



LASER ILLUMINATION OF AIRCRAFT: A GROWING THREAT CONFERENCE



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

October 27, 2011

Dear Conference Attendee:

Welcome to our conference Laser Illumination of Aircraft – A Growing Threat. The illumination of flight decks with hand-held lasers has been a problem for some time but recently, the number of incidents has increased so dramatically that we believe the issue must receive greater public attention than it has in the past.

In spite of government and industry efforts to thwart this activity, the number of reported incidents of laser illumination of aircraft has risen from less than 50 between the period of April 1980 and September 2003, to nearly 3,000 during the 2010 calendar year. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reports that during the first nine months of 2011, nearly 2,600 laser incidents have been recorded.

Individual state legislatures have passed laws making the shining of lasers into an aircraft a criminal offense. The U.S. Congress has introduced multiple bills to criminalize the offense by providing for up to five years' imprisonment for shining a laser into an aircraft or its flight path. Additionally, the FAA has recently established civil fines of up to \$11,000 for interfering with a flight crew via a laser.

Our conference includes subject-matter experts from government and industry who will provide their insight and expertise on all phases of the laser issue. You will hear legislative, law enforcement, regulatory, and medical perspectives. You will hear from users of commercial lasers and from pilots who have experienced laser attacks in the cockpit.

We hope that you will find this event to be very informative and useful. Thank you, again, for joining us and for your help in raising public awareness of this growing threat to aviation.

Captain Donald Lee Moak
ALPA President

Nicholas E. Calio
ATA President and CEO