As part of our joint commitment to improving aviation safety, the FAA and PASS are pleased to announce that the Technical Operations Safety Action Program (T-SAP) will resume accepting new safety reports from all eligible Technical Operations employees beginning on DATE. The T-SAP program provides a systematic approach for Technical Operations employees to promptly identify and voluntarily report potential aviation safety hazards. The purpose of T-SAP is to foster a voluntary, non-punitive and cooperative environment where employees can report aviation safety concerns without the fear of discipline or Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service (AOV) credentialing action.

All Technical Operations employees in the PASS bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit employees, including managers, can file a T-SAP report. When an employee observes or experiences an aviation safety concern, the employee should document the observation/experience in a T-SAP report through the T-SAP website at www.T-SAP.org. This can be done on duty time. Bargaining unit employees in Flight Inspection Services and Mission Support have a different process for reporting and responding to aviation safety issues.

As part of the T-SAP process, an employee must report the aviation safety concern within one working day, absent extraordinary circumstances. Please note that if a report is considered to be "sole source," it will be accepted regardless of the timeframe it was submitted. A sole-source report is when all evidence of the event is discovered by or otherwise predicated on the report. It is possible to have more than one sole-source report for the same event.

Through such reporting, all parties will have access to valuable safety information that may not be otherwise available, thereby supporting the efforts of all parties to proactively manage aviation safety risk in the NAS.

PASS members may recall that the parties entered into a new agreement regarding T-SAP earlier this year and, to this point, the focus has been on reviewing reports already in the system and creating a process to accept new reports. While it is recognized that T-SAP enhances other reporting programs, it does not replace them. As such, prior to the new agreement, T-SAP was temporarily halted to allow for a course correction as the program was not designed to resolve issues related to unsafe/unhealthful working condition reports that were not connected to aviation safety. Under the current system, a report filed in T-SAP that discloses an unsafe/unhealthful working condition that is not connected to aviation safety will be administered through the agency's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) program. This type of report will be forwarded to the appropriate agency official with a copy sent to the national PASS safety representative. However, if a report discloses an unsafe/unhealthful condition and includes an impact on aviation safety, T-SAP will review the aviation safety component of the report.

Look for forthcoming roll-out information from your director and district/group managers. For general information on T-SAP, please visit www.T-SAP.org.