



Day Two of CFS 2026 Opens With NATCA President Nick Daniels

NATCA President Nick Daniels kicked off the second day of Communicating For Safety 2026, pointing the room back to the work ahead: safety, efficiency, and running the busiest National Airspace System in the world.



CFS 2026: An Airline Industry View as Gov. Christopher Sununu Takes the CFS Stage



Gov. Christopher Sonunu, Airlines for America President and CEO, brought the airline perspective to CFS 2026, addressing how carriers, NATCA, and the FAA can move in step as the pace of change in the NAS picks up.

CFS 2026: Capt. Charlie Plumb Closes Day Two With a Story of Endurance



Shot down over Hanoi on his 75th combat mission and held as a prisoner of war for nearly six years, Capt. Charlie Plumb closed out day two of Communicating For Safety 2026 with lessons on resilience and preparation that landed hard with a room full of people trained to stay calm when everything else isn't.

CFS 2026: Four Members Take Home the NATCA National Professionalism Award

Tuesday at Communicating For Safety 2026, NATCA Professional Standards members Lydia Baune (Spokane ATCT, GEG), Patrick Carter (Dallas/Fort Worth TRACON, D10), and Chris Keyes (Washington Center, ZDC) presented this year's National Professionalism Award to Maurice Pitts (Los Angeles ATCT, LAX), John Cordova (Falcon ATCT, FFZ), Jaymi Steinberg (Washington Center, ZDC), and James Anzaldi (Engineer, Eastern Region, EEA) — one honoree from each Service Area and NATCA Region X.



CFS 2026: Joseph Gettler Earns the Allied Pilots Association Resolute Safety Award



At Communicating For Safety 2026, Los Angeles ATCT (LAX) NATCA member Joseph Gettler received the Allied Pilots Association (APA) Resolute Safety Award for the composure and skill he brought to a high-pressure save. APA's

annual Resolute Safety Award underscores the essential role that NATCA members have in maintaining the highest aviation safety standards. It is given to NATCA members whose composure, teamwork, and resilience under pressure exemplify the skill aviation safety professionals bring to every situation in the National Airspace System.

CFS 2026: "The Road Ahead" Panel Sizes Up the FAA's Next-Gen ATC System

NATCA Chief of Staff and Regional Vice President Emeritus Dean Iacopelli, American Association of Airport Executives Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Karen Kuhlman, Airlines for America Legislative and Regulatory Policy Senior Vice President Sharon Pinkerton, National Business Aviation Association Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Kristie Greco Johnson, and General Aviation Manufacturers Association Vice President of Government Affairs Paul Feldman took a hard look at what the FAA's Brand New Air Traffic Control System means on the ground — for the technology, the timeline, and the people who run it and use it.



CFS 2026 Breakout Spotlights

**The Programs Behind
Modernization**

**Inside the Decision to
Evacuate**



Today at a Communicating For Safety breakout, NTSB and NATCA investigators went behind the scenes on the investigation process and recent major cases. This session was just one of the more than 30 breakout sessions at CFS 2026.



Delta Air Lines Technical Pilot Clifton Sato broke down the split-second calculus behind an aircraft evacuation call — the risks of going, the risks of staying, and the visual illusions that can throw off a crew's read on a fire or smoke event in the first critical seconds.

CFS 2026: "Unifying the FAA, Uniting with Industry" Tackles the Future of Safety Management



NATCA Safety Chair John Murdock, FAA Associate Administrator of Aviation Safety Management Nick Fuller, Delta Air Lines Director of Flight Safety Christopher Collins, and FAA Vice President of ATO Safety (AJI) Hope Kubala laid out what a single, enterprise-wide safety management system would mean for how the FAA, industry, and labor share data and make decisions together.

