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IFALPA applauds UK authorities for uncovering terrorist plot, but believes follow-up security procedures must be improved

CHERTSEY 14 August: Last week's revelation that authorities in the United Kingdom had uncovered a plot by terrorists that posed a serious threat to airlines operating between the United Kingdom and the United States was welcome news. The authorities foiled a plot by terrorists that was deep in the planning stages to blow up a number of aircraft in flight while enroute from the UK to the US using Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

"IFALPA applauds the UK authorities for uncovering this incredibly vicious plot to murder innocent people through the destruction of airliners in flight" said IFALPA President Captain Dennis Dolan. "This is the type of proactive police work that is required to deal with the real threat from terrorism—extremist individuals who are bent upon resorting to violence and destruction as a means of promoting their fanatical agendas. It is only through such excellent vigilance that we will win the battle against these extremists and assure the continued safety of air travel worldwide" Dolan said.

As the world approaches the fifth anniversary of the horrendous events of September 11, 2001 it is evident that we still have a lot of work to do as a collective industry to ensure that we effectively allocate the limited resources available to provide adequate and sustainable defences against new threats. New security devices and procedures must be analysed and implemented on the basis of the actual threat presented, as well as from a risk management perspective. The goal for all of us is to achieve more successes such as the authorities achieved in this case and catch the terrorists on the ground.

Notes to Editors

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 95 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations. See the Federation website www.ifalpa.org