

Meeting Notes from VATSIM Executive Committee

August 02, 2003 - 2300 UTC

Attending

Kyprianos Biris, VATEUR1 - Europe Region Director - Executive Committee chairman
Jorge Boardman, VATCAM1 - Central America Region Director
Paulo Ungar, VATSAM1 - South America Region Director
Roland Collins, VATSIM23 - VP Regions - Afr.&M.E. Region affairs representative

Executive Committee (EC) Meeting started at 23:10 UTC

AGENDA ITEM - Region Transferring members with ATC ID rating

Following an email of recommendations from BoG to EC on July 3rd (see below) the committee discussed this subject.

The meeting attendees discussed the issues put forward in BoG's mail but there were no formal decisions due to the fact that only three voting members were attending. The committee continued with informal chat about the issue.

The sentiment was that using a local check-assessment was appropriate since a person cannot lose their rating without cause. If they are given a check-assessment and found not to be up to the same standard as the others, then that gives a division 'cause' to refuse continuity of rating with their division.

Those present also felt that it was better to use a local check-assessment based on existing local tests since these were already available and completely appropriate. Having a global test, even in part, was generally not favored.

There was some discussion about dealing with lower ratings a bit different to higher ones, but the EC agreed that this only unnecessarily complicates matters. There has to be a local check-assessment for each rating level to cater for different situations, so this system is already able to cater for whatever emphasis a division may wish to apply.

The key issues in the BOG 3rd of July document that EC informally discussed at the meeting were:

A. How some members who wished to operate in another Region/Division, either temporary as a visitor or permanently, were being discouraged,

disallowed, or suffered a loss of rating or privileges.

B. EC looked at the key Points in the BOG 3rd July document, in particular those aspects that related to a person being allowed to do ATC in another Region/Division. EC discussed how BOG did not wish to erode local standards and had accepted that any person from outside the Region/Division should possess knowledge of the local airspace, and adequate skills for any ATC position they wished to operate.

C. EC discussed how BOG were agreeable to there being local tests/assessments for visitors or transferees to ensure that wherever possible a person's rating is maintained. EC further discussed how VP - ATC Training was available to assist in developing global "ATC Local Familiarization Tests" for each ATC rating.

D. EC discussed the BOG ruling that a VATSIM ATC rating cannot be lowered or removed other than by disciplinary action; by the failure of an individual to pass a prescribed ATC test or assessment; or voluntarily.

E. EC noted the BOG requirement that any current Region/Division practice that did not align with the key points in the 3rd July document were unfair and should be rectified immediately.

It was agreed that, the idea of a person having a rating removed other than as outlined in D. above would be contrary to fundamental VATSIM Code of Regulations.

Roland Collins explained how C. above was the instrument that EC were able to use. If Regions/Divisions had documented standards for each rating then a visitor or transferee could be required to undergo a 'check-out' based on the normal local standard. If they passed the check-out then that's fine, otherwise their options were to voluntarily accept a lower rating or discontinue and not proceed.

In the discussion that ensued there was very little favor for a global standard, either from EC or from VATSIM VP - ATC Training, with those present preferring to develop their own individual standards.

As far as E above is concerned EC Chairman said he was going to contact the other RD's and make sure their policies didn't conflict with the determinations in the BOG 3rd of July document.

ACTION ITEM: EC Chairman to contact Region Directors about the issues discussed above and table the agenda item for next meeting .

AGENDA ITEM - Report of VATSIM Frankfurt Convention

VATEUR1 informed the attendees of happenings in VATSIM Frankfurt convention where he attended in July 2003.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 00:52 UTC on August 3rd 2003

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Reference material :

Email From Board of Governors to Executive Committee on **July 3rd 2003 :**

TO: VATSIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FROM: VATSIM BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SUBJECT: VATSIM Ratings in other Divisions and Local Administrative Powers

INTRODUCTION

During the recent BOG meeting an agenda item discussed limitations on ATC in relation to where they are able to use their ATC rating. This discussion resulted from members having made direct contact with individual BOG members.

This matter has come up previously in relation to voice endorsements, and it was determined at that time that a person wishing to operate where a voice endorsement is required should undergo the local voice test before operating in voice. This test requirement is regardless of a person's current standing in voice usage.

The matter currently before BOG is quite different in that it relates to providing basic ATC services.

Members expressed concerns that they are not permitted to operate in areas other than their own registered area. Restrictions have occurred in the form of:

- An outright ban from working in the new area.
- Being required to permanently transfer to the new area.
- Losing their rating and/or privileges.

- Being restricted from working elsewhere.

BOG is aware of the tremendous work that has been done within the Regions over the past two years in building up and establishing Divisions and Sub-Divisions around the world. This has been responsible for a tremendous improvement in ATC staffing and ATC standards, and BOG does not want to jeopardize that work or restrict its progress in any way.

KEY POINTS

The following is a summary of the key points established during BOG discussion:

- BOG is committed to providing an environment that is; realistic; educational; and fun; one that encourages pilots and controllers.
- BOG recognizes the autonomy of Regions/Divisions.
- BOG understands and accepts the need for local rules governing ATC, and does not wish to erode the intent of any existing local rules.
- BOG is concerned that many local rules may have been introduced at a local level and without awareness or consent of a Regional Director.
- BOG wishes to safeguard the hard work of local Divisions, ARTCCs, vACCs, and FIRs, from any adverse effect associated with having transient controllers.
- BOG recognizes the power delegated to those able to make rating changes, and emphasizes the importance this plays on having proper local ATC training standards.
- BOG emphasizes that a person with a VATSIM ATC rating should be able to exercise the privileges associated with that rating.
- BOG supports those ATC who wish to operate outside their normal area, either casually or permanently.
- BOG fully supports that controllers must know and conform to local rules in addition to the general requirement to observe VATSIM rules.
- BOG fully supports that controllers must familiarize themselves with the airspace and terrain of any area in which they intend to operate.

- BOG fully supports the use of local tests/assessments for visitors or transferees so that as a priority rating is maintained wherever possible.
- BOG emphasizes that an ATC rating is a VATSIM rating that cannot be lowered or removed other than by disciplinary action; by the failure of an individual to pass a prescribed ATC test or assessment; or voluntarily.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Having regard to the above Key Points, BOG has made the following recommendations:

- Executive Committee, in concert with VP - Training ATC, develops an "ATC Local Familiarization Test" for global use.
- The final form of the "ATC Local Familiarization Test" will be submitted to BOG for approval by no later than 31st December 2003.
- The "ATC Local Familiarization Test" should contain generic content appropriate for the rating or type of service, as well as having some flexible components to allow for local variation.
- The localized content of the "ATC Local Familiarization Test" should relate to knowledge of local airspace; terrain; facilities, and procedures.
- Both transient controllers and permanent transferees should complete the "ATC Local Familiarization Test" before controlling in airspace other than where previously assessed.
- Until the global "ATC Local Familiarization Test" is accepted and in effect, local jurisdictions should implement their own form of familiarization assessment to ensure local ATC standards, as well as maintaining a sense of fairness for all members.

DETERMINATIONS

In regard to ATC working outside their normal airspace BOG has made the following determinations that will affect ALL Regions:

- Any existing practice that does not agree with the above key points or recommendations is likely to result in an unfair situation, and is therefore **NOT SUPPORTED BY VATSIM BOG.**

- Any material, such as any website content or documentation, that is contradictory to the above key points or recommendations is **NOT SUPPORTED BY VATSIM BOG.**

In relation to those practices or material **NOT SUPPORTED BY VATSIM BOG**, then these items must be rectified forthwith.

VATSIM BOARD OF GOVERNORS