



## **CFS 2024: A Week of Dedication and Professionalism in Aviation Safety**

What an incredible week at #NATCACFS 2024! NATCA extends heartfelt gratitude to all attendees for demonstrating your dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to advancing aviation safety. From insightful breakout sessions on cutting-edge technologies to critical panel discussions on mental health and safety culture, CFS 2024 was a powerful testament to the collective efforts of the NATCA family.

As we reflect on the important discussions and the shared knowledge that will shape the future of the National Airspace System (NAS), we are reminded of the strength and unity within our community. Your participation has made this event a resounding success.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR  
NEXT YEAR!**



**SEPT 15 – 17, 2025**

**THE HORSESHOE LAS VEGAS**

Mark your calendars now for CFS 2025, which will take place Sept. 15-17, 2025, at the Horseshoe in Las Vegas. We look forward to another year of collaboration, learning, and progress in the field of aviation safety.

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## **FAA Administrator Michael Whitaker Delivers Keynote on Aviation's Future at CFS 2024**

At Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024, FAA Administrator Michael Whitaker delivered a compelling keynote address, emphasizing the importance of safety and modernization in the National Airspace System (NAS). Appointed as FAA Administrator in October 2023, Whitaker drew on his extensive experience in the aviation industry, including his previous role as FAA Deputy Administrator and Chief NextGen Officer, where he spearheaded the modernization of air traffic control systems. Whitaker last spoke on our CFS stage in 2016, where he discussed how innovations are shaping the future of aviation.



Whitaker's address emphasized his commitment to ensuring that the FAA continues to lead in global aviation safety, with a focus on integrating new technologies and maintaining rigorous safety standards.

## **AI's Role in Aviation Safety: Insights from FAA Expert at CFS 2024**

At Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024, FAA Director of Accident Investigation and Safety Recommendations Matt Cabak discussed the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in aviation safety. As AI technologies advance, they offer significant potential to enhance operational efficiency, optimize flight paths, and reduce emissions. However, Cabak emphasized that with these advancements come critical challenges, particularly in ensuring AI's integration maintains the highest safety standards. Cabak highlighted the ongoing efforts to monitor AI's implementation in aviation to ensure it contributes to a safer and more sustainable future for the industry.



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## **Exploring the Future of Aviation: Taking Flight Panel at CFS 2024**

The panel “Taking Flight: The Future is Here” brought together leading experts to discuss the integration of emerging technologies into the National Airspace System (NAS), as part of Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024. Moderated by MITRE Center for Integrated Transportation Vice President Kerry Buckley, the panel featured insights from Joby Staff Airspace Engineer and Product Manager for Air Taxi Products and Simulations Christabelle Bosson, Delta Air Lines Senior Manager Air Traffic Management and Industry Affairs Capt. Rob Goldman, NATCA Urban Air Mobility Representative Will Hutson, NASA Mission Integration Manager Parimal Kopardekar, and FAA Director of Portfolio Management and Technology Development John Maffei.



**Pictured** (left to right): Primal Kopardekar, John Maffei, Rob Goldman, Will Hutson, Christabelle Bosson, Kerry Buckley

The discussion centered on the impact of innovations that are set to transform aviation operations and will directly affect the roles of the workforce that NATCA represents. The panelists highlighted the importance of collaboration between industry stakeholders to ensure these technologies are implemented safely and efficiently.

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## **Tech Talks at CFS 2024: Innovations Shaping the Future of Aviation**

On the final day of the 2024 conference, CFS continued its tradition of providing valuable insights and education with a series of breakout sessions. These sessions covered a range of critical topics, offering attendees an in-depth look at the latest developments in aviation safety, technology, and collaboration.



***Pictured:*** Dan Hamilton

In the Tech Talks breakout, attendees were treated to presentations on the latest advancements in aviation technology. NATCA Integrated Display System Replacement (IDS-R) Representative Steve Brown discussed the IDS-R, a graphical user interface application that enhances situational awareness by processing and displaying critical aviation-related information in air traffic environments. NATCA Enterprise-Information Display System (E-IDS) Representative Amanda Richardson presented the E-IDS project, which aims to unify all existing IDS systems across the NAS into a single, enterprise-wide solution. NATCA Program Management Office Representative Dan Hamilton highlighted the transition from Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) to Internet Protocol (IP), a crucial update that ensures modern, secure communication systems within the FAA. NATCA Strategy Representative Mark Ostronic discussed the FAA Enterprise Network Services (FENS) program, which will provide secure and reliable communications and networking capabilities essential for NAS operations.

