



Vaughn Yates

Vaughn Yates serves as the Manager of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) National Airspace System (NAS) Lifecycle Planning (NLP) Division in the Portfolio Management and Technology Development Directorate of the Office of NextGen. Mr. Yates brings more than 30 years of engineering and acquisition management experience with the FAA and private industry. As the NLP Division Manager, Mr. Yates is responsible for overall management of 11 portfolios and more than 60 programs, specifically those that are part of the FAA NextGen initiative, with the objective of improving air traffic control and management in the National Airspace System. In this role, he oversees the research, and investment analysis of enhanced capabilities that would transform today's air traffic control and management technology into the Next Generation of technology.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Yates held several other leadership roles within the FAA including Aviation Weather Services Manager. As such, He was responsible for all acquisition aspects of FAA programs that disseminate weather data throughout the NAS and beyond. The most significant program was the NextGen Network Enabled Weather (NNEW) program, currently referred to as Common Support Services – Weather (CSS-Wx).

Mr. Yates also served as the Program Manager responsible for providing collaborative management and technical decisions to the Terminal Service Weather radar and sensors team. As such, he managed the planning and acquisition of the Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD) program, the Terminal Doppler Weather Radar (TDWR) program, the Weather Systems Processor (WSP) program, the Automated Surface Weather Observation Network (ASWON) programs, the Juneau Airport Wind System (JAWS) program, the Low Level Windshear Alert System (LLWAS) program, and the Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) operational evaluation. Additionally, he managed the staff's operating plan, developed appropriate plans, including strategic, system integration, integrated program, implementation, budget, and system engineering management plans.

Mr. Yates holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Tufts University. He is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute "Leadership for a Democratic Society" program and numerous other leadership programs. He is a Level 3 certified Program Management Professional.

Mr. Yates is a recipient of various awards including the FAA's Advancing Program Management Award and Terminal Services Excellence Award.



Joe Hines

Joe was born and raised in upstate New York and entered the Marine Corps upon graduation from High School. While in the Marines Joe served around the globe in various roles, most prominently as a fighter pilot, and flew the A-4 Skyhawk, F-4S Phantom II and the F/A 18 A/B/C/D. During his tour Joe served as the head of the Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics for the F/A 18. He attended the US Navy Test Pilot school, and prior to retirement, Joe served as the Chief Test Pilot for the US Navy's strike fighter test squadron.

Joe joined United Airlines as a commercial airline pilot and flew the B737 airplane out of Chicago's O'Hare airport. He moved to the United Flight Training Center and served as an instructor pilot and in training syllabus development. Joe joined United Test Pilot team in the Technical Operations Department, before transferring back to Flight Operations as the Senior Manager of Flight Test, Director of Strategy and Flight Test, and served as the Managing Director of Flight Test, Technology and Engineering for United. He is current and qualified as a Flight Test Captain on the Boeing 737,757,767,777 and 787 airplanes.

Joe was promoted to Vice Present of Network Operations for United in the spring of 2022.

Joe is graduate of Southern Illinois University with a BS in aviation management, and a graduate of the US Navy Engineering Test Pilot School.

Ben Shermer

Ben Shermer serves as the Director of Flight Control in the Operations Control Center at Delta Air Lines. Beginning his aviation career as a flight instructor, Ben has over 30 years in aviation having worked for several Part 135, 121 Supplemental and Part 121 Carriers in different capacities including Aircraft Dispatcher, Chief Dispatcher, Operations Manager and Duty Director. Ben currently oversees the worldwide Dispatch Operation for Delta with over 300 Licensed Dispatchers as well as training and support for Delta's Joint Venture partners KLM, Air France and Aeromexico.



Gene Kim

After proudly serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserves, Gene Kim began his aviation career with Korean Air in 1991. In the three decades since, Gene has worked in various Dispatch and Dispatch Management positions at Polar Air Cargo, United Airlines, and Air Tran Airways. He played an integral role in the successful integration of the AirTran SOC into what was then the Southwest OCC after the acquisition of AirTran. He was a key player on the Leadership Team that turned the OCC from a Dispatch-centric department into the Network Operations Control (NOC), a multi-disciplined, industry-leading operations center that balances commercial and regulatory operations. Gene went on to hold several Leadership roles at Southwest Airlines on the NOC and Ops Strategy Teams and at Amazon Air, where he built and led their Network Control Center. He currently serves as the Senior Director Dispatch & Regulatory Operations.

Gene has a degree from Old Dominion University, earned basic flight training and FAA certificates from Sierra Academy of Aeronautics, and is a graduate of Southwest's Manager In Training II Program.



Taylor Cornwall

Taylor is a Partner in McKinsey's Dallas office with 15 years of consulting experience delivering transformation across travel, logistics, and aerospace clients. He has worked with airlines in North

America, Europe, the Middle East, and South America, with a focus on network design, operational reliability, and cost efficiency topics. In recent years, he has partnered extensively with operations control and dispatch leaders on both process and digital levers to manage increasing levels of disruption as well as the complexity created by COVID. He currently leads McKinsey's efforts to support operational efficiency and reliability at travel companies globally. He holds an M.B.A from the Tuck School of Business, and a B.A. from Dartmouth College. Taylor currently lives in Dallas with his wife and two young daughters.



