



Stay Connected: CFS 2024 Live Stream Continues with Key Panels and Sessions

As Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024 enters its final day, don't miss the ongoing live stream that keeps you connected to all the key discussions.



Live Stream the Conference at natca.org/cfs



Stay tuned to the live stream for these and other sessions that will shape the future of aviation safety.

CFS Live
Stream

Empowering the Future: NATCA EVP Andrew LeBovidge Ignites Day Two at CFS 2024

The second day of Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024 kicked off with an inspiring keynote address by NATCA Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge. As the conference continues, attendees can look forward to a full day of engaging panels and discussions that address the critical challenges facing aviation safety professionals.



LeBovidge's address set the tone for a day filled with opportunities for NATCA members to expand their knowledge, exchange ideas, and strengthen their commitment to safety. Today's agenda includes thought-provoking panels and keynote sessions that will provide valuable insights into the evolving landscape of aviation safety.

Be sure to stay engaged with the ongoing sessions and take full advantage of the learning and networking opportunities that CFS 2024 offers.

Dr. David P. Morgan Delivers Keynote on Stress Management and Resilience at CFS 2024

At Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024, Licensed Psychologist Dr. David P. Morgan delivered a powerful keynote address focused on "Understanding Stress Management and Resilience." Dr. Morgan, who holds a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Brigham Young University, has over two decades of experience in forensic psychology, consultation, testing, evaluation, and counseling.



In his keynote, Dr. Morgan shared core principles that can help aviation professionals manage stress, enhance mental endurance, and build emotional resilience. He emphasized that while stress is an inevitable part of life, especially in high-stakes environments like air traffic control, it is possible to develop strategies to cope effectively. Dr. Morgan's engaging and accessible approach provided attendees with practical tools and beliefs to improve their

well-being, emphasizing that everyone has the capacity to grow and thrive when equipped with the right mindset. This session was a highlight of #NATCACFS 2024, offering valuable insights that participants can apply both in their professional roles and personal lives.

Best-Selling Author & Strategic Adviser Ryan Leak Inspires CFS 2024 Attendees

At Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024, best-selling author and strategic adviser Ryan Leak delivered a captivating keynote that left attendees motivated to tackle challenges with renewed vigor. Known for his dynamic speaking style and expertise in leadership development, Leak shared his insights on “Leveling Up: 6 Questions For Next-Level Leadership.”



NATCA Charitable Foundation Honors 2024 Cathy Meachum Volunteer of the Year Award Recipients

At Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024, the NATCA Charitable Foundation (NCF) proudly honored Amy Sayers of Fort Lauderdale ATCT (FLL) and Genesis Garcia, spouse of El Paso ATCT (ELP) FacRep Brian Canales, with the 2024 NCF Cathy Meachum Volunteer of the Year awards. This recognition celebrates their unwavering dedication to community service through NCF, supporting both NATCA members and the broader community. NCF Vice President Betsy Beaumont (Fort Worth Center, ZFW) presented the awards, underscoring the foundation’s enduring commitment to volunteerism and the positive impact volunteers like Sayers and Garcia continue to make.



Pictured (left to right): Andrew LeBovidge, Amy Sayers, Betsy Beaumont, Rich Santa

The NCF, founded in 1994, continues to make a lasting impact through its volunteer-driven efforts. Named after Cathy Meachum, whose lifelong dedication to charity helped shape NCF, the Volunteer of the Year award honors her legacy of giving back. Cathy, alongside her husband Darrell, envisioned an organization that would highlight air traffic controllers' charitable work. NCF remains true to their vision, operating as a 100 percent volunteer organization with minimal expenses, allowing nearly all funds raised to benefit those in need. This award exemplifies the spirit of selflessness that Cathy embodied throughout her life.

ZKC Member Jim Newman Honored with NATCA Excellence in Training Award at CFS 2024

Today at CFS, NATCA President Rich Santa and Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge presented Jim Newman from Kansas City Center with our Union's prestigious Excellence in Training Award. This award recognizes Newman's unwavering dedication to enhancing the training and education of aviation safety professionals, a critical mission given the ongoing need for more certified professional controllers (CPCs).



Newman, who serves as the Central Region Training Review Board (TRB) lead and Regional Training Representative, has been instrumental in ensuring that trainees receive the comprehensive support and opportunities needed to succeed. Newman's commitment to maintaining rigorous training standards directly contributes to the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS). Established in 2019, the Excellence in Training Award underscores our Union's dedication to continuous professional development, and Newman's contributions exemplify the very essence of this award.

NATCA Members Honored with AOPA Air Safety Institute Flight Assist Commendation Awards

At CFS 2024, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Institute presented the Flight Assist Commendation Award to several air traffic controllers for their outstanding service. The award, introduced a decade ago, recognizes controllers who demonstrate exceptional situational awareness, teamwork, and skill in assisting general aviation pilots facing difficult circumstances, leading to safe landings.



Pictured (left to right): Andrew LeBovidge, Alicia Herron, NWP RVP Joel Ortiz, NNM RVP Stephanie Winder, NGL ARVP Dean Von Almen, Rich Santa

This year's honorees include Cory Shannon (Detroit TRACON, D21), David McTigue (Pontiac ATCT, PTK), Greg Williams (Cleveland ATCT, CLE), Josh Anderson (Denver Center, ZDV), Amber Kizer (ZDV), and Eric Stevens (Phoenix TRACON, P50). AOPA Publications Content Producer Alicia Herron presented the awards. The partnership between AOPA and NATCA continues to foster safety and collaboration in the aviation community.

