

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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In the matter of)	
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U.S. PASSENGER AIR CARRIERS)	Docket OST-03-15021
))	
waiver of the dormancy conditions on limited-entry)	
route authority)	
_____)	

_____)	
Application of)	
))	
CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, INC.)	Docket OST-03-14777
))	
for a temporary blanket waiver of dormancy)	
conditions)	
_____)	

**ANSWER OF NORTHWEST AIRLINES, INC.
TO JOINT PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ORDER 2003-4-18**

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Dated: May 12, 2003

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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**ANSWER OF NORTHWEST AIRLINES, INC.
TO JOINT PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ORDER 2003-4-18**

Northwest Airlines, Inc. (“Northwest”), pursuant to 14 C.F.R. §302.14, hereby submits this Answer in opposition to the Joint Petition of Arrow Air, Inc., Atlas Air, Inc., Evergreen International Airlines, Inc. and Polar Air Cargo, Inc. (“the Joint Petitioners”) for reconsideration of Order 2003-4-18. The Order grants a blanket waiver through March 31, 2004 of all dormancy conditions attached to operating authorities held by U.S. passenger carriers for U.S. passenger operations in limited-entry international markets. The Joint Petitioners are asking the Department to reconsider the Order and extend the same dormancy relief to limited-entry all-cargo operations of all U.S. carriers. Because the Joint Petitioners have not demonstrated that the same conditions cited in the Department’s Order 2003-4-18 support extension of a blanket

waiver relating to all-cargo operations, Northwest believes the Department should deny the Joint Petitioners' request.

Despite the severe economic turmoil in the aviation industry, U.S. all-cargo carriers have not made substantial service reductions. Northwest operates an all-cargo subsidiary, Northwest Airlines Cargo, Inc. ("NWA Cargo"). NWA Cargo is actively seeking expansion opportunities. On April 29, 2003, NWA Cargo announced additional service and capacity to Osaka, Japan, and Seoul, South Korea, beginning June 3, 2003. (See attached NWA Cargo newsrelease dated April 29, 2003). NWA Cargo is currently competing for four fifth freedom all-cargo frequencies between Hong Kong and Seoul in Docket OST-2002-14049. Today, NWA Cargo also requested temporary reallocation of one U.S.-China frequency held by United Air Lines, Inc. but which United has suspended. NWA Cargo intends to utilize the U.S.-China frequency to offer an additional scheduled roundtrip weekly freighter service between the United States and Shanghai, via Japan, effective May 19, 2003 and until such time as United is prepared to reinstate its operation of the frequency.

The Joint Petitioners submit that the war in Iraq has impacted all-cargo operations "by increasing the need to devote lift to U.S. military flying and by altering the normal patterns of commercial demand" (Joint Petition at 2). Although Stage I of the Department of Defense Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) program was activated in January 2003 with respect to passenger aircraft, the mandatory CRAF program has not been activated with respect to all-cargo operations. To the extent the Joint Petitioners may be devoting all-cargo lift to U.S. military flying, they are doing so voluntarily and presumably because such operations are revenue positive.

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Unless the Joint Petitioners can demonstrate actual or planned service reductions due to circumstances identified in the Department's Order 2003-4-18, Northwest does not believe the Department should circumvent its standard dormancy provisions with respect to limited entry all-cargo authority held by U.S. carriers at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Megan Rae Rosia /s/

Megan Rae Rosia

Managing Director, Government Affairs

& Associate General Counsel

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901 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Suite 310

Washington, D.C. 20005

(202) 842-3193

Dated: May 12, 2003



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NWA CARGO ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL
FREIGHTER CAPACITY TO OSAKA AND SEOUL**

ST. PAUL, MINN. -- (April 29, 2003) -- NWA Cargo, the cargo subsidiary of Northwest Airlines, today announced that it will build on its comprehensive network in Asia with additional service and capacity to Osaka, Japan, and Seoul, South Korea, beginning June 3, 2003.

“This new 747 freighter service to Osaka and Seoul will make our Pacific network more attractive than ever before,” said Jim Friedel, president of NWA Cargo.

The new flights will operate westbound Tuesday through Saturday. Cargo customers will have single-connection freight service from any North American NWA Cargo station to the new Osaka/Seoul freighter flight through NWA Cargo’s Anchorage, Alaska hub. The flight will arrive in Osaka at 10:30 a.m., allowing for same-day deliveries in Western Japan.

On the eastbound return from Seoul to the U.S., the new flight will depart at 9:30 p.m., allowing NWA Cargo to offer customers in Korea same-day freight service. The return flight will connect at the Anchorage hub for flights to NWA Cargo’s North American gateways.

“Despite the unparalleled challenges facing the industry, NWA Cargo will continue improving its service in order to attract more cargo forwarder business,” said Rich Sells, vice president of global sales for NWA Cargo. “This new flight gives forwarders shorter transit times and industry-leading speed from drop-off to pick-up, which is critical for NWA Cargo to compete for the business of time-sensitive shippers.”

NWA Cargo’s improved service to Osaka and Seoul is open for sale immediately. For additional pricing and other information, including cargo container rates, NWA Cargo customers may visit www.cargo.nwa.com or call 1-800-NW-CARGO (692-2746).

NWA Cargo’s fleet of dedicated freighter aircraft fly from key cities throughout U.S. and Asia and connect at the carrier’s Anchorage hub, facilitating the quick transfer of cargo between large cities on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. In addition, NWA Cargo transports freight aboard the passenger fleet of Northwest Airlines.

Northwest Airlines’ NWA Cargo subsidiary is the largest cargo carrier among U.S. combination passenger and cargo airlines. NWA Cargo transports cargo to more than 250 cities worldwide aboard Northwest’s passenger aircraft and a dedicated fleet of Boeing 747 freighter aircraft.

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For more information pertaining to NWA Cargo, media inquiries can be directed to Northwest Media Relations at (612) 726-2331, or to the NWA Cargo Web site at www.cargo.nwa.com.

SERVICE LIST

On this 12th day of May 2003, the foregoing Answer of Northwest Airlines, Inc. to Joint Petition for Reconsideration of Order 2003-4-18 was served as follows:

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