

## Robert L. Lekites

President, UPS Airlines



As president of UPS Airlines, Bob Lekites oversees the world's ninth largest airline as well as Worldport, the company's cutting-edge package processing facility and all-points international air hub. Under Lekites' direction, UPS's air and international operations have expanded and evolved to take on an increasingly critical role in synchronizing global commerce and in 2009, the airline was named Cargo Airline of the Year by Air Transport World. Lekites was named 2006 Business Leader of the Year by Business First of Louisville for his role in positioning Louisville as an international logistics center.

A native of Lowell, Mass., Lekites started with UPS in 1974 as a package car driver in Massachusetts. In 1979, he was promoted into management as an industrial engineer. For the next decade, Lekites worked throughout New England in package and hub operations. As project coordinator for the opening of the Chelmsford hub in 1987, he was responsible for sort operations that processed packages for delivery to the entire New England region.

Lekites spent a year working in corporate customer service in Greenwich, Conn., before relocating to West Los Angeles to serve as hub division manager. A year later, he became the operations manager for the metro Los Angeles area, with responsibility for five major hubs and feeder operations in the L.A. basin. After two years, Lekites returned to the East Coast to serve as South Carolina district manager. After that, he was named Metro Philadelphia district manager. In 1996, he accepted the position of UPS Flight Operations director in Louisville, Ky. He has headed airline and international operations since October 1997.

Lekites attended Northern Essex Community College and Lowell Technological Institute in Massachusetts. He graduated from Columbia Business School's Executive Leadership Program in 1995.

In addition to his corporate responsibilities, Lekites serves on numerous committees including the Air Transport Association's Senior Advisory Committee, the National Defense Transportation Association's Military Airlift Executive Committee, the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and Greater Louisville Inc.'s board of directors and executive board. He also serves on the Transportation Steering Committee for the Federal Reserve Eighth District.

Among his community activities, Lekites acted as 2000 general chair for the Metro United Way, and served as a member of Leadership Louisville's board of directors and the University of Louisville's board of overseers.