



NATCA Executive Vice President Mick Devine Opens Day Two of CFS 2025

NATCA Executive Vice President Mick Devine opened Communicating For Safety 2025 on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025. Mick previewed the day focusing on key topics discussed during Day two Communicating For Safety 2025, including resilience, leadership, and innovation.



CFS 2025 Session "People First" Explores Leadership and Change in the NAS

At Communicating For Safety 2025, a moderated discussion on "People First: Leading and Supporting the NAS" featured NATCA President Nick Daniels and

Acting FAA Chief Operating Officer Franklin McIntosh in a candid conversation on leadership through change. Moderated by NATCA's Dawn Johnson (Atlanta Center, ZTL), the panel focused on how aviation safety professionals can be supported during operational shifts while ensuring the National Airspace System remains the safest and most efficient in the world.



**CFS 2025 Panel "Building the Future"
Unites Leaders on the Next ATC System**

At Communicating For Safety 2025, the panel "Building the Future: Industry Perspectives on Implementing the Next ATC System" brought together some of aviation's most influential voices.



Building the Future: Industry Perspectives on Implementing the Next ATC System



NATCA President Nick Daniels joined Acting FAA Chief Operating Officer Franklin McIntosh, American Airlines COO David Seymour, and NBAA Senior Vice President Kristie Greco Johnson in a wide-ranging discussion on how to safely implement the next generation of air traffic control. Moderated by NATCA Executive Vice President Emeritus Trish Gilbert, the panel emphasized collaboration across labor, government, and industry as the key to modernizing the National Airspace System and shaping the next era of aviation.

Derrick Green and Kimberley Shattuck Honored with the Allied Pilots Association Resolute Safety Award

Dallas/Fort Worth TRACON (D10) controllers Derrick Green and Kimberley Shattuck were honored with the Allied Pilots Association (APA) Resolute Safety Award at Communicating For Safety 2025. APA National Safety leaders Captain Jason Sharp and Captain Andy Alfiero presented the award. The two were honored for their exceptional actions during a critical save.



Their composure, teamwork, and resilience under pressure exemplified the skill NATCA members bring to every situation in the National Airspace System.

Green and Shattuck also received the Southwest Region's honorable mention recognition for the Archie League Medal of Safety Awards.

Minneapolis Facilities Lifesaving Efforts Honored with Helping Hearts Award

NATCA's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Committee presented the Helping Hearts Award to Minneapolis ATCT (MSP) controller Lisa Mattson-Helverson and Minneapolis TRACON (M98) controller Ross Gammell. Presented by Homer Benevides (Engineer/Great Lakes Region, EGL), the award recognizes facilities with the highest percentage of employees trained to use Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Their leadership in safety training reflects NATCA's commitment to resilience, preparedness, and protecting lives both in the workplace and beyond.



CFS 2025 Keynote "Dare to Care" Highlights Emotional Intelligence in Aviation



At Communicating For Safety 2025, keynote speaker Sylvia Baffour, author of Dare to Care, Resilient and Thriving, delivered an inspiring message about the role of emotional intelligence in aviation.

Baffour emphasized how recognizing and navigating emotions is critical to building resilient teams, fostering effective leadership, and creating meaningful connections across the National Airspace System.

CFS 2025 Keynote "Radical Adaptability" Inspires Aviation Professionals to Lead What's Next

Change is constant, but how we respond defines the future. At Communicating For Safety 2025, resilience strategist and bestselling author Shawn Ellis delivered his keynote "Radical Adaptability: 5 C's to Let Go, Level Up, and Lead What's Next."

With humor, storytelling, and practical insight, Ellis spoke to CFS attendees about how calm, clarity, courage, confidence, and community can turn challenges into opportunities, equipping us to thrive in an era of rapid change.



