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CAPA: Stowaway in a Box Reveals Gaping Hole in Air Cargo Security

(Washington, DC) Since the tragedy of Pan Am 103 in 1988, advocacy groups have been fighting to improve aviation security. After the terrorist attacks of Sept 11th 2001 on American soil, numerous legislators and special interest groups have opposed real and substantive change to the nation's aviation security system.

Recently, a young man, who understood the loopholes in our nation's cargo shipping procedures, shipped himself from New York to Dallas. He was in full compliance of the current Transportation Security Administration (TSA) "known shipper" program and went undetected by federal security authorities as he was transported to Dallas. Captain Jon Safley, President of the Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations (CAPA) said, "Our boxed stowaway clearly proves there are large, gaping holes in cargo security. This situation could have led to disaster. America needs effective cargo security legislation now!"

The Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations supports the passage of S.165 and H.R.2455. These two pieces of legislation will significantly enhance the security of our nation's air transportation security system. "This legislation is in Congress now. If our congressional leaders fully understand the need for complete screening of all air cargo on all commercial aircraft, then these bills will easily pass," said Safley. CAPA has been working tirelessly with members of Congress and the Bush administration to support one level of security for the entire air transportation system.

CAPA is a trade organization that represents the safety and security interests of the 21,000 pilots who fly for five major airlines: American, UPS, Southwest, Airborne Express, and AirTran.