



Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l . Alaska Airlines Master Executive Council
2800 S. 192nd Street, Suite 106 . Seattle . WA . 98188
206-241-3138 (office) . 206-241-3908 (fax) . <http://alaskapilots.alpa.org>
Contact: Tara Elkins . Communications Specialist

MEDIA RELEASE

Release #04-01
January 29, 2004

Alaska Airlines Pilots To Resume Mid-Term Contract Negotiations with Management

SEATTLE -- The pilots of Alaska Airlines, as represented by the Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l (ALPA), will resume mid-term contract negotiations with Alaska Airlines management outside of their regularly scheduled negotiations timeline.

Following the conclusion of mid-term contract negotiations in December, Alaska Airlines management reviewed the proposals made by both parties and indicated to the Association that it could be productive to schedule follow-up negotiations to further explore the possibility of finding a mutually acceptable agreement outside of their previously scheduled contract negotiations. The Association has agreed that it could be beneficial for both sides to restart talks.

“We wanted to make sure that no stone was left unturned in this negotiations process,” said Alaska Master Executive Chairman Gary Hansen. “Both sides worked hard in November and December on this process and we believe that there is additional opportunity to explore these issues and work toward an agreement now.”

Beginning in November, the ALPA and Alaska Airlines teams participated in four negotiating sessions outside of regularly scheduled contract negotiations. Those discussions concluded in December.

Under the terms of a side letter in their contract, Alaska pilots would be required to begin contract negotiations in March 2004 if no other agreement is reached prior to that date. Under the side letter, if an agreement is reached by December 2004, it is subject to membership ratification, with an effective date of May 2005. However, if no agreement is reached by December 2004, the two parties will be required to participate in binding interest arbitration, with an arbitration board ruling on contractual issues such as wages.

The current round of negotiations will likely be scheduled for the week of February 9. Subcommittees with members from the Association and Alaska Airlines management may begin to meet as early as next week to begin work on specific issues.

Founded in 1931, ALPA is the world's oldest and largest pilot union, representing 66,000 pilots at 42 airlines in the United States and Canada, including 1,507 Alaska Airlines pilots. Visit the ALPA website at www.alpa.org.

###

ALPA CONTACTS:
ALPA Communications Specialist Tara Elkins (206) 241-3138
First Officer Tony Salmon (206) 660-8650