NATCA In The News: Local Las Vegas TV Stations Highlight CFS 2025

At Communicating For Safety 2025, local television stations highlighted the vital work of air traffic controllers and the important topics discussed at this year's conference in Las Vegas. NATCA Safety Chair John Murdock (Philadelphia ATCT, PHL), NATCA's Occupational Safety and Health Administration Chair Karena Marinas (Los Angeles Center, ZLA), NATCA's National Runway Safety Representative Bridget Singratanakul (Dallas-Fort Worth ATCT, DFW), and American Airlines' Vice-President of Safety and Regulatory Compliance Cedric Wilson were all highlighted during different news segments filmed in the CFS 2025 exhibit hall on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025. Please view the segment and the topics discussed [here](#).



Celebrating Professionalism Across the NAS

Professionalism is more than a standard — it is a value lived every day by NATCA members. At Communicating For Safety 2025, Professional Standards Co-Chairs Lydia Baune and Patrick Carter honored four members with the NATCA National Professionalism Award: Jessica Schwartz, Merrill Field ATCT (MRI); Rick Lieflander, Chicago TRACON (C90); Lela Rosenberg, Binghamton ATCT (BGM); and Tina Thomas, FAA Headquarters (EHQ). Each honoree represents the resilience, collaboration, and excellence that strengthen the National Airspace System.



"From Experience to Impact: Elevating the Role of the Controller-Trainer" at CFS 2025

Controller-trainers do more than evaluate. They shape the future of aviation. At Communicating For Safety 2025, "From Experience to Impact: Elevating the Role of the Controller-Trainer" showcased how mentorship, innovation, and real-world expertise inspire and grow the next generation. Moderated by NATCA National Training Representative Jamaal Haltom (Las Vegas ATCT, LAS), the panel featured FAA Vice President for Mission Support and Management Services Chris Willbanks, UFA Vice President Amy Parish, SAIC Senior Director Terry L. Biggio, and NATCA Oakland Center (ZOA) Training Representative Erin Wilder.



From Experience to Impact: Elevating the Role of the Controller-Trainer



"From Experience to Impact: Elevating the Role of the Controller-Trainer" at CFS Las Vegas | Sept. 16, 2025

Excellence in Training Award Presented to Ben Latimer (CLT)

Reaching new heights requires constant learning. At Communicating For Safety 2025, NATCA National Training Representative Jamaal Haltom (Las Vegas ATCT, LAS) honored Ben Latimer of Charlotte ATCT/TRACON (CLT) with the Excellence in Training Award. Since its introduction in 2019, this award has honored those who live NATCA's belief that Every Day is a Training Day. Latimer's dedication to building knowledge and fostering growth reflects the collaboration and innovation that keep the National Airspace System strong.

Live Streaming CFS: Join Us From Anywhere in the World

NATCA is proud to bring Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2025 to an even wider audience through our live stream. From Sept. 15-17, more than 1,200 aviation professionals will gather in Las Vegas for the nation's premier aviation safety conference. Hosted by NATCA, CFS brings together the aviation community to collaborate, innovate, and strengthen the National Airspace System.

Through expert panels, operational case studies, and conversations on emerging technologies, CFS delivers the critical discussions that move aviation forward. Whether you are joining us in person or tuning in from anywhere in the world, we welcome you to take part in this important exchange of ideas. Follow along on the [live stream](#) and be part of where aviation safety advances.



Live stream the
conference starting
Sept. 15 at 1 p.m. PDT
natca.org/events/cfs

The live stream schedule is:

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. PDT General Session

7:15 – 10 p.m. PDT Archie League Medal of Safety Awards Reception and Banquet

Explore the Official CFS 2025 Conference Book



A digital copy of the official event book for Communicating For Safety 2025 is now available online.

Inside, you'll find the full agenda, speaker spotlights, and features on NATCA's signature programs. The book also includes sponsor information, exhibitor details, and background on the events that make CFS the nation's premier aviation safety conference.

Access the CFS 2025 event book [here](#).

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