Lynette Gebhardt

National Traffic Management Specialist, Terminal Area – Command Center 2023

NATCA – Member/OSHA Rep

Professional Women Controllers - Member

Prior experience:

Traffic Management Coordinator - Chicago Center 2017-2020

Certified Professional Controller - Denver Center 2012-2017

Certified Professional Controller - Chicago Center 2009-2012



Phil Brooks

Phil Brooks, Jumpseat Coordinator for the ADF, has been a Dispatcher with United Airlines since 1999. Previously he was a Shift Manager at Emery Worldwide Airlines. A commuter from day one at United (and PAFCA-UAL's Jumpseat Coordinator), he has a vested interest in the cockpit jumpseat privilege. Phil maintains the (members only) Jumpseat section of the ADF website with updated information gleaned from his own travels, and from ADF members and airline industry contacts.

He has been employed in the airline industry for 41 years and received his Dispatch Certificate in 1992. A lifelong fan of the airline industry, he is President of the World Airline Historical Society, and has contributed articles and photographs to several aviation publications. A Private Pilot since 1982, he also comes up with the monthly VOR quiz on the ADF website.

Phil and his wife Pam live near Brickyard VOR (of course), outside of Indianapolis, and have twin daughters, and three grandchildren.



Marc Petruccelli

Human Trafficking update: Marc Petruccelli, a Southwest Airlines security analyst, and former Sheriff's Detective, relying upon his first-hand experiences rescuing victims of Human Trafficking while working in an undercover capacity on a federal law enforcement task force, will be providing ADF attendees actionable intelligence about the most common signs and indicators of when Human Trafficking is occurring in flight, at the airport and beyond. During this briefing, Marc will dispel some Human Trafficking myths and share knowledge Dispatchers can consider when responding to a report of Human Trafficking occurring. A Certified Public Manager (CPM) and former Valencia College Adjunct Professor, Marc has over 11 years of experience teaching public and private sector partners how best to identify and respond to reports of Human Trafficking. An advocate for continuous improvement, Marc earned a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice at the University of Central Florida, a Master of Science degree in Unmanned Systems at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Master of Science degree in Human

Security and Resilience at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. **Trigger Warning:** This briefing will touch on sexual assault, the extremes of interpersonal violence, as well as criminal activity targeted toward children. Due to the risk that this content may be disturbing, attendees are encouraged to prepare themselves emotionally beforehand. If you believe that you will find the briefing topic to be traumatizing, you may choose not to participate or leave the room.



Andrew Lacher

Andy is the Chief Technologist for Future Airspace Operations where he works on the safe operational integration of new aviation technologies including unmanned and autonomous aircraft. He was the Director of the Aerospace Systems Research Center at Noblis and the Senior Manager for Autonomous Aircraft Integration at Boeing. Before that, he was the Autonomous Systems Integration and Adoption Lead for The MITRE Corporation where he worked for 30 years. He has experience with unmanned vehicles, technical standards development, software assurance, trustworthy autonomy, research planning, modeling and simulation, aviation rulemaking, safety risk assessment, ATM operations, airline operations, and operational decision-making. Andy has served on several research advisory boards, standards bodies, and Aviation Rulemaking Committees. Andy is an Associate Fellow of the AIAA. He has a BS in Electrical Engineering and an MS in Operations Research both from The George Washington University.



Alex Card

Alex began his aviation career at the Sioux Gateway Airport in Sioux City, IA in 2014. Since then, his experience includes crew scheduling at JetBlue Airways as well as dispatch and operations management at Endeavor Air. In 2019, Alex joined Delta Air Lines as a Flight Superintendent/Dispatcher. He is now a Senior Instructor with Delta's Flight Control Training department, where he has developed and delivered the training curriculum for over 140 new-hire Flight Superintendents/Dispatchers in the largest hiring wave in Delta Flight Control history. Alex holds a degree in Aeronautics from the University of North Dakota and a private pilot's certificate. In his personal time, he enjoys hiking, biking, and exploring the outdoors.



Darin Meyer

Darin Meyer is an Aviation Meteorologist and Training Lead for the Air Traffic Control Systems Group at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. Darin has worked on a variety of weather systems which were designed for the FAA, NAV CANADA and the airlines: The Integrated Terminal Weather System (ITWS); Corridor Integrated Weather System (CIWS); CoSPA; Traffic Flow Impact (TFI); Offshore Precipitation Capability (OPC); Airport Capacity Evaluation and Prediction Tool (ACEPT); and Terminal Capacity Evaluation and Prediction Tool (TCEPT). An overview of many of these weather systems will be given on Wed 11 Oct at the Airline Dispatch Federation (ADF) Summit.