

The Landing

More Accomplishments



Want to find out what other ALPA pilots have accomplished to advance safety and security? Scan the QR code.

National Aviation Day Reminds Us How Far the Airline Industry Has Come

On **August 19**, ALPA celebrated National Aviation Day, recognizing the gigantic strides that have allowed the airline industry to grow from the single-passenger 1914 Benoit Type XIV flying boat to an average of more than **90,000** airline flights a day globally. For more than **84** years, ALPA and its members have worked with industry stakeholders to help spearhead safety and security advancements that have made airline travel the safest mode of transportation. Below are just a few of the many safety and security accomplishments to which ALPA has significantly contributed.

Centerline approach light system

In **1953** the International Civil Aviation Organization adopted an international standard for a centerline approach light system that Capt. Ernie Cutrell (American) developed.

Ground Proximity Warning System

In **1975** after extensive pressure from ALPA, the FAA approved rules requiring ground proximity warning systems in U.S. airliners.

Aircraft seat belt signs

Capt. Ray Lahr (United) lobbied for a rule requiring “fasten seat belt” signs in passenger airliner cabins because of a turbulence incident that seriously injured one of his passengers. In **1981**, the FAA approved the regulation.

Cockpit Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS)

In **1987** the FAA issued regulations requiring TCAS in passenger airliners to reduce the risk of midair collisions. ALPA pilots played a key role in the development of TCAS, having advocated for airborne collision avoidance systems since **1970**.

Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST)

CAST, of which ALPA is member, was founded in **1998** to develop an integrated, data-driven strategy for reducing airline fatalities and advancing other government/industry safety initiatives. Ten years later, ALPA jointly received the Robert J. Collier Trophy, an award presented annually for the greatest achievement in aviation and aviation safety in America, for its participation in helping reduce the risk of airline fatalities in the United States by **83 percent**.

Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) program

In **2002** ALPA pilots worked closely with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, following the events of 9/11, to establish the FFDO program to train and deputize airline pilots to carry firearms and protect airliners from terrorist and criminal attacks.

Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B)

In **2007** ALPA received another Collier Trophy for the Association’s role in developing ADS-B, which allows aircraft to continuously broadcast their own GPS-determined position, rather than rely solely on ground-based radar.

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