

**Dawn Johnson**  
**Atlanta Center (ZTL)**

*When were you hired by the FAA?*

I was hired in July 2005.

*Are you a Certified Professional Controller? If so, how long did it take you to reach that level?*

Yes, I am a CPC. It took me 3 years to become fully certified.

*What was your training experience like?*

Training was like a rollercoaster ride – ups and downs. For the most part, it was very stressful.

*Can you describe the facility and area where you work?*

My facility is Atlanta Center (ZTL). I work the Alabama airspace as well as the Atlanta SW arrivals.

*Why did you choose a career in ATC?*

My father was an Ops Manager at Miami Center (ZMA).

*What has NATCA done for you and why have you gotten involved?*

I think NATCA is the backbone of the controller workforce. NATCA has shown me what it is like to have a family at work. NATCA has been fighting for us new hires since we stepped foot in Oklahoma City.

*Do you have any advice for the people following in your footsteps?*

My advice is to study hard and to come into this job with a good attitude and strong work ethic.

(cont.)

*What is an average day at work like for you?*

Like I said before, with training it was a rollercoaster ride. Now that I have completed my training, everyday is different and I really enjoy what I do. I couldn't imagine having any other career. What I like most about this job is that everyday is a new day, with new challenges.