



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, December 5, 2008

Travel Smart, Be Alert on your Mexico Layovers –



The U.S. Department of State “Bureau of Consular Affairs” has posted on their website a Travel Alert warning U.S. citizens that “Mexican and foreign bystanders have been injured or killed in some violent attacks, demonstrating the heightened risk in public places. In recent years, dozens of U.S. citizens have been kidnapped across Mexico and many cases remain unresolved. U.S. citizens who believe they are being targeted for kidnapping or other crimes should notify Mexican officials and the nearest American consulate or the Embassy as soon as possible. U.S. citizens should make every attempt to travel on main roads during daylight hours, particularly the toll (“cuota”) roads, which are generally more secure. U.S. citizens are encouraged to stay in well-known tourist destinations and tourist areas of the cities with more adequate security, and provide an itinerary to a friend or family member not traveling with them. U.S. citizens should avoid traveling alone, and should carry a GSM-enabled cell phone that functions internationally. Refrain from displaying expensive-looking jewelry, large amounts of money, or other valuable items.” The Los Angeles Times also featured an article September 1, 2008 emphasizing that individuals must use good judgment while traveling in Mexico in regards to their own personal safety. Kidnapping is a pervasive crime throughout Mexico these days and it’s not just the wealthy that are targeted. Please be cautious and stay together in groups when shopping or enjoying the sites on your Mexico layover.

URL: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_3028.html

URL: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-kidnap1-2008sep01.0.4003595.story?page=2>

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.

Employee buses from the IAH employee lot on Greens Road will run to/from Terminal “E” for the next three months. ExpressJet crewmembers are prohibited from using the security bypass line at Terminal “E” and they are required to go through the regular security checkpoint. The designated employee line is not open all day and when it is closed you will find yourselves in line with passengers. The union has made ExpressJet aware of these problems. The union and ExpressJet are working with Continental to resolve this situation. Meanwhile, please be aware of this situation and allow sufficient time to get to work. We will keep you updated.

Karaoke fans belt out tunes at Bush airport – Casandra Ducay, 4, dances as she sings Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer at George Bush Intercontinental Airport during the Holiday Karaoke event. A woman lugging a polka-dotted duffle bag briefly stopped and stared, but her eyes focused over their heads: the departures board flashed behind the karaoke speakers. She found her flight and hustled toward the D gates. Thursday was the first time the George Bush Intercontinental Airport has offered karaoke to harried holiday travelers. The Christmas-themed song list thrilled the karaoke enthusiasts who stumbled upon it between flights in the airport's international concourse, particularly if they had some time to kill. But most fliers simply hurried past, oblivious to the amateur performances of everything from You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch to Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. Thomas Dowdy put down his suitcase and picked up the mic to croon Blue Christmas in the rich Elvis Presley-inflected style he has honed since his teens. He's no newcomer to karaoke. "That's how he softened me up," said his wife, Silvia Dowdy, who was wooed over karaoke dates. The Dowdys were on their way back from a trip to Germany and had a layover before the last leg of the trip landed them in Austin. Thomas wanted to do a second song, but Silvia pulled him away. "It's after 3:30, and the flight leaves at 4," she warned. For the past few holiday seasons, the airport has had school choirs perform Christmas carols in the concourses to lift spirits during the one of the most stressful travel times of the year. This year, an employee offered the use of a professional-grade karaoke machine he usually brings to his mother's nursing home to entertain the residents. The karaoke donor — Rob Mason, a supervisor in the part of the airport that oversees passport control — also volunteered at the karaoke stand. Wearing a tuxedo on Thursday, he acted as a conductor to keep singers on beat and filled in the gap between songs with his own performances. The station is set up just past security in Terminal E. In a few days it will move to Terminal A. During Christmas week, it will be in the international baggage claim area. On Thursday, the concourse performance space drew singers from all wings of the airport: passengers, pilots, flight attendants and baggage handlers. James Seth took his break from unloading luggage to sing It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas. As he performed, wearing a blue jumpsuit and orange safety vest, his co-workers suddenly appeared. Reginald Browning grinned mischievously as he held up his cell phone and began recording video. "This is for the ramp," he said. "It's going on the big screen." He should have come earlier, when Seth tackled O, Holy Night. "I heard," Browning said, shaking his head. "I was (unloading) a flight, or I would have been here." When Seth left the stage, he saw the crew and deduced their intentions. "You're going to put it on YouTube?" he said. Shortly afterward, Seth was upstaged by 3-year-old Xavier Broussard's rendition of Jingle Bells, largely inaudible until the belted chorus. This one drew a crowd. Two women stopped rolling their carry-ons to smile at the toddler, while others clapped in time. Xavier didn't know what to do with the newfound fame. He mumbled the lyrics and beamed back at the audience, eyes wide, like a reindeer in the headlights.



URL: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6148235.html>

Karaoke Video: <http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid823433113/bctid3940747001>

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