

Our Resolve to Act

People say I'm a little intense. And maybe I am. But I believe in the "team," and I know what the power of 53,000 pilots working toward the same goal can yield. I am driven by results; being runner-up is simply unacceptable. My commitment to you, and the commitment of my leadership team, is to add yet another success story in ALPA's long history of improving airline pilots' quality of life: deployment of CrewPASS.



The evidence is in: the "trial" demonstration program under way at three airports confirms that CrewPASS is a low-cost, viable, noninvasive security screening method that improves the level of security for our aviation system. Your ALPA team has remained actively engaged throughout the process. We're the ones who kept this revolutionary idea from getting mired in politics, dying on the vine, or getting swept under the bureaucratic rug. Discussions, debate, and dialogue with regulators, legislators, and industry stakeholders have been weekly priorities for our staff. I would like to recognize and congratulate Capt. John Prater and his leadership team for moving CrewPASS as far as they did.

In late November 2010, ALPA staff from the Engineering and Air Safety and Government Affairs Departments met with legislators to brief them on the status of implementing CrewPASS. In that same month, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that it would move forward to implement ALPA-developed CrewPASS, one of the Association's Board of Directors priorities.

All of this is well and good. However, we need to move forward and hold the TSA to its word. Until the equipment is installed, turned on, tested, and staffed at airline airports across the United States, it won't help our members one bit.

We are all keenly aware that on Oct. 29, 2010, the TSA began using Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) equipment for security screening at some U.S. airports. AIT screens for both metallic and non-metallic threats, including weapons and explosives that can be concealed under clothing.

The TSA said at the time that AIT screening of pilots was optional, but those selected for AIT screening who did not wish to submit to that technology would undergo a more thorough pat-down than normal by TSA security officers. In November, ALPA secured TSA's agreement that all airline flightcrew members in uniform who have valid airline identification would not have to undergo AIT screening or an invasive physical pat-down. That was a clear ALPA victory for every airline pilot and ALPA member.

However, as professional airline flightcrew members, we have already been screened. We have been through employ-

ment checks. We have been fingerprinted. We have been through criminal background checks. We are the most highly trained, highly regulated, and highly scrutinized employees in the entire transportation industry. We know that CrewPASS is a priority for the majority of our pilots, and this is the reason why we will see it to fruition.

We don't need to be reminded that in September, the 10th anniversary of 9/11 will be upon us. This date—forged into the minds of Americans and people around the world—represents the enormous, cascading effects of lax aviation security measures: Terrorists bypassing security. The hijacking of our aircraft and using them as bombs against us. The loss of innocent lives. The near economic destruction of our industry and great stress on the entire economy.

That momentous day altered the world. The United States has taken action ever since to circumvent another such catastrophe but not always with optimal results. The motives behind the will and determination to protect this country

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and its citizens have never come into question. All the while, ALPA has continued to be the voice for airline pilots, presenting viable solutions to help detect security threats and other challenges that come our way.

Yes, the Air Line Pilots Association, International, continues to be the conscience of the industry, and we will uphold the mission of the visionaries who established this union 80 years ago.

They established our union's original motto of "Schedule with Safety," and eight decades later, this continues to be our driving force. As your new president, I will take those next steps—to build on the foundation advancing the policies of the Association—on behalf of all airline pilots.

Capt. Lee Moak, ALPA President