

Report of Executive Vice President Americas

Presented by Andrew LeBovidge

SUMMARY

This paper summarizes the work of the Executive Vice President Americas since the annual conference in April/May 2025 through the Executive Board meeting held in Montreal in September 2025. This paper includes work done in support of Member Associations in the region, preparations for and results of the Regional Meeting in Aruba, work with ICAO, and ancillary work in the arena of mental health.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report covers the activities of the Executive Vice President Americas (EVP AMA) since the annual conference held in Abu Dhabi April 28 through May 2, 2025.
- 1.2. In addition to my role as EVP AMA, I have continued to remain involved in various initiatives associated with the work being conducted within the aviation community regarding mental health for pilots and air traffic controllers. This work included serving on the IFATCA Mental Wellbeing Task Force, serving as the IFATCA designee to the Executive Board of the International Peer Aviation Assist Coalition (IPAAC), and participating in the work being conducted to implement the recommendations of the FAA Mental Health and Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rulemaking Committee as directed under Sections 411 and 413 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

2. Meeting and activities held**2.1. Regional Meeting 2025 Oranjestad, Aruba:**

- 2.1.1. The 2025 Americas Regional Meeting was initially planned to be hosted by the Member Association in Guyana. Shortly after the Annual Conference in Abu Dhabi, it was apparent that, due to civil strife in Guyana, a new location for the Regional Meeting would need to be secured.

- 2.1.2.** The Asociacion di Controladoran di Trafico Aéreo di Aruba (ACTAA) graciously volunteered to host the event and planning began in earnest. Due to the abbreviated timelines, multiple calls with the planning committee have been held in order to ensure all the logistical components are in place. Special thanks go to Patricia Gilbert (EVP Professional, past EVP AMA) who helped significantly with the preparations.
- 2.1.3.** The AMA Regional meeting was held September 30-October 2 in Oranjestad, Aruba.
- 2.1.4.** Three industry partners, L3Harris, American Airlines, and Skyverse, graciously contributed financial support for the Regional Meeting. Additionally, Air Navigation Services Aruba (ANSA) and the Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix (AUA) also provided significant financial assistance.
- 2.1.5.** The National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) from the United States and the Canadian Air Traffic Controllers Association (CATCA) provided generous contributions to help offset the costs of the Regional Meeting. Without this support, the local Member Association would not have been able to hold the event.
- 2.1.6.** In advance of the Regional Meeting, two Member Associations, Peru and Argentina applied for funds through the Regional Meeting Assistance Fund. The IFATCA Executive Board authorized up to USD\$2000 for each Association.
- 2.1.7.** This meeting brought together representatives from fourteen of the twenty-three member associations on the region for discussions on a broad spectrum of topics of common interest to all.
- 2.1.8.** The theme of the meeting was to highlight the interconnectivity of the various member associations, which range from largest within the Federation, to some of the smallest, and to reinforce how each association can support one another and learn from one another. Specific focus was placed on the human being at the heart of our industry by delving into such topics as Critical Incident Stress Management, Peer Support Programs, the IFATCA Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Force, and the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. Similar discussions were held regarding recruitment, training and retention as common issues across the globe, and significant time was spent to promote programs that benefit the air traffic controller such as the successes of the Speak English Program – where native speakers can assist non-native speakers to become more comfortable with English.
- 2.1.9.** Throughout the meeting, the relationships between IFATCA and other international bodies such as ICAO and ITF were highlighted. Josue Gonzalez, Regional Officer from the ICAO NACC Region was in attendance and provided unique insight during the conversations. Nick Von Schoenberg (President, CATCA and Chair, ITF Air Traffic Services subcommittee) added a depth of knowledge on how the more traditional industrial affairs organization can assist with IFATCA goals.

- 2.1.10. The Collegio de Controladores de Tránsito Aéreo de Chile volunteered to host the 2026 AMA regional meeting in Santiago, Chile.
- 2.1.11. Preparations for the 2026 AMA regional meeting continue. The RM will be held 6-8 October, 2026. Invitations will be sent to MA's, VIPs, and industry partners toward the end of March 2026.

2.2. Regional Elections

- 2.2.1. Elections for EVP AMA were slated to occur at the 2025 RM in Aruba and notification was distributed from the IFATCA office. Additionally, an expression of interest for the five Regional Vice President positions was circulated for election in Aruba.
- 2.2.2. At the 2025 Regional meeting election results were announced. EVP AMA Andrew LeBovidge will serve another term alongside five Regional Vice Presidents: John Murdock (United States) as RVP-North America, Dario De Souza (Panama) as RVP-Central America, Vanessa Godoy Urzua (Chile) as RVP-South America, Arnoldlette Pierre (Bahamas) as RVP – North Caribbean, and Ameer Chattergoon (Trinidad and Tobago) as EVP – South Caribbean
- 2.2.3. Mario Libran (Uruguay), the outgoing RVP-South America was recognized for his significant contributions to the regional over the past several years.