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## **Enhancing Aviation Safety: Reporting Programs and Pilot-Controller Collaboration at CFS 2024**

In the last educational sessions for this year's CFS, attendees joined subject matter experts for impactful breakout sessions focused on safety reporting and the critical collaboration between pilots and controllers.

The "How to Be a NATCA Air Safety Investigator: The Ultimate Guide" breakout, led by NATCA Air Safety Investigations Committee Chair Karena Marinas NATCA Voluntary Safety Reporting Program Representative Cher Oxenburg and FAA VSRP Group Manager Carolyn Jo John, explored how VSRP, as a non-punitive, confidential reporting system that allows employees to voice safety concerns without fear of reprisal, ultimately contributes to a



Rounding out the breakouts for the afternoon was the highly anticipated “Pilot Controller Roundtable,” moderated by NATCA Runway Safety Representative Bridget Singratanaku and NATCA Airspace Representative Josh Haviland. This discussion featured insights from Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) Los Angeles Airport Safety Liaison Capt. Jason Herman, Allied Pilots Association (APA) Air Traffic and Procedures Safety Representative Capt. Brian Townsend, NATCA Procedures Representative Jen McCoy, NATCA Runway Incursion Device Representative Jamie Sanders, and Southwest Airlines Pilots Association (SWAPA) Safety Air Traffic Services Lead, Capt. Brad Sims. The panelists explored the critical collaboration between pilots and controllers, emphasizing how effective communication is key to maintaining safety and efficiency in the NAS.

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## **Strengthening Safety: Exploring the Success of Local Safety Councils at CFS 2024**

To kick off Wednesday’s conference sessions at Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024, the breakout session “Partnership for Safety and Successful Local Safety Councils” featured insights from FAA Partnership for Safety Program Lead Ejide Fashina and NATCA Partnership for Safety Representative Mike Taylor. The session highlighted the critical role of Local Safety Councils (LSCs) in identifying and mitigating safety issues at the facility level within the National Airspace System (NAS).



***Pictured:** Mike Taylor*

Fashina and Taylor discussed how the Partnership for Safety program has fostered a collaborative safety culture, replacing the previous punitive approach. By encouraging non-punitive, confidential safety reporting, LSCs have contributed to the resolution of numerous safety issues, leading to a more robust and proactive safety environment across the NAS. The discussion underscored the importance of collaboration between NATCA and the FAA in maintaining and improving aviation safety.

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## **Central Florida TRACON Receives NATCA's 2024 Helping Hearts Award**

At Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024, Central Florida TRACON (F11) was honored with the prestigious Helping Hearts Award, presented by NATCA's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Committee. This award recognizes facilities with 15 or more employees that have achieved the highest percentage of trained individuals in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).





***Pictured** (left to right): Rich Santa, Mark Sellek, Glen Travis, Mario Davis, Kym Hagan, Karena Marinas, Andrew LeBovidge*

Timely AED intervention can significantly increase the chances of survival during sudden cardiac arrest, with each minute of delay reducing survival rates by 7-10 percent. OSHA Committee Chair Karena Marinas and Vice Chair Mark Sellek presented the award to Glen Travis, Kym Hagan, Andres Punto, and Mario Davis, who accepted on behalf of F11. Their facility's dedication to AED training exemplifies NATCA's commitment to safety.

## **Aaron Pickett Named RTX Controller of the Year at CFS 2024**

NATCA Southwest Regional Safety Representative and Albuquerque Center (ZAB) Facility Vice President Aaron Pickett was awarded the prestigious RTX Controller of the Year award at Communicating For Safety (CFS) 2024. The award, presented by RTX STARS Program Manager Will Pater, recognizes Pickett's exceptional contributions to enhancing the safety, efficiency, and overall quality of air traffic control operations.



***Pictured*** (left to right): Andrew LeBovidge, Will Pater, Aaron Pickett, Rich Santa

RTX, formerly Raytheon Technologies, has been a long-standing sponsor of CFS and created this annual award to celebrate the outstanding efforts of air traffic controllers who exemplify excellence in their profession. As the longest continuous sponsor of CFS, RTX continues to play a vital role in supporting the aviation industry through both innovation and recognition of its top professionals.

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