

**NOTE:** NATCA released the following statement as a press release yesterday evening.

## Media Statement: NATCA Stands With America's Air Traffic Controllers

"As we have stated before, all air traffic controllers – regardless of race or gender – are well-trained and highly skilled dedicated professionals who keep the national airspace system safe and maintain its efficiency on behalf of all Americans. We have performed these duties while working short-staffed, often 6 days a week, 10 hours a day for years at a time, with outdated equipment and facilities that are in many cases more than 60 years old and long overdue to be replaced and modernized.

"Air traffic controllers, with their unique skill and precision, are the backbone of the world's safest and most complex airspace system. Every day, they guide thousands of flights, millions of passengers, and tons of cargo safely through dynamic airspace. Becoming a Certified Professional Controller (CPC) is not an easy feat. It requires rigorous training, mastery of complex systems, and the ability to perform under immense pressure.

"We believe that acknowledging the dedication of these professionals and focusing on addressing the chronic understaffing of our air traffic control system, as well as modernizing the nation's air traffic control infrastructure, would better serve the safety and reliability of the aviation system.

"We must work together to accomplish these goals on behalf of the American flying public."

## Registration for NATCA in Washington Closes on Feb. 6 at 11:59 p.m. PST

Tomorrow is the last day to sign up to attend NATCA in Washington, which will be taking place March 24-26. We are contacting all 535 congressional offices

to secure meetings where our NATCAvists will champion our Union's cause.

If you would like to attend this year's event, please indicate your interest by completing the questionnaire on the NATCA website no later than February 6, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. PST.



Please do not make any flight arrangements until you receive a confirmation from your Regional NLC member on attendance. Additionally, transportation expenses are NOT reimbursed by NATCA National. Please check with your FacRep before you complete any airfare purchase to determine what expense reimbursements, if any, will be provided by your local.

If you have any additional questions, reach out to the NLC Chair David Skarphol or your Regional NLC Rep. Their contact information can be found **here**.

Complete registration form <u>here</u> | <u>Learn more at event page</u>.

## NATCA Air Traffic Assist: Controllers Supporting Controllers

In light of recent events, many members have reached out asking how they can send a message of support to our DCA and PCT controllers. The NATCA Communications Committee is gathering video messages of support for these controllers which will be compiled into a video for these members. NATCA finds it important that our members come together and support each other

during these trying times.

If you would like to participate, please submit a short videoup to 20 seconds long via this form.



Many controllers have expressed an interest wanting to show support to our brothers and sisters in the D.C. area. Please submit a short video (up to 20 seconds) that we will compile and send to those controllers.

You can submit your video through the link below.

Thank you,
NATCA Communications Committee

https://forms.gle/2LhoBfv17q1FoStb6

## Safety & Technology Program Update: Procedures

NATCA's Procedures Representative, Jen McCoy (Tampa ATCT, TPA), works closely with the FAA to improve air traffic control policies, ensuring safer and more efficient air travel. Recent achievements include updating procedures to help controllers guide pilots safely through complex airspace and improving communication during critical phases like go-arounds. NATCA's collaboration also addresses modern challenges, such as integrating drones into controlled

airspace and enhancing low-visibility operations. These efforts not only streamline operations but also prioritize safety for passengers and pilots by refining the tools and processes air traffic controllers use every day. NATCA's input ensures real-world expertise shapes the future of aviation.

