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IAM Union Members Power Through, Seal the Deal to End Three-Week Strike

After a three week strike, around 3,000 machinists at Pratt & Whitney's East Hartford and Middletown plants returned to work with a new four-year contract that brings major gains in wages, retirement security, job protection, and schedule flexibility. Ratified by 74% of voting members on May 27, the agreement marks the end of the company's first walkout since 2001 and reflects the power of organized labor to secure meaningful improvements through collective action.



The contract includes a 6% pay increase in the first year, combining a 4% general wage hike, a 2% market adjustment, and a cost-of-living boost. Workers will also receive annual raises of 3.5%, 3%, and 3% in the following years. Retirement benefits saw a

notable improvement as well. Weekly pension payments will rise from \$94 to \$113 starting in June 2025, and employees will gain new flexibility in how they receive those benefits. Savings plan contributions will increase gradually, with the company matching up to \$115 per week by 2028.

Job security was a major point of concern for many workers. The new agreement commits to keeping both Connecticut facilities open through at least 2029. It also includes protections against layoffs, even in cases where work is temporarily outsourced, and requires the company to bring that work back in-house within a set period.

There were also wins on the quality of life front. The contract expands schedule flexibility and strengthens promotion language, ensuring that workers who move into higher roles receive either a \$1 per hour raise or the maximum allowed for their new position, whichever is greater.

This contract fight came at a time when Pratt & Whitney, and its parent company RTX, were posting record profits. In the first quarter of 2025 alone, the company saw a 41% increase in earnings. That growth, combined with shareholder payouts totaling billions, helped fuel workers' calls for fair compensation and better protections.

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Optician Services Available on Campus

Optical Services are located in the Manufacturing Building on A aisle across from the NEXT Lounge and is open every Tuesday, 8:00am – 4:00pm. Appointments are required. Call 561-796-2020. Bring in your current prescription.

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The strike drew widespread support from elected officials and the public. U.S. Senator Chris Murphy and Representative John Larson both stood on the picket lines with machinists. Murphy pointed out that while workers were asked to absorb higher healthcare costs, RTX had returned \$3.7 billion to shareholders. The message was clear: the people building engines for a global defense and aerospace company deserved more than token raises and uncertain futures. The contract took effect on May 28, and while the picket signs have been packed away, the outcome sets a new standard for what union members can accomplish through unity and resolve. For workers at Pratt & Whitney, the deal delivers not just better pay and benefits, but a stronger voice on the job and a sense of security for the years ahead.

IAM Union International President Brian Bryant Applauds Congressional Support of F-35 and F135 Engine Programs

Brian Bryant, International President of the 600,000-member IAM (International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers), issued a statement applauding the bipartisan group of 125 members of Congress who signed a letter urging continued funding for the F-35 Lightning II and F135 engine programs in the Fiscal Year 2026 defense budget. “The IAM deeply thanks the 125 members of Congress who have stepped up to show their strong, united support for the F-35 and F135 engine programs,” said IAM



International President Bryant. "This is more than a commitment to national security, it's a resounding endorsement of the American worker and the strength of U.S. manufacturing." Bryant emphasized the program's impact not only on defense but on working families across the country. "The F-35 program is not only essential for maintaining our military's edge over global threats, but it also supports over 225,000 good paying jobs at more than 1,800 suppliers across the nation," continued Bryant. "These skilled workers are the backbone of America's defense industrial base. "These jobs are critical to thousands of IAM Union families who depend on this program, impacting major hubs like F-35 production in Fort Worth, engine manufacturing in Connecticut, and countless supplier communities from Florida to California. "The continued investment in the F135 Engine Core Upgrade is especially critical. Modernizing this engine ensures that our warfighters are equipped with the safest, most advanced technology while reducing long-term costs and sustaining critical jobs in communities across the country.

"We are proud to stand with the members of Congress who recognize that national defense and American jobs go hand-in-hand. The IAM will continue to advocate for robust funding for programs that protect our country and support our members."

The IAM continues to push for investments that strengthen both the country's security and the livelihoods of its members. This statement reflects the union's ongoing efforts to ensure federal support for defense programs that deliver both strategic value and economic impact.

IAM Union and Bipartisan Lawmakers Push to Sustain C-130J Production

The IAM Union, backed by more than 70 members of Congress, is urging lawmakers to fully fund and continue production of the C-130J aircraft in the Fiscal Year 2026 defense budget. Built by IAM Local 709 members at Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Georgia, the C-130J remains the only military airlift still manufactured in the United States. A bipartisan group of 77 U.S. Representatives signed a letter to the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee calling for strong investment in the program. Led by Reps. Barry Loudermilk (R-Ga.), Julia Brownley (D-Calif.), David Scott (D-Ga.), and Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.), the letter outlines several key funding priorities. These include additional C-130J aircraft for the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve, and Marine Corps, along with funding to address diminishing manufacturing sources and engineering upgrades for the LC-130J variant. IAM International President Brian Bryant called the program critical to both national defense and American jobs. He noted that it supports thousands of IAM members and more than 27,000 jobs across a broad supply chain. Continued funding, Bryant said, is vital to keeping the production line stable and ensuring the U.S. maintains its airlift capability for years to come.





IAM District 751 Celebrates Grand Opening of New Everett Training Center

IAM District 751 has officially opened a new, state of the art training center in Everett, Washington, marking a major investment in the future of the aerospace workforce. The facility was unveiled with union leaders, members, and community supporters on hand, including IAM International President Brian Bryant and Western Territory General Vice President Robert "Bobby" Martinez. "This isn't just about keeping pace. It's about setting the standard," said District 751 Directing Business Representative Jon Holden. The 20,000 square foot center is built to ensure members are learning with the same advanced tools and technology used across the aerospace industry.

Inside the center, members will train on real-world equipment, including CNC simulators, 3D printers, programmable logic controllers, welding rigs, mills, and lathes. There's also virtual and augmented reality technology designed to enhance technical skills in paint, welding, and metrology. The goal is to give IAM members the hands-on experience they need to walk straight into high-skill roles at companies like Boeing.

"This new facility represents our deep commitment to investing in our members," said International President Brian Bryant. "It's a

place where careers begin, skills are strengthened, and the future of aerospace is built."

The center also includes flexible classrooms and a large union hall, giving it the ability to host both training and union events under one roof.

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, who attended the ribbon cutting, emphasized the national importance of this investment. "By 2030, we may have a shortfall of over 2 million machinists. America's competitiveness is at stake," she said. "751 is answering the call." With room to train more than 700 machinists, the new facility stands as a powerful response to the growing need for skilled labor in aerospace and beyond.

Union Meeting

June 22nd

7:00pm

Executive Board Meeting at 6:30

Old Town Hall,

1000 Town Hall Ave., Jupiter

