

UNITED MEC UPDATE

Thursday, November 14, 2013

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MEC Continues Work at MEC Meeting



Members of the Policy Manual Review Committee (l-r, First Officer Eric Introligator, Captain Joseph Genovese, First Officer Joe Morowitz and First Officer Chris McCullough) discuss provisions of the new Policy Manual that will govern the MEC going forward.

The United MEC continued its week-long meeting today with a briefing from the Policy Manual Review Committee. Debate continues on the document that will govern the United MEC.

The MEC then received an Executive Session briefing from MEC Chairman Captain Jay Heppner regarding the MEC's short, medium- and long-term strategic plan at the LEC, MEC, National, and International levels.

This afternoon, the MEC began work on Agenda Items, many of which derived from resolutions passed at the Local Councils. Agenda Items will be detailed in the Compilation of Actions, which will be published soon after this week's meeting adjourns.

The body then continued work in subcommittees.

Pilots Elected To Committee Positions

The following pilots were elected to committee positions during this afternoon's session:

- Captain Ben Kalom, Chairman, Aeromedical Committee
- First Officer Jolanda Witvliet, Chairman, Parental Issues Committee
- First Officer Jay Shelton, Vice Chairman, Uniform Committee

Congratulations to the pilots who volunteered their time and services on behalf of all United Pilots.

Friday's Meeting Agenda

9 a.m.: Administrative

9:15 a.m.: Agenda Items

4 p.m.: Adjourn

Pilots in good standing are welcome to attend all open sessions of the meeting, which is being held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 West Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, Ill.

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Committee Updates/Reports

Training: Captain Steve Wright

This is the first update from the new MEC Training Committee. There is a great deal of activity, and there are a number of important issues your committee is involved with.

Training For the Recent Vacancy Bids

We have seen a large uptick in PDRs from the pilot group recently. Many of them are related to the big question: When am I going to get trained? The company is holding their cards close to their vest on this one. Very little communication from the company has gone out to the pilot group, and the pilots are understandably frustrated. We are attempting to get some definitive answers on this.

January 4 is the planned "Day One" for the first mixing of crews. Pilots who have been awarded bids that require a full transition course (for example the 737 SFO vacancy bid for Legacy United pilots) would require four to six weeks to complete the training course. It would stand to reason that training should begin very soon, especially given the two week minimum notification requirement that is in the UPA.

There are some IT issues (so what else is new) concerning the transition of L-UAL pilots to the Pilot Records or PR system that has been in use at L-CAL. The latest word from TK management and the crew planners is that the 737 training will begin in January, with a few crews possible in December. Notification will happen through CCS.

It should be noted that the 737 simulator training schedule is operating at or close to capacity with new hires, planned transitions and CQ requirements.

BAT or Base Alignment Training

If you are one of those possibly affected by this, please read the [UPA Next Steps 10](#) that came out on November 4. It should be loaded on your iPad.

777 Training

All of the 777 simulators have been relocated to DENTK, consequently all training has been moved to the "north" campus.

Continuing Qualification (CQ) Training

Now that we are finally beginning to figure out all the new jargon (ASR, GSR, Global Contrails, CQST, CQMVLOE) change is again afoot with CQ. The Training Committee has been briefed on the new proposal, and it looks to be a real improvement over the current footprint. It will eliminate the dreaded Day Zero that L-UAL pilots had to endure due to the lack of door trainers at all of the pilot bases. As it is still in development, details will have to wait until closer to the rollout date.

Phase Seven Implementation

Phase Seven is now active. The biggest changes are from the gate to the runway, with a new checklist and different procedures for dealing with weights and performance. There have been a number of PDRs and emails concerning the reasoning behind the changes. A number of pilots have suggested that it is producing more, rather than less "heads down" time, especially for the first officers.

Operating concurrently with Phase Seven is the implementation of the RAP (Ride Along Program) to track how crews are dealing with these changes. They are line pilots, and are collecting data that is completely de-identified. The Training Committee feels that this program is very valuable. It is one of the best ways to collect information related to this particular phase. Please welcome these volunteers to your cockpit.

Captain Upgrade Training

There will be a significant increase in Captain upgrades for the foreseeable future. It is important to note that many pilots who are taking advantage of these opportunities have been in the right seat for a long period of time. Many have also been wide body first officers and relief first officers, and haven't been to a transition course in a while.

The upgrade program can be very challenging and fast paced, especially as the syllabus has been shortened over the years. In addition, those transitioning to the Airbus will also be dealing with something that is definitely not a Boeing. Be aware of this if and when you decide to exercise your seniority and bid for the left seat. As always, your Training Committee is there to help and answer any questions you might have.

