

Report by the Executive Vice President Professional

Presented by EVPP

SUMMARY

The work of the IFATCA Executive Vice President Professional
May 2025 (Abu Dhabi Conference) – March 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report covers the activity of the Executive Vice President Professional (EVPP) since the annual conference which was held in April/May 2025 in Abu Dhabi.
- 1.2. It has been nearly a year since I stepped into the position of EVPP, and I remain deeply grateful for the trust placed in me. The professional agenda of IFATCA is grounded in a simple yet powerful truth: aviation safety is inseparable from the wellbeing of the professionals who make it possible. Our focus remains firmly on the people behind the profession—ensuring that the systems, policies, and practices supporting air traffic control are designed with the human element at their core.

In close collaboration with the Professional and Legal Committee (PLC), we will continue strengthening IFATCA's policies and guidance through research, evidence-based recommendations, and the sharing of best practices among Member Associations (MAs). Training courses and webinars under development by the Training Task Force (TTF), along with professional development initiatives such as the Speak English Program (SEP), are raising the global standard for how our profession is supported and sustained.

This work also reflects the strong commitment with which the Mental Wellbeing Task Force (MWBTF) promotes peer support frameworks, including Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) programs. At the same time, IFATCA continues to address operational challenges that directly affect both safety and quality of life—such as staffing levels, fatigue, rostering practices, training and licensing, and the increasing operational demands placed on our workforce. These matters are not peripheral concerns; they are fundamental to the safety, resilience, and long-term sustainability of the global aviation system.

- 1.3. In addition to my responsibilities as EVPP:
 - 1.3.1. IFATCA Speak English program Facilitator and Secretariat
 - 1.3.2. Updated Accident and Incident Investigations Guidance Material

1.3.3. Drafted sections on *How run a MA* and provided edits to sections on *How to start a MA* Guidance Material

1.3.4. NATCA Board of Trustees

1.3.5. ATC SME for NASA ATMx project, concluded September 2025

1.3.6. NATCA Modernization Strategy and Policy Consultant, commenced September 2025

1.4. Established a virtual **Leadership Team** to strengthen coordination and future-proof our efforts. The team includes TF Chairs, the PLC Chair, the International Labor Organization (ILO) Liaison Officer (LO), and the SEP Program Lead. This group will meet regularly to enhance alignment, break down silos, and drive greater cross-functional collaboration.

1.5. Committees, Representatives, Workgroups, Relationships and Initiatives that are within or close to the Professional umbrella of IFATCA

- PLC
- IFATCA Workshops on (CBTA, CISM, Safety)
- TTF
- MWBTF
- IFATCA Andropause/Menopause Work Group (IAMWG)
- Safety Management Panel (SMP)
- Personnel Training and Licensing Panel (PTLP)
- ILO
- International Transport Workers Federation (ITF)
- International Federation Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA)
- Civil Air Navigation Services Organization (CANSO)
- SEP
- Flight Safety Foundation (FSF)

1.6. Meetings/workshops/conferences attended:

- NATCA Convention 9-12 May 2025 in San Francisco
- NATCA Communicating for Safety 15-17 September 2025 in Las Vegas
- IFATCA EB meeting 20-22 September in Montreal
- IFATCA AMA regional meeting 30 September – 2 October 2025 in Aruba
- IFATCA PLC meeting 28-30 October 2025 in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Girls in Aviation Day 15 November in Austin, Texas
- IFATCA PLC meeting 20-22 January 2026 in Manila, Philippines
- IFATCA EB meeting 11-14 February in Singapore
- ATCA Connect 2-4 March 2026 in Charleston, SC

Virtual calls/meetings:

- Bi-weekly EB telcon
- Prof. Leadership Team
- PLC chair
- PLC chair, EVPT/TOC chair
- EVPT
- TTF Chair
- MWBTF mtgs and Chair
- IAMWG chair
- ILO and ILO Liaison Officer
- CANSO (multiple)
- SEP Secretariat
- ICAO MMMX
- IFALPA on UAE Symposium 2027
- International Society of Air Safety Investigators (ISASI) and Prosecutor Expert Course (PEC) discussion
- EVPT and others on EASA activity
- SMP member
- PLTP member

