

TSA Gives Green Light for Next Phase Of ALPA CrewPASS Program



ALPA's president, Capt. John Prater, and the Association's National Security Committee chairman, Capt. Robb Powers (Alaska), recently met with Transportation Security Administration Acting Administrator Gale Rossides to discuss CrewPASS and other security issues.

Rossides reported that the TSA has approved the next phase of the CrewPASS project. The pre-operational phase of this demonstration was slated to begin by May 1, and the CrewPASS contractor, ARINC, will replace the ALPA-loaned laptops with new Internet-capable devices that will provide both employment status confirmation and identity verification via fingerprint biometrics. The TSA has approved the deployment of this equipment at all three current CrewPASS locations (BWI, PIT, and CAE) and will add one additional terminal at BWI for a total of four lanes.

ARINC will begin enrolling pilots in the CrewPASS system in the near future, and ALPA will help the company advertise the biometric enrollment venue and date information. Flight crews will still be able to use all four lanes without biometrics for an extended period of time.

The TSA's next step is to publish CrewPASS program standards, which will implement the program nationwide and include flight attendants.

Prater and Powers also spoke to Rossides about ALPA's

views regarding needed improvements to the Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) program, all-cargo operations security, the development of standards for secondary barriers, and the need for approving international jumpseating via the Cockpit Access Security System (CASS).

ALPA Shares in Collier Trophy Win

The Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST), which includes ALPA, has won the prestigious 2008 Collier Trophy for advancing aviation safety.

"CAST's tremendous collective effort began more than 10 years ago with ALPA as a charter member," said Capt. John Prater, ALPA's president.

"Today, through the tremendous resources provided by many organizations and the tireless dedication of hundreds of individuals, CAST has eliminated significant risks and created a quantum leap in aviation safety."

In 1998, Vice-President Al Gore, Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, and FAA Administrator Jane Garvey created the Safer Skies Program, which led to the development of the government-industry Commercial Aviation Safety Team. CAST was charged with reducing the airline fatal accident rate by 80 percent over a 10-year period from 1997 to 2007.

"The Collier Trophy and the remarkable success of CAST is a tribute to the powerful potential of government-labor-industry collaboration and the tremendous benefit that it holds for all who rely on air transportation," concluded Prater. "ALPA looks forward to continuing to work with CAST in what must be a relentless pursuit of an ever-safer aviation industry."

Established in 1911, the Collier Trophy is a national award honoring those who have made significant achievements in advancing aviation. This is the third time that ALPA has been part of the Collier Trophy award. The Association won its first Collier Trophy in 1995 for its work on the Boeing 777 aircraft design. ALPA received its second Collier Trophy in 2008, when the Association was recognized as part of the team developing ADS-B.