2.3. Mental Health Related Activities

- 2.3.1. Participated in the monthly teleconferences of the IFATCA Mental Wellbeing Task Force.
- 2.3.2. Attended the Aerospace Medicine Association's (AsMA) Mental Health workshop at their annual conference held in Atlanta, GA, USA on June 1. During this workshop, presented an update on the status of peer support programs in the air traffic control environment and also presented an update on the work of the IFATCA Mental Wellbeing Task Force.
- 2.3.3. Participated in multiple IPAAC Executive Board teleconferences in preparation of the annual IPAAC conference that was held in Montreal, Canada from 9 November to 14 November 2025.
- 2.3.4. At the IPAAC conference, I participated on two panels during the conference "Program Implementation, Regulatory and Research Updates on Aviation Mental Health" and "Overcoming the Barriers Preventing Aviation Personnel".
- 2.3.5. Participated in multiple teleconferences association with subgroups for the FAA Mental Health ARC implantation work. Subgroups involve: Aerospace Medicine Innovation and Modernization, Safety Management Systems, Special Issuance Process, Mental Health Screening, Neurocognitive Testing, Outreach and Support Programs, Stakeholder Mental Health Education and Training, Aviation Workforce

Mental Health, Disclosure and Reporting of Mental Health Conditions, and Specific Conditions involving ADHD/PTSD/Anxiety/Depression. Work on these groups is expected to continue until 2028.

2.4. IFATCA-ICAO Just Culture and Safety Culture Workshop

2.4.1 In collaboration with EVP-P, held planning call with Eddian Mendez (ICAO) and Alfred Vlasek (Austria) to develop a joint IFATCA and ICAO workshop to educate and inform participant on the concepts of just culture and safety culture.

2.4.2 The workshop will be hosted by SENEAM in Mexico and held at the ICAO offices in Mexico from May 9-12, 2026 continue. Alfred Vlasek will serve as a facilitator on behalf of IFATCA. Invitation to ICAO states have been distributed, and work is underway to secure participants from IFATCA Member Associations.

2.5. IFATCA – ITF Relationship

2.5.1. Held a conference call with EVP-P and AMA RVP South America Mario Libran to discuss issues of concern by the South American MAs. As several issues were industrial in nature, a call with the ITF leadership was warranted.

2.5.2. In collaboration with EVP-P, held a call with Nick Von Schoenberg and Mike Reed of the ITF Air Traffic Services subcommittee to discuss the concerns raised by the South American Member Associations and develop a path by which the MAs can be supported by both IFATCA and ITF.

2.5.3. Further discussion on this topic was held with all parties at the AMA Regional Meeting in Aruba.

2.6. IFATCA – MITRE Call

2.6.1. Held a conference call with EVP-P and representatives from the MITRE Corporation to discuss the continuing IFATCA-MITRE relationship.

2.7. Letters of Support

2.7.1. At the request of the Member Association from Suriname, the Suriname Air Traffic Controllers' Association (SATCA), a letter to the government was co-authored with IFATCA President and CEO Helena Sjostrom-Falk. Through this letter, IFATCA urged the newly elected government of Suriname to improve relationships and collaboration with SATCA to address multiple concerns in the Suriname system.

2.7.2. At the request of the Member Association from Peru, Sindicato Unificado de Controladores de Tránsito Aéreo del Perú (SUCTA), authored a letter to the ANSP and government to promote a just culture approach to aviation incidents and comply with ICAO recommendations in this arena

2.8. IFATCA at ICAO

- 2.8.1.** On behalf of IFATCA, Fedor Romero and Alessandra Ortega (SUCTA, Peru) attended a meeting of the ICAO Regional Aviation Safety Group – Pan America (RASG-PA) in Lima, Peru. Fedor presented an update of the event virtually to the Member Associations and circulated the presentation to the MAs.
- 2.8.2.** The RASG-PA meeting was held in Mexico City the week of 28 September. A member of from the Colegio de Controladores de Tránsito Aéreo de Mexico, Asociación Civil attended to represent IFATCA.
- 2.8.3.** Members from ADCA, Dominican Republic, attended the 70th Pan American Regional Air Traffic Safety Team meeting in Santo Domingo, 3-5 February 2026. The meeting emphasized alignment with the Global Aviation Safety Plan, risk-based prioritization, and collaborative industry participation. The report from this meeting was circulated to AMA MA's and forward to the ANC LO.
- 2.8.4.** The RASG-PA/GREPECAS meeting will be held 4-6 March, 2026 in Mexico City. Members from the Mexico MA will attend to represent IFATCA.

2.9. ICAO 42nd Assembly

- 2.9.1.** Served as a member of the IFATCA delegation to the 42nd ICAO Assembly in Montreal, Canada from September 22-26, 2026. Assisted with the review of working papers and the development of intervention strategies and language.

2.10. Competency Based Training and Assessment – Santo Domingo, DR

- 2.10.1.** Joined IFATCA Deputy President Jean-François LePage to assist with facilitation of the Competency Based Training and Assessment workshop hosted by our member association ADCA in the Dominican Republic on November 17-19, 2025.