Retirement & Insurance: First Officer Fred Greene

2014 Annual Enrollment Continues with the Correction Period

All pilots, including pilots who did not make affirmative benefit elections in the initial enrollment period, can make changes to their 2014 benefit elections during the corrections period from November 18 - November 27. Pilots can change any or all of their 2014 benefit elections during this period by going online to the YBR. Pilots can also make changes by calling the Benefit Service Center at 1-800-651-1007 from Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT. If pilots make changes to any or all of their benefit elections during this corrections period their medical ID cards should arrive before January 1, 2014.

There will be a further benefit corrections period from November 29 - December 20. Pilots can make changes to any or all of their benefit elections during this period. Pilots cannot make on-line changes during this correction period but will need to call the Benefit Service Center and made their changes over the telephone. Pilots can

call the Benefit Service Center at 1-800-651-1007 from Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT. If pilots make changes to any or all of their benefit elections during this corrections period, their medical ID cards might arrive after January 1, 2014.

2014 Annual Enrollment Confirmation Statements: Erroneous Voluntary Life Insurance Details

United has informed the UAL-MEC R & I Committee that 2014 annual enrollment statements for former L-CAL pilots displayed erroneous Voluntary Life Insurance Details.

United has indicated that former L-CAL pilots should disregard the Voluntary Life Insurance section on the 2014 confirmation statement you recently received in the mail. This information was printed on the confirmation statement in error as United moved to consolidate the pilot voluntary life insurance program.

Former L-CAL pilots should expect to receive an updated confirmation statement at the end of the correction period, after November 27. Your Voluntary Life election(s) will not appear on this new confirmation statement. MetLife will mail you a certificate with your coverage effective January 2014.

As a reminder the enrollment DEADLINE for all pilots Group Variable Life Insurance (GVUL) has been EXTENDED to November 27, 2013.

You can apply for coverage by following the link:

Visit Flying Together > Employee Services > Your Benefits Resources > Group Variable Universal Life (GVUL) or go directly to MyBenefits at <https://mybenefits.metlife.com>.

If you experience any issues when enrolling, please contact MetLife at 1-800-936-0931. A MetLife representative is available to assist you in making your elections.

If you have any benefits questions or need R & I support, please contact at ualmecri@alpa.org.

System Schedule: PBS Subcommittee

Jeppesen PBS Transition Update

The following report is from the System Schedule Committee's PBS Subcommittee

Per section 20-C-4-d of the UPA, L-UAL pilots will transition to the Jeppesen PBS system that is currently used by the L-CAL pilots starting in December when bidding for January schedules.

Kiosk support at the pilot bases, phone support, online videos, online manuals, and online forum & live chat support are available as resources detailed below for pilots to learn Jeppesen PBS. In order to make the most of the Kiosk Instructor's time, we ask that all pilots familiarize themselves with the basics of Jeppesen PBS through any of the available training resources before seeking kiosk instruction.

Participation in both remaining practice bids will not only help with understanding Jeppesen PBS, but also introduces pilots to the FAR 117 built trips and scheduling rules which are also going to be implemented starting with the January schedule month. Click on this link for [ALPA's Guide to Part 117 Flight Time Limitations and Rest Requirements](#). Practice bids 3 and 4 will have a November set of FAR 117 compliant trips to bid for.

Jeppesen PBS Practice Bid 4 opens November 15, 2013. There are several important changes

to Practice Bids 3 and 4 that pilots need to be aware of:

- Practice Bids 3 & 4 are for the November 2013 bid month
- Practice Bids 3 & 4 use a different trip set than the earlier practice bids. These new trip set will be available for downloading in the next couple of days.
- Practice Bids 3 & 4 contains pilots' preassigned activities (i.e. vacation, training, ML, COLA).
- Practice Bid 4 opens November 15th and closes November 27th

The results from Practice Bid 3 will be available in Jeppesen PBS shortly.

The current version of the Jeppesen PBS User Manual is version 5.02. If you downloaded an earlier version, please download the latest manual via one of the below described manual resources.

