

Paul M. Rinaldi

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Union, People Leader & Unifying Force in the Aviation Industry | Transformation & Thought Leader | NATCA President

A strategic and respected senior leader with vast experience in the air traffic control, aviation and government areas, Paul Rinaldi has served as President of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) for 10+ years. He expanded NATCA's leadership role and voice in the aviation industry by working collaboratively to improve the relationship between the Union, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation and all stakeholders (including Democratic/Republican White House administrations and Congress), leading to collaborative decisions on important issues involving aviation safety, effectiveness and technology. His high integrity, collaborative spirit, dedication, and ability to lead by example and develop high-performing teams informs all his work, as does his knowledge and courage to make sound short- and long-term decisions for win-win outcomes. Paul has represented NATCA at the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO]).



Paul is currently President of Rinaldi Consultants LLC, a company he founded in September 2021 to provide expertise in aviation safety, efficiency, and modernization as well as help organizations develop and guide collaborative decision making processes that result in win-win outcomes.

Before, serving as NATCA's President (2009 – 2021), Paul transformed the 20,000+ represented employees' Union into a part of the national decision-making process regarding aviation, safety and effectiveness. He established NATCA's leadership role and voice in the aviation industry by improving the safety of the National Airspace System (NAS), enhancing the quality of the service NATCA provides, and strengthening relationships between the FAA and Department of Transportation through leadership and collaboration. He increased NATCA's participation and influence in the AFL-CIO and instilled in NATCA's members a sense of pride in their profession and career paths—despite its voluntary membership, NATCA has the highest percentage of representation of any federal-employee union.

To give a few examples of Paul's overall leadership impact: he enabled important, collaborative decisions on progress in aviation, safety, effectiveness, environmental and technology issues. He led establishment of programs (ATSAP, fatigue mitigation, Professional Standards, and Partnership for Safety) that resulted in collaborative decisions on airspace, procedures, technology, staffing and training. Working with stakeholders, Paul led involvement in every developing/testing detail for (1) The Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen), an FAA-led modernization of America's air transportation system to make flying safer, more efficient/more predictable; and (2) En Route Automation Modernization (ERAM), the FAA Air Traffic Control system designed to enable use of future capabilities to efficiently handle traffic growth and safeguard a more stable and supportable system. Paul testified 17 times before House and Senate committees on a wide range of issues; advocated for the issues most important to NATCA and aviation safety; and represented NATCA in every medium. He led the Union through the 2020 pandemic, mitigating members' at-work exposure to the Corona virus while maintaining the continued safe operation of each aircraft under NATCA members' control (relying upon a decade-long collaborative relationship with the FAA). Successfully directed the Union through tumultuous times, helped it thrive within the larger House of Labor and ensured NATCA's long-term viability and integrity by overseeing the NATCA Reloaded program (recruiting, mentoring, organizing and inspiring ranks of NATCA activists at every level).

Paul assumed the role of EVP at NATCA (2006 – 2009) at a time when the Union's relationship with the FAA was at its nadir, reversed imposed work rules and obtained a new, member-ratified collective bargaining agreement. He started his career as an Air Traffic Controller at the Washington-Dulles Tower (IAD) in 1991. He is a speaker at industry events/conferences nationally and internationally, is the recipient of significant awards, serves on the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, and an active member of industry advisory councils and the Boy Scouts of America.