

Permanent Bidding and RTBS



Tim Baker (PIT)
Chairman, Training Committee

In last month's *US AIRWAVES* John Bailey (BWI) and Parvin Belknap (PIT) wrote an important article on permanent bids titled *Bidding for the Millennium*. I highly recommend this article to all of you out there and hope that you will take their recommendations to heart. As Ross Perot says, you need to "read it, feel it, taste it, and pass it through your lower intestine." The piece is that good.

You're probably wondering why the Training Committee Chairman is so stoked about an article on permanent bidding. Recall that I've written to you on several occasions in the past about the perils of permanent bidding. The Training Committee gets involved in this area when a pilot gets the word that it's time to attend training for an equipment change and the pilot not only doesn't want to go to school but can't remember even having this particular bid on file! We then get the call to "...DO SOMETHING!" Well, there's not a lot that can be done to get anybody out of a class that has been initiated by something that is legitimately in your bid. So our reluctant warrior troops off to class.

The permanent bid is important in that it opens up your schedule for tremendous upheaval. For example, when you go to initial training, your days off are governed by Section 11 of the Contract. Section 11 says that you are not to be in training for more than 5 days out of any calendar week. This means that travel days can and do get placed on days off. This lasts until the completion of the IOE which finishes your initial training.

Vacation is another area that can be affected by a training bid. Vacation often must be dropped to accommodate an initial class. But you do have rights to protect your vacation under the contract and you should familiarize yourself with the rules should an initial class interrupt your vacation time. Section 7(F)1 says that "when a vacation period is assigned, it shall not be changed except upon *21 days notice* (emphasis mine) unless the Company requires such pilot to maintain schedule." Read that section closely. You must have 21 days notification from the Company before your vacation can be cancelled. So if your initial training conflicts with your vacation, the 10-day notification letter to come to class doesn't necessarily cover the 21-day notification for vacation cancellation.

Call your LEC reps or Resource Planning if you have any questions or problems with vacation and training conflicts. And keep Parvin and John's bidding article handy as you move into bidding for the new millennium.

RTBS continued

Believe it or not, RTBS has gotten off to a good start with few glitches. As I write this, awards are being made from the RTBS bids. We did get some questions that you might find useful.

- *Why can't I make phone calls to Sim Scheduling like I could before?*

Easy. RTBS is a seniority-based system. In order for your seniority to be accounted for

"The permanent bid is important in that it opens up your schedule for tremendous upheaval."

you must enter a bid. There is no seniority involved with a phone call. So you must bid.

This is not a new philosophy. SAP works the same way and just like SAP, you cannot phone your SAP bids in to a scheduler.

- *Why is the RTBS bid window only five days long?*

The RTBS bid window is the same as the block bid window, the secondary line window, and the Reserve line bid window which are all five days long. It would be nice to be able to change the RTBS window but difficult to do without changing all of the other bidding win-

dows we are already working under. RTBS is available via the same outlets as our other bidding processes and can be accessed from the usual CATCREW outlets.

Let us know how RTBS is working for you.

See you in school!