** Please note: bid groups in practice Jeppesen PBS *will not* transfer to the production Jeppesen PBS used for bidding monthly schedules for the January 2014 bid month and beyond. Please print out and copy any practice Jeppesen PBS bid groups to replicate in production Jeppesen PBS. **

Jeppesen PBS Resources:

- Videos available for viewing at:
 - o [ALPA.org](#) - Log in using your ALPA.org Member Number and Password. There is also a direct link to these PBS resources on the respective MEC Homepage of ALPA.org.
 - o [PrefBid.com](#) - L-CAL log on using your present credentials. If you have never accessed the site use your L-CAL employee number with the first letter if applicable capitalized. L-UAL log in using your u + file number as your Employee Number and Password. The "u" must be lower case. Videos are located in the Media tab.
 - o [Flying Together Website](#) - Jeppesen PBS training information may be found through a link on the Pilot Community Scheduling page or by clicking the preceding link.
- PBS Manual and Differences Manual available at:
 - o [ALPA.org](#) - Log in using your ALPA.org Member Number and Password. There is also a direct link to these PBS resources on the respective MEC Homepage of ALPA.org.
 - o [PrefBid.com](#) - L-CAL log on using your present credentials. If you have never accessed the site use your L-CAL employee number for both fields with the first letter if applicable capitalized. L-UAL log in using your u + file number as your Employee Number and Password. The "u" must be lower case. Jeppesen PBS Manuals downloads are located in the Docs & Downloads tab.
 - o [Practice Jeppesen PBS](#) - This link will only be available for the four practice bids. When bidding goes "live" in December for January schedules, Jeppesen PBS will be accessed through the "Bidding*" pull down menu on CCS. L-CAL will sign on using their Flying Together credentials and L-UAL will sign in with your u + file number as well as your global password (the same password used for Content Locker, Flying Together, and CCS). Manuals downloadable from the System Documents tab of the Crew Information screen of the Jeppesen PBS interface.
 - o [Flying Together Website](#) - Jeppesen PBS training information may be found through a link on the Pilot Community Scheduling page or by clicking the preceding link.
- Online forum/chat support at:
 - o [PrefBid.com](#) - L-CAL log on using your present credentials. If you have never accessed the site use your L-CAL employee number for both fields with the first letter if applicable capitalized. L-UAL log in using your u + file number as your Employee Number and Password. The "u" must be lower case. Signing in to PrefBid automatically brings you to the Forum tab. Live chat support, when available, can be accessed through the "Live Help" button at the bottom of the Forum and Docs & Downloads tab pages. If "Live Help" is offline, a message can be left.
- Kiosks at the pilot bases - manned most days of week
- Jeppesen PBS: <https://biddingstage.ual.com/interbids/index> - This is the link to the Jeppesen PBS used for all four practice bids. All pilots will sign on using their Flying Together credentials. For L-UAL pilots, that is your u + file number and your global password (the same password used for Content Locker, Flying Together, and CCS).
- Phone Support - Call (231) U-GOT-PBS - (231) 846-8727
 - o Phone support will be available 7 days a week from 0900 to 2200 ET. During peak usage, be

prepared to leave a detailed voicemail including your employee ID / file number, category, return number, and a brief summary of your question. Please be advised caller ID may or may not be available on the return call.

- Practice / Mock trip set packages may be downloaded at:
 - o ALPA.org - Log in using your ALPA.org Member Number and Password. There is also a direct link to these PBS resources on the respective MEC Homepage of ALPA.org.
 - o [Flying Together Website](#) - Jeppesen PBS training information may be found through a link on the Pilot Community Scheduling page or by clicking the preceding link.
 - o PrefBid.com L-CAL log on using your present credentials. If you have never accessed the site use your L-CAL employee number for both fields with the first letter if applicable capitalized. L-UAL log in using your u + file number as your Employee Number and Password. The "u" must be lower case. Signing in to PrefBid automatically brings you to the Forum tab. From this tab, the Practice / Mock trip set packages are accessed through the "2013 Mock Bidding Information" link in the Current Bid Period Section near the top of web page.

Jeppesen PBS Transition Timeline:

- November:
 - o Continued kiosks at the pilot bases - manned most days of week
 - o Continued phone support - Call (231) U-GOT-PBS - (231) 846-8727
 - o Continued Online forum/chat support at PrefBid.com
 - o Continued video and manual availability at:
 - § ALPA.org
 - § PrefBid.com
 - § [Flying Together Website](#)
 - § [Practice Jeppesen PBS](#)
 - o Practice bids
 - § Practice Bid 4
 - Opens - November 15th
 - Closes - November 27th
 - o ** L-UAL December *actual* schedules will be produced with current L-UAL AdOpt PBS **
 - o November - L-UAL using CCS recurrent bidding system for recurrent training bidding (i.e. late November bidding for January CQST's and MVLOE's)
- December:
 - o Use Jeppesen system "live" for January's schedules
 - § Access to the "live" Jeppesen PBS will be through the CCS "Bidding*" dropdown menu
 - o All previous support will continue through December
- January - March:
 - o Kiosk support, but phased out by the end of March
 - o Phone and on-line support
- March ±:
 - o TBD, anticipate on-line and phone support

More detailed communication will follow as the program is rolled out. If you have any questions, please send an email to UALPBS@ALPA.org.

