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**ALLIED PILOTS ASSOCIATION COMMENDS DECISION BY BRAZILIAN COURT
TO RETURN PASSPORTS TO EXCELAIRE PILOTS**

‘We look forward to the results of a full, fair and timely investigation’

Fort Worth, Texas (Dec. 11, 2006)—The Allied Pilots Association (APA), collective bargaining agent for the 13,000 pilots of American Airlines (NYSE: AMR), commends last week’s decision by the Federal Regional Court of the First Region of Brasilia to return the passports of the two pilots of an ExcelAire Embraer Legacy 600 that was involved in an apparent mid-air collision with a Gol Airlines Boeing 737 on Sept. 29 over Brazil. Pilots Joseph Lepore and Jan Paladino, who are both U.S. citizens, returned to the United States on Saturday and were reunited with their families. Following the accident, the pilots had been required by Brazilian authorities to surrender their passports.

APA had previously issued a statement on Oct. 11 emphasizing the importance of a “full, fair and timely investigation” into the cause of the accident. The union also issued a follow-up statement on Nov. 21 requesting that the two pilots be permitted to return to the United States and emphasizing the importance of conducting the accident investigation according to widely accepted International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 13 guidelines, rather than as a criminal proceeding. APA’s latest statement reads as follows:

“The Allied Pilots Association commends the court’s decision to return Captain Lepore’s and First Officer Paladino’s passports and permit them to return to the United States. We look forward to the results of a full, fair and timely investigation into the cause of this tragic accident to help prevent any recurrence. In addition, we want to reiterate the need to conduct this accident investigation in accordance with ICAO Annex 13.

“In closing, we are grateful that these two men will be sharing the holidays with their families and we extend our deepest condolences to all who lost loved ones in this tragedy.”

That is the full text of the pilot union’s statement.

Founded in 1963, APA is headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas. There are currently 2,852 American Airlines pilots on furlough. The furloughs began shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Also, several hundred American Airlines pilots are on full-time military leave of absence serving in the armed forces. The union's Web site address is www.alliedpilots.org. American Airlines is the nation's largest passenger carrier.