



Member Update

The Path Forward: A Message from NATCA President Nick Daniels Regarding Facility Consolidation

Watch a video of NATCA President Nick Daniel addressing the issue of FAA facility realignment and consolidation [here](#).



NATCA developed the following core principles regarding facility realignment and consolidation:

NATCA recognizes that the FAA's future facility footprint will be different than the current footprint. However, realigning and consolidating facilities for the sake of consolidation – or based on real estate decisions that are unrelated to the core principles identified below – is not in the best interest of the National Airspace System (NAS).

NATCA maintains that FAA facility realignment and consolidation decisions must consider the following five core principles:

SAFETY – When realigning or consolidating one or more facilities, it is

essential to prioritize the safety of the NAS for both the American flying public and those who operate within it. This process should involve careful consideration and identification of specific facilities to ensure that these actions do not increase risk in the system and, whenever possible, enhance safety.

CONTINUITY – Realignment or consolidation of one or more facilities should consider the resiliency and continuity of the NAS. Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) facilities are responsible for tens of thousands of miles of airspace. If multiple ARTCCs are combined into one, it would be responsible for hundreds of thousands of miles of airspace. If a combined facility suffered an equipment failure, natural disaster, or illegal activity interrupting service, it would likely disrupt the entire NAS for an extended period. Redundancy reduces risk and ensures the resiliency and continuity of the NAS. Careful consideration must be given to exposing the NAS to increased risk as an unintended consequence of realignment or consolidation.

CAPACITY and EFFICIENCY – Realignment or consolidation of one or more facilities should (1) provide enhanced capacity and/or increased efficiency; (2) mitigate aviation delays affecting the American flying public; and (3) prepare for the future traffic of the NAS. Careful consideration of a proposed realignment or consolidation will inform decisions that will create a more integrated and dynamic NAS, while reducing existing complexities within the operation.

COST SAVINGS – Realignment or consolidation of one or more facilities should provide a cost savings to the American taxpayer, including, among other things, construction costs, single site maintenance, and upgrades of future automation and other systems. In addition, any decision must consider the costs associated with relocating hundreds or thousands of employees hundreds or thousands of miles from their current duty station.

WORKFORCE – Realignment or consolidation of one or more facilities should consider the significant effects of relocating of hundreds or thousands of Air Traffic Controllers and other aviation safety professionals, along with their families, hundreds or even thousands of miles from their current homes. Such a relocation would not only affect their professional lives but also would disrupt their personal stability and community involvement. As mentioned above, there is potentially a significant cost associated with the relocation of the workforce.

NATCA will share more information about the next steps in coming weeks.

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