

**Report by the Americas Executive Vice President**

Presented by EVP AMA

**SUMMARY**

The work of the IFATCA Executive Vice President  
May 2023 – April 2024.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. This report covers the activity of the AMA Executive Vice President since the annual conference which was held in May 2023.

1.2. In addition to my responsibilities as AMA Executive Vice President:

1.2.1. IFATCA Speak English program (SEP) facilitator, started in Nov. 2022. As of 1 February 2024, joined the SEP Secretariat.

1.2.2. FAA appointed U.S. National Airspace [Safety Review Team](#) (NASSRT), May – November 2023. Submitted [Report](#) on 15 November 2023.

1.2.3. Certified CISM Peer-debriefer from the [ICISF](#) as of Oct. 2023.

1.3. Meetings/workshops/conferences attended or held in the region:

- Most of the weekly EBM virtual meetings on Tuesdays, AMA RVP calls, Regional Communications Committee and Regional Meeting planning calls.
- Regional MA directors' call on 28 August 2023 and 8 February.
- Planning calls for Dominican Republic CISM peer de-briefer training.
- MA EB or leadership calls with Aruba, Costa Rica, Grenada, Mexico, and Peru.
- Non-MA call with Brazil and Turks/Caicos.
- IFATCA annual conference 8-12 May 2023 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.
- NATCA biennial convention 19-22 June 2023 in Hollywood, Florida. (NATCA covered expenses)
- NATCA Communicating for Safety (CFS) Conference in Las Vegas, NV. 18-20 September 2023. Attended as part of the FAA NAASRT.
- IFATCA EB meeting partial attendance virtually due to family hospitalization while EB met in Abu Dhabi, UAE 26-28 September 2023.
- CISM peer debriefer training in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic 2-5 October 2023. (DR MA paid for lodging and travel was at personal expense)
- RVP Ramon Amora attended the COCTAM Assembly in Los Cabos 16-17 October 2024 on EVP AMA's behalf.
- AMA regional meeting 25-27 October 2023 in Nassau, Bahamas.

- ATCA conference 31 October – 3 November 2023. (personal expense)
- IFATCA EB meeting in Amsterdam, Netherlands 19-22 February 2024.

#### 1.4. Meetings planned or invited:

- ICAO Global Implementation Support Symposium (GISS), 30 April thru 2 May in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. (RVP North Caribbean, Ramon Armora will attend).
- IFATCA annual conference 15-19 April 2024 in Singapore.
- ALTA Aviation Safety, Flight Ops and Training Summit, 18-20 Lima, Peru.
- NATCA Communicating for Safety (CFS) Conference in Las Vegas, NV. 16-18 September 2024.
- IFATCA Executive Board meeting 20-22 September 2024 in Panama City, Panama.
- AMA regional meeting 15-17 October 2024 in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

#### 1.5. Regional members at the Global Level:

- 1.5.1. Technical Operations Committee (TOC), Professional and Legal (PLC), Finance Committee (FIC), Constitution and Administration Committee (CAC), Equity Diversity Inclusion (EDI) Task Force, IFATCA 2030+ Task Force, Training Task Force, Remote Towers Task Force, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Task Force, Mental Wellbeing Task Force, Speak English Program (SEP), World Communications Committee (WCC), ICAO Panels and Workgroups

## 2. DISCUSSION

### 2.1. Meetings attended:

2.1.1. Regional MA Director call 28 August 2023 and 8 February 2024. Items discussed included annual conference 2024, regional meetings 2024 and 2025, IHB updating, staffing spreadsheet utilization, Tech Talks, TOC work program, ATCO mental health support program(s) and newly forming Mental Wellbeing TF, Training TF, MA updates.

2.1.2. The IFATCA annual conference was held in Jamaica in May 2023. Many AMA delegations were first-time attendees. We welcomed Grenada and Peru to IFATCA and the Americas region (**NOTE: Panama joined IFATCA at the 2022 virtual conference, so they still need to receive a framed seal**). In attendance were Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Uruguay.

