



14-01

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Vacation Slide for In-Period Vacation Days

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Introduction

This PBS Notepad will discuss the enhancement to the Vacation Slide Bid feature. In addition there is a discussion concerning the PBS Desktop Application connectivity and Shuffling.

Slide Vacation

Beginning with the March 2014 bid period, an enhancement has been added to the functionality for the Slide Vacation bid feature. As a reminder, this bid feature is available for both Regular and Reserve bidding. Prior to this month, a bidder was only able to slide vacation days so long as the *entire vacation period* was contained within the current bid month. With this enhancement, bidders will have the option to be able to slide the vacation days of a vacation period that are contained within the current bid month. The in-month portion of the vacation that crosses into or out of a bid month is treated as its own block of vacations days and can be slid through the PBS processing. Please note, the restriction of moving vacations days into or out of the current bid month still exists.

Example

In this example, a pilot has a vacation week (QVAC) that runs from January 26th through February 1st as seen on the PBS Calendar below.

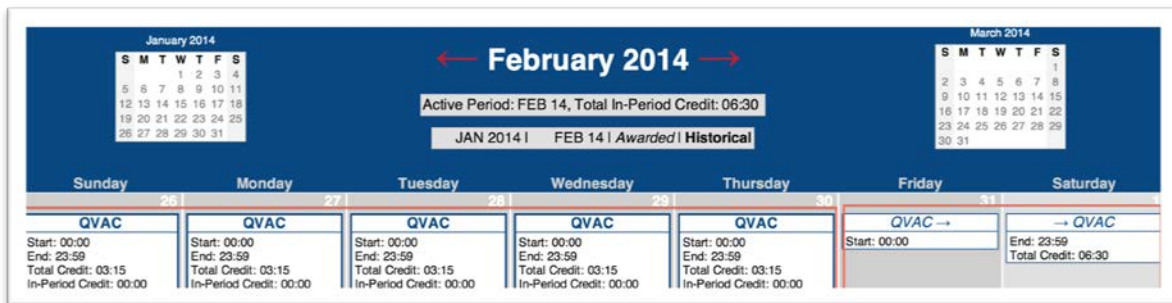


Figure 1: Web UI Calendar View



Figure 2: PBS DA Calendar View

This seven-day vacation period transitions from the January 2014 bid period through the February 2014 bid period. The QVAC days from January 26-30 are within the January bid period but the QVAC days of January 31-February 1 are within the February bid period. These two vacation days of the bidder's QVAC are the ones that may be slid through PBS bidding for February (remember that the February bid period runs from Jan 31 through March 1).

The Slide Vacation bid is still found under the Set Condition Tab on both the PBS Web UI as well as the PBS DA.

