I arrived at the airport to find a pleasant surprise… my flight MU5315 got cancelled! That’s ok with me… at first. For the purposes of this report, I will split it up between the flight and the rebooking issue.

# Rebooking

Remember how I said it was ok with me? There were two constraints that I had to deal with.

So, it was a trip to the Duty Supervisor to rebook. With the complication of this flight booked by United, they could not book me on any random flight out. I’m not sure where the official rule is but it was for the fear of that if it happened it would affect my return. It needs to be on a China Eastern code. I was offered a flight leaving at 5:30 but that would put me in at around 8:00, and I needed to make some calls at 6:30, so that was not an option.

There was a China Eastern flight leaving at 10:00 the same day. It has a China Eastern code, which is safer than booking on other carriers. I did not need the return cancelled.

I was rebooked in a middle seat (actually, that was given to me at check-in), but at this point, I realize I was in a situation where I needed to just take a flight and get to Guangzhou, so I am not going to say anything. Besides, in my experience, the seats are usually comfortable.

# Flight

Given check in doesn’t open that early (even though the counter is open), I had dinner first before checking-in. I completed the call before clearing security, which took me less than ten minutes. Don’t listen to the “line dragon” as they are telling you to go to the one place- read the sign (I think it was unintentional however I did get mistaken for an ID card user). Passport users need to go to see an officer while ID card users are allowed to go to the automated gates (they’re actually encouraged and are actually told to go to those gates).

Now I need to go take the flight. I got one of the best gates in the house (little to no walking necessary). It’s probably because my plane could only use gates that are so big… so don’t count on it because it could well end up being a BUS GATE! RAR!!! (If you hate those)

I worked for about two hours before lining up to board at the call. The sign was on the wrong way, and no one paid attention to who was boarding with which groups (in other words, priorities were not respected, so don’t expect to receive Gold Elite treatment).

I was directed to the other side of the aisle… now I realize that instead of “D, E, F, G” seats, they were “D, F, G, H” seats. I respect that but shouldn’t it be “A, B, C” on the left, “D, E, F, G” in the middle, and “H, J, K” or “J, K, L” on the right? That’s probably what I’m used to.

I measured the seats last time I flew. I believe they only changed Biz seats to the Thompson Vantage (XL or standard, I’m not sure), but that’s it. Premium Economy is… I believe a glorified Economy seat (five words: extra legroom and better service).

But I did take out the tape for the recline… which was a good five inches. The seat panned forwards by an inch and a half, so with that I would peg the number at six and a half inches without the seat pan. Five inches is already better than the standard… I greatly appreciated that as I slept better.

Entertainment was… I didn’t even consider it because I just went to sleep. Please, I’m so tired.

I didn’t even know we were in the air until snacks were served… no, no, no, it’s just a bag of crackers and water, so much for those of you that are getting excited already.

Lavatories were clean… but I could care less. It was gross that the water would regurgitate… arrgh! I guess I should be glad that the faucet was automated?

And I celebrated Christmas on the plane! Well, considering we landed at 12:12 in the night I wouldn’t say that, but my phone greeted me, so…

I was grateful that we got a gate with a jetbridge because at this point… I did not feel like carrying my bags downstairs.

Baggage Claim was quick (I’ll speculate that the bag handlers wanted to be done… go figure there was another planeload (probably a 737), and whatever).

And it was a DiDi private car to the hotel and less than two hours after wheels down, I was sleeping.

So it was a good flight. I’ll spare the trouble of the food (only crackers were served) … I could care less when it’s this late, though would’ve appreciated a coke to drink. The plane interior was nice… good recline and adjustable headrest helped me sleep well. In a middle seat.