

NAATS HQ E-Mail Update Vol. 5 #56

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I know you are all anxious to hear what happened yesterday at the hearing, but there are a few other details to take care of first.

To all of you caught up in Katrina's aftermath you absolutely amaze me in the dedication and fortitude you have shown. You are what most employers merely wish they had in employees. Unfortunately the FAA neither cares about good employees nor do they appear to want to help you help other people. I've sent a message through to Mr. Washington, and when I'm through with this I'll be sending a letter through to the Administrator. I've been reading Jeff's posts about what is going on and I can't thank you all enough for staying the course and trying to help these victims out while you are going through your own personal difficulty with losing your jobs and worrying about loved ones who may or may not have reported in yet.

For anyone outside of GWO either briefing or filing flight plans into the TFR's please remind the pilots to close their flight plans, I can't imagine trying to run search and rescue down there with no/limited comm lines.

The other disaster that happened recently is the roof at MIV collapsed, evidently it was due to a flame retardant material put on the wood joists. Once on the wood, it deteriorates the wood when in hot conditions like in an attic! This is a layman's take on it, there is probably more of a technical explanation. The building is a leased building not FAA owned. Thankfully no one was hurt and it happened in the summer and not when the roof was heavy with snow. I know the manager and Ron Consalvo have been doing all they can for folks, but it seems the FAA can't decide what to do. Meanwhile leaving the radios unmonitored and the additional workload on an already saturated group of employees in their peak season, and leaving MIV employees up in the air on what their future holds. Don't worry FAA if you drag your feet a little longer Lockheed will take over, right? I am disgusted that this agency has left pilots to fend for themselves, there are pilots busting airspace, popping up without clearances, and failing to cancel IFR flight plans. I guess all is acceptable until someone dies and the agency gets sued, but heck that will be years down the road and not this administration's problem. Let me help out with a suggestion, bring in the trailer from the tech center, you don't even have to cross state lines.

Thanks to all the folks in the surrounding areas for trying to help our customers, but just remember to take care of yourselves. It's not worth getting sick over.

I apologize to the membership for my sarcasm above if it has offended anyone.

The hearing yesterday went well, thanks to the 35-40 people who showed up from all across the US. We had people from California to Vermont and Miami to Bridgeport and points in between. We also got support from our Brothers and Sisters in NAGE, a special thanks for them for coming by. The hearing lasted two hours and consisted of Mike Sheldon and myself being questioned, our side giving a brief and the other side doing their brief with our rebuttal at the end. The Judge seemed engaged and from the questions he asked both attorneys understands the issues. We should have a decision by the end of next week, our attorney's felt the Judge will rule quickly.

Spent this morning at the NLRB in Baltimore giving my deposition on the ULP we filed against LM. Gave the examiner more information and some case law, he will investigate and respond within 6 weeks from when we filed the claim or at least that's what they normally try to do. Will update you on that as it develops.

DOL wage determination, Arthur Fox is trying to find out where that stands, he hasn't heard from them in two weeks. He sent another message this week, will keep you posted here as well.

Words cannot express how badly I feel for those victims of Katrina, what they went through and are going through has got to be just so horrific. You all are some of the best people I know with the biggest hearts, if you can afford to, please donate to the Red Cross/Salvation Army or any other reputable charity to help these folks out.

I looked up the history of Labor Day, and here it is:

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Just know the contributions each and every one of you have made in good times and in bad, have not gone unnoticed at least by someone as inconsequential as myself! You are by far the best group of employees the FAA has ever seen. My thanks to you all for the contributions you've made over the years. Have a safe holiday weekend and try to help out those who may be a little worse off than you are right now.

Kate Breen