Celebrating Excellence: NATCA National Professionalism Awards at CFS 2024

On Tuesday, the NATCA Professional Standards (PS) Committee proudly presented the National Professionalism Award to four exceptional individuals: Tim Platt (Flight Services Station ENA, FS1), Aaron Freedman (Chicago O'Hare ATCT, ORD), Garrett Teames (Washington Center, ZDC), and Ellen Lockhart (Engineer, Northwest Mountain, ENM). These awards recognize those who exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and safety in the National Airspace System (NAS).



Pictured (left to right): Andrew LeBovidge, Patrick Carter, Lydia Baune, Garrett Teames, Rich Santa, Chris Keyes



Pictured (left to right): Patrick Carter, Lydia Baune, Chris Keyes, Tim Platt, Rich Santa, Andrew LeBovidge

The awards were presented by Lydia Baune (Spokane ATCT, GEG), Patrick Carter (Dallas/Fort Worth TRACON, D10), and Chris Keyes (Washington Center, ZDC), all members of the NATCA Professional Standards Committee. The National Professionalism Award, established by the committee, honors individuals whose exceptional performance and unwavering commitment to safety have set a standard of excellence within their profession. This prestigious award reflects NATCA’s dedication to fostering a culture of professionalism and maintaining the public’s trust in aviation safety.

Shaping the Future: Experts Discuss Training the Next Generation at CFS 2024

Yesterday, the “Preparing the Workforce of Tomorrow” panel brought together key figures in aviation training to discuss strategies for developing the next generation of aviation safety professionals. The panel featured NATCA National Training Representative Jamaal Haltom, NATCA Safety Chair John Murdock, FAA Vice President of Safety and Technical Training Jeff Planty, and FAA Deputy Vice President of Safety and Technical Training Christopher Wilbanks.



Pictured (left to right): Jamaal Haltom, Christopher Wilbanks, Jeff Planty, John Murdock

This year’s discussion focused on how the aviation industry can address the evolving challenges of workforce development, emphasizing the importance of adaptability and continuous learning. Panelists explored strategies for enhancing training programs, and ensuring that the next generation of aviation professionals is equipped to handle the increasing demands of the National Airspace System (NAS). The session provided valuable insights into the efforts to continually advance the skills of aviation professionals, ensuring that the industry remains resilient and capable of meeting future challenges.

Exploring Fatigue in Aviation: Insights from Experts at CFS 2024

At Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024, a critical panel titled “Fatigue: An Aviation Challenge” brought together leading experts to discuss the impact of sleep deprivation on cognitive performance, emphasizing the risks it poses to aviation safety and work in high-stress environments. The session featured Harvard Medical School Director of Sleep Medicine Dr. Charles Czeisler, NASA Ames Research Center Director of Fatigue Countermeasures Laboratory Dr. Erin Flynn-Evans, Former NTSB Board Member and NASA Ames Research Center Director Dr. Mark Rosekind, NATCA Human Performance Representative Aaron Katz, and FAA Human Performance Team Manager Stephanie Kreseen.



Pictured (left to right): Aaron Katz, Stephanie Kreesen, Mark Rosekind, Erin Flynn-Evans, Dr. Charles Czeisler, Dawn Johnson

This panel underscored the importance of addressing fatigue as a significant factor in aviation safety, providing attendees with actionable strategies to manage this challenge effectively.

Flight Path to Wellness: Aviation Leaders Discuss Mental Health at CFS 2024

Today’s “Flight Path to Wellness: Prioritizing Mental Health in Aviation” panel at Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024 tackled the critical issue of mental health within the aviation industry. The session was moderated by NATCA Executive Vice President Andrew LeBovidge, who has advocated for improving mental health support for aviation professionals. LeBovidge emphasized the importance of overcoming barriers such as fear, lack of trust, and financial uncertainty that often prevent individuals from seeking the care they need.



Pictured (left to right): Evan MacPhee, Travis Ludwig, Susan Northrup, Kurt McCartney, Andrew LeBovidge

The panel included Air Line Pilot Association, Int’l (ALPA) Peer Support and Pilot Assistance Chair Travis Ludwig, AMAS Aviation Medical Advisory Service Dr. Kurt McCartney, Allied Pilots Association (APA) Flight Standard First Officer Evan MacPhee, and FAA Federal Air Surgeon Dr. Susan Northrup. They discussed challenges faced by pilots and air traffic controllers, the importance of peer support, and the role of medical professionals in ensuring the well-being of those working in high-stress aviation environments.

This panel underscored the necessity of prioritizing mental health within the aviation industry, offering CFS attendees practical strategies to support their own well-being and that of their colleagues.

Industry Hour Breakout Sessions at CFS 2024: Enhancing NAS Safety and Airspace Optimization

During the Industry Hour in the Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024, attendees were treated to insightful breakout sessions focused on key aspects of aviation safety and operational efficiency. These sessions highlighted the collaborative efforts between industry leaders and government agencies to tackle challenges within the National Airspace System (NAS).

One session, “Solving Problems for a Safer NAS,” featured MITRE Managing

Director of Advanced Operations Division Prakash Subramanian and delved into cutting-edge strategies and technologies being developed to address the complex safety issues within the NAS.



Also as part of the Industry Hour, American Airlines Airspace Optimization Tech Pilot, Capt. Wes Google presented "Day in the Life of American Airlines," offering a behind-the-scenes look at the daily operations of a major airline and how airspace optimization plays a crucial role in ensuring safety and efficiency.



As a special highlight of the Industry Hour, FAA Civil Aerospace Medical Institute Aerospace Physiologist Junior Brown led a session on hypoxia, discussing the physiological impacts of this condition on pilots and the measures taken to mitigate its risks in aviation operations.



Finally, NASA Research Pilot Dave Zahn led a session about the challenges and the possibilities regarding autonomous vehicles in the NAS.



The Industry Hour sessions underscored the importance of collaboration, technological innovation, and continuous learning in maintaining and improving the safety of the NAS.

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