

RTBS Full Function Training Aid



*Tim Baker (PIT)
Chairman, Training Committee*

*“ . . . you will be notified of the approach of your base quarter via CATCREW Broadcast System (CBS) message. This message will be sent to you at least 45 days prior to your base quarter. **Read this letter carefully.** ”*

It's here! The full function of the RTBS Training Bidding System is ready to go and will be available for all of you who will be bidding for recurrent simulator or recurrent ground school during the month of April for May training dates. This means that you will now be able to make specific bids for training types, specific sessions and specific days. Generic bids will also be accepted along with the avoid feature that we have been using since the inception of RTBS in September of 1999. Keep this guide handy when you utilize the RTBS system.

Pilots bidding in April for May training will be first to use the full capabilities of RTBS. Read this document carefully as you enter your training bids. For the rest of you, it would be wise to hold on to a copy of this article and refer to it when it comes time for you to bid.

Just like today, you will be notified of the approach of your base quarter via CATCREW

Broadcast System (CBS) message. This message will be sent to you at least 45 days prior to your base quarter. **Read this letter carefully.** It now provides you with instructions on when to place your bid and where to find information on Must Ride travel and other important training information.

RTBS bid windows are published each month and the dates for bidding are printed on the primary line bidding sheets. Keep these dates handy so you know when to place Recurrent Training bids. Remember that RTBS is the last piece of the monthly scheduling puzzle to close.

This April, RTBS bidding will change to reflect the full capabilities of the system. CATCREW screens 53 through 56 will now be activated and CATCREW Option 53 will still be where bids are entered. The basic RTBS format will remain the same, but what you type into each section of the RTBS bid will change. Let's go over those changes.



CATCREW option 53 is where you will enter your RTBS bids. Here's what option 53 looks like:

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UCT1U901    53          US AIRWAYS CATS RTBS BID ENTRY          01/31/00  15:58:43
  ALC:  USA  EMPNUM: 10000                                SENUM: 01000 TRNG MNTH: MAY00
  NAME: PILOT A B          BASE: BWI  EQP: 33   POS: CAP
  UNIT 001 OF 003  SKIP TO UNIT: 002          LAST UPDATED: 2000-04-16  AT: 01:00
DT  TRIPS    DT  TRIPS                                CLOSING DATE: 2000-04-20  AT: 23:30
01          16          CMD  - - - -  A D D S  - - - -  STA
02          17 39071/1  _ PIT/RGS/04-07_____ P
03          18 39071/2  _ PIT/SIM/04-07_____ T
04 OFF     19 39071/3  _ PIT/ANY/04-07_____ T
05 OFF     20          _ ANY/ANY/05_____ T
06 OFF     21          _ PIT/INL/ANY_____ T
07 OFF     22          _ _____
08          23          _ _____
09          24          _ _____
10          25          _ _____
11          26          _ _____
12          27          _ _____
13          28          _ _____
14          29          _ _____
15          30          _ _____
              31          _ _____

MORE ADDS: ____

UPDATE: ____
ISRT BEFORE UNIT: ____  USERID: Z999999
NEXT OPTION == >

MESSAGE:
    
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The space to enter your bids on option 53 is on the lines under the word “ADDS” on the right side of the screen. The left side of the screen displays your awarded line of flying or line of reserve days off. Having the line of time displayed on the bid screen is helpful since you have to bid for training days off. The system will perform some legality checks.

RTBS bids still have three parts - LOC/TYP/DATE:

“LOC” is location of training, either PIT or CLT. ANY may also be entered.

“TYP” is type of training, either SIMA, SIMB, SIMC, SIMD or SIM for any available SIM period.

- RGS for recurrent ground school.
- TOR for transoceanic recurrent ground school.

- INL for International recurrent ground school.

“DATE” is the day of training. A range of days may also be selected.

Examples

Let’s go over some examples of how to place RTBS bids.

If you are interested in bidding for a specific day for your training, type the following option 53, “PIT/SIM/01.” In this example, the pilot has bid for any Pittsburgh simulator session on the first of the month. You may further refine this bid as follows: PIT/SIMB/01. This bid is for Pittsburgh “B” session simulator session on the first of the month. These are examples of bids for specific days. Placing a bid for a specific location, type, or day is referred to as a Positive Bid.

