 95% down compared to similar days last year.

United Kingdom (Prospect ATCOs' Branch) - Traffic levels across the U.K. network are down somewhere in the region of 90%. NATS currently has 1508 employees (including those on detail, trainees, and instructors) furloughed across all grades making use of the government's scheme. Staff are furloughed on 100% pay. The government's scheme has been extended until the end of June. The CEO has made a request of the Personal Contract Grades (Senior Management) to take a voluntary 10% cut in pay for three months.

As of March 4, both NATS and Prospect announced that the 2020 pay award, paid in April would be reversed and deferred. This was a union-led initiative. The pay issued for the first three months of the year would not be clawed back. This is a deferral of the pay award until negotiations can take place later in the year, and all pay-related matters such as movement up pay scales continue as normal.

The government recently announced a £92m bailout which in fact just an advance on route charges owed. Once the £32m of anticipated revenue and costs of £18m to DFT and CAA are removed it leaves an advance of £42. NATS monthly outgoings equate to £50m +. The U.K. government's advice remains that cash should be raised through shareholders. The Irony is that the U.K. government owns 49% of NATS and most of the rest are owned by airlines.

The ATCOs' Branch has called on the U.K. government, all ANSPs, and airport operators to form a Restart, Recovery and Engagement team to ensure that the Aviation sector has a measured and coordinated plan to ensure that no one makes any knee-jerk actions based on false traffic model scenarios.

New staffing measures agreed between Prospect and NATS management

centrally, implemented in April to enforce social distancing and require designated sectors be opened for each core shift, leaving others to be deep deep cleaned on rotation.

They have smaller towers closed that they fear will not be opened again. Those members are furloughed as well. In the United Kingdom, towers are part of different ANSPs as they have a competitive bid on them.

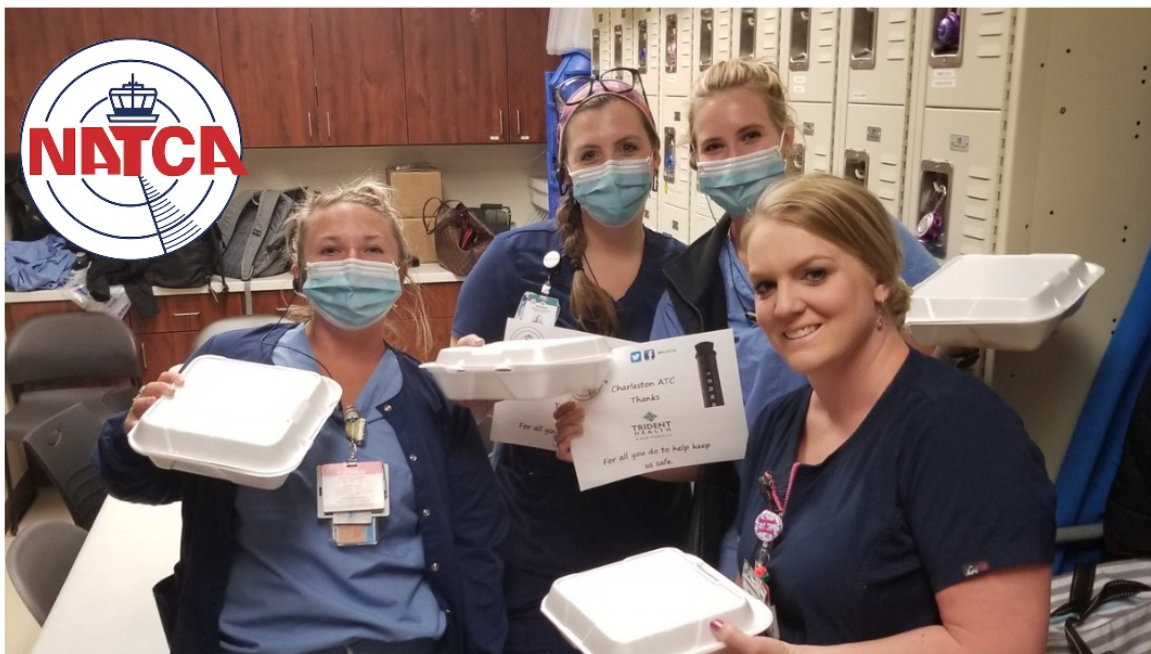
NATCA Members Continue to Show Support for Other Essential Workers

Thank you members for continuing to give while we are all enduring the same crisis. Your professionalism and thoughtfulness for others continues to shine through.

Despite all that is happening around us, and even in your personal lives, you still find time to help others, which is why we are honored to call you brothers and sisters. You all embody the true spirit of solidarity, especially in times of crisis. Below are a few more examples showing our members giving to others during this critical time. We are getting updates daily on what you all are doing for others on the front lines. Great job on keeping it going!



Nashville ATCT (BNA) - Members raised almost \$2,000 which was used to buy meals for medical staff and AirEvac flight crews. "We were able to pay it forward because they bought us food during the government shutdown, and we were more than happy to return the favor," said BNA member Woody Hatchett. "We were also able to use a sandwich shop that's owned by the brother of a medically retired member, helping to support a local business. Overall, we sent nearly 200 meals to three different hospitals."



Charleston ATCT (CHS) - CHS worked with restaurant Tavern & Table in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. to deliver 25 meals to a local emergency room. "The restaurant cut us such a great deal," said CHS member Brian Lee, "that we're planning more food deliveries for other first responders over the next week as well."



