



# Weekly Update



Continental • ExpressJet • Micronesia • Gulfstream

The Update Message from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

**Friday, April 20, 2007**

**United In Sorrow And Grief** - The heartbreaking sound of gunfire this week at Virginia Tech echoed closer to home when it was learned that an IAM member's stepson was among the 32 students and teachers killed in the nation's worst school shooting ever. Ryan Clark, 22, a fourth-year Biology, English and Psychology major and stepson of IAM member Mae Clark, was the second student to be slain on April 16 when he came to the aide of fellow student Emily Hilscher. Mae Clark is a member of IAM Local 641 in Cleveland, NC, and employed at Auto Truck Transport in Mt. Holly, NC. Among his talents and passions, Ryan "Stack" Clark played in Virginia Tech's marching band and worked summers as music director at a camp for physically and mentally disabled adults and children. "He was just one of the greatest people you could possibly know," said friend Gregory Walton in the Detroit Free Press. Police have identified a senior at Virginia Tech, Cho Seung Hui, as the gunman who moved from building to building, methodically executing students and teachers despite heroic efforts to stop him. One professor, Liviu Librescu, 76, a holocaust survivor, died trying to block a door while students escaped by jumping from windows. "It is difficult to fully express the sadness and sorrow we feel for the victims and their families," said IP Tom Buffenbarger. "On behalf of our officers, staff and members, I want to extend our deepest sympathies to the families, friends, colleagues and classmates of those who perished at Virginia Tech."

**ITF Backs IAM Day Of Action** - Just a month before the 2007 Transportation Day of Action, the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) have launched a [website](#) to show global support for the IAM's Transportation Day of Action. "Transport workers around the world are suffering the same indignities as the US workers," said Ingo Marowsky, ITF Civil Aviation Secretary. "That's why the ITF is urging civil aviation and other transport affiliates to back this worldwide campaign." The ITF is asking unions to back the Day of Action in a number of ways. These include sending as many participants as possible to the Washington D.C. rally on May 17th, presenting government ministers with a charter of demands during the same week as the action and urging cabin crew on stopover to join ground staff at destination airports in organized actions. The ITF is an international trade union federation of 681 transport workers' unions representing 4,500,000 transport workers in 148 countries. Check out the IAM's Day of Action Website, [www.17may07.org](http://www.17may07.org), for the latest Day of Action information.

**Continental Reports 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Profits of \$22 Million** – Continental Airlines reported Thursday, a first-quarter 2007 net income, including special items, of \$22 million. First-quarter net income includes a \$7 million gain on the sale of substantially all of the company's remaining investment in ExpressJet Holdings and a net charge from other special items of \$11 million. Excluding special items, Continental recorded net income of \$26 million, an improvement of \$72 million compared to the same period last year. Strong revenue growth, continued cost discipline and a slight decrease in fuel prices contributed to the quarterly profit, the first time since 2001 that the company has posted a first-quarter profit in what is a seasonally weak period. "We are pleased with the first-quarter revenue results, as we continued to grow our revenue at almost twice the rate that we grew our capacity," Continental President, Jeff Smisek said. "While the domestic system suffers from yield pressure, the international system is performing superbly, and rewards us for our decade-long focus on international expansion," he added.

**Board Orders Northwest, Flight Attendants To Resume Talks** - The union representing Northwest Airlines flight attendants met with company officials Thursday after a break of nearly two months. The National Mediation Board ordered the two sides to talk. "We hope to reach an agreement with the AFA/CWA as soon as possible," a Northwest spokesman said.

**Creditors Overwhelmingly Approve Delta Reorganization** - Delta Air Lines' reorganization plan received overwhelming support from creditors, according to official results. Delta will ask a court to approve the plan on April 25, and it plans to leave bankruptcy protection at the end of this month.

**Airlines Added Workers in February** - Commercial airlines in the U.S. added 900 employees to their workforces in February. The increase marks the first annual increase in employment for the industry since December 2004, according to the DOT. "The vast majority of the fat's been cut out of this business," says Jon Ash, an industry consultant. "There's not a lot left."

**Get Ready for the Day of Action** - The IAM Transportation Department is preparing for a major March and Rally on May 17, 2007, in Washington, DC. Thousands of working men and women from every state of the Union will join us on that day to say "**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**" **For more information, visit [17may07.org](http://17may07.org)**

**We would like to encourage all members to attend your Local Lodge business meeting.** Each base must have a quorum to conduct business. The following is a schedule for upcoming meetings:

**Newark:** Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Airport Hotel.

**Cleveland:** Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.

**Houston:** Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

**Guam:** Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.