

**UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL**

**LOCAL 971**

# SHOP NOISE



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## **Connecticut District 26 Locals Open Pratt & Whitney Negotiations With Call for Fair Contract**

Negotiations are underway for thousands of IAM members at Pratt & Whitney in the greater Hartford, Conn., area. IAM Locals 700 and 1746 (District 26) have joined together with a shared purpose: to advocate effectively for their members' rights and needs.



Pratt & Whitney produce and maintains jet aircraft engines for military and commercial jets, such as the KC-46 air refueling tanker, the F-35 joint strike fighter, and the A320 commercial airliner.

"This committee will ensure that our membership's voice is heard at the table during negotiations with Pratt & Whitney," said Jeff Santini, IAM District 26's Directing Business Representative and Organizer. "We are a highly skilled workforce that builds, tests, and maintains the world's best commercial and military engines."

Healthy wages that are in line with the rising cost of living and inflation are top priorities in these negotiations. Furthermore, the committee is focused on improving language on guaranteed work protections and ensuring retirement security, which the membership has voiced as top concerns.

IAM members are part of a highly skilled workforce that undergoes rigorous training, guaranteeing that every engine meets the precision and durability required for military and commercial operations.

Additionally, union contracts help secure fair wages, benefits, and job stability, reducing turnover and maintaining a knowledgeable workforce with deep expertise in aerospace manufacturing. This stability is essential for maintaining a consistent production pipeline, preventing delays, and ensuring that military and commercial customers have the necessary equipment to remain operational and practical.

"IAM members at Pratt & Whitney are pivotal in building engines for military aircraft that are crucial to ensuring the highest standards of quality, safety, and reliability in national defense," said IAM Eastern Territory General Vice President David Sullivan. "Securing an industry-leading contract isn't just beneficial to our  
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## ***International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers Local Lodge 971***



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members; it's also beneficial to the company."

In the face of evolving global security threats, relying on union workers helps safeguard the integrity of defense technology and the well-being of those who manufacture it. Moreover, commercial customers maintain an efficient fleet with highly engineered and manufactured products.

"The IAM is committed to securing a fair and just contract for our members at Pratt & Whitney. Our highly skilled workforce is the backbone of this company's success, and they deserve an agreement that recognizes their dedication and contributions," said IAM International President Brian Bryant. "We will continue to stand strong, united, and determined to achieve the best possible outcome for our members and their families."

The current contract expires at midnight on May 4, 2025.





## **IAM Union Urges Congressional Support for F-35 Program**

The IAM Union (International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers) wrote a letter urging members of Congress to sign a bipartisan letter in support of the F-35 Lightning II and F-135 engine programs, a move critical to both U.S. national security and the livelihoods of American workers.

The letter, led by Reps. Marc Veasey (D-Texas), Michael Turner (R-Ohio), John Larson (D-Conn.), and John Rutherford (R-Fla.) urge the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee to continue robust funding for the F-35 program in the upcoming defense budget.



“The F-35 is the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world, and continued investment in this program is essential to maintaining U.S. air superiority and national defense,” wrote IAM Union International President Brian Bryant. “Equally important, the program sustains tens of thousands of good-paying, high-skilled jobs for IAM members and supports nearly 300,000 jobs across the

country. As America faces growing global threats, now is not the time to waver in our commitment to readiness and innovation.” The bipartisan letter also calls for full support of the President’s budget request and service unfunded priorities to incrementally ramp up production toward full-rate output. It also urges increased funding for modernization efforts, spare parts and engines, and future propulsion upgrades.

*Pratt & Whitney, the manufacturer of the F-135 engine that powers all variants of the F-35, plays a critical role in the program’s success. The company is actively working on engine enhancements through the Engine Core Upgrade (ECU) initiative to ensure the F-35 remains capable of meeting future mission requirements. The F-135 program supports tens of thousands of jobs and includes a nationwide supply chain.*

“Beyond its national security value, the F-35 program is a key driver of the U.S. manufacturing base, supporting over 225,000 high-tech, high-paying jobs across more than 1,800 suppliers, half of which are small or disadvantaged businesses,” reads the bipartisan letter. “Thousands of these workers are skilled union members, reinforcing the program’s role in sustaining American manufacturing leadership. Moreover, the F-35 program has a significant impact on local economies, with suppliers and subcontractors located in nearly every state, contributing to the growth and development of communities across the country.” The IAM Union is strongly urging every member of Congress to join this bipartisan effort and support our military and working families across the nation.





## **IAM Local Lodge 2003 Members Ratify Strong Tentative Agreements at Fort Novosel Benefiting Over 3,400 Workers**

Approximately 3,400 members of IAM Union (International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers) Local Lodge 2003 have ratified a robust new agreement with M1 Support Services and its subcontractors at Fort Novosel, Ala.

This five-year agreement, which covers IAM Local Lodge 2003 members performing aircraft maintenance and flight support, includes several key improvements that prioritize the well-being and security of workers. "IAM Local 2003 members are highly skilled and proud of their mission to support our national defense," said IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Craig Martin. "This agreement reflects the power of collective bargaining to resolve issues and negotiate good contracts ensuring that our members receive the respect and compensation they deserve."

"We are proud of the hard-fought progress the negotiating committee made for our members at Fort Novosel," said IAM Aerospace Chief of Staff William "Benji" Sullivan. "This contract not only delivers substantial wage increases and improves benefits, but it also protects the rights of our workers, providing them with job security and better benefits."

"We are the heart of what keeps Fort Novosel

running smoothly," said IAM Local Lodge 2003 Negotiating Committee Chairman Chris Kelley. "Through hard work, unity, and a commitment to the process, we've negotiated a deal that reflects the value our members bring to the table ensuring our voices were heard and concerns addressed."

The IAM shares a more than seven-decade legacy with Fort Novosel (formerly Fort Rucker) Army Base. IAM Local Lodge 2003 members maintain the helicopters used to train U.S. Army pilots worldwide.

The M1/Fort Novosel contract includes annual wage increases, improved overtime scheduling, Juneteenth as a holiday, better vacation scheduling, maintained top-tier medical coverage, enhanced retirement contributions, and protections for seniority rights.

## **Union Meeting**

*(Date moved in observance of Easter)*

**April 27th**

**7:00pm**

**Executive Board Meeting at 6:30**

**Old Town Hall,**

**1000 Town Hall Ave., Jupiter**

