



P (301) 933-6228  
F (301) 933-3902  
11303 Amherst Avenue, Suite 4  
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

**National Association Of Air Traffic Specialists**

[www.naats.org](http://www.naats.org)

## DRAFT

SUBJECT: Legislative Amendment to Protect Air Traffic Controllers

Wheaton, MD—A Congressman Sanders sponsored amendment that will include protective language surrounding the nations Air Traffic Control Specialists will be presented to the House Appropriations Subcommittee later this week for a key congressional vote. The passage of this amendment is critical to the nation's airspace system and national security.

Nearly 2,600 air traffic control specialists assigned at Flight Service Stations are affected. The proposed legislation will protect these controllers from the adverse affects of a Lockheed Martin contract award which took place in February. Under the current contract Lockheed Martin would take over the air traffic specialists and their functions by October 4, 2005. This transition will eliminate almost half of the work force and cease operations at 38 facilities. Many of the affected employees are military veterans that stand to lose hard earned benefits should this legislation fail to garner enough support.

General aviation will also be adversely affected by this take-over. Some services will no longer be provided while others will be provided separately and will require more than one source to be accessed by the pilot. There is also no protection from eventual user fees charged to the general aviation community should a contract company like Lockheed Martin assume air traffic control responsibility.

Both HR1474 and a similar Senate Bill S776 are gaining support. Significant House Republican support is expected for this amendment and it is critical that all House Democrats support this issue. The National Association of Air Traffic Specialists, NAATS, which represents Flight Service employees, has led an aggressive attempt to prevent the transition in October and lobby congressional support for protection.

For more information on Flight Service Stations and the services provided please visit [www.naats.org](http://www.naats.org) or contact:

The National Association of Air Traffic Specialists  
Attn: Kate Breen  
11303 Amherst Avenue, Suite 4  
Wheaton, MD 20902  
Phone 301 933-6228  
FAX: 301- 933-3902