



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' ASSOCIATIONS

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October 20 – International Day of the Air Traffic Controller

IFATCA Statement of Support to NATCA and U.S. Air Traffic Controllers

On this October 20, as we celebrate the International Day of the Air Traffic Controller, the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) extends its unwavering support and solidarity to our colleagues of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), who continue to endure the unacceptable impacts of the ongoing U.S. federal government shutdown.

Today should be a time to honor the dedication, professionalism, and tireless work of air traffic controllers around the world. Yet, in the United States, our colleagues are being compelled to work under immense pressure, without pay, and with uncertainty hanging over their heads—used as political leverage in matters far beyond their control. This is not only unjust — it is deeply disrespectful to a profession built entirely on trust, safety, and responsibility.

Despite these challenges, NATCA members continue to protect the skies, ensuring the safety of millions of passengers every single day. Their strength, resilience, and unshakable professionalism are nothing short of heroic.

Though oceans, borders, and time zones may separate us, they do not divide us. We are united by a shared purpose, a shared responsibility, and a shared identity as air traffic controllers.

Across continents and cultures, we speak the same language of safety, vigilance, and service. That unity is what makes our profession so powerful.

It is profoundly frustrating to witness this situation from afar, knowing that we have limited ability to intervene directly. But please know this: your struggle is not invisible. Your message is being heard across the globe. And your commitment is being honored by your international colleagues.

Air traffic control should never be used as a political bargaining tool. We call on the U.S. Government to end this shutdown immediately and restore the dignity and stability that all aviation safety professionals deserve.

To all U.S. controllers: Know this—your story is being heard, your professionalism is being honored, and your global colleagues are standing with you. On this International Day of the Air Traffic Controller, we salute your dedication and reaffirm our unwavering support.

IFATCA, Montreal, Canada