



Federal Aviation
Administration



March 23, 2023

Actions to Ensure Aviation Safety



Hello Team,

The FAA convened an Aviation Safety Summit last week to focus attention on recent safety events, including several high-profile runway incursions and losses of separation that occurred at controlled airports.

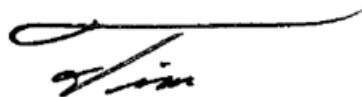
Even though we all know that multiple levels of safety are built into our system, there is no question that we are seeing too many close calls. Our dedication to continuous improvement demands that we dig deep to identify the underlying factors and address them.

I know that the Air Traffic Organization is ready to work with our colleagues in the offices of Aviation Safety and Airports to embrace this challenge to ensure that our safety system remains effective and resilient. In addition to our daily safety work and the steps announced after the summit, we will take these additional steps:

1. Ensure that supervisors devote their full attention to the operation and airfield during peak traffic periods at each facility. This comprehensive view ensures controller communication and actions are coordinated to provide safe and efficient services.
2. Provide more dedicated training for unusual circumstances and update simulator software last updated in 2016.
3. Work with NATCA to reinforce existing safety protocols, especially those that help increase situational awareness.
4. Continue reducing our training backlog from the pandemic. We must train at every opportunity and find ways to improve training programs to account for the number of new hires and promotions.
5. Re-examine runway incursion data to identify underlying factors that led to these close calls and identify remedies.

These actions are an extension of what we do every day to operate the safest and most complex airspace in the world. With the summer travel season just around the corner, airlines and the traveling public have high expectations. While we all recognize the value that airspace users place on efficiency, our greatest obligation is to ensure that safety is at the forefront of every decision we make. I want to make it clear that safety comes first, and I will support you in every way I can.

Thanks, and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Arel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Arel
ATO Chief Operating Officer

Top image, clockwise from top left: An air traffic controller at work in a tower; controller training in a lab environment; a supervisor providing guidance in the control room; a simulation of an airport tarmac; and surface signage at an airport.