

Air Transport International's pilots are one of the newest groups to join ALPA. On Nov. 4, 2009, in a National Mediation Board election, ATI crewmembers chose ALPA as their collective bargaining representative. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters had represented the ATI crew-

Association's staff and resources can help the group achieve its goals.

"ATI crewmembers are extremely pleased with 'ALPA's Toolbox.' We did not have the resources under the IBT that we have now with ALPA, and we plan to take full advantage of this opportunity," says Rogers.

Before joining the Association, the ATI Negotiating Committee had made some progress at the bargaining table. However, because the group was in mediated negotiations for more than 4 years under the IBT, new relationships needed to be established to resume negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement. To that end, the ATI MEC negotiating team, along with ALPA's president, Capt. John Prater, attended a dinner with ATI management in Little Rock, Ark., on December 8. The ALPA negotiating team then met the following day with ATI management to set an aggressive negotiating schedule beginning immediately after the New Year. However, because management was unwilling to devote any time to contract negotiations in January, negotiations have been delayed until February.

"Although management didn't provide us with the necessary commitment to resume negotiations right away, we will have time to prepare using the ALPA resources available to us and get back on track," Rogers states. "We remain focused on the prize of negotiating a contract that our crewmembers deserve and will continue in this fight until the end."

As one of ALPA's newest pilot groups, ATI crewmembers have hit the ground running. Although time spent at the negotiating table has been long and arduous, ATI crewmembers now have the backing of the largest pilot union in the world. This is just the beginning of their journey with ALPA. 🌐

Air Transport International

ATI Crewmembers Hit the Ground Running

By Tawnya Burket, ALPA Communications Specialist

members for more than a decade.

"The crewmembers were ready for the change to ALPA, and it showed with an overwhelming 99 percent of our eligible members voting for ALPA representation. Our goal has always been to negotiate a fair contract with our company; and now, with the strength of ALPA on our side, we really feel that goal is within our reach," says Capt. Tom Rogers, the ATI Master Executive Council chairman.

ATI crewmembers have been working under an amendable contract since May

2004. They were presented with two "final" tentative agreements from management since then and voted both down. The current union leaders were voted into office

and a new Negotiating Committee was formed. After more than a year of negotiations, the MEC distributed a strike ballot, and 100 percent of the crewmembers endorsed a strike, if necessary. The crewmembers backed this new direction, led by Rogers, and the vision to join ALPA.

ATI MEC leaders met on November 17-18 at ALPA's offices in Herndon, Va., to gain further awareness of their new union's resources. The MEC officers and Negotiating Committee chairman began to establish relationships and gain more knowledge about ALPA and how the



PHOTO BY YSANGKOK

An Air Transport International DC-8 landing at Thule Air Base, Greenland.

ATI at a Glance

Pilots Joined ALPA: 2009
Number of Crewmembers: 170
Operations: DC-8 and B-767 passenger, military, and cargo operations around the world
Base: Home-based
Hub Cities: Toledo, Ohio, and Miami, Fla.
Headquarters: Little Rock, Ark.