2.1.2.1. The regional meeting held on day one before the start of the conference was appreciated by attendees as it allowed them to meet each other and also discuss WPs to be considered and voted on in Committees A, B and C later in the week.

2.1.3. The Dominican Republic member association (ADCA) hosted Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) peer debriefer training from 2-5 October 2023. ICISF Instructor Tom Morin was assisted by NATCA CISM team lead Sarah Grampp in the week-long training at the Academia Superior de Ciencias Aeronauticas (ASCA) in Santo Domingo. Seven ATCOs from ADCA participated and certified as peer debriefers. Additionally, the Bahamas sent

an attendee that was certified and will be a strong advocate for setting up a program in that country.

2.1.4. COCTAM the Mexico member association invited IFATCA EVP to attend their annual Assembly in Los Cabos, Mexico. RVP Armora attended on behalf of the EVP as she could not attend due to family obligations. The event brought together aviation dignitaries, key industry figures, and our esteemed colleagues from COCTAM and their board. It provided a unique platform for IFATCA to share insights on critical topics such as CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) and other ongoing efforts to promote it throughout the Americas region. IFATCA also discussed the importance of CBTA (Competency-Based Training and Assessment) for controllers, recognizing its pivotal role in enhancing the quality of our services. Furthermore, IFATCA introduced the English language program, acknowledging COCTAM's commendable endeavors to elevate the English proficiency of its air traffic controllers.

2.1.5. Regional Meeting - The 39th Americas regional meeting of IFATCA was successfully hosted by the Bahamas Air Traffic Controllers' Union (BATCU) in Nassau, Bahamas, from October 25-27. The event coincided with the Bahamas' 50 years of independence and was attended by more than 50 attendees from 13 IFATCA Member Associations. Prominent speakers and attendees included the Deputy Prime Minister of the Bahamas.

2.1.5.1. The meeting covered topics like Crisis Management, Critical Incident Stress Management, mental health for ATCOs, and updates from various IFATCA committees and task forces. Sponsor [L3Harris](#) also presented their work. The event concluded with a closing celebration.

2.1.5.2. Thank you to the America's Region Member Associations (MA), the presenters, our sponsors, and our host MA - the Bahamas Air Traffic Controllers' Union (BATCU) - who, with love and passion, proudly presented an exceptional meeting. A full account, including more photos, can be found in [The Controller section on the IFATCA website](#).

2.1.5.3. The election of the EVP for the Americas region, in accordance with the new policy, occurred at the meeting. There was only one submission for each geographic region for RVP so there was no election at the regional meeting. The Regional Vice Presidents for the region are the following: South America - Mario Librán, Central America - Dario DeSouza, Southern Caribbean - Ameer Chattergoon, Northern Caribbean - Ramon Armora and North America - Andrew LeBovidge. The region thanks them for stepping up to serve!

2.1.5.4. Many circumstances created an overage in the regional meeting budget. First, the RM was originally being hosted by Costa Rica. After they could not host, the Bahamas graciously stepped in. Second, hotel costs were higher than usual due to both the 50-year celebration of the country and the competition hotel being closed due to renovations. Finally, flights from many locations only arrive and/or depart a few days a week requiring some be covered by the RM budget to have to stay extra nights. To save on expenses: some RM covered attendees shared rooms, NATCA covered EVP AMA cost, EVP AMA personally paid for other items (reg. team group meal, thank you gifts, etc.)

2.1.5.5. Guyana and Chile received assistance from the Regional Meeting Attendance Fund (RAF) to attend the AMA regional meeting.

