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Editorial – That clear September day

On Sunday, the world will mark the 10th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. It seems that all of the world's TV networks are gearing up for retrospectives marking aviation's darkest day. Of the trailers advertising the programmes seen by the IFALPA Daily News, most of these programmes are focussing on the events of the day itself with some boasting minute by minute "as it was coverage". While the validity of this type of coverage is moot, it appears that most of the programming will fail to recognise the role that airline pilots play ensuring the security of their passengers. We have seen many changes in our personal and professional lives since those tragic events and we have learned one valuable lesson, we are the last line of defence for the travelling public. Sadly this is a role that has so often been overlooked by not only TV producers but more importantly, by legislators, regulators and law enforcement officers.

On Sunday, by all means, make the time to pause and reflect on the sacrifice made by the crews of United 93, United 175, American 11 and American 77 when the aircraft they commanded became weapons against all of us. Think of the thousands on the ground who lost their lives on that clear September day. But also spare a thought for those who guard the ramparts of security today, in the firebase, on foot patrol and, those on the final line of defence, pilots manning the flight decks of the world.

TRIP announces acquisition of 18 ATR72-600s plus options



TRIP Linhas Aéreas has announced the acquisition of 18 ATR 72-600s plus options on an additional 22. The order has been placed directly with ATR and is worth approximately \$900 million if the options are taken up.

The Sao Paulo based regional carrier has also agreed with ALC and GECAS to lease another nine of the -600s.

With the inclusion of its latest purchase TRIP has now become the largest ATR operator in the world with a fleet of 51 of the turboprops.

José Mario Caprioli Dos Santos, TRIP's CEO Linhas Aéreas, commented "We have been successfully operating several types of ATRs for more than a decade. Purchasing ATR -600s is then a logical continuity in our partnership with ATR. We will be glad to introduce the newest

improvements of these aircraft into our fleet, and to enhance and expand our air service offer with even higher standards of performance and comfort, as expected by the growing Brazilian market. We are also proud to become the largest ATR operator around the world.”

Airbus to increase production rate ?



Airbus is considering ramping up its production rate by as much as a third according to an article in yesterday's La Tribune. Quoting 'sources', the French daily said that the Airbus order book is so full that it only has a few delivery slots available before 2020 which may force potential customers to look elsewhere, particularly at Boeing's latest model, the B737 MAX.

The European corporation has just increased production from 36 to 38 aircraft per month and is planning to increase again, to 42, towards the end of next year.

SAA sees 77 per cent rise in year's profit



South African Airways (SAA) has managed a 77 per cent increase in net profits for the 12 months ended March. The airline posted a positive R782 million, which compares favourably with the previous year's R442 million.

Operating performance also saw a dramatic rise, up 66 per cent, to a profit of R807 million despite revenues only growing by six per cent. However operating expenses only rose by five per cent.

Piece of Aviation History for September 9



1966 - The Rolls-Royce Olympus engine begins flight tests underneath an Avro Vulcan bomber. Initially set up as a joint project between Bristol Siddeley and Snecma based on Bristol's Olympus engine in 1964. Two years later Bristol was acquired by Rolls-Royce making it a division of the company.

The engine subsequently becomes the power plant for Concorde.

Quote of the Day

Defer not till tomorrow to be wise, tomorrow's sun to thee may never rise.
William Congreve (1670 - 1729)

A Bit of Light Relief

No 'Light Relief Today' in memory of all the 9/11 victims

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