1.7. Meetings planned or invited:

- IFATCA Annual Conference 20-24 April 2026 in Bucharest, Romania
The following if re-elected EVPP
- ATCA Technical Symposium 28-20 April 2026 Atlantic City, NJ
- Prosecutor Expert Course (PEC) 20-22 May 2026 Eurocontrol
- CANSO Airspace World 26-28 May 2026 in Lisbon, Portugal

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. Committees, Representatives, Workgroups, Relationships and Initiatives that are within or close to the Professional portfolio of IFATCA

2.1.1. UAE potential Symposium in Jan/Feb 2027

- 2.1.1.1. EVPT and I joined on 14 Jan. two IFALPA members (Gordon Margison and Dragana Milosavljevic) to further discuss the possibilities for this event.
- 2.1.1.2. We shared many of the same concerns and decided the next step was to get on a call with Ahmed Ibrahim Al Jallaf and clarify more details. Mostly surrounding expenses and event organizing work.
- 2.1.1.3. IFALPA was going to take the lead on setting up the meeting.

2.1.2. PLC chairperson Donna Field (Australia)

- 2.1.2.1. We've held both in-person meetings for the 25/26 work program year. First was 28-30 October 2025 in Amsterdam and second in the Philippines 20-22 January 2026. Two days at each meeting overlapped with the Technical and Operations Committee (TOC). Thanks to the Dutch Guild for hosting the event and to Dutch ANSP LVNL for providing meeting facilities in Amsterdam. Thanks to PATCA for their hospitality in Manila. We visited the ATC operation in both countries while there.
- 2.1.2.2. See Report from the PLC Chair

2.1.3. TTF chairperson Renz Bulseco (Philippines)

- 2.1.3.1. The TTF has not met or had much activity for more than a year as it was without a chairperson.
- 2.1.3.2. The TTF recently appointed its new chair, Renz Bulseco. The original taskforce members that are continuing and the new members have been contacted by EVPP. Renz setup the TF on WhatsApp Community and will start moving forward with the team.
- 2.1.3.3. IFATCA Workshops
 - CBTA – Two workshops were held in 2025. JF Lepage lead the workshops.
 - 23-24 October in Hong Kong (JF assisted by Cheryl Chen and Renz Bulseco)
 - 17-18 November in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (JF assisted by Andrew LeBovidge and Eudy Abreu)
 - CISM – AFM hosted a workshop 6-7 November (after the AFM RM).
 - Safety – A joint effort with ICAO MMMX is planned for 19-22 May 2026. Alfred Vlasek is working with Eddian Mendez from ICAO. The course will be in Mexico City.
- 2.1.3.4. See Report from the TTF Chair

