

STATEMENT BY
SECRETARY ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
NEWS CONFERENCE
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE
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Draft prepared by: John Demeter

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I am aware of the various rumors which have been circulating concerning the future of the Air Route Traffic Control Center here in Nashua which, as you know, serves as the control point for the New England airspace.

I am pleased to announce today that the decision regarding the future of this facility has been made. It will not be closed. It will not be moved. And none of the personnel assigned here will be transferred.

Our National Airspace System Plan does call for some consolidation of facilities and realignment of responsibilities. We are making all of these determinations on a case-by-case basis, and weighing carefully the impact of such actions on the lives of the people involved.

In some areas, the changes will entail the integration of terminal radar approach facilities with the en route functions now performed by FAA centers such as the one here in Nashua.

We are referring to these new composite facilities as Area Control Facilities. Nashua will be one of 22 such facilities throughout the country.

During the transition, which will be a gradual process, Nashua will continue to function as an en route center with no change in its mission. The changeover will occur when the new equipment has been installed and the controllers are trained and checked out.

As I'm sure many of you know, the modernization of our air traffic control system is a long-term, comprehensive project. It will go a long way towards "weather-

proofing" air travel to make it even safer. It will double the capacity of the nation's airspace. And it will greatly reduce operating costs.

Nashua will be an integral part of this system just as it has served efficiently and effectively as the "Boston Center".

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