



**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, January 23, 2009

**January 20, 2009 marks the one month anniversary of the incident/crash of**



Continental Airlines flight 1404 in Denver, Colorado. The three Flight Attendants working that flight were Regina Ressler, Pam Howard and Albert Felipe. All three should be commended for their bravery and professionalism. They are still recuperating from both the physical and emotional trauma from this experience and are not yet scheduled to return to work. While their union brothers and sisters

applaud them for successfully evacuating all customers safely, it has been reported that the company is requiring a doctor's note from these flight attendants so that they may remain off work with pay. The company has indicated that it intends to use the flight attendants sick bank hours, instead of simply deducting the hours from their OJI bank. District Lodge 142 representatives have addressed this issue and the IAM will continue to protect the rights of these members while they recover from this ordeal.

**All Flight Attendants at Continental, ExpressJet & Continental Micronesia** are reminded to check their system seniority lists for accuracy. Contractually, each list must be up-dated and posted every six months, in January and July, in each domicile. The lists are also available through the company websites. Any member who thinks they may have discovered a discrepancy should file a protest within 30 days of the posting of the list in question. Contact your Local Lodge or District Representatives with any information regarding any possible protest.

**Continental and Micronesia Flight Attendants may elect** to receive a commuting expense in lieu of parking at her/his domicile. Continental and Micronesia Flight Attendants may elect to receive \$30.00 per month. More information is available in your contract. Please reference "**Parking**" in the index section of your contract.

**W-2 forms for 2008 are available online for Continental Airline** employees via the internal company Intranet or by going to [www.coair.com](http://www.coair.com) and log on to "All About Me", and selecting "Form W-2". To print the form correctly, please use the print command function that's on the application, rather than using your browser print function. Anyone that requested a paper W-2 form can expect it to be mailed beginning January 23, 2009. Continental's W-2 hotline number is 800-651-1007.

**DHS Reminds Visa Waiver Program Travelers of ESTA Requirements** went into effect Monday, January 12, 2009. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would like to remind travelers from all Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries that they are now required to obtain approval through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to traveling to the United States. This requirement, now in effect, applies to all eligible citizens or nationals traveling under the VWP. ESTA is a web-based system, initially launched in August 2008, that determines the preliminary eligibility of visitors to travel under the VWP prior to boarding a carrier to the United States. To date, more than 1.2 million ESTA applications have been received, and more than 99.6 percent of applicants have been approved, most within seconds. "All VWP customers traveling to the U.S., including CO co-workers, their eligible pass riders and buddy pass riders, will be required to hold ESTA approval prior to boarding a flight to the U.S. This requirement applies only to nationals who are passport holders from one of the VWP countries." This is for all travel, including space available, positive space, and travel on other airlines, to the U.S. More information may be found at <http://www.continental.com/web/en-S/content/travel/destination/international/ESTA.aspx>

### **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](mailto:miscia@essex.edu)

Mary Beam (973) 877-4350

**Email:** [beam@essex.edu](mailto:beam@essex.edu)

#### **Class dates:**

**2009**

**January** 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](mailto:debra.l.pruitt@lonestar.edu)

#### **Class dates:**

**2009**

**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, February 10, 2009, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

**Cleveland:** Thursday, February 12, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive

**Houston:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd

**Guam:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room