2.1.4. MWBTF chairperson Marija Savikj (North Macedonia)

- 2.1.4.1. The MWBTF changed their chair from Jaco van der Westhuizen to Marija last fall. Thank you to Jaco for all his hard work and leadership starting this TF. The MWBTF is a very motivated high functioning group and will continue to do well under Marija's leadership.
- 2.1.4.2. See Report from the MWBTF Chair
- 2.1.5. IAMWG chairperson Betsy Beaumont (USA)
 - 2.1.5.1. The WG chair Betsy Beaumont presented at the AMA and EUR Regional Meetings.
 - 2.1.5.2. We still need a person from ASP and AFM to participate as nobody has volunteered yet.
 - 2.1.5.3. See Report from the WG Chair
- 2.1.6. PTLP Ausra Straume Panel Member (Latvia)
 - 2.1.6.1. Held a virtual call with her and would like to get her to a CBTA workshop at some point.
 - 2.1.6.2. She explained the current work programs streams on the panel – CBTA, sim. training devices, ATC licenses and ratings, automation dependency, English language proficiency, women & minorities and electronic personal license. She works mostly on the Competency Based Training and Assessment stream. Harmonization on training and even understanding CBTA is a priority.
 - 2.1.6.3. I sent the WP on System-Based Licensing IP (Singapore) to her for her awareness. She was not aware of it before-hand and sees no effort or momentum on it at ICAO, at least on the panel.
 - 2.1.6.4. See Report from the PTLP member
- 2.1.7. SMP Andrew Belshaw panel member (UK)
 - 2.1.7.1. Held a virtual call with him to introduce myself, hear from him about his work and offer continued support/communication between us. In addition to being on the panel with his extensive background, he has done training on Safety Culture and SMS and could potentially be a Safety Culture Workshop facilitator.
 - 2.1.7.2. See Report from the SMP member
- 2.1.8. ILO Liaison Officer, Jules Ogilvie (Switzerland)
 - 2.1.8.1. After discussions with Helvetica in Abu Dhabi they submitted Jules Ogilvie as their person to help IFATCA with ILO liaising. I have had discussions with him on the best way to improve engagement with the ILO which also requires improved relations with ITF.
 - 2.1.8.2. Jules researched more on ILO structure and engagement opportunities in those processes.
 - 2.1.8.3. We held a call with the ILO's Alejandra Cruz Ross, Transport Specialist, on 4 February 2026 to discuss potential areas of engagement. She and a colleague will be visiting the ATC facility in Geneva, as neither of them has previously had the opportunity to visit an ATC facility.
 - 2.1.8.4. See Report from the ILO LO
- 2.1.9. ITF
 - 2.1.9.1. January 2025, Helena and I met with ITF to discuss continued collaboration. As a result of the meeting we agreed to join as an author on [WP205](#) for the ICAO Assembly
 - 2.1.9.2. ITF held a Sustainability Conference in Montreal in early September. As none of the EB or ex-officio members could attend and participate on a

panel discussion, we agreed that Nick von Schoenberg would represent IFATCA there.

2.1.9.3. Nick von Schoenberg (CATCA President) serves as the chair of the ATS Committee at ITF. At the AMA RM in Aruba, I had the opportunity to discuss with Nick better collaboration between ITF and IFATCA, specifically on ITF's effort to study ATCO staffing.

2.1.9.4. Gabriel Rodriguez, long-time Civil Aviation Section Secretary recently retired.

2.1.10. CANSO

2.1.10.1. After signing our Cooperation Agreement with CANSO PCX assigned me (EVPP) as the POC from IFATCA to work with CANSO POC Nicki Harricharan. Areas of activity:

2.1.10.2. High level of participation at CANSO Airspace World. Multiple panels, Leadership Summit and the Chief Executives and Young Professionals Breakfast

2.1.10.3. Members of the IFATCA EDITF joined the CANSO DEI committee. The committee had 4 workstreams:

- Events
- Attracting and Inspiring Talent
- Upskilling and Sharing Best Practices
- Career Development

2.1.10.4. ICAO WPs - reviewed 3 WPs and I believe agreed to sign onto one and pass on two.

2.1.10.5. Working on engagement on their "Tomorrow's Voices" and Improved collaboration with Academia

2.1.10.6. Helena and I received a briefing on CATS background and structure from Nicki and Eduardo Garcia. Also attended the CATS Global Council. It was the 11th meeting of the Council which are held in-person in conjunction with Airspace World and then the second being virtual. These were the same working areas discussed during the Technical Meeting Benji and I attended on Nov. 4th. 2026-2028 will focus on concept to delivery "Skies in Transition". We submitted somebody to each Working Area for their consideration.

- **WA.1 Roadmap for Implementation** - David Perks, IFATCA ANC Liaison Officer
- **WA.2 Elevating Safety** - John Murdock, IFATCA North America Regional VP and US Safety for MA (NATCA)
- **WA.3 Accelerating AAM Readiness** - Eugenio Diotalevi, IFATCA RPAS Panel Member, Italy
- **WA.4 Space Transportation Operations and Higher Airspace Operations (STO/HAO)** - Marc Baumgartner, IFATCA Liaison Officer to SESAR and EASA, Switzerland
- **WA.5 Assurance of Automation and AI** - Benjamin van der Sanden, IFATCA EVP Technical, Netherlands

2.1.10.7. John Wennes, CANSO Safety Program Manager and the Flight Safety Foundation (FSF) are establishing the Global Action Plan for the Prevention of Airspace Conflicts (GAPPAC) initiative. As part of the effort, they are forming a Steering Committee to provide strategic guidance, ensure operational relevance, and support alignment across key aviation stakeholders. We submitted John Murdock, IFATCA North America Regional VP and US Safety for MA (NATCA) to participate. The Steering Committee is expected to:

- Provide strategic oversight and direction for the GAPPAC initiative
- Support alignment with existing global safety initiatives and frameworks

- Facilitate engagement and coordination across the aviation community
- Participation would primarily involve periodic virtual meetings, a few in-person meetings, and contributions to high-level guidance, rather than day-to-day project execution.

