

**NATA AIRLINE SERVICES COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 12, 2009**

MINUTES

I. Welcome

National Air Transportation Association Airline Services Council (NATA ASC) Chairman Fred DiBenedetto welcomed NATA ASC members to the meeting at 12:02 p.m. (EDT)

Meeting participants included:

- Fred DiBenedetto, Fortbrand Services, Inc., outgoing NATA ASC Chairman
- Jack Evans, Total Airport Services, incoming NATA ASC Chairman
- Karen Avestruz, Worldwide Flight Services
- Larry White, Gate Safe, Inc.
- Wayne Eichel, Worldwide Flight Services
- Jim Mollison, Menzies Aviation
- Leonard Kirsch, McBreen & Kopko
- Patrick Maloney, Air General
- Paul Siebols, Air General
- Mike Murphy, Airport Terminal Services
- Richard van Bruygom, Swissport Fueling, Inc.

Guest participants included:

- Doug Hofsass, TSA
- Ed Kelly, TSA
- Mark Rossi, TSA
- Gary Lupinacci, TSA

Staff participants included:

- Eric Byer, NATA
- Mike France, NATA

II. [Approval of March 10, 2009 Minutes](#)

DiBenedetto asked for approval of the March 10, 2009 meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Paul Siebols and unanimously approved by the NATA ASC.

III. Parting Thoughts

DiBenedetto thanked NATA ASC members for their continued support and encouraged members to remain active in NATA ASC activities. He also expressed personal thanks to members who were very supportive to his family and him over the last two months. He then welcomed Jack Evans as the NATA ASC's new chairman to lead the day's meeting.

NATA liaison Eric Byer thanked DiBenedetto for his outstanding support and leadership as chairman and specifically for his push to add new members to the NATA ASC, which has more than doubled during his tenure as chair.

Byer announced that Randy Davies will take over the vice chair position with Evans becoming chair of the NATA ASC.

IV. TSA Cargo Security Update

Chairman Jack Evans welcomed all TSA representatives and thanked them for attending the NATA ASC meeting. Ed Kelly, flanked by Mark Rossi and Gary Lupinacci, provided NATA ASC members with an update on the Certified Cargo Screening Program. Rossi highlighted that more IACs are joining the CCSP every week and that more than 45 have been certified to date. This number also includes a couple of independent cargo handling companies that are members of the NATA ASC (Menzies, Worldwide Flight Services, Swissport). Rossi indicated that his office receives approximately 30-35 applications weekly from companies interested in joining the CCSP and that there are now more than 110 entities (including IACs) participating in the program.

Lupinacci briefed NATA ASC members on a number of regional outreach meetings that he and others in the Air Cargo branch had conducted recently. He encouraged members to keep in regular contact with local FSDs to ensure that independent cargo handling companies don't miss out on these outreach meetings as they are not always well publicized.

Both Rossi and Lupinacci highlighted their concerns that, since the February 2009 deadline was met, air carriers and other entities participating in the CCSP are now catching their breath with the August 2010 deadline 16 months away. A down economy, that has produced less cargo traffic, has also eased the sense of urgency in preparation for the August 2010 deadline.

A discussion on technology standards followed with members still concerned that certain screening equipment that is viable today will not be come August 2010. TSA staff indicated that the TSA-approved equipment list is still very much a work in progress and that industry must make its voice heard on the resultant financial impact if some of the current equipment that has been approved by the TSA and utilized by industry is not still TSA approved come late 2010. Rossi encouraged the NATA ASC to invite the big five screening equipment vendors to discuss utilization of their products by cargo handling companies and the looming August 2010 deadline.

V. TSA Commercial Airline And Airport Update

Doug Hofsass, General Manager of the TSA's Commercial Airline and Airport Office, provided NATA ASC members with an update on security issues affecting the ground handling community.

Hofsass frequently highlighted that the TSA is not looking for 100% security by physical screening, but more by a wide array of security measures.

Hofsass strongly encouraged NATA ASC members to contact Eric Byer when badging inconsistencies or badge approval delays arise at commercial airports around the country. While NATA ASC companies may not always be happy with the end result, letting Byer know of current problems so he can funnel those through Hofsass and his staff at the TSA will at least provide some resolution as to why certain actions are taken.

Members also asked about educational materials on the TSA's Air Cargo Watch program that had been posted at a number of commercial airports over the last 18-24 months. Members believe these materials to be good educational tools that they could also post at their locations throughout the country. NATA staff will look into the availability of these materials for dissemination to NATA ASC members.

VI. Air Cargo Economic Outlook Presentation

David Hoppin from Merge Global provided NATA ASC members with a presentation on global air cargo and how the economy is affecting this segment of the aviation industry. [Hoppin's presentation can be viewed by clicking here.](#)

VII. Legislative Update

Byer reported that the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) is still being considered by the Senate leadership as a top priority this summer. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), the Senate Majority Leader, has indicated that the EFCA could be considered in early- to mid-July, should Democrats have the votes. Byer strongly encouraged all NATA ASC member companies and their employees to contact their U.S. Senators by utilizing the association's Legislative Action Center. [Members can act on this bill by clicking here.](#)

Byer also stated that Randy Babbitt will likely be confirmed in the next few weeks as the next administrator of the FAA.

UPDATE: Since the May 12 meeting, Babbitt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate. [To review NATA's press release on Babbitt's confirmation please click here.](#)

VIII. Miscellaneous

A number of NATA ASC members raised concern about the cost of meetings and the current hotel selection. Members encouraged NATA staff to find space that was more reasonably priced and close to the DC Metro, if possible.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

Byer stated that the next NATA ASC meeting will be a teleconference on July 31, 2009, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. (EDT). An agenda will be provided to members in early July for this call.

X. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:47 p.m. (EDT)