“ There is no limit to the number of units that may be entered in the RTBS system. An important thing to remember is that Positive and Avoid bids cannot be combined in the same unit. ”

You may also bid for training over a range of days. Here is an example of a bid for training over a range of days: CLT/SIM/01-06. This bid would be for any simulator training session in Charlotte from the first to the sixth of the month. If you do not have a preference as to training location, you may simply type “ANY” in the location field. For example, ANY/SIM/01. Note that the Contract stipulates that you can use the RTBS system to bid for out-of-base training, even if it is offered in your domicile. However, note the restriction imposed by Section 11(H)5(d) of the Contract that prohibits the payment of out-of-base expenses and lodging for those training sessions that are conducted out of base, but are offered in base.

The “avoid” feature that is currently in use has been carried over to the full RTBS system. To avoid training on specific days, type “AVD” in the first part of the bid. This bid will state your preference for avoiding training on the date (or dates) indicated in your bid. An avoid bid looks like this: AVD/SIM/15-30. This pilot wants to avoid all sim training in both Pittsburgh and Charlotte from the 15th to the 30th. Avoid bids cannot be placed in the same unit with positive bids (more on “units” in a minute).

Now let us look at the “CMD,” or Command function on option 53. By typing the letters “D” “E” or “L” under the “CMD” column, specific actions can be applied to an individual line of your RTBS bid. Typing “D” next to the line will delete that particular line in the bid. “E” will expand a generic bid and show all legal training sessions that are available and may be awarded from this bid. Typing “L” in the “CMD” field on option 53 will ask the RTBS system to perform legality checks of the selected line of the bid. *Note: In order for the selected “CMD” function to be carried out, the “Enter” key must be selected.*

Like the SAP system, bids are entered as “Units.” A unit is a group of bids that are of equal value to the pilot. There is no limit to the number of units that may be entered in the RTBS system. An important thing to remember is that Positive and Avoid bids cannot be combined in the same unit. However, ground school and simulator bids MAY BE combined in the same unit. The unit number indicates the priority of the unit with Unit #1 having the highest priority. To create a new unit simply go to the SKIP TO UNIT section of option 53 and enter a number that is one number higher than the highest current unit number shown.

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UCT21U901  53          US AIRWAYS CATS RTBS BID ENTRY          10/21/99  06:16:27
ALC:  USA  EMPNUM: 10000          SENUM: 00234 TRNG MONTH: NOV99
NAME:  A. B. Pilot          BASE: BWI  EQP: 33  POS: CAP
PROCESS:  ___ (ALL,RTN,CAN,NXT,PRV)  GENERIC BID: PIT/SIM/04-07

CMD SESSION          CMD SESSION          CMD SESSION          CMD SESSION
_  PIT/SIMA/04        _  PIT/SIMB/04        _  PIT/SIMC/04        _  PIT/SIMD/04
_  PIT/SIMA/05        _  PIT/SIMB/05        _  PIT/SIMC/06        _  PIT/SIMD/06
X  PIT/SIMA/06        _  PIT/SIMB/06        _  PIT/SIMC/06        _  PIT/SIMD/06
_  PIT/SIMA/07        _  PIT/SIMB/07        _  PIT/SIMC/07        _  PIT/SIMD/07
>> END <<

MESSAGE:

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The screen shown above is what you will see if you type “E” under “CMD” next to a line on a bid on option 53. This displays all legal training sessions you are eligible for based on your line of flying and the selected bid. If you expand a bid and find training sessions that you do not

want to have as a part of your bid, you must type “X” next to those specific training sessions on the expanded screen. This can be seen on the above screen. This is the same function as the SAP expansion feature.



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UCT1U902    54      US AIRWAYS CATS RTBS BID DISPLAY      02/16/00  15:58:43
  ALC:  USA EMPNUM: 10000                      SENUM: 01000 TRNG MNTH: MAY00
  NAME: PILOT A B          BASE: BWI  EQP: 33  POS: CAP
  UNIT 001 OF 003  SKIP TO UNIT: 002          LAST UPDATED: 2000-04-16  AT: 01:00
DT  TRIPS      DT  TRIPS                      CLOSING DATE: 2000-04-20  AT: 23:30
01      16      CMD      - - - -  B I D S      - - - -      STA
02      17 39071/1  _  PIT/RGS/16-31_____  P
03      18 39071/2  _  PIT/SIM/01-17_____  T
04 OFF   19 39071/3  _  PIT/ANY/25-31_____  T
05 OFF   20      _  ANY/ANY/18_____  T
06 OFF   21      _  PIT/INL/ANY_____  T
07 OFF   22      _  _____
08      23      _  _____
09      24      _  _____
10      25      _  _____
11      26      _  _____
12      27      _  _____
13      28      _  _____
14      29      _  _____
15      30      _  _____
        31      _  _____

                                MORE BIDS: ____
                                PRINT:

                                USERID: Z999999
                                NEXT OPTION == >

MESSAGE:
    
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Option 54 is where you can view your bids after they are entered on option 53. This is a good place to check to be sure that the bid that you entered on option 53 is accurate. As you would with any other bidding procedure, you should print and retain a copy of option 54 for your records. Pay close attention to the letters

beside each line in the “STA,” or status column. “P” means that the line of the bid has been made permanent by typing “yes” in the update field and then “Enter” on option 53. “T” means that the respective line of the bid is still temporary and will have to be made permanent by using the previously mentioned entering procedure.