CFS 2026: Two Seats, One Sky: Pilots and Controllers Compare Notes

NATCA National Surface Surveillance Representative Jamie Sanders, American Airlines Senior Manager of Airspace Optimization David Surridge, SWAPA Air Traffic Services Lead Brad Sims, NATCA Air Safety Investigator and OSHA Representative Karena Marinas, NATCA National Standards and Procedures Representative Ben Latimer, Air Line Pilots Association Chair of Airport & Ground Environment Subcommittee Jason Herman, and NATCA National Airspace Representative Josh Haviland got specific about where pilot and controller expectations diverge — and what happens to those gaps when workload spikes.



CFS 2026: "From Legacy to Leading Edge" Puts NAS Modernization Under the Microscope

A \$12.5 billion bet on the future of the National Airspace System (NAS) took center stage as NATCA Executive Vice President (EVP) Emeritus and IFATCA EVP Professional Trish Gilbert, Peraton National Aerospace Solutions Sector

President Justin Ciaccio, FAA Deputy Assistant Administrator Rebecca Guy, and NATCA National Program Management Office (PMO) Representative Dan Hamilton dug into what it takes to replace decades-old systems without slowing anyone down.

The panel discussed how government, industry, and labor should be working together to modernize the nation's aviation infrastructure.

Panelists explored the progress made to date, the challenges of implementing modernization at scale, the critical role of transparent communication, stakeholder engagement and cooperation and what this transformation means for the safety, efficiency, and resilience of the NAS for decades to come.



The CFS 2026 Exhibit Hall: Where the Industry Shows Its Work

Airlines, manufacturers, and technology innovators fill the NATCA Communicating For Safety exhibit hall each year, putting the people building the future of the National Airspace System in the same room as the people who operate it. It's a working floor, not a trade show backdrop — exhibitors come to demo, controllers, pilots, and other aviation experts come to weigh in, and all leave with a sharper picture of where things are headed.



Watch NATCA's Communicating For Safety 2026 Live, From Anywhere

You don't have to be in the Horseshoe Event Center to connect, learn, and change alongside us. NATCA is streaming main stage programming from Communicating For Safety 2026, the premier aviation safety conference, live on [natca.org](https://natca.org/stream) — keynotes, panels, and award presentations, as they happen. Members, industry partners, and the traveling public are all welcome to tune in and be part of the national safety conversation.

Join us starting at 9:00 a.m. PDT on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at natca.org/stream.

See the [agenda](#) for more information.

**Can't make it to CFS?
Watch the live stream on
natca.org/stream**

LIVE

**Communicating For
SAFETY**
NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION
CONNECT. LEARN. CHANGE.

SEPT. 14-16, 2026

Don't Miss the Archies: Celebrate Aviation Safety in Style

The Archie League Medal of Safety Awards are the highest honor in air traffic control. Named for the first U.S. air traffic controller and first awarded in 2005, the Archies recognize the “saves” — split-second calls, steady voices on

frequency, and seamless teamwork — that keep the National Airspace System the safest in the world. This year's banquet also honors the Region X Commitment to Safety Award, presented to a Region X member whose work has stood out among the aviation safety professionals NATCA represents nationwide. Meet the 2026 [award recipients](#).

Join us for an unforgettable evening as we bring Communicating For Safety to a close by supporting and celebrating the people, partnerships, and dedication that make our industry stronger. Enjoy an elegant night featuring exceptional food and great conversation alongside colleagues, family, and friends — the perfect way to reflect on the week's accomplishments and recognize the contributions of the aviation safety community.

Stream the night's entire program [here](#), starting at 7:30 p.m. PDT.

22nd Annual Archie League Medal of Safety Awards

Celebrate Aviation Safety

 **When:**
Wednesday, Sept. 16
7:30 - 10 P.M. PT

 **Where:**
The Horseshoe Las Vegas
Event Center

See past [Archie League Medal of Safety Award recipients](#) and [Region X Commitment to Safety Award recipients](#). | [Watch replays](#) of past Archie League Award saves.

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