



Figure 6-A: Airport Air Traffic Control Functions

Frequencies. Airport ATC frequencies are shown on aviation charts, in airport facilities directories and on instrument approach charts. Large, busy airports have several frequencies for different types of air traffic controls. There are frequencies for approach control, departure control, ground control and the tower, itself. Very large and busy airports even have dedicated frequencies for each runway.

Locations. Control towers are on the airport's property and are usually in an area where view of the airfield is optimum. Huge airports might have several towers, with one being the primary tower. At large airports, approach control can be in a separate building from the control tower. At smaller controlled airports, the tower, ground-control and approach-control functions are often performed by the same controller.

Air Route Traffic Control Centers

Air Route Traffic Control Centers (ARTCC) provide control services for enroute flights. Whenever aircraft fly cross country (from one airport to another) in controlled airspace, they are under the auspices of an ARTCC. As with control tower controllers, ARTCCs keep aircraft in their control spaces at safe distances, altitudes and velocities. Air traffic services are provided predominantly to IFR flights. Services are provided to VFR flights when physical capabilities and controller workload allow the service. Enroute controllers rely on transponders, radar and pilot reports.