



From the Desk of President Rich Santa: Thank You for a Safe Holiday Travel Week

Thanksgiving week is always challenging for aviation safety professionals as millions of Americans travel through the National Airspace System (NAS) to celebrate the holiday with their families. This year was no different.

Leading up to Thanksgiving week, every major media outlet ran stories warning of possible delays due to an anticipated record volume of airline passengers. And although expected volume did come to pass – the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that on Sunday, Nov. 26, a record 2.9 million people passed through security, the busiest day ever for air travel – flight cancellations were below 1 percent despite the record level of travel.



Thanksgiving 2023 travel was up 5% from last year. The Thursday before Thanksgiving was the 5th busiest day of 2023 with 52,050 IFR flights, nearly duplicated on Friday, when you worked the 6th busiest day of the year with 52,011 IFR flights. The Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving were also busy, each having more than 48,000 flights.

This is a credit to the professionalism and commitment to safety by every aviation safety professional who worked throughout the NAS during the Thanksgiving travel week. You worked short-staffed, with increased time on position, and spent time away from your families to keep holiday travelers moving. It is because of your commitment and expertise that the NAS ran smoothly and efficiently.

If there is one thing the traveling public can count on, it's that NATCA members always perform their jobs to the best of their abilities, negotiating the vast array of challenges with the skill that comes with a commitment to safety and

training.

Thank you for keeping the NAS the safest and most efficient in the world.

In Solidarity,

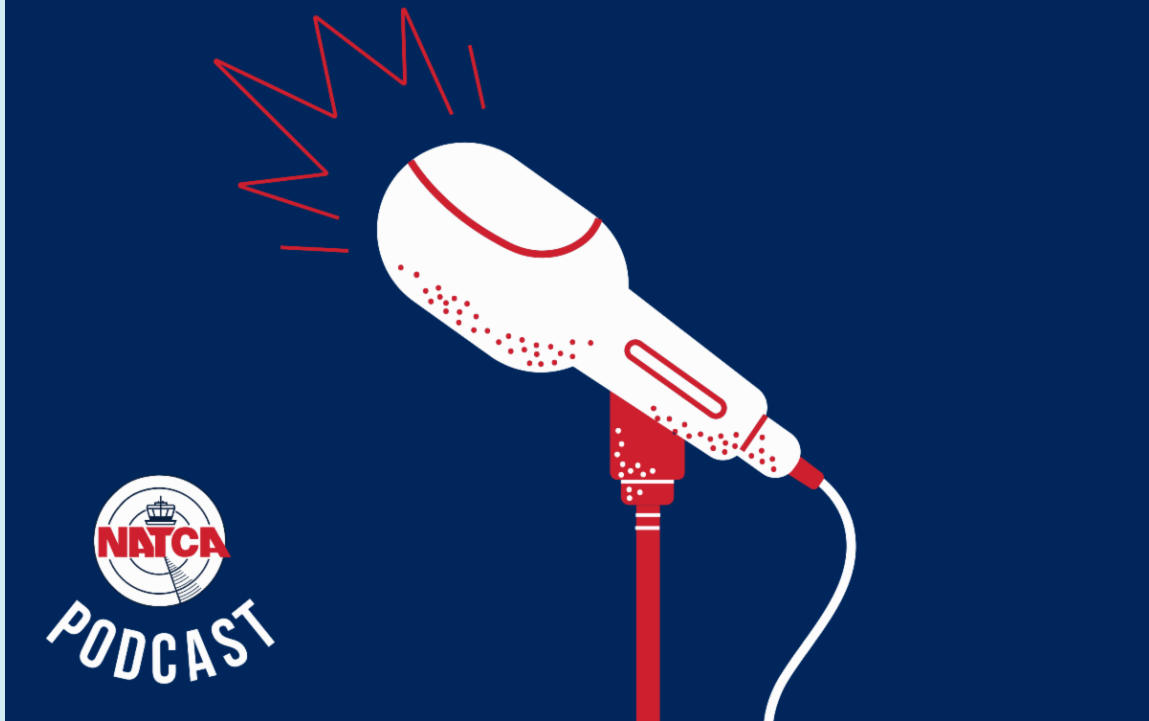
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Santa', written in a cursive style.

Rich Santa
President, National Air Traffic Controllers Association

Listen to Central Region's 2023 Archie League Award Recipients on the NATCA Podcast

In this episode of the NATCA Podcast, Communications Committee Central Region Rep. Bryan Martini (Sioux Gateway ATCT, SUX) interviews 2023 Archie League Medal of Safety Award Winners John "Casey" Hovis (St. Louis TRACON, T75; formerly at MCI), Tyler Wilke (Kansas City International ATCT, MCI), and Matt Williams (MCI). Daniel Clifton (MCI) was also honored with an Archie League Medal of Safety Award for this event, but he was not available to be interviewed for the podcast.

INTERVIEW WITH THE 2023 CENTRAL REGION ARCHIE AWARD WINNERS



Tune in wherever you listen to podcasts, or by clicking [here](#).

The nomination form for the 20th Annual Archie League Medal of Safety Awards is open through April 30, 2024. NATCA members can nominate their peers [here](#).

Schedule for 2024 Retirement Benefits Briefings

2024 Retirement Briefings with 4 Square Financial Literacy Partners, Inc. have been scheduled. Members have the opportunity to attend in-person and online workshops. Register for a session on the [NATCA Portal](#).



SAVE THE DATE

YOUR 2024 RETIREMENT BENEFIT BRIEFINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED!

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS CREATED EXCLUSIVELY FOR NATCA MEMBERS!

2024 APPROVED LOCALES AND DATES

FT. WORTH, TX 2/7-2/8
 OAKLAND, CA 2/21-2/22
 PHOENIX, AZ 2/28-2/29
 JACKSONVILLE, FL 3/12-3/13
 KANSAS CITY, MO 3/25-3/26
 NASHVILLE, TN 4/3-4/4
 ATLANTA, GA (REG-X) 4/17-4/18
 LONG ISLAND, NY 5/14-5/15
 NEW YORK (REG X) 5/16-5/17
 SAN DIEGO, CA 5/29-5/30
 LAFAYETTE, LA 6/4-6/5

DES MOINES, IA 6/19-6/20
 STERLING, VA 7/11-7/12
 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 7/23-7/24
 PORTLAND, OR 8/21-8/22
 DETROIT, MI 9/10-9/11
 SAN ANTONIO, TX 9/25-9/26
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 10/8-10/9
 NASHUA, NH 10/16-10/17
 BIRMINGHAM, AL 11/13-11/14
 FAIRBANKS, AK 12/3-12/4
 JUNEAU, AK 12/5-12/6

ONLINE BRIEFINGS
 JANUARY 13 (SATURDAY)
 FEBRUARY 13
 MARCH 22
 APRIL 27 (SATURDAY)
 MAY 9
 JUNE 10
 JULY 30
 AUGUST 10 (SATURDAY)
 SEPTEMBER 19
 OCTOBER 24
 NOVEMBER 8
 DECEMBER 7 (SATURDAY)

TO REGISTER VISIT [PORTAL.NATCA.ORG](https://portal.natca.org)

PERSONALIZED BENEFIT ESTIMATE FOR PARTICIPANTS PAID FOR AS AN EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT FOR NATCA MEMBERS. YOU WILL NEVER BE SOLICITED OR SOLD ANYTHING...EVER!

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS WITH REGISTRATION,
 CONTACT LISA HEAD, MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COORDINATOR:
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