Runway Safety Representative Participates in NTSB Panel on Runway Incursions

On May 23, NATCA Runway Safety Representative Bridget Singratanakul (Dallas/Fort Worth ATCT, DFW) participated in a roundtable discussion held by the National Transportation Board (NTSB) at its Washington, D.C. offices.

The discussion, entitled “State of Runway Incursions: A Path Forward,” brought together more than 30 experts from labor, the aviation industry, and government agencies. NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy ran the meeting, asking participants to offer their insight into what must be done to prevent future runway incursions.
“We all may have different views on the path forward to prevent such tragedies, but we all want progress,” Homendy said. “How we maintain our gold standard of safety amid all these challenges by preventing runway incursions – that is today’s mandate.”

The participants spoke at length about the areas that needed to be addressed to help avoid future runway incursions including air traffic controller (ATC) staffing, ATC training, and the use of technology like surface surveillance. Singratanakul stressed the importance of widespread implementation of surface surveillance across the national airspace system in which only 43 of more than 500 airports have the critical equipment available.

“Technology has been proven to be the most effective tool in the reduction of severe runway incursions,” Singratanakul said. “In FY2022 there were 16 A and B runway incursions – your closest proximity events – of that, four occurred at surface surveillance facilities. The other 12 occurred at airports that did not have surface surveillance. By giving flight crews and the controllers those extra tools so they can immediately assess and grab that information that they need, that is important.”

Listen to the 2022 Region X Commitment to Safety Award Winner John Stanton on the NATCA Podcast

In this episode of the NATCA Podcast, Communications Committee Region X Rep. Lisen Minetti (Engineers and Aeronautics Center, EAC) interviews 2022 Region X Commitment to Safety Award Winner John Stanton (New England Region Engineers, ENE).
Tune in wherever you listen to podcasts, or by clicking here.

Don’t Forget to Join NATCA’s Private Facebook Group for Members

NATCA recently launched a private Facebook group, exclusively for Union members. The group is a place for members to get news, connect, share information, and enjoy solidarity with their Union brothers and sisters. We encourage all active and retired NATCA members to join the group! We will continue sharing our posts on NATCA’s public Facebook page for informational purposes.
Here are the directions to join:

Step 1: Since the group is private, you must click “Request to Join” on the new NATCA Facebook group [here].

Step 2: You will need to submit your NATCA member number with your request. If you don’t know your NATCA member number, click [here].

After you have submitted your request, a representative from NATCA's Communications Committee will verify your membership and approve your request to join the group.