

FedEx

The FedEx Pilots: Preparations for a Busy 2010 Begin

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FedEx F/O Amy Himic at the controls of an MD-11.

The past year has been challenging for the pilots of Memphis-based FedEx Express. Just like their passenger-carrying counterparts, the FedEx pilots have been struggling to manage the negative consequences of the global economic crisis. On top of that, the year was marked by the loss of Capt. Kevin Mosley and F/O Tony Pino in a tragic accident at Narita Airport near Tokyo, Japan.

However, several exemplary FedEx pilots were singled out for their diligent efforts in improving the piloting profession. During ALPA's Annual Air Safety Forum in Washington, D.C., held in August 2009, Capt. Dave Wells was honored with ALPA's Air Safety Award, and the first ALPA Pilot Assistance Award was bestowed posthumously on Capt. John Lux. Additionally, Capt. Bill McReynolds, Capt. Val Thal-Slocum, and F/O Rich Odbert

were awarded ALPA Presidential Citations. Their efforts on behalf of their fellow pilots serve as a model that the FedEx pilots hope others within their ranks will emulate.

The FedEx pilots are encouraged by the addition of two new airframes to

their fleet, the B-777 and B-757. The B-777 was added to replace the delivery of the Airbus A380 when the delivery schedule from Airbus Industrie became unmanageable. FedEx is about to take delivery of its third B-777, and the FedEx pilots hope that they can reach an agreement with management concerning the pay and work rules for the aircraft. With the recent addition of a Hong Kong pilot base, and the potential addition of a European pilot base, the FedEx pilots will face interesting challenges and opportunities. Though the pilot group has suffered setbacks due to management's decision to scale down operations, the pilots hope that the above-mentioned developments will return them to the outstanding career growth potential they have enjoyed in the past.

Currently, the FedEx pilots are gearing up for contract openers as their contract becomes amendable on October 31. While the twists and turns of the last year have been challenging, the unity and resolve of the FedEx pilots will provide the support required for successful negotiations.

"Unity is not just part of the success equation, it is the entire equation. It is this unity that will allow us to move forward and be successful in ratifying another industry-leading contract," says Capt. Scott Stratton, the Master Executive Council chairman.

The MEC's Negotiating Committee is eager to start talks with management and is actively building consensus among the pilots and setting the contract goals for 2010. The Committee has been polling the pilots for quite some time to assess the issues that matter most to the pilot group as a whole. The MEC and key committees continue to hold strategic planning sessions to determine the best course of action to support negotiations.

FedEx's 4,603 pilots are spread across six councils and four domiciles, including the recently opened Hong Kong foreign duty assignment base. Distance always poses a challenge when it comes to communications with the pilots, but the MEC officers and Unity Team members have been traveling to the domiciles, including Hong Kong, for face-to-face meetings with the pilots. Additionally, the MEC is using updated quarterly newsletters, e-mail updates, and a new *FDX Pilots* website to provide the most current information to its pilots.

With more than 375 airports served worldwide, FedEx has an extensive and varied fleet. FedEx delivers approximately 3.3 million packages daily to 220 countries and territories, including every address in the United States. 🌐

FDX at a Glance

Pilots Joined ALPA: June 1993-1996; rejoined ALPA in June 2002

First ALPA Contract: October 2006

Number of Flightcrew Members:

4,603

Headquarters: Memphis, Tenn.

Fleet: 73 B-727s, 21 B-757s, 117

A300/310s, 75 MD-10s, 59 MD-11s,

3 B-777s