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UCT11905 56 US AIRWAYS CATS RTBS LOF + LEGAL TRAINING 01/10/00 20:12:05
ALC: USA EMPNUM: 10000 SENUM: 01000 TRNG MNTH: MAY00
NAME: PILOT A B POS: CAP BASE: PIT EQP: F1
TRAINING DUE OPENING DATE: 2000-04-15 AT: 23.30
PC CLOSING DATE: 2000-04-20 AT: 23.30

DT TRIPS DT TRIPS SESSION SESSION SESSION SESSION
01 16 PIT/SIMA/01 PIT/SIMB/01 PIT/SIMC/01 PIT/SIMB/05
02 12093/1 17 PIT/SIMC/05 PIT/SIMD/05 PIT/SIMA/06 PIT/SIMB/06
03 12093/2 18 VAC PIT/SIMC/06 PIT/SIMD/06 PIT/SIMA/07 PIT/SIMB/07
04 12093/3 19 VAC PIT/SIMC/07 PIT/SIMD/07 PIT/SIMA/08 PIT/SIMB/08
05 20 VAC PIT/SIMC/08 PIT/SIMD/08 PIT/SIMB/10 PIT/SIMD/10
06 21 VAC PIT/SIME/09 PIT/SIMA/10 PIT/SIMC/10 PIT/SIME/10
07 22 VAC PIT/SIMA/12 PIT/SIMB/12 PIT/SIMC/12 PIT/SIMD/12
08 23 VAC PIT/SIMA/13 PIT/SIMB/13 PIT/SIMC/13 PIT/SIMD/13
09 12092/1 24 VAC PIT/SIMA/14 PIT/SIMB/14 >> END <<
10 25 VAC
11 TRN 26 VAC
12 27 VAC
13 28 VAC
14 29 VAC
15 12005/1 30 VAC MORE:
31 VAC NEXT OPTION == >

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MESSAGE:

“ Another important change has been the reduction of the training window from 10 days to five. This means the Recurrent training may be assigned to you during the first five days of the month. ”

Option 56 provides you with another way to check for training sessions that are legal and available for you to bid on. You cannot bid off this screen. This screen is a good reference tool to use when bidding on option 53. Print a copy of the available training in option 56 and use it when placing your RTBS bids.

The RTBS training windows open 15 days prior to the end of each calendar month. The window remains open for five days. After the bid window closes, Training Scheduling takes five additional days to process the bids and assign Recurrent training sessions according to the RTBS rules. These rules are found in the Contract under Section 11(H). After the bids are processed, they are made available to you via CATCREW and Voice Response System (VRS). The bid awards are available to you five days prior to the CALENDAR month. You must connect to CATCREW or dial up to VRS to access your RTBS training awards.

Let us clarify the differences that RTBS brings to the training scheduling scheme. First and foremost, you have to bid for your training. Phone calls will not be accepted by Training Scheduling personnel for the purpose of entering bids. The full-function RTBS is capable of accepting and processing all of your bid requests.

Also, note that U.S. Mail notification ended with the implementation of RTBS so don't look for a letter from the mailman to alert you to the

awarding of your training session. You must access CATCREW or the VRS to obtain your award.

Another important change has been the reduction of the training window from 10 days to five. This means the Recurrent training may be assigned to you during the first five days of the month. Be alert to this change. If you wait by the mailbox for a training notification letter, you will wait a long time. You must access the VRS or CATCREW sometime during the last five days of the calendar month prior to your training month to receive your training award.

There have been questions raised as to why RTBS bid months are sometimes different from the bid and pay months used in the monthly flying schedules. The reason is that all training legalities are calculated off of calendar months. The pay and bid windows have no effect on training legalities. This sometimes creates confusion, especially during short months like February. Be aware of the possible difference between line Bid Months and the normal Julian calendar months that RTBS uses and bid accordingly.

Call a member of the Training Committee if you need any assistance with RTBS.

See you in school!

