



ICYMI: NATCA President Rich Santa Represents Our Union at FAA Safety Summit

On Wednesday, March 15, NATCA President Rich Santa, Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge, and other NATCA members and staff represented our Union at the FAA Safety Summit that the Agency held at the MITRE Corporation's offices in McLean, Va. The Safety Summit brought together leaders from commercial and general aviation groups, labor organizations, and others within the aviation industry.

During the summit Rich Santa participated in a plenary panel that was moderated by Acting FAA Administrator Billy Nolen and Robert Sumwalt, the Executive Director of the Center for Aviation and Aerospace at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Other panelists included Air Line Pilots Association, International, President Capt. Jason Ambrosi; Airlines for America President and CEO Nick Calio; American Association of Airport Executives President and CEO Todd Hauptli; National Business Aviation Association President and CEO Ed Bolen; and Regional Airline Association President and CEO Faye Malarkey Black.



In addition, other representatives of our Union at the FAA Safety Summit – including NATCA National Safety Committee (NSC) Chair and National Safety Representative John Murdock (Philadelphia ATCT, PHL); Andrew LeBovidge; Deputy Director of Safety & Technology Mark McKelligan; National Program Management Organization Representative Dan Hamilton (San Francisco ATCT, SFO); and Director of Safety & Technology Tom Adcock – participated in breakout sessions about the air traffic system, airports and ground

operations, commercial operations, and general aviation operations.

Read more about NATCA's participation in the summit, including statements from Rich Santa [here](#).

In case you missed it, a recording of the summit including the plenary panel is available [here](#).



PHOTO: During the FAA Safety Summit, NATCA President Rich Santa participated in a plenary panel that was moderated by Acting FAA Administrator Billy Nolen and Robert Sumwalt, the Executive Director of the Center for Aviation and Aerospace at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In this photo, Rich is speaking to the other panelists (left to right): Air Line Pilots Association, International, President Capt. Jason Ambrosi; Airlines for America President and CEO Nick Calio; American Association of Airport Executives President and CEO Todd Hauptli; Sumwalt; Nolen; Santa; National Business Aviation Association President and CEO Ed Bolen; and Regional Airline Association President and CEO Faye Malarkey Black.



PHOTO: At the FAA Safety Summit NATCA President Rich Santa gave a series of media interviews to reporters from national news organizations including ABC News, Bloomberg, CNN, Reuters, The Points Guy website, News Nation, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post. In addition, shots from the plenary panel with him also were highlighted in the news coverage on NBC and CBS affiliates around the country. During these interviews, Rich talked about the importance of expanding controller staffing and securing stable, predictable funding for technological improvements.



PHOTO: (Left to right) Our Union's representatives at the FAA Safety Summit included NATCA National Safety Committee (NSC) Chair and National Safety Representative John Murdock (Philadelphia ATCT, PHL); Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge; Deputy Director of Safety & Technology Mark McKelligan; National Program Management Organization Representative Dan Hamilton (San Francisco ATCT, SFO); and Director of Safety & Technology Tom Adcock. They represented NATCA during breakout sessions about the air traffic system, airports and ground operations, commercial operations, and general aviation operations.



PHOTO: NATCA National Safety Committee (NSC) Chair and National Safety Representative John Murdock (Philadelphia ATCT, PHL) addressed participants of the airports and ground operations breakout session during the FAA Safety Summit. Murdock. Here, John made a point to their airport leaders present, “There are a few things that you can do at your local airport that are really important. Every airport has a RSAT (Runway Safety Action Team) that meets annually. Go to that meeting and talk about problems or issues that you are having or hearing about. But don’t just wait for that annual meeting. You can always just ask the controllers working at your airport. We are not shy people. They will tell you how they feel about these things. Each facility also has a local safety council. They meet internally at least monthly and address safety issues. So you can get plugged in at the facility, and we can provide feedback especially in the movement area.”



PHOTO: Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg kicked off the FAA Safety Summit. During his opening remarks, he said, “Initial information suggests that more mistakes than usual are happening across the system— on runways, at gates when planes are pushing back, in control towers, and on flight decks. Today is about the entire system. This is a key priority for the FAA and for the entire Department of Transportation.”

NATCA Leaders Gather in Chicago for Joint NEB-Committee Chair/Vice Chair Meeting

For the first time since 2019, NATCA hosted an in-person meeting of all the NATCA Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs. NATCA President Rich Santa and Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge spoke to the many NATCA leaders present at the meeting, which most of the National Executive Board (NEB) attended. The focus of the meeting was a facilitated discussion about NATCA’s many active and diverse committees, NATCA’s organizational goals, inter-group relationships, and other pertinent issues.

“We have a very impressive group of leaders within our Union and gatherings like these will ensure everyone is providing maximum benefit to the membership and our organization,” Boots on the Ground (BOTG) and Retired NATCA Active Volunteers (RNAV) Chair Tom Thompson said.

“Overall, it was an important and much needed meeting and I look forward to attending the forthcoming regularly scheduled committee chair calls,” Communications Committee Chair Shannon Lyman said.

NATCA members can log into the [members' side of the website](#) to learn more about NATCA's committees and how to get involved.



Joint NEB – Committee Chair/Vice Chair Meeting

Chicago | February 2023

New England NATCA Members Attend Labor Roundtable with Congressman Pappas

Manchester ATCT (MHT)
FacRep Greg Waitkus and
Boston Center (ZBW) Secretary
Thomas Lefebvre represented
NATCA and our profession at a
Labor Roundtable with
Congressman Chris Pappas
(N.H., 1), his staff, and staff
members from Congresswoman
Annie Kuster's (N.H., 2) office on
Feb. 23.

Pappas serves on the House
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure. Waitkus and
Lefebvre discussed staffing
issues that plague NATCA-
represented facilities throughout
the nation. They also discussed

how current staffing issues are affecting their own facilities, as well as the entire National Airspace System (NAS).

“The Congressman talked about the upcoming FAA Reauthorization, and how his role on the Transportation Committee can assist us in achieving our goal of improving NAS staffing,” Waitkus said.

Other labor unions and organizations in attendance included the International Association of Firefighters, National Treasury Employees Union Local 68, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 131, and many more.



Learn more about becoming a legislative activist on behalf of NATCA and our profession from the National Legislative Committee [here](#).

Register Now for NATCA's 19th Biennial Convention

Step 1: Register for the Event

To register, click [here](#).

When you register, you will also be given the option to buy tickets for evening events.

Please note, tickets prices will continue to increase as Convention approaches, and tickets will NOT be available at the door.



Step 2: Convention Hotel Registration

For Convention, NATCA National does not pay for members' hotel rooms nor make their hotel reservations. Hotel reservations are the responsibility of the individual member and are paid for by the member or their local.

The NATCA Convention Rate is \$249/per night, plus tax. **The cutoff date to book your room is April 26.**

To book your room, click [here](#).

If you have any questions, or if you'd like assistance booking, changing, or canceling a hotel reservation, please call the hotel at **(855) 689-2911**.

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