



Conference Statement on Search and Rescue Operations

69th Annual IFALPA Conference – Panama City, Panama

31 of March 2014

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) calls upon the international aviation community to stress the importance of cooperation, complete transparency, and adherence to the principles of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Annex 13 for investigations into an aircraft's serious incident or accident. In 2014 technology is available that can significantly enhance the ability to locate a missing aircraft, and this technology must become the standard across the industry.

Examples of such technology include:

- Enhancements to Underwater Locator Beacons (ULBs) and Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs) required by ICAO Annex 6 and 10 Standards, through higher transmitting power and extended battery life.
- More accurate and near real time position reporting of aircraft location via satellite.

When there is a lack of factual information, it is unacceptable to fill this gap with speculation that targets individuals, including flight crew. Speculation regarding any factors hampers and damages the progress of an investigation by utilizing resources that divert attention from the fact finding process.

IFALPA will continue to:

- Inform key media outlets and spokespersons on the accident/incident investigation process and the ramifications of speculation.
- Urge ICAO to initiate a Study Group, which includes industry and government, to evaluate new technologies and make recommendations for the use of these technologies to locate a missing aircraft.