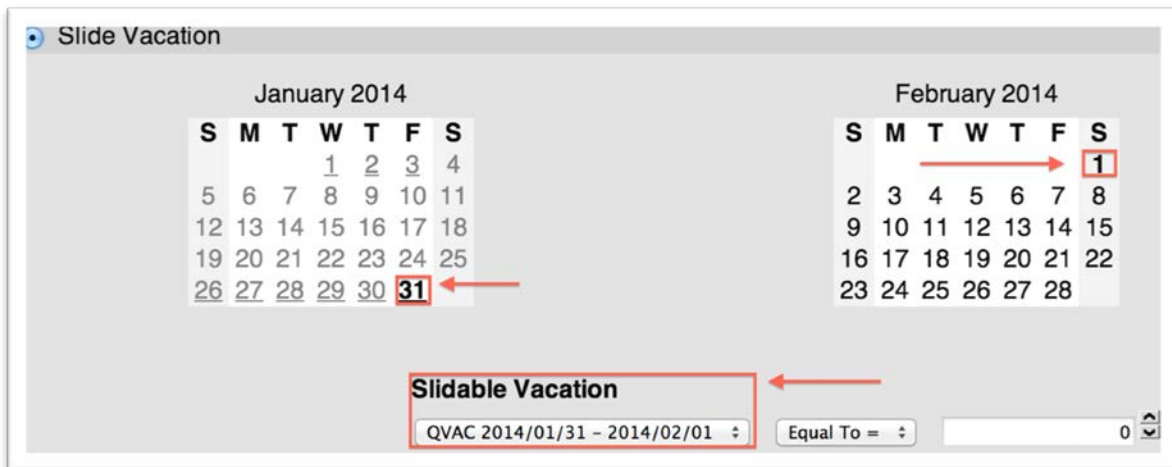


Figure 3: Web UI Set Condition Slide Vacation

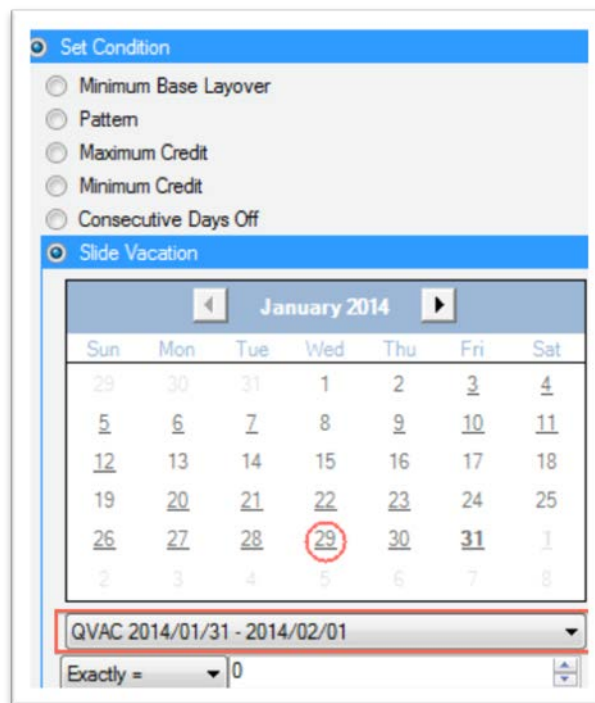


Figure 4: PBS DA Set Condition Slide Vacation

Please note that in both of the screen shots above, when selecting the Slide Vacation, only the slidable days will be available. When using the PBS DA, you must select the vacation days to slide in the drop down box found below the calendar, as it defaults to 'None' when initiating the bid. There is an extensive discussion of the Slide Vacation bid feature found in the [PBS Gouge](#). Here is a list of the basic limitations to keep in mind when using this bid feature.

Vacation Slide Limitations

- You can attempt to move your vacation days forward or backward as many days as you want, as long as the block of days remains completely within the current bid month
- You cannot split a single group of vacation days, including supplementary vacation days. These days move all together as one block or not at all. Please note that two different vacation weeks (for example PVAC and SVAC) that are touching each other are treated as two separate blocks of days that you can attempt to move
- You cannot slide vacation days onto other pre-awarded events (for example CQ or MLOA)
- PBS will not move your vacation to days where PBS has given you coverage awards (formally known as unstacking). Coverage occurs as a separate process before the regular bid processing. Any coverage awards will block PBS from sliding days that overlap the coverage awards because the vacation slide is part of the subsequent regular award process. PBS only looks at your coverage awards. If you have no coverage awards, you will be unaffected even if junior pilots have coverage awards on the dates that you want to move your vacation.
- You can only attempt to slide vacation days in one direction in a given bid group

Connectivity Issue with the PBS Desktop Application

From time to time, we receive inquiries concerning a pilot's inability to either synch the PBS DA or to submit bids. When this occurs, it is due to the fact that the DA is unable to connect to the Internet properly. A valid indication of connectivity is seen by the message 'Connected' found in the bottom left hand corner of the DA as seen below.

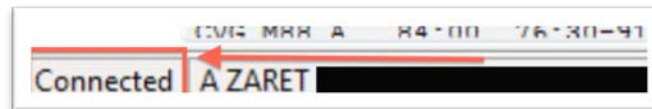


Figure 5: DA Connectivity

In the event that you can connect you will see the following:



Figure 6: DA Disconnected

In every case where we encountered this problem, the lack of connectivity has been due to either the bidder's firewall, or anti-virus software blocking the DA from connecting to the server. Since there are many different firewall/anti-virus software programs on the market, we cannot offer a definitive answer as to which one may be the culprit. We suggest looking for a setting in either program that allows an exception for the PBS DA as a known and safe software. If you are unable to determine how to do this, you may elect to turn off these programs when attempting to connect to the PBS server.

Shuffling

We often receive inquiries about the meaning of the reason: "Pulled during shuffle."

Shuffling is often misunderstood, but it is a necessary part of the PBS algorithm and serves a vital purpose. Although the [PBS Gouge](#) has more detailed information, it is worth taking a look at a very simplified scenario in order to see the purpose of shuffling:

Assume there are three pairings A, B, C, with values of 60:00, 40:00, and 35:00 respectively. The Line Construction Window (LCW) is from 70:00 to 85:00. The bid is as follows:

1. Start Pairings
2. Award Pairings If Pairing A
3. Award Pairings If Pairing B
4. Award Pairings If Pairing C
5. Clear Schedule and Start Next

In this scenario, it is impossible to award pairing A. Even though pairing A is available, PBS cannot complete a line using either pairing B or C with Pairing A. PBS will initially attempt to award pairing A, but will pull it during shuffle so that it can create a line using pairings B and C. PBS only shuffles as necessary when it gets to the end of a bid group and has been unable to build a complete line.

From the above example you can see that shuffling is generally advantageous. While we cannot recommend it, there is a technique that will prevent PBS from shuffling *in all but the last* pairings bid group. Instead of Clear Schedule and Start Next, you can use Avoid Pairings If Pairing Length > 0 days Else Start Next Bid Group.

1. Start Pairings
2. Award Pairings If Pairing A
3. Award Pairings If Pairing B
4. Award Pairings If Pairing C
5. Avoid Pairings If Pairing Length > 0 days Else Start Next Bid Group.

More details are available in the PBS Gouge, which is available at:

<http://www.pbshelp.info/delta>.