Hotel: Captain Chris Tringali

Hotel Stay Credit Points: "No soup for you"

Many pilots have been asking why their layover hotels will not award loyalty program points for stay accrual. We are asking for loyalty points and stays during hotel inspections but are coming up against strong resistance. Many hotel groups (Hilton, Starwood, etc) say they have explicit rules prohibiting points for a crew stay. We still feel it's achievable and will continue to work on the matter. The Amenity may provide weight into an approval or disapproval but is not a standalone "must-have."

Here is the list of amenities listed in the UPA Hotel Guidelines

- ATM and/or check cashing
- Currency Exchange (market specific)
- Complimentary newspaper
- Gift shop
- Dry cleaning
- Irons/boards
- Crew lounge (especially internationally)
- Voltage converters (market specific)
- Pool/Sauna/Whirlpool
- Spa (w/discount)
- In-room refrigerator
- Loyalty program points for stay accrual, incidental charges, club access

Here is a [link](#) to the Hotel Inspection Process.

Reimbursements: "I just want my money!"

How:

1. uSource to get paid via the PSC
2. TVLLOG for sUA, MEC Hotel Committee Report for L-CAL to report issue to ALPA.

Crew Meal Reimbursement: "No soup reimbursement for you"

Recently the PSC has recently began denying crew meal expense reimbursements. We are trying to get this pushback rectified through the grievance process, but in the meantime persistence should get you paid. Here are two bullet points from a pilot who was initially denied, but eventually paid:

1. The first one was denied due to "receipt not legible"
 - a. I resubmitted this one using the **exact same computer image file of the receipt**, and apparently it was more legible the second time.
2. The second one was denied due to amount exceeding \$40.
 - a. I resubmitted this one without changing anything, but noting that there are no contractual limits.

The company just loves to push back, hoping pilots will just give up and eat the unacceptable crew meals and/or not bother them with trivial expenses. Please insist on your contractual right to a proper meal, and expense accordingly. Do not give up! Please [file a PDR](#).

Hotel and Transportation Reimbursement

The above paragraph also applies to your right to proper rest and transportation:

If the hotel cannot provide UPA-suitable room where you can get proper rest for your upcoming flight, attempt to get the hotel to fix your problem. If the hotel cannot make the situation suitable, than procure a replacement room at that hotel or at another hotel. If you leave the hotel, it's a good idea to cancel your United reservation. It's very important to note that ALPA Hotel approval is not of consequence in your decision to "walk." Even our best hotels can have trouble now and then. We also suggest you take videos and/or audio recordings of your room issues for future use, but in the meantime it is your word of ability to get proper rest that will get you reimbursed.

If your transportation is NOT present in order for the pilots to depart from the airport 30 minutes after block-in, then procure a means to get you to your layover and expense it.

There is no requirement to call the Hotel Desk, crew scheduling, transportation vendor, and/or hotel.

IAH issue here on LHR arrivals, where pilots get through customs with glob have to wait for LHR-based Flight Attendants without it. Please ask the van driver to depart for the hotel: 30 after block-in. If they refuse, then expense a taxi to the hotel. We have been asking for the Company to rectify this for five months, and they have refused.

Keep up your excellent issue reporting.

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Upcoming Family Awareness Event

Location	Event	Date	Featured Guest
Guam	Top o'the Mar 5:30 p.m. to Closing	Wednesday, November 20, 2013	MEC Chairman Captain Jay Heppner

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Local Council Meetings/Events

- Council 34 (SFO): 11 a.m., Monday, November 18, SFO DoubleTree, 835 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, Calif. 94010. 650/344-5500. The agenda will include nomination for Secretary-Treasurer for term ending 2/28/2015
- Council 33 (DEN): 9:30 a.m. (9 a.m. coffee), Wednesday, November 20, Holiday Inn Denver East-Stapleton, 3333 Quebec St., Denver, Colo., 80207 (Across the street from DTK)
Lower level. The parking garage is located behind the building. Van service is available from/to DIA.
- Council 93 (DENTK): 10 a.m., Thursday, November 21, DENTK Room A-031
- Council 11 (DCA): 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, November 22, Washington Dulles Airport Marriott, 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, Va., 20166 (703) 471-9500. The agenda will include nomination for Captain Representative for term ending 2/28/2015
- Council 172 (CLE): Noon to 6 p.m., Saturday, December 7, Winking Lizard in Lakewood 14018 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107. (216) 226-6693 www.winkinglizard.com. (For directions, enter 44107 in the "lizard locator" block on the website.)

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