2.11. Hurricane Melissa

- 2.11.1.** On October 28, 2025, Hurricane Melissa built into one of the most powerful Atlantic cyclones in history and threatened island communities across the Caribbean. Most directly in the path of Melissa was our Jamaican sisters and brothers – where Melissa slammed ashore with winds speeds in excess of 185 miles per hour. Fortunately, our members came through without injuries, but the devastation to property and the disruption of services was been tremendous.

2.12. Letters of Support for NATCA-US

- 2.12.1.** Due to a lapse in appropriations in the United States, the members of NATCA had to endure the longest government shutdown in history of 45 days. These members were required to work, without pay, for the duration of the government shutdown. Member Associations from

across the globe authored letters of support for these ATCOs in this time of crisis. This phenomenal level of support has been greatly appreciated by the NATCA controllers and is a reaffirmation of how the ATC community truly stands together to separate safety from politics.

2.13. Argentina

- 2.13.1.** Argentina has been involved in a ongoing labor dispute with their employer which reached the point where industrial actions occurred at the end of 2025. ATEPSA contacted IFATCA and strategies were discussed.
- 2.13.2.** In early January 2026, the parties entered mediation in an attempt to resolve their disputes.
- 2.13.3.** ATEPSA was appreciative of the IFATCA support and asked for IFATCA to remain on standby pending the outcomes of mediation.

2.14. Bolivia

- 2.14.1.** Unfortunately, the Bolivian MA was unable to pay their subscription fees by the close to the Regional Meeting, and, per the IAM, will be dropped from the Federation.
- 2.14.2.** With the election of a new Bolivian Executive Board, there may be an opportunity to have the Association rejoin. RVP Godoy has been working with Bolivia to ascertain whether they can pay their required fees in full or in part, and there is a possibility that another MA might cover a portion of the expense.

2.15. Venezuela.

- 2.15.1.** With recent military activity in Venezuela, multiple MAs were affected by the reduced airspace capacity and similar flight restriction.
- 2.15.2.** IFATCA learned of possible loss of life in the Venezuela ATCO community and, despite Venezuela not being a member of the Federation, sent a message of condolences.
- 2.15.3.** Further formal actions (letter of support, etc) are not warranted at this time due to the sensitivity of the situation and concerns from the personnel in Venezuela.

2.16. Barbados

- 2.16.1.** Held calls with the Barbados for strategic planning purposed to assist with addressing the multitude of issues currently being experienced withing their system.

2.17. New member association efforts

- 2.17.1.** Preliminary overtures have been made to Colombia and Sint-Martin to invite both associations to become part of the Federation. Efforts are ongoing

2.18. IFATCA at ICAO

- 2.18.1. The RASG-PA meeting was held in Mexico City the week of 28 September. Members from the Colegio de Controladores de Tránsito Aéreo de Mexico, Asociación Civil attended to represent IFATCA.

3. Upcoming Meetings

- 3.1. 2026 IFATCA Annual conference in Bucharest, Romania 20-24 April, 2026.
- 3.2. RASG-PA/GREPCAS 2-6 March, 2026
- 3.3. ICAO-IFATCA Just Culture Workshop – May 9-12 Mexico City
- 3.4. AviatDO 360 Global Aviation Training and Development Forum, San Salvador, El Salvador, 26-28 May, 2026 (virtual attendance)
- 3.5. IPAAC Annual Conference, 9-12 November 2026, Hyderabad, India
- 3.6. EB Meeting, 19-21 September, 2026, Zurich, Switzerland
- 3.7. Communicating for Safety, 14-16 September, 2026, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
- 3.8. AMA RM, 6-8 October, 2026, Santiago, Chile.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1. The first year as EVP AMA has been an incredible opportunity. The Americas Region is comprised of a broad spectrum of Member Associations and thereby derives incredible strength. I am honoured to be able to represent the women and men of the region and cannot be more proud of the work that they do. There are significant challenges ahead across the region, and I know that the MA will be able to convert all those challenges into opportunities.
- 4.2. There was a flurry of activity during the late fall with multiple strains being placed on our regional MA's. As always, each association faced these challenges with tact and professionalism – developing thoughtful and strategic responses suited to their circumstances. The assistance of IFATCA in offering guidance and support was welcomed and appreciated.
- 4.3. I wanted to extend my thanks to the AMA RVPs, Mario Libran, Dario De Souza, Ameer Chattergoon, Vanessa Godoy, Arnoldette Pierre and John Murdock for their support over the past year. months. I also wanted to thank Helena, JF and the rest of the IFATCA EB for helping me get my feet on the ground.
- 4.4. The newly elected RVPs have begun to coalesce and have been instrumental in assisting the MA's.
- 4.5. The Executive Board remains a cohesive unit that has offered me the necessary support and institutional knowledge that has been important during this first year in office.

- 4.6. Finally, I must recognize my home association, NATCA. They have stood behind me from the outset and I cannot be more grateful for their support.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. It is recommended that this report is accepted as information.