



District 142

Continental • ExpressJet • Micronesia • Gulfstream • CommutAir

Weekly Update



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

Friday, November 28, 2008

Flight Attendant Work/Rest Patterns, Alertness, and Performance Assessment



The FAA's Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI), in cooperation with the Institutes for Behavior Resources (IBR), is sponsoring a research study on activity, sleep, and mental fatigue in US flight attendants. IBR and several US-based airlines are seeking 9 volunteers for paid participation in a week-long preliminary test of the research equipment and procedures.

- Participants must be active flight attendants working at least 3 days during the week of study
- Participants will wear a wristwatch-shaped device on their non-dominant wrist (records activity and sleep) and a pedometer on their ankle (measures number of steps taken) throughout the study
- Using a portable handheld electronic device, participants will complete an activity log and various self-report questionnaires and reaction time assessments every day (work and non-work days) throughout the study
- Total time spent on the study is about 1-2 hrs per day for 5-7 seven consecutive days, broken up across several ~15 min logbook/task sessions throughout each day
- Similar to a "focus group" for product market research, participants may be asked to share their honest thoughts and suggestions on the study during follow-up meetings with members of the research staff
- All data will be kept confidential by IBR and will not be personally identifiable to the participants' employers or officials from CAMI or FAA
- Participants will receive \$100 upon completion of the study and safe return of the research equipment

This preliminary test precedes the full-up Flight Attendant Fatigue Field Study test that is scheduled to take place sometime in January, 2009. The union encourages our members to participate in the fatigue studies should you be contacted.

Continental Airlines reports that there was a Newark based crew of 12 flight attendants and 4 pilots in Mumbai, India during Wednesday's terrorist's attacks. Fortunately, all crew members are safe, as well as all Mumbai airport staff representing Continental. Continental flights to and from Mumbai have not been interrupted by recent events. We will keep our members apprised of any further developments.

The Union has been contacted by Continental in regards to preventing FAR violations by flight attendants departing the aircraft before all passengers have exited, thereby leaving the aircraft without the appropriate *minimum crew complement* onboard. The company reports that there has been an increase of these particular incidents. The principal reason flight attendants are deplaning early is to catch a commuter flight home. This is a violation of the FAA mandate that requires the specific minimum number of crewmembers for that aircraft type be on board until every customer deplanes. All flight attendants designated as working crew members, whether it is a designated minimum crew member position or not, are required to remain on board as well. Due to non compliance in this area by our flight attendants, the FAA has notified the Company that this is a focus area for audits to ensure compliance. **The union encourages all flight attendants to remain onboard the aircraft until all of the passengers are off the plane.** This will not only ensure a safe environment for crew and passengers, but will also help avoid FAA fines against the company and potentially against flight attendants.

Crewmember Self-Defense Training

Newark Area

Essex County College Police Academy
250 Grove Avenue
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

Contact:

Rocco L. Miscia (973) 877-4352

Email: miscia@essex.edu

Mary Beam (973) 877-4350

Email: beam@essex.edu

Class dates:

2008

December 2, 9, 18

2009

January 8, 15, 22, 29

February 5, 12, 24, 26

Houston Area

Lone Star College - North Harris
10041 Regal Row, Suite 170
Houston, TX 77040

Contact:

Deb Pruitt (281)260-3598

Email: debra.l.pruitt@lonestar.edu

Class dates:

2008

December 9, 18

2009

January 6, 15

February 3, 18

March 10, 19

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

Newark: Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

Cleveland: Thursday, December 11, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive

Houston: Tuesday, December 16, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd

Guam: Wednesday, December 17, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room