
PATRICK A. RUSSO

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Federal Aviation Administration
Mr. Ken Thomas, Air Traffic Manager
7500 NW 58th Street
Miami, FL 33166

July 1, 2008

Re: Resignation

Mr. Thomas:

Please accept this letter as formal notification of my resignation. Effective two weeks from today on July 15th, I resign my position as Air Traffic Control Specialist. This decision comes with much regret after selling my home in Jacksonville, FL and relocating my family to Miami for this position. The terms under which I accepted this position have been greatly altered without my consent or that of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA.) Due to the negative and hostile work environment at Miami Center, agency disregard for the safety of the flying public and the unwarranted mistreatment of its professional workforce through its imposed work rules, my resignation seems the most appropriate course of action.

As you know, controllers are now working close to maximum allowable hours at our facility with fewer rest periods, working two positions single handedly due to poor staffing, all while managing the highest traffic levels in aviation history. Given these conditions there is no question that safety has been compromised. As a controller and flying U.S. citizen, I am deeply concerned and urge you to examine local staffing levels, safety metrics and working conditions at your facility in an effort to address the unprecedented number of retirements and resignations at Miami Center.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve this great nation as a controller and wish you and the FAA great strength in your journey to resolve these critical issues plaguing the United States Air Traffic Control System. Please forward any correspondence or tax information to the above address.

Respectfully,

Patrick A. Russo
Air Traffic Control Specialist, Miami ARTCC

CC: Human Resources Department