2.1.6. EVP AMA attended the ATCA Women in Aviation Leadership conference 31 October in Washington, DC. joining a panel discussion on the “Women in Aviation Advisory Board (WIAAB) Recommendations”. In conjunction, the ATCA Global conference was in Washington, DC 1-3 November 2023. She moderated a panel discussion on “Global Perspective – What Challenges Do We See Around the World”. Attendance at these events were at her own expense as the regional budget was very short due to the unexpected expenses of the regional meeting.

## 2.2. Meetings planned:

2.2.1. IFATCA annual conference 15-19 April 2024 in Singapore.

2.2.2. EBM 20-22 September in Panama. RVP Central America will send suggestions on lodging and meeting location. The MA nor the ANSP has space for meeting. PCX and/or DP will stay on 23 September to meet with the MA and the Authorities.

### 2.2.3. Regional Meeting Planning 2024:

2.2.3.1. Planning has started for the regional meeting to be held 15-17 October in Port of Spain, Trinidad at the [Hyatt Regency](#) hosted by the member association (MA) from the Trinidad and Tobago, ([TTATCA](#)) Trinidad and Tobago Air Traffic Controllers' Association.

2.2.3.2. To date no member association has stepped forward to host the AMA regional meeting for 2025.

## 2.3. Regional members at the Global Level:

2.3.1. ICAO ANC Liaison – JF Lepage (Canada)

2.3.2. TOC Chair – Jaymi Steinberg (USA), TOC member – Betsy Beaumont (USA), Danahe Lopez (Mexico), Fred Cosgrove (Canada) and El-Kadur Acosta (Dominican Republic), PLC member – Michelle Trudeau (USA) and Kurt Soloman (Jamaica), FIC member – Matthew Narine (Trinidad & Tobago), CAC member – Jerry Brodt (Canada)

2.3.3. EDI TF – Rossana Croci (UY) and Gale Williams-Dalsou (St. Lucia), 2030+ TF – Jaymi Steinberg (USA) and Kendell Peter (St. Lucia), Training TF – Ramon Armora (Dominican Republic) and Ameera Hosein (T&T), Remote Towers TF - Adam Rhodes (USA).

2.3.4. Speak English Program: Facilitators participate from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, St. Lucia, and the United States.

2.3.5. ICAO: Bridget Singratanakul – USA serves on the ADOP, Eric Avila – USA serves on the METP. Andrew LeBovidge – USA participated at the ICAO Air Navigation World on “Today's Mental Health” panel discussion and will join the newly forming mental wellbeing task force.

2.3.6. World Communications Committee: El-Kadur Acosta (Dominican Republic) and Brittney Armbrust (USA), they are also on the Regional Communications Committee (RCC) and joined by the RVPs, Gaston Trotta (Argentina), Antonio Rodriguez (T&T) and Joey Ryan (T&T).

## 2.4. Member Associations:

### 2.4.1. Costa Rica - SITECNA

2.4.1.1. Following unsuccessful negotiations between the Air Traffic Control Professionals Union (Sindicato de Profesionales en Control de Tránsito Aéreo - SITECNA) and government authorities, the Dirección General de Aeronáutica Civil (DGAC) in Costa Rica deployed police to the operation at Aeropuerto Internacional Juan Santamaría (SJO) to monitor the air traffic controllers while they performed their duties.

2.4.1.2. IFATCA quickly released a statement (27 August) denouncing the unacceptable use of police force intimidation towards professionals in a safety critical environment. After the August incident, police were not used again.

2.4.1.3. Due to the hard work and commitment by SITECNA, agreements were signed (30 August) reaffirming more dialogue and negotiation between the entities. They continue to work toward resolution.

### 2.4.2. Brazil - Sindicato Nacional dos Empregados em Empresas Administradoras de Aeroportos (SINA)

2.4.2.1. In May, we received an email correspondence from a representative of Sindicato Nacional dos Trabalhadores na Proteção ao voo (SNTPV). The email referred to a judicial ruling giving them representational rights for civilian air traffic control officers in Brazil. They also stated that SINA (MA to IFATCA) no longer represents ATC, and their association does now.

