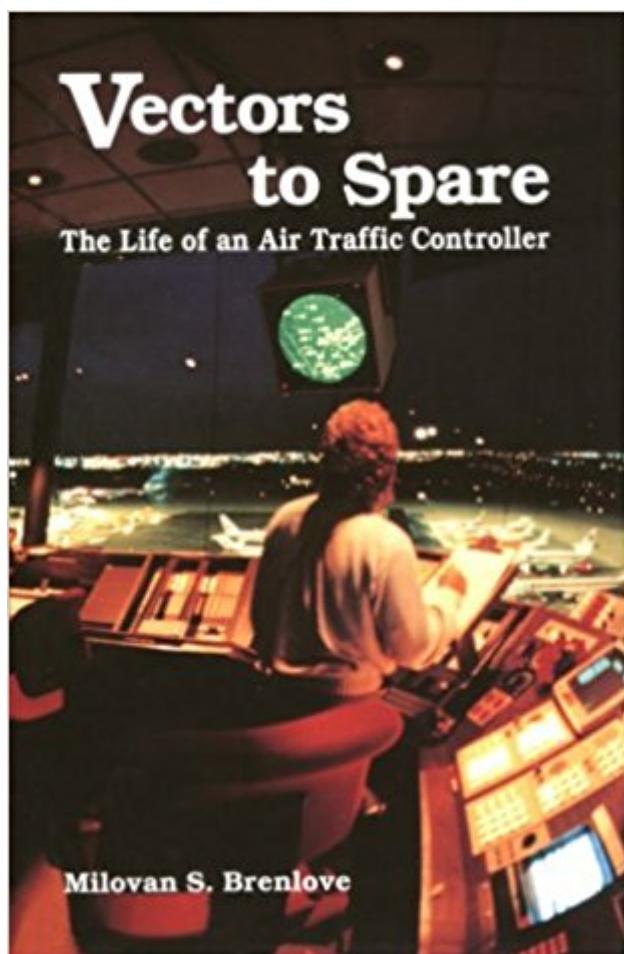


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# Vectors To Spare: The Life Of An Air Traffic Controller



## **Synopsis**

Book by Brenlove, Milovan S.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Now an assistant professor of aviation at Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire, Brenlove spent 12 years between 1974 and 1989 as an air traffic controller. At Dayton (a quiet airport), Minneapolis (one of the busiest in the country) and Pittsburgh (a happy medium), he had a love-hate relationship with the job, a reaction to its combination of stress and excitement. He offers tales of skyjacking, plane crashes due to structural defects or pilot error, medical emergencies and fires on board. Brenlove gives a provocative account of the nationwide 1981 strike, for which he blames the Federal Aviation Administration as much as the air traffic controllers' union, PATCO. A treat for those who like adventure in the skies. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Air traffic controllers have tremendously stressful jobs. Brenlove, who spent 15 years with the Federal Aviation Administration as a controller, tells of the numerous incidents he had to handle, including the crash of a fighter plane, guiding planes through snow storms, and even coordinating an emergency landing because a pilot was in dire need of relieving himself. Since every word between the control tower and airplane is recorded (in the event of an accident), there can be no secrets. The accounts Brenlove presents are interesting and entertaining, and his book is a very good nontechnical report on the daily life of an air traffic controller. A glossary of aeronautical terms

is included. This will make a good addition to the career sections of school and public libraries.- H. Robert Malinowsky, Univ. of Illinois, ChicagoCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The author takes the reader on a roller coaster ride of emotions and circumstances as he presents a picture of life as an air traffic controller not only prior to the PATCO strike of Aug., 1981, but also during, and after the strike. This book is a must-read for those who want to learn how the author managed to endure the multitude of personalities and rules and responsibilities that occasionally clashed, while handling air traffic at several facilities, including Toledo, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Pittsburgh towers. Mr. Brenlove competently leads the reader on a journey that includes moments of sheer terror, and moments of stark boredom. Future controllers will benefit from the experiences recounted by this excellent writer.

Confusing career path - other than that pretty good,

Was very pleased with book that I received. Was in great condition as described and came in a timely manner. Would order from them again.

It's like sitting around in his living room, as he recounts story after story about personalities and the ups and downs of being an air traffic controller. While giving some very interesting information about how air traffic is controlled, the book is more about people; the people that succeed and fail as air traffic controllers. Of particular interest are the sections devoted to the 1981 PATCO strike, and the acrimony leading up to it. Of less interest appeared to be the stories about what a great guy X was, or what a jerk Y was, but in retrospect, these stories serve as useful pieces in the overall picture of what it is like to work as a controller. I recommend this book to anyone interested in gaining an understanding of a very special job and the people that do it. If you are interested in learning the nitty gritty of how controllers do their work, or in riveting prose, then you had best look elsewhere.

This book has become by far the best book relating to aviation, especially for the 1980's. I really liked this book, finding it hard to put down throughout the rest of my high school oriented life. I am an avid aviator as well as my father, and my uncle is a terminal Air Traffic Controller in Chicago. All three of us eventually read this book and we all really liked the way it depicts not only ATC-ers but also what a business working day with aviation is like. I, myself, am looking into aviation as a career and I made my mother read this. Afterward, she had a much bigger insight on the organized

confusion which consumes the aviation community across the country. If you have any questions - please email me.

I thought this book was written by a Gib Satterwhite!

Actually 3 1/2 stars...I was a little disappointed in this because I was expecting more technical explanation of ATC practices versus a kind of memoir on Brenlove's life in ATC. There were some definite interesting parts and this book isn't bad at all, just know what you'll be reading when you get it. That being said, I'd probably still buy this book because, as I mentioned before, there is some value here and makes for entertaining reading, just don't expect to gain any real insight into ATC processes.

I found this book at the local library and picked it up on a whim. It's very good, and I highly recommend it if you can find a copy. Like another reviewers said, it doesn't include details about how air traffic control is done, but instead paints a picture about what it's like to BE a controller, particularly in the 80s before and after PATCO's strike. There are some great near-miss stories and tales about eccentric controllers that are some of my favorite parts of the book.

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