

IBAC Technical Report

Canada/Mexico/USA Meeting

CBAA attends Can/Mex/USA meeting

Canada, Mexico and the USA, under the auspices of NAFTA, have established a working group to plan and coordinate the implementation of ICAO's global CNS/ATM system for continental North America. This meeting, held in New Orleans, was the second to which users were invited.

The purpose was to review the overall Air Navigation & Air Traffic plans scheduled for implementation for the three countries in the 2000-2015 period. User representatives included J-D. Lyon from CBAA, Paul Smith, NBAA, and John Sheehan, IAOPA. Other Canadian representatives included Ron Smith, ATSAC; Tony Rushton, VP Technical, CATCA; Marc Landreville, ALPA. Representing Canada were Nav Canada officials Kenn Moody, Manager, ANS Planning and Service Design; Wallace Hum, ATM Engineer; and Larry Everett, Planning, CNS/ATM. Missing were any representatives from the Government of Canada.

While the planning seems to be going well on a national basis, the integration of the three countries' efforts seems to be less well formed. One point driven home by the user reps was the need for adequate lead time to meet the various requirements for navigation and communication capability, that will be needed for the new systems. It was agreed that mandatory requirements would have lead times of not less than five, and ideally seven years. Users again emphasized the need to have the system driven by cost benefit, and not simply by technology availability. One of the surprises for the attending users was to find that the Working Group is not functioning, as requested by ICAO, as a regional planning and implementation group for this region, but rather, as mentioned is operating under NAFTA. This produces a weakness since NAFTA is limited to the continental area, and inhibits the integration of the associated international airspace for this region.