2.4.2.2. We notified the Sindicato Nacional dos Empregados em Empresas Administradoras de Aeroportos (SINA) of the correspondence and asked for any information on the matter they could provide. To date they have not responded.

2.4.2.3. We provided SNTPV the policy and guidelines to seek membership in IFATCA, specifically guidelines in the case where another organization is already a member association of the Federation. We let them know if they choose to apply, the decision will be made by Directors at the next annual conference in Singapore on 15-19 April 2024 after the Executive Board or designees ascertain the details of the situation regarding ATCO representation in Brazil as per considerations (10.1.5 - 10.1.9) outlined in the IFATCA Blue Book.

2.4.2.4. SNTPV will wait until after the appeal to pursue membership with IFATCA.

### 2.4.3. Canada – CATCA

2.4.3.1. CATCA ratified a five-year agreement with NAV Canada. The bargaining committee began negotiations in December. The contract is retroactive from April 1, 2023, and will expire March 31, 2028. Congratulations CATCA!

### 2.4.4. Bahamas – BATCU

2.4.4.1. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Bahamas Air Traffic Controllers' Union (BATCU) and the Bahamas Air Navigation Services Authority signed a three-year industrial agreement. It is retroactive to June 1, 2022, and will run until May 2025. Congratulations BATCU and thank you for your steadfast persistence in getting to this long overdue agreement!

#### 2.4.5. Peru – SUCTA

2.4.5.1. Condolences were sent to all those affected by the accident on 18 November 2022 in Lima, Peru. Our colleagues from Jorge Chávez International Airport air traffic control tower are now being subjected to a culpable homicide preliminary investigation. IFATCA denounced this action and the methods the media and others have utilized to try and discredit individual air traffic controllers which were not deemed the cause of the accident.

2.4.5.2. After the accident, an investigation was carried out by the Aviation Accident Investigation Commission (CIAA) in accordance with Annex 13 of the International Convention on Civil Aviation, as well as by the article 154 of Title XV of the Civil Aeronautics Law of Peru, Law 27261 and the Technical Annex "Investigation of Aviation Accidents and Incidents" of the CIAA. The [official findings](#) from the CIAA.

2.4.5.3. As concluded, the Peruvian air traffic controller colleagues never authorized the entry of the Fire Truck onto the active runway. An altered video of the air traffic control tower at Jorge Chavez international airport the day of the accident was disseminated and used as propaganda. These images were edited, taken out of context and do not align with the timeline of the accident. IFATCA strongly condemned the dissemination of the audiovisual materials and urged those responsible for their unauthorized release to be held accountable for their actions.

2.4.5.4. See the IFATCA [Press Release](#)

#### 2.4.6. Haiti – APCAH

2.4.6.1. The region expresses its heartfelt concern for the safety and well-being of our Haitian colleagues and their families amidst the escalating threat posed by heavily armed gangs. It is heartening to finally see nations uniting to provide funding for an international security force in response to the crisis. Our earnest wish is for peace to prevail in the country. [Here](#) is a recent article highlighting the ongoing crisis.

### 3. CONCLUSION

3.1. The issues and challenges faced by ATCOs, and their MAs are significant and mostly without easy solutions. The participation of members from the region at the Jamaica conference was a wonderful indication of the increased engagement and confidence of the Directors within the region.

3.2. I am extremely grateful for the RVPs that work very hard for the profession and support ATCOs throughout the region. Great appreciation and thanks to our regional members that work hard as well on the Federation's committees, task forces, programs, and ICAO panels. Mostly, thank and with much adoration to the women and men ATCOs that provide exceptional service, many times under less-

than-ideal conditions, to the flying public ensuring their loved ones arrive safely and important cargo gets where it needs to be.

3.3. Thank you to my home association NATCA who continues to provide great support, not only to me, but also to the Federation!!

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. This report is accepted as information.