WE CAME TOGETHER
TO PROVIDE MEALS &
WATER TO OUR
HEALTHCARE
WORKERS, MORE
HOSPITALS TO COME!

On behalf of the National Air Traffic Controllers'
Association, the Air Traffic Controllers at JFK Tower and
its management team - we want to say:



#Thanks
HEALTH
HEROES

@NATCANATIONAL #JFKtower #AirTrafficControllers #PayItForward #ThankYouHealthCareWorkers

📍 NY PRESBYTERIAN HOSP-CORNELL - CARO...

John F. Kennedy ATCT (JFK) - Members from JFK delivered food for frontline heroes at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Emergency Department to show appreciation to the healthcare workers. "This is one of eight hospitals JFK members will be delivering food to over the next few weeks," said JFK member Gerald Quaye. "It's just a small way we can show support to other essential workers."



Saginaw Tri-City ATCT (MBS) - Members from MBS dropped off a generous donation to the East Side Soup Kitchen. "Since we were unable to hold our quarterly meeting, the members chose to donate to a soup kitchen the money we would have spent on a meeting," said MBS Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer Alexandria Corrado. "We were more than happy to donate to a group that could use donations, especially at a time like this."



Miami ATCT (MIA) - MIA members recently visited UPS and American Airlines pilots to pay it forward. "We were able to deliver an abundance of dry goods to an extremely appreciative group," said MIA FacRep Narciso Torres. "They were surprised by our generosity and thanked everyone for our great work."



Raleigh Durham ATCT (RDU) -RDU members recently donated 115 meals to Duke University Hospital in the neurology department, emergency department, and the intensive care unit. The food was prepared by State of Beer and Trophy Brewery restaurants. “We chose those two restaurants to patronize specifically because they supported RDU members during the 2019 government shutdown,” said RDU FacRep Nick Stott. “We are very appreciative of those working on the front lines, sacrificing their safety for the well-being of all.”



Atlanta Center (ZTL) - The Italian Oven restaurant in Stockbridge, Ga. recently posted on their social media: "Thanks to the National Air Traffic Controllers Association from Atlanta. The ARTCC is providing both Piedmont Henry and Piedmont Fayette ICU and COVID units with meals prepared by The Italian Oven. It is an honor to have been contacted by such a great group of men and women in our communities not only helping out the great hospital staff in both communities, but to also help out small businesses as well."

"We have raised over \$11,000 and will be sending over 1100 meals to essential personnel working on the front lines," said Atlanta Center (ZTL) FacRep Dan McCabe. "We appreciated the overwhelming support that we received during the 35-day government shutdown and we want to pay it forward. We realize that being essential isn't always as fun as it sounds. This is just a small way to show how much we are thinking and care about them."

NATCA Retirement Webinars

The first scheduled retirement seminars from 4 Square Financial Literacy Partners, Inc., have been changed to webinars due to the COVID-19 national emergency. They are: Lubbock, Texas (April 28-29), Houston (April 28-29), Sacramento, Calif. (April 29-30), Westbury, N.Y. (May 12-13), Atlanta (May 13-

14), and Los Angeles (May 19-20). An additional webinar for any member nationwide is scheduled for May 15 at 10 a.m. Central time.

IMPORTANT: If you had previously signed up for this seminar and are unable to attend virtually, please consider canceling your reservation as space is limited for virtual classes as well.

To register for both the seminars and the webinars: use the NATCA Portal, portal.natca.org. Click on the “events” tab in the main menu at the top of the screen.

For more information, visit <http://www.natcadvantage.com/?redirectUrl=/homepage/>.

For questions or any problems with registration, please contact Lisa Head at the National Office: 202-628-5451 or lhead@natcadc.org.

Union Members Feature: Teachers' Unions

NATCA continues to highlight our union sisters and brothers who are continuing their hard work during the COVID-19 national emergency. Today we highlight and thank our siblings who are members of America’s teachers unions, representing millions of hard-working men and women all across the country.

The New York Times reports: “Unlike many other college-educated workers, teachers are unaccustomed to spending the day tethered to screens. Many work under meticulously negotiated contracts that detail their work hours and break times, and the rules for how they engage with administrators — contracts that now seem all but irrelevant with students and teachers confined to their homes.

“As the realities of online education have become starkly apparent, unions are seeking new protections for their members.”

[Click here](#) to read more.

NATCA Member COVID-19 Resources

Click here for COVID-19 Updates and Resources



Many members have self-identified as being in higher risk categories for severe illness. The Regional Flight



Surgeons (RFS) have made some initial determinations that employee conditions, in certain cases, do not rise to the level of being at higher risk. If you have had the RFS render an initial determination that you are not in a higher risk category, we need you to contact your [Regional Vice President \(RVP\)](#). Your RVP will direct you to

NATCA's benefit partner, Aviation Medicine Advisory Service (AMAS). AMAS clinical staff will assist with a review of the RFS's initial determination and develop a course of action, if appropriate.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, please know the [CISM team](#) is here to help you. CISM is a peer-to-peer service designed to help you post-accident or during a personal crisis. You can call us 24/7, 265 at 202-505-CISM (2476). If you reach our voicemail please leave your contact info, and someone will call you back. Keep in mind, we are aviation safety professionals and may be actively working at the time of your call. Messages are kept strictly confidential. You also can reach us via email at CISM@natca.net or check out our website at www.natca.org/CISM.

