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*Bid Feature Refresher and  
the Delta PWG YouTube Channel*

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## Introduction

With the new Flight Time Duty Time (FTDT) limits of FAR117 and the deletion of FAR121 FTDT limits, there have been requests to review the existing bid features and preferences for desired separation of pairings during monthly PBS awards. This PBS Notepad will review three bid commands that can be used to help mitigate the awarding of a long string of consecutive working days (i.e. back to back to back rotations). In addition, this will serve as an introduction to the Delta PBS Working Group's YouTube channel and library of training videos.

## PBS Bid Features for Separating Pairings

There are a number of existing PBS bid features that offer pilots the ability to express desired separation between pairings. These bid features are *Minimum Base Layover*, *Time Off Before/After* and the *Pattern Bid*. Further explanation of these bid features may be found in the *PBS Gouge* and the *PBS Web Bidder Guide*.

### Minimum Base Layover (Set Condition)

One of the "Set Condition" bids, *Minimum Base Layover* (MBL), must always be placed above any award preferences in a pairings bid group. *Minimum Base Layover* applies a buffer around any pairing that PBS attempts to award expressed in hours and minutes. The buffer is a defined period between the checkout time of a pairing and the check-in time of another pairing. It is a global bid for the pairings bid group it is added to and it cannot be forgotten. PBS will apply the MBL buffer around pre-awarded work events such as CQ but not around non-working pre-awarded events such as vacation. The *Set Condition Minimum Base Layover* bid is deniable, and the bidder does have the option of applying the *Else Start Next Bid Group* instruction in conjunction with this bid.

### Time Off Before or After (Award Pairings if...)

*Time off Before/After* is similar to *Minimum Base Layover* in that it provides a buffer around a pairing. This is not a global bid like MBL; the buffer only applies to pairings awarded from an award preference bid line. Not only must PBS honor the buffer with regard to pairings awarded from previous preferences and from pre-awards, but also the buffer remains in place around the pairing for awards from subsequent preferences. The buffer may be expressed either in hours and minutes or in days. For example, a three-day pairing with 1 day Time Off buffer before and after has a footprint like a five-day pairing. The buffer does not apply to certain items, such as vacation, military leave and sick leave. The bidder may use either time off before, after, or both in an award bid line.

If the pairing with the included buffer causes PBS to be unable to award subsequent pairings to complete the line, PBS will pull the pairing and buffer if necessary as part of the shuffle process. In other words, PBS will not pull the buffer and leave the pairing.

### Pattern Bid (Set Condition)

A *Set Condition Pattern Bid* tells the PBS scheduler to create a block that follows a pattern of days on and days off. You can specify a range of days on, and a minimum

number of days off after working event(s) within the pattern. For example, if a bidder asks for between 4 and 6 days on, this can be made up of a single pairing or multiple pairings that together are between 4 and 6 consecutive days. The Pattern Bid is always placed at the top of your Pairings Bid group above any positive bid lines (awards), but may be placed below other *set condition* bids and negative bid lines (*avoids* and/or *prefer offs*). The Pattern Bid cannot be forgotten and it is subject to denial mode. A working pre-award, such as training or a pairing awarded through Coverage Awards is considered to be a day on, and a non-working pre-awards such as vacation is considered to be a day off.

### Pattern bid example

SET CONDITION PATTERN BETWEEN 3 AND 7 DAYS ON WITH 3 DAYS OFF (MINIMUM)

- The PBS Scheduler tries to award you a block that follows the pattern of working days (including pre-awards) between three and seven, followed by a minimum of three days off.
- A carry-in pairing that is too short does not violate the pattern, nor does a too-short block of days off between pre-awards.
- For a regular line Pattern Bid, an in-period working pre-award that is too short violates the pattern and enough flying must be awarded adjacent to the working pre-award that is too short does not violate the pattern.

### Delta PBS Working Group YouTube Channel

The Delta PBS Working Group (PWG), a collaborative effort between Delta Air Lines and the Delta MEC PBS and Scheduling Committees, has recently launched a YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/DeltaPBS>. This channel will offer a library of training videos, and we hope you will refer to it whenever you have questions about bidding. Please bookmark the page and subscribe to the channel - over the next few months, we will continue to add videos covering a wide variety of subjects related to PBS.