

## **Teamsters Local 2727 Press Release**

Teamsters Local 2727 – the labor group that represents nearly 1,400 Aircraft Maintenance Employees, who maintain United Parcel Service Co.'s fleet of over 260 jet aircraft – announced today that after, twenty-four months of difficult negotiations, contract talks with United Parcel Service could break down before the Holiday Season.

Negotiations over work rules have been slow and difficult; the parties have not even reached the critical wage and benefit issues in their dispute. The current sticking point emerged at the last negotiating session when the Company proposed contract changes that would allow much of the Union's line maintenance work on UPS's jet fleet to be performed overseas by mechanics in foreign gateways. The Union's response was immediate and unequivocal. "This is an unnecessary action that will not only take away jobs from our members, despite their contributions to the growth of UPS's package delivery traffic to and from the United States, it could also degrade maintenance and therefore jeopardize the safety of the general public, flight crews and the safety of the aircraft" said Teamsters Local 2727 President Bob Combine. With UPS taking an increasingly important role in world transportation markets, he emphasized, Local 2727's members will not allow their work on Company aircraft that regularly transit the United States to be performed abroad.

This is the first public statement by the Union in more than two years of increasingly contentious negotiations, as the Union has attempted to achieve, and the Company has resisted, improvements in working conditions relating to mandatory overtime, forced duty assignments away from home and subcontracting of bargaining work. There comes a point in time, Combine noted, at which the membership's frustrations boil over and affect delivery service. "We don't want to reach that point," he said. "That's the last thing UPS needs while trying to secure a deal with DHL for domestic service and fight off stiff competition from FedEx." "Since our silence is encouraging the Company's aggressive bargaining tactics, we will be silent no longer."