2.1.11. SEP, David Johnson Program Lead (UK)

- 2.1.11.1. Terms of Reference, approved by EB and on CAC work program
- 2.1.11.2. Program Lead(s) are David Johnson with co-lead Aaron Mills from the USA.
- 2.1.11.3. See Report from the SEP program

2.1.12. FSF

- 2.1.12.1. Still need to touch base and set a time to speak more thoroughly on areas where we can improve engagement.
- 2.1.12.2. We submitted a participant for the Global Action Plan for the Prevention of Airborne Conflict (GAPPAC). More details above in 2.1.10.7

2.1.13. IFALPA

- 2.1.13.1. I contacted Capt. Kevin Judkins, Executive Vice-President Professional & Government Affairs (EVP PGA), after receiving his contact information from IFALPA President Ron Hay. It should be noted that not all matters within IFATCA's EVP portfolio fall under his responsibility.
- 2.1.13.2. The PGA Committee works closely with the ILO and ITF. They have developed guidance material for Member Associations (MAs) on industrial matters, which they refer to as government affairs. This material is aligned with ILO frameworks and could potentially be adapted for our use. They also have the capability to translate and reproduce material in multiple languages and have offered that to us.
- 2.1.13.3. The PGA Committee assists the Federation and its MAs in representing pilots in industrial matters. They develop and facilitate training in negotiation tactics, monitor industrial progress globally, develop policy related to the profession of the airline pilot, and coordinate Mutual Assistance to MAs.
- 2.1.13.4. The LEG Committee provides legal advice; responding to requests for legal opinions and the development of positions on legal issues, providing legal support and advice to IFALPA's representatives at International Organisations, and undertaking specific legal projects, as required.
- 2.1.13.5. *Not under EVP PGA but under THE PRESIDENT* - The HUPER Committee provides the pilots' perspective in three principal areas: Aviation Medicine, Training and Licensing, and Human Factors. Each of these groups is actively involved in developing provisions and guidance with ICAO and other partners as well as producing publications for the pilot community.

2.2. Meetings attended:

- 2.2.1. NATCA Convention 9-12 May 2025 in San Francisco
- 2.2.2. NATCA Communicating for Safety Conference in Las Vegas, NV. 15-17 September 2025. EVPP, CC, EVP AFM and EVP AMA attended.
 - 2.2.2.1. Moderated a panel titled, **"Building the Future: Industry Perspectives on Implementing the Next Air Traffic Control System"** *Panelists included FAA COO, NATCA President, AAL COO and NBAA SVP Government Affairs.*

- 2.2.2.2. Communications Coordinator Nicola Ni Riada participated on a [panel](#) titled, “**Global Safety, Shared Skies: ATC Labor Perspectives on International Challenges**”
- 2.2.3. EB meeting 19-22 September 2025 in Montreal
 - 2.2.3.1. Did not attend the ICAO Assembly as planned due to new obligations in DC with NATCA during the same time.
- 2.2.4. AMA Regional Meeting 2025 in Aruba
 - 2.2.4.1. Presented “**Ensuring Safety Through Support: The Professional Agenda at IFATCA**” on day one.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1. The EVPP portfolio has remained active and engaged across IFATCA’s professional, training, wellbeing, safety, and pertinent external relations domains. Ongoing engagement with ICAO, ILO, ITF, CANSO, IFALPA and continued support for IFATCA programs and initiatives, ensures the professional agenda remains proactive, relevant, and focused on advancing safety, professionalism, and wellbeing for ATCOs worldwide.
- 3.2. Thank you to my home association NATCA who has nominated me for the next full term for EVPP. They continue to provide great support, not only to me, but also to the Federation!!

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. This report is accepted as information.