

ALPA

YOU'NIV

ALPA'S TRAINING FOR PILOT VOLUNTEERS SPANS A BROAD SPECTRUM OF SUBJECT AREAS TO EQUIP THESE REPRESENTATIVES TO BEST SERVE THEIR FELLOW LINE PILOTS

On Thursday evening, April 12, 2007, Pinnacles Airlines Flight 4712 overran the end of Runway 28 at Traverse City-Cherry Capital Airport in Michigan. F/O Shannon Connolly (then Pinnacle, now Delta) was in Herndon, Va., attending the annual ALPA Accident Investigation Course.

Connolly didn't go home after the course ended; she stayed in Herndon, where an ALPA staff engineer gave her additional training on participating on the CVR (cockpit voice recorder) Group in an NTSB accident investigation. When the NTSB CVR Group convened in Washington, D.C., a few days later, Connolly was there, representing the interests of her fellow pilots and the traveling public in what would be a year-long investigation.

On the Safety Board's PCL 4712 CVR Group, Connolly was *the* face and voice of ALPA. As one of hundreds of line pilots the Association trains every year to serve their fellow pilots, she joined a distinguished group—the pilots who've attended what could be called "ALPA 'You'niversity."

Why "You"?

Because whether *you* decide to give back to your Association and your profession by volunteering your time and participation as an ALPA rep, a portion of your dues dollars goes directly to supporting ALPA's extensive training for those who have already stepped up to do so—the line pilots who make

up your master executive council negotiating committee, maintain your MEC's website, write and edit your local executive council and MEC newsletters, represent your interests on national television, take your safety issues to the FAA, Transport Canada, manufacturers, the NTSB, the TSC, and so much more.

ALPA reps don't often find themselves propelled into using the special training they've received from their Association as quickly as F/O Connolly was. But when it's their time to roll up their sleeves and do ALPA work, they're prepared.

Tailored training

ALPA offers training to those who actually need it and will use it—e.g., newly elected LEC officers, MEC secretary-treasurers, accident investigators, MEC R&I Committee members, and other ALPA reps performing specialized work. The format of the training ranges from large, multi-day courses and conferences to informal, one-on-one training by ALPA pilot representatives or members of the Association's professional staff.

The frequency of the courses and training venues varies considerably to meet the needs of individual pilot representatives and pilot groups—ranging from monthly to every other year. A number of types of training are provided on an "as needed" or "by request" basis.

For example, Steve Hodgson, manager of ALPA's Retirement and Insurance (R&I) Department, explains, "The R&I field representatives will periodically hold 'ground schools' on benefits and related issues for MEC R&I committees and negotiating committees. Our MEC benefits specialists will also hold pre-retirement planning sessions for individual pilots or groups of pilots who are nearing retirement; they'll explain pilot benefits accumulated under the working agreement

and also bring in financial planning experts from Charles Schwab & Company, which is ALPA's preferred financial services provider."

The method of communicating the availability of training also varies. Some departments notify only those who would directly need and benefit from the training. The ALPA Air Safety Committee, on the other hand, posts information on its complete course offering on the Committee website: On the members' only site, click on Committees and then Air Safety Committee. From there, click on the Safety Training tab and then Course Catalogue, which lists the dates and location of each course; course con-

ALPA TRAINING

COMMUNICATIONS: Leadership



Communications Training, Family Awareness, Media

Training, Pilot-to-Pilot, Public Speaking, Strategic Initiatives Training, Leadership Training Conference

ENGINEERING & AIR SAFETY: Basic



Safety School, Basic Safety School "Air Drop" Course,

Safety Two School, Accident Investigation Course, Bloodborne Pathogen Training, Advanced Accident Investigation Course, Airport Safety Liaison Training, Regional Safety Chairman Training

UNIVERSITY

By Jan W. Steenblik

Technical Editor

tent; prerequisites (e.g., the Advanced Accident Investigation Course requires, among other things, successful completion of the Accident Investigation Course); target audience; expected knowledge and skills upon completion; course contacts; and registration information.

Whenever possible, the courses involve pilots teaching pilots (with staff support) so that ALPA members can pass on to each other their expertise and experience from the unique perspective of line pilots. This is particularly true in safety, security, pilot support, R&I, and representation; in other subject areas, such as IT, the instructors come exclusively from the

ranks of ALPA's professional staff.

Courses are constantly upgraded and refined, based on changes in the operating environment and recommendations from pilot participants. For example, ALPA's safety and security schools have added courses for security coordinators in SMS in recent years; the Representation Department has created more roundtables to bring pilot reps together to learn from each others' experiences in negotiations, grievances, and contract enforcement.

"The pilot volunteer is at the heart of our ability to influence government, management, and industry," says ALPA's president, Capt. John Prater. "Training our volunteers is the best

investment we can make to ensure that our profession is represented in all aspects of the airline industry. The training courses available to our pilot volunteers are the finest we have ever offered, and this dynamic aspect of representing our members continues to increase in its effectiveness."

So become the geek—or the tinkering sleuth or insurance expert or contract negotiator—you've always wanted to be. Contact your LEC or MEC elected leaders to find out how you can get into a school whose training offers a chance to make a positive difference in an area that directly affects you, your family, your fellow pilots, and your profession—ALPA "You"niversity. ☛

TRAINING AVAILABLE TO PILOT REPS

(under development), Security Training Course, Security Forum, Critical Incident Response Program (CIRP) Basic, CIRP Recurrent, Pilot Assistance (Canada) Training, Professional Standards Training, Pilot Assistance Forum, Aeromedical Conference, HIMS (substance abuse detection and treatment) Seminar

FINANCE: LEC Officer Orientation, MEC Officer Orientation, MEC Secretary-Treasurers Conference, PRISM (Pilots Release Information System Management) Training,



Concur Expense Online Expense Reimbursement and Approval Application, ALPA Budgeting and Financial Reporting

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: MEC Legislative Coordinator Seminar

HUMAN RESOURCES: General Overview of HR Issues

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: IT Conference, Concur Online Expense Report, Windows 7 (Business version), OCS Instant Messaging, SharePoint, Document Management, Microsoft Office 2007, Excel 2003 Introduction, Excel 2003 and 2007: Level 2, Excel 2003: Charting a New Course, Excel 2003: Pivot Tables, Excel 2007 Introduction, Excel 2007 Advanced, Outlook 2003 and 2007 Introduction, Outlook 2003/2007: Managing Outgoing E-mail Messages and Working with Categories, Outlook 2003/2007 Advanced Features, Outlook Web Access, PowerPoint 2003,

SPACS (Strategic Preparedness and Communications Sites on ALPA Intranet) Training

REPRESENTATION: Bargaining Conferences and "Roundtable"



Discussions, Grievance Seminar, Contract Enforcement

"Roundtable" Discussions, Negotiations Training Seminar, IFALPA Negotiations Training Seminar, Strategic Planning

RETIREMENT & INSURANCE: National Retirement & Insurance Seminar, Local Retirement & Investment Seminars, MEC/LEC/R&I Committee Training

RETIREMENT & INSURANCE/ REPRESENTATION/ECONOMIC &

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS: Joint Training Seminar ☛