



**SEP. 18-20, 2023 | HORSESHOE LAS VEGAS**

**NATCA President Rich Santa & National Safety Committee Chair John Murdock Open CFS 2023**



**NATCA President Rich Santa  
Delivers Opening Remarks at CFS**

**Horseshoe Las Vegas | Sep. 18, 2023**

In the official kickoff of the CFS 2023, NATCA President Rich Santa opened the conference with a keynote address, discussing the state of the National Airspace System.



## **NATCA National Safety Chair John Murdock Speaks at CFS**

Horseshoe Las Vegas | Sep. 18, 2023

NATCA National Safety Representative John Murdock also welcomed attendees and gave a preview of what's in store for this year's CFS.

## **Keynote Address: Executive Director of MIT's Engineering Systems Lab John Thomas, Ph.D.**

NATCA was honored to welcome Co-Director of MIT's Engineering Systems Lab John Thomas, Ph.D. to CFS 2023. Dr. Thomas is a leading expert in system-theoretic accident model and process (STAMP) based methods like system theoretic process analysis (STPA). That technical jargon means that accidents generally result from inadequate enforcement of system safety constraints in design, development, and operations and that through analysis one can understand the entire systemic causal factors involved in an accident.



## **Dr. John Thomas Delivers Keynote Address**

Horseshoe Las Vegas | Sep. 18, 2023

Read more about Thomas and his work to help ensure potentially hazardous or



undesirable software behaviors are systematically identified and controlled [here](#).

## Keynote Speaker: Former Air Force Thunderbirds Commander Richard McSpadden

We are excited to again welcome NATCA's great friend and former Air Force Thunderbirds commander Richard McSpadden, now the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Institute (ASI) Senior Vice President, to the CFS 2023 stage. He currently leads a team of certified flight instructors and content creators who develop and distribute aviation safety material — free of charge — to advance general aviation safety industrywide.



### AOPA's Richard McSpadden Delivers Keynote Address

Horseshoe Las Vegas | Sep. 18, 2023

Read more about McSpadden's aviation career and experience [here](#).

## CFS Panel: Getting Real Results, A Look at Actual Events

After delivering a keynote address to attendees on the first day of CFS 2023, Co-Director of MIT's Engineering Systems Lab John Thomas, Ph.D. joined Stephen Palyok of American Airlines' Safety Systems Engineering & Design for a panel discussion titled "Getting Real Results: A Look at Actual Events."



## CFS Panel: Change Starts with You. Be a Part of the Solution.

Today at CFS 2023, National Recurrent Training Lead Richard Kennington and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Director of Safety Joe Winingar moderated a panel of experts who discussed making changes in the National Airspace System to enhance safety.



Panelists included NATCA Western Event Review Committee member Erich Chouinard, NATCA Confidential Information Share Program member Dawn Johnson, FAA Air Traffic Safety Action Program (ATSAP) Team Manager Laforrest Leake, and United Airlines Aviation Safety Action Program member Paul Soporowski.



## CFS Panel: Safety Culture at the Local Level

The aviation safety professionals who make up the frontline air traffic controller workforce are key to understanding safety issues in the National Airspace System (NAS). A safety culture that encourages reporting of safety issues in an effort to constantly improve safety is critically important. Across the nation, NATCA representatives work as part of teams for facility personnel to identify and mitigate safety issues at the local level.



Today at CFS 2023, NATCA's National Recurrent Training Lead Richard Kennington and St. Louis TRACON (T75) Operational Supervisor Bethany Bohnenstiehl moderated a panel of some of these team members to discuss safety culture at the local level.

Panelists were NATCA Southern California TRACON (SCT) FacRep Alex Cisneros, SCT Acting Executive Officer Thomas Gordon, NATCA Partnership for Safety Member Mike Taylor, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Director of Safety Joe Winingar.

## Tech Talks in the Exhibition Hall Theater

Prior to the kickoff of the CFS 2023 Conference on the mainstage, NATCA's Director of Safety & Technology Tom Adcock led Monday morning's Tech Talk sessions in the Exhibit Hall Theater. These Tech Talks were a chance for CFS attendees to hear from NATCA's Article 114 representatives, their FAA counterparts, and industry representatives. These professionals highlighted their pivotal roles in maintaining and operating our aviation system.



## Surface Surveillance Tech Talk at CFS

Horseshoe Las Vegas | Sep. 18, 2023

**PHOTO** (left to right): Chris Corapi (NATCA National Surveillance Representative) and Matt McCann (FAA Program Manager)

Topics for the panel-style Tech Talks, featuring their respective NATCA Representatives and their FAA Counterparts, included Voice Communication, Airspace Modernization Roadmap, and Flow Management Data and Services (FMDS).

## CFS 2023 Exhibit Hall: A Testament to Dynamism

The aviation industry is vast and complex, comprising a multitude of technologies and programs that shape the way we operate and ensure safety in the skies. The CFS 2023 Exhibit Hall is a testament to this dynamism, highlighting both emerging technologies and ongoing modernization projects.



## NATCA Disaster Response Committee Exhibit Hall Booth

Horseshoe Las Vegas | Sep. 18, 2023



NATCA encourages all attendees to explore the exhibition hall space, and engage with NATCA Article 114 Representatives, FAA program managers, and conference sponsors. These interactions provide insights into the current and future capabilities that will undoubtedly influence the trajectory of all our careers.

Check out a list of CFS 2023 sponsors & exhibitors and a map of the hall [here](#).

## Day Two Live Stream Reminder

For those unable to join us in person, you can tune in to the live stream on NATCA’s website at <https://www.natca.org/cfs/>.

The CFS 2023 live stream will be broadcasted from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. PDT today (Tuesday Sept. 19).



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