



# Member Update

## Government Shutdown Resources and Materials

NATCA Family,

Shutdowns should never happen. NATCA national staff and our Union's National Legislative Committee have been working hard for weeks to convince members of Congress to avoid a government shutdown. Despite these efforts, we are on the verge of another shutdown. If it happens, we will again ramp up our advocacy efforts just as we have done in the past. We will share more information about those efforts in the coming days, as necessary.

In the event of a shutdown, NATCA and the FAA have negotiated a procedural Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). That MOU accompanies the existing Furlough MOU and the associated questions & answers. [These documents are available on the NATCA website](#). The [Questions & Answers](#) page on the website cover a variety of topics and issues including annual and sick leave, use or lose annual leave, holidays, and payroll processing, among many other things. If you have any questions or concerns not addressed by the documents on the website, please contact your RVP. We also have setup an e-mail address: [ShutdownQuestions@natca.org](mailto:ShutdownQuestions@natca.org).

From its earliest days, NATCA has always stood apart from other unions. Although people don't always agree on politics, everyone respects and appreciates the essential work air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals do in guiding them and their loved ones home safely.

In advance of this shutdown, the media spotlight already is focused on our Union and professions. National and local reporters want to learn more about what we are doing and how NATCA members are handling the stress of the situation.

Even though a shutdown will have significant negative consequences for each and every one of you and your families, in responding to those media requests, we have confidently shared that we have no doubt that during a shutdown you will continue to do everything you can to maintain the safest, most efficient airspace in the world, just as you do every day. We thank you for your unwavering commitment to the safety of the flying public and the National Airspace System (NAS).

If we are unable to prevent a shutdown, we will continue to advocate on your behalf to make it as short as possible. We know that a shutdown is a very stressful time for both our members who have to work without pay and our members who are furloughed. We also will work tirelessly to make sure that you are treated fairly and in accordance with our contracts by the Agency during this time.

We urge you to stand in solidarity with your brothers and sisters in the face of this shutdown. Identifying safety issues is of utmost importance, especially during the shutdown. Examples of distractions caused by the shutdown include added stress about meeting financial obligations, paying medical bills, or simply putting gas in your car to get back and forth to work. If you personally experience unmanageable levels of stress during this time and require assistance, please reach out to your local representatives or consider seeking help through NATCA's CISM program.

If you are involved in a safety event or witness a safety problem, please file an ATSAP report. If you believe the shutdown played a role in the event, please detail that information in your report. It is critical that we, as aviation safety professionals, continue to track safety issues during the shutdown.

**If a distraction due to the shutdown played a role in the safety event, after filing the ATSAP report, please do one of the following: email a copy of the ATSAP report to [safety@natca.net](mailto:safety@natca.net) or copy and paste the text of the report and email it to [safety@natca.net](mailto:safety@natca.net).**

**We are asking for this information so that NATCA can communicate to Congress, the media, and the general public about the negative consequences for the safety of the NAS as a result of the shutdown. We will not use your name or any other identifying information in any communication.**

Filing an ATSAP report is an "excepted activity" during the government shutdown. This means that filing an ATSAP report is **allowed** by law during a shutdown. The ATSAP Event Review Committee members (ERCs) will continue to work and process all reports. Duty time to file a report is defined in the NATCA/FAA CBA Article 64, Sections 6 & 13.

That said, NATCA does not condone or endorse any federal employees participating in or endorsing a coordinated activity that negatively affects the capacity of the NAS or any other activities that undermine the professional image and reputation of the people we represent. Air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals take their responsibility to protect the safety of the flying public very seriously.

Our Union is only as strong as our members. But when we stand together as one, our collective spirit can weather any storm. Together, we will make it through this difficult time and arise more unified and powerful.

In Solidarity,

The National Executive Board

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