

ALPA VICTORY:

KNOWN CREWMEMBER SCREENING SET TO BEGIN SOON

Demonstrating once again that ALPA is not only the world's largest but also the most effective pilot union, the Association recently achieved a major milestone in the long struggle to accomplish a top ALPA priority—more efficient, rational crewmember security screening at U.S. airports. The new crewmember screening system will be called the Known Crewmember Program.

ALPA and the Air Transport Association, the organization that represents airlines that carry more than 90 percent of all U.S. airline passenger and cargo traffic, met in late March with Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Administrator John S. Pistole and received TSA approval to install and test Known Crewmember at as many as seven U.S. hub airports. This enhanced identity verification and employment confirmation system for airline pilots will make airport checkpoint screening more efficient for all who depend on air transportation by getting airline pilots out of passenger screening lines.

Known Crewmember, jointly sponsored by ALPA and the ATA, will tie airline employee databases together seamlessly and enable TSA security officers to positively determine identity and employment status of flightcrew members. The Department of Homeland Security and the White House also gave Known Crewmember the green light.

In May 2007, ALPA proposed to the TSA the first version of an alternate screening method called the Crew Personnel Advanced Screening System (CrewPASS). CrewPASS has been used successfully at three East Coast airports—Baltimore/Washington International (BWI), Pittsburgh International (PIT), and Columbia (S.C.) Metropolitan (CAE)—for almost three years.

Known Crewmember differs from CrewPASS in two ways—the fact that Known Crewmember will be jointly sponsored by ALPA and the ATA, and that it uses technologies even more advanced than those employed by CrewPASS.

"I look forward to full national deployment of the Known Crewmember Program at the earliest possible date," said ALPA's president, Capt. Lee Moak. "As professional airline pilots, we have been

through employment checks. We have been fingerprinted. We have been through criminal background checks. We are the most highly screened employees in the aviation industry, and we are on the front lines of our nation's aviation security efforts every day, empowered to help protect it. This enhanced process recognizes those facts by providing pilots with a technologically modern and highly efficient alternative to the traditional security screening process."

ATA President Nicholas E. Calio added, "We are proud to partner with ALPA on this effort. Our nation's airline pilots are highly skilled and trusted partners within our industry, and with this new system we can improve the screening system for

ALPA and the Air Transport Association team up, with TSA's ok, to bring faster, more efficient screening to all airline pilots

By Jan W. Steenblik, Technical Editor

flight crews while reducing [security screening checkpoint] congestion and improving the travel experience for passengers in TSA security lines."

Pistole noted, "Deploying an enhanced screening program for uniformed pilots that allows the TSA to verify their employment and identity is a win-win solution. We want to focus our limited resources on passenger screening, while speeding and enhancing the checkpoint experience."

Any TSA-regulated U.S. airline that wishes to connect to Known Crewmember will be able to do so, and any airline pilot employed by one of those airlines will be able to participate in the program. ALPA and the ATA also have urged the TSA to authorize including flight attendants in Known Crewmember as soon as practical.

Testing is projected to begin at several airports—Chicago O'Hare (ORD), Phoenix Sky Harbor (PHX), Boston Logan (BOS), Miami International (MIA), Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP), Washington Dulles International (IAD), and Seattle-Tacoma International (SEA). The tests will run for approximately 90 days and, if successful, will expand to additional U.S. airports. 🌐