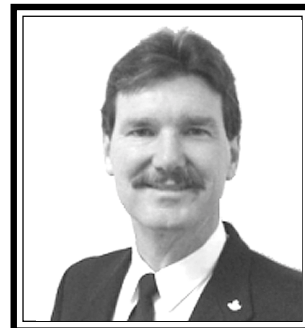


RTBS Training Aid



Tim Baker (PIT)
Chairman, Training Committee

“ Any choice from a unit will satisfy that particular bid. This means that if you have one bid that is very important to you, you should make it the one and only bid in your first unit. ”

The RTBS system has been up and running for three months. During that time, your Training Committee has worked, along with the Training Scheduling Department and SABRE representatives, to eliminate the kinks in this system and provide you with an effective bidding product. One of the issues we discovered was the difficulty in finding the Training Aid, which had been revised in a piecemeal fashion. To fix that problem, I am reprinting the RTBS Training Aid, including all revisions, which ran in the May edition of *US AIRWAVES*. Save this article! It will come in handy when you have to bid for your recurrent training.

The RTBS system is now fully operational and ready for your use. This means that you will now be able to make specific bids for training types, sessions, and days. Generic bids will also be accepted using the “avoid” feature that we have been using since the inception of RTBS in September 1999. Pilots bidding for training during their pre-base, base, and grace months will now use the full capabilities of RTBS. Read the guide carefully as you enter your training bids.

As always, 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, as well as other important training information. One of the problems we have seen with RTBS bidding is that many of you are ignoring this CBS message when it arrives in your

mailbox. Since this letter is full of helpful information, print a copy for your use during your base quarter.

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.

RTBS bidding now reflects the full capabilities of the system. CATCREW screens 53 through 56 will now be activated. Of course, you will still enter your bids via CATCREW option 53. The basic RTBS format remains the same. However, what you type into each section of the RTBS bid has changed. Let us review these changes.

CATCREW option 53 is where you will enter your RTBS bids. Like the SAP system, bids are entered as “units.” A unit is a group of bids that are of equal value to the pilot. But unlike SAP, all entries in an RTBS unit have equal value. Any choice from a unit will satisfy that particular bid. This means that if you have one bid that is very important to you, you should make it the *one and only bid in your first unit*. There is no limit to the number of units that may be entered in the RTBS system. 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. Here is 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:
    
```

Enter your bids on the lines appearing beneath 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 on days off. The system will perform some legality checks. RTBS bids still have three parts—LOC/TYP/DAT:

- “LOC” is location of training: either PIT or CLT; ANY may also be entered.
- “TYP” is type of training: SIMA, SIMB, SIMC, SIMD, or SIM for any available SIM period; RGS for recurrent ground school; TOR for transoceanic recurrent ground school; or INL for international recurrent ground school.
- “DATE” is the date of training. A range of dates may also be selected.

Consider the following sample RTBS bid entry: 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 a Pittsburgh B-period 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.”

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 training location preference, you may simply type ANY in the location field, e.g. 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, which 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

“ 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. ”

“Another important lesson we have learned about RTBS is that avoid bids should only be the last and final unit in your bid, or they should be the only unit you enter.”

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(s) indicated in your bid. An avoid bid looks like this: AVD/SIM/15-30. This pilot wants to avoid all simulator training in both Pittsburgh and Charlotte from the 15th to the 30th. Avoid bids cannot be placed in the same unit with positive bids.

Another important lesson we have learned about RTBS is that avoid bids should only be the last and final unit in your bid, or they should be the only unit you enter. Let me repeat, if you elect to use the avoid feature, place it in your last unit! Furthermore, remember that positive and avoid bids cannot be combined in the same unit.

The contract language regarding training during a pilot’s pre-base month can be confusing. The Contract says that training may be “offered” to pre-base month pilots. What does “offered” mean? It means that you may turn down the Company’s offer to send you to recurrent training in your pre-base month. How do you do this? Easy. Simply use the RTBS system and avoid training for the entire month. AVD/SIM/01-30 is the bid you would enter in the RTBS system to turn down the Company’s offer of recurrent training during your pre-base month. It is just that simple to avoid training in your pre-base month!

Full-month avoid bids will not work during your base month. The Contract allows the Company to assign you to training during your base month, even if you bid but are not senior enough to hold your choices. For your base month, you will be wise to bid for training on days that are

acceptable to you, and not use the system to avoid the entire month.

Grace month pilots are handled differently than any other pilots bidding for training. The Contract stipulates that grace month pilots will be assigned to their training dates. Since grace month pilots are assigned, RTBS currently does not accept bids from grace month pilots. If you are in your grace month, simply pick up the phone, dial 1-800-USA-PILOT, and follow the prompts to your simulator scheduler. This is the old fashioned way we used in order to protect days off before RTBS was invented. Grace month pilots are the one and only group of pilots who use the telephone to protect days from training. However, this practice will stop when RTBS is modified to allow grace month bids.

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, pressing the “ENTER” key, and then typing “YES” in the “UPDATE” field will delete that particular line in the bid. Keep this procedure handy, as pilots have experienced difficulty in the past.

“E” will expand a generic bid and show all legal training sessions that are available and awardable 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 executed, you must hit the “ENTER” key.*



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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 under option 53. This displays all legal training sessions for which you are eligible, 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. Note that, unlike SAP, you cannot place these expanded bids in numerical order of preference. Simply exclude the sessions you do not want to have as a part of your bid.

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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:
    
```

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 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 pressing “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 aforementioned procedure. Please

be sure that each line of your bid has a “P” next to it. If not, the RTBS system will not recognize the respective entries, and your bids will not be awarded!

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UCT1I905 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/SIMA/10 PIT/SIMB/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 == >

MESSAGE:

```

“Also, note that U.S. Mail notification ended with the implementation of RTBS so do not look for a letter from the mailman to alert you to the awarding of your training session.”

Option 55 provides you with another way to check for training sessions that are legal and available for you to bid on. You cannot enter bids on 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 55, and use it when placing your RTBS bids. Option 56, shown above, is similar to option 55, only it shows all available training for the bid month in question.

Summary

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 *calen-*

dar training month. You must connect to CATCREW or dial up to VRS to access your RTBS training awards.

Let me clarify the differences that RTBS brings to the training scheduling scheme. First and foremost, you have to bid for your training. Unless you are a pilot in your grace month, 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 pre-base and base month bid requests.

Also, note that U.S. Mail notification ended with the implementation of RTBS, so do not look for a letter from the mailman to alert you to your awarded training session. You must access CATCREW or VRS to obtain your award. Training notification is now done the same way as your monthly block awards.

Another important change has been the reduction of the training notification window from 10 days to five. This means that 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 VRS or CATCREW sometime during the last five days of the calendar month prior to your training month in order to receive your training award.

Questions have arisen 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.

Season's greetings

This has been one of the busiest years in memory for the Training Committee. Some

programs are expanding, while others are going away. Add to this the constant background noise generated by the UAL buyout, and there are plenty of issues for all of us to digest. Through it all, one thing that has remained constant is the high standard of performance you have demonstrated in the simulator and classroom. You should all be commended for your professionalism and dedication. Keep up the good work!

So whatever holiday you celebrate, happy holidays to you all of you! Merry Christmas! Happy AQP! Happy Hanukkah! Merry LOFT! Happy Kwanza! Happy Type Ride! Merry Solstice! And a Happy New Year from all of us on the Training Committee!

See you in school!



“ Be aware of the possible difference between line bid months and the normal Julian calendar months that RTBS uses, and bid accordingly. ”