



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' ASSOCIATIONS

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

On October 20, the international community recognises the dedication, commitment, and professionalism of the air traffic controllers around the world. This 24-hour period symbolises the continuous service that these aviation professionals have towards their profession and the safety of the travelling public.

Air traffic controllers across the globe work every hour of every day to maintain a safe and efficient aviation system. Under most circumstances, air traffic controllers are transparent and invisible, like electricity: unnoticed unless there is a problem. But all these controllers are people too, just like the travelling public. They work nights, weekends, holidays, they have families and will miss birthdays, weddings, and funerals.

Nevertheless, they love their job. That is their commitment, that is their dedication.

Air traffic controllers are an essential key to the safety of aviation: this system cannot function without the people. It is recognised by the international community that there is a global shortage of aviation professionals, including air traffic controllers. This shortage is placing strain on the existing personnel.

Aviation safety culture must continue to promote and support the professionalism of the individuals that are the core of the system, rather than singling them out as a weak link. It is the aviation professionals, including air traffic controllers, that make aviation safe. Let us recognise the fact that people are not the problem; in combination with a reporting system that takes note of the difficulties they encounter, people are the solution.

It is the international day of the 'air traffic controller', not of 'air traffic control'; that is a subtle but significant difference. On October 20, we invite air travellers to reflect on the wonder that is aviation, and to sincerely thank all those people - and in particular, the air traffic controllers - who make aviation the amazing achievement that it is.

On behalf of the IFATCA Executive Board,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Auld". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue circular watermark.

Duncan Auld
President and Chief Executive Officer