



District 142

Continental • ExpressJet • Micronesia • Gulfstream

# Weekly Update



The Update Message from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers representing Flight Attendants in the 2339 Local Lodges

**Friday, February 15, 2008**

## Merger Watch

**Click Here for Current  
Airline Merger News**

**Stay Informed with “Merger Watch” at the District 142 Website** – District 142 has added a new resource to assist our members with keeping track of the latest airline merger information and news that is available. On the Merger Watch web page you will find not only current news as it relates to our members, but you can also read testimony from the IAM leadership to congress, letters sent to the CEO’s of airline management demanding that your Union be allowed to actively participate in any future merger talks that

could affect our members and other airline related merger information. To view the Merger Watch page, please visit [www.go142.org](http://www.go142.org) and while you are there please sign up for “Merger Watch” e-mail updates.

**Machinists Union on Edge about Airline Deals** – The country's largest airline union is poised to oppose any mergers in the industry, starting with the possible combination of Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines, which could potentially reduce the number of workers represented by organized labor. "We think part of the thinking here is that they could de-unionize the transportation labor movement," says Robert Roach, General Vice President of the International Association of Machinists, in an interview. "Additionally, we think that mergers adversely affect the flying public." The IAM represents 110,000 employees at a variety of airlines, including about 11,000 agents and ground service workers at Northwest, where it is the largest union. In general, "mergers mean a loss of air service in many areas, an increase in fares and multiple problems for workers," Roach says. "While the purpose of airline deregulation was to increase competition, they want to reduce competition." To read this article in its entirety, please visit **“Merger Watch”** by clicking on the following link. [http://www.iamdl142.org/fa/Merger\\_Watch.htm](http://www.iamdl142.org/fa/Merger_Watch.htm)

**Senators Balk at Proposed Changes for FMLA** – At a hearing on the Department of Labor’s (DOL) proposed changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), a host of Democratic senators yesterday criticized the DOL for “chipping away” at the current law. Lawmakers fear workers could be discouraged from using FMLA under the DOL’s proposals, **which include an enhanced medical certification process, changes to the definition of a serious medical condition and more employer notice requirements.** “The Family Medical Leave Act has been a huge success for both workers and employers. It lets workers get treatment for their own or a family member’s serious medical condition, while keeping the job they need to pay for that treatment,” said Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. “In the face of all this progress however the Bush Administration last week took a step backward announcing new regulations that will limit workers’ ability to use such medical leave when they need it,” added Kennedy, who was joined by Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) in his criticism of the changes. Under FMLA, companies employing 50 or more people must allow workers up to 12 weeks a year of unpaid leave to care for themselves or family members during serious health conditions, or for the birth or adoption of a child.

**It has been reported that ExpressJet Reserve Flight Attendants have been kept on hold** for excessive periods of time at the end of a pairing, when trying to block in from a trip. As the union has previously reported, the company and union have had discussions on this problem and have agreed that a flight attendant is not required to remain on hold for excessive periods of time, but should instead call the duty desk or ask to speak to a supervisor to be released. **Also at ExpressJet, the Union and the company have selected an arbitrator** for the Main Cabin Door Arbitration. The parties have selected arbitrator Josh Javits to hear the arbitration. The arbitration has been set for April 30, 2008.

**A call for contract proposals has been issued** for our newly organized Flight Attendants at **CommutAir** as preparations for the negotiation of their First Contract commence. Proposal forms can be obtained by visiting the District 142 website at [www.go142.org](http://www.go142.org). We would like to thank the CommutAir Flight Attendants for their support and would like to welcome you into our IAM family.

**IAM / Gulfstream Airlines Negotiations Update** – Negotiations resumed last week with meetings on January 28 through January 30, 2008. National Mediation Board Mediator Denise Hodges was present for these meetings. Time was spent updating the Mediator on the history of our meetings and the status of the issues. Proposals were exchanged between the parties and with the assistance of the Mediator, significant progress was made. While we are pleased with this progress there is much more to be accomplished in order to bring these negotiations to conclusion. The Mediator has scheduled three-day meeting sessions over the next several months. We have outlined the subjects to be discussed at our next meeting which will assist in making these meetings more productive. Your continued support is appreciated and an update will be provided after our next meeting which is February 20 through 22, 2008. Fraternaly yours, Brian Wozniak – District 142 General Chairperson

**Third Annual Flight Attendant Conference Coming in April 2008** – The IAM has announced that it will sponsor its' third Flight Attendant Conference April 7<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at the IAM William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center in Hollywood, MD. Participants will include your Local Lodge Officers and Grievance Committee Members as well as any Flight Attendant members who want to attend on a voluntary basis. Transportation to and from the conference will be provided along with meals and lodging. Topics for this year's conference are still being finalized, however the intent and purpose of the conference is to provide our members with information about their union and to learn what the IAM stands for and promotes on their behalf. If you would like to attend please contact your Local Lodge President as soon as possible so we can plan for the number of interested participants. We look forward to seeing you!

**Crewmember Self-Defense Training** – Following meetings between the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Machinists Union, The TSA and the Federal Air Marshal Service are now offering Crew Member Self-Defense Training (CMSDT) in the Houston, TX and Newark, NJ areas. The techniques presented in this course are easy to perform and effective when applied correctly – something that is critically important when you must respond quickly. **Regardless of your physical size or fitness level, anyone can learn and execute these defense techniques quickly, efficiently, and effectively.** Participation is voluntary, but your Union representatives encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity! In the Newark area - Essex County College Police Academy 250 Grove Avenue Cedar Grove, NJ 07009, February 19, 22 ♦ March 10, 13 ♦ April 21, 23 Contact: Rocco L. Miscia (973) 877-4352 Email: [miscia@essex.edu](mailto:miscia@essex.edu) and in the Houston area – Lone Star College - North Harris 10041 Regal Row, Suite 170 Houston, TX 77040, February 19, 20 ♦ March 19, 20 Contact: Deb Pruitt (281)260-3598 Email: [Debra.L.Pruitt@nhmccd.edu](mailto:Debra.L.Pruitt@nhmccd.edu).

**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:

**Houston:** Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

**Guam:** Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.

**Newark:** Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. at the Newark Airport Hotel (formerly Doubletree).

**Cleveland:** Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.