



Final Day: NATCA EVP Mick Devine Opens CFS 2026's Last General Session

NATCA Executive Vice President Mick Devine opened the third and final day of Communicating For Safety 2026, sending the room into a morning built around global collaboration and a look back at the year's progress.



CANSO & GATCA Launch a Global Blueprint for Change: "Orchestrating Transformation in Our Skies" at CFS 2026

Earlier this year, the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) and the Global Air Traffic Controllers Alliance (GATCA) invited a high-level group —

comprising union and global association presidents, as well as independent experts — to convene and draft a white paper. The aim was to provide guidance and best practices on orchestrating transformation in organizations, recognizing the complexity and changing contexts in which they operate and the importance of co-designing change with the workforce. The resulting paper — “Orchestrating Transformation in Our Skies – Co-designing Change through a People-Centred Framework” — was launched at Communicating For Safety 2026.



Firstfruits Services CEO Ben Stanley, Canadian Air Traffic Control Association President and GATCA President Nick von Schoenberg, NATCA President and GATCA Vice President Nick Daniels, Oliver Wyman Vector independent advisor and former FAA Executive Director Kim Pyle, and NATCA EVP Emeritus and IFATCA EVP Professional Trish Gilbert discussed a central theme of the paper: Transformation cannot be achieved by any single organization, profession, or part of the aviation ecosystem acting alone. Most importantly, it needs to be built with the workforce, not around it. It requires collaboration across traditional boundaries and shared responsibility for how change is designed, introduced, adopted and sustained.

As the white paper emphasizes, transformation is not complete when a capability is deployed. It is complete when it is safely adopted and delivers real operational value.

Read and download the white paper [here](#).

Rethinking ATC Training

Today at Communicating For Safety 2026, NATCA National Training Representative Jamaal Haltom, SAIC Global Aviation Strategy Executive Terry Biggio, FAA Vice President for Mission Support and Management Services Chris Wilbanks, and Adacel Business Development Director Mark DePlasco traced the path from the FAA Academy to a working facility, and where new training tech and workforce pressure are pulling that path in different directions. The group discussed what's working in ATC training and what still needs more improvement.



CFS 2026: Antonio "Maurice" Franklin Named This Year's Excellence in Training Awardee

Potomac TRACON's (PCT) Antonio "Maurice" Franklin received the Excellence in Training Award from NATCA National Training Representative Jamaal Haltom, recognizing the members who live out NATCA's belief that every day is a training day. Franklin has led national Training Assessments at facilities including D10, L30, OKC, and A80, digging into documentation and comparing policy to practice to sharpen programs and strengthen compliance across the system. He remains a full-time Certified Professional Controller and OJTI at his home facility while mentoring the next generation of national assessment team members — work he's taken on, by his own account, so his union and his profession are left better than he found them.



CFS 2026: "Shared Skies, One Year Later" Checks in on Global Safety Progress

At Communicating For Safety 2025, an international panel brought together labor leaders from around the world to address shared issues of staffing, technology, and rising traffic. NATCA Safety Chair John Murdock reconvened this panel — NATCA Western Pacific Regional Vice President and Global ATC Alliance Executive Board member Joel Ortiz, IFATCA Communications Coordinator and Irish Air Traffic Controllers Association Executive Board Member Nicola Nì Rìada, Civil Air Australia President Scott Nugent, and Canadian Air Traffic Control Association President Nick von Schoenberg — for a progress check on staffing, technology, and safety pressure facing controllers well beyond U.S. airspace.



Tune In Tonight: The 22nd Annual Archie League Medal of Safety Awards, Live

Tonight, NATCA recognizes the members whose skill and composure kept the National Airspace System safe when it mattered most. Watch the 22nd Annual Archie League Medal of Safety Awards and the Annual Region X Commitment to Safety Award live starting at 7:30 p.m. at natca.org/stream as this year's honorees take the stage.

View the program for this year's awards ceremony [here](#).

Can't make it to the Archie League Medal of Safety Awards tonight?

Watch the livestream on natca.org/stream

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