



## AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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May 10, 1996

Mr. John R. Stansfield  
33 Roy Street  
Nashua, NH 03060

Dear Mr. Stansfield:

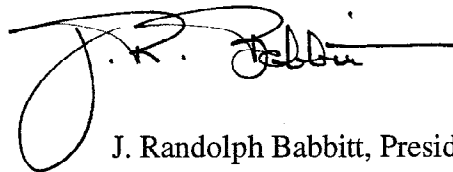
The subject of your April letter is troubling. Center Weather Service Units (CWSU), born in the aftermath of the Southern Airways accident in New Hope, Georgia, provide a crucial service to our National Airspace System (NAS). Any loss of that service now seriously degrades weather safety standards earned in the heat of battle.

In recent years ALPA's Aviation Weather Committee led an industry lobby effort for 24 hour CWSU staffing, which culminated with additional manpower positions committed to enable such an increase. Unfortunately, FAA budget allocations never equaled personnel requirements and CWSU operational periods remained status-quo. The CWSU at the FAA Central Flow Facility (now the Air Traffic Control System Command Center) compensated with longer hours of operation, but even that program has now changed. The Command Center meteorologists have been reassigned and weather analysis is now relegated to ATC specialists. Though highly motivated, their product is just not the same. The ALPA Aviation Weather Committee resisted the change at the Command Center unsuccessfully, but they were assured that the field units in the centers could manage the system adequately. Needless to say, the committee was not apprised of any proposal to reassign the meteorologists at the centers.

ALPA will disagree strongly with any proposal to eliminate the CWSU's. I will instruct the Aviation Weather Committee to investigate and, if necessary, take appropriate action to voice ALPA concerns and lobby strongly against any such proposal. The CWSU program was vital when it was created, and it remains vital today.

Thank you for sharing your concern.

Sincerely,



J. Randolph Babbitt, President

JRB:amr