

Minutes of Meeting
VATSIM Executive Committee
19th January 2006 at 2000hrs UTC

Roll Call:

RD-Oceania – Terry Scanlan (Chair)
RD-Europe – Kyprianos Biris
RD-Africa Middle East – Ilan Jonas
RD-North America – Todd Cox
RD-Central America – Jesus Jacir
RD-Asia – William Woo

Also present:

VP-Regions – Roland Collins
Deputy RD VATOCE – Norman Blackburn (minutes)

Apologies:

RD-Asia – William Woo
RD-South America – Jesus Betancourt

Executive Committee meeting started at 2015 UTC

AGENDA:

1. Matters arising from previous minutes
2. Confirmation of EC Chairman for 2006
3. Proposed Changes to Region Transfer Format
4. Other Business

1. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no discussions on matters from the previous minutes.

2. Confirmation of Chairman for 2006

RD-OCEANIA advised that under VATSIM COR 3.04 his current 12-month term as EC Chair is now vacant and due for filling. It was noted that Terry Scanlan, RD Oceania, has held the position for the past two 12-month sessions. After discussion on this matter and there being no nominations, Mr Scanlan offered to continue in the position for a further 12 month period.

MOTION: To appoint Mr Scanlan (VATOCE1) as EC Chairman for a further period of 12 months commencing February 1 2006.

Proposed: RD VATAME - Mr Ilan Jonas

Seconded: RD Europe - Mr Kyprianos Biris

VOTING:

RD Europe – Kyprianos Biris	= FOR
RD Africa Middle East – Ilan Jonas	= FOR
RD North America – Todd Cox	= FOR
RD Central America – Jesus Jacir	= FOR

RD Asia – William Woo
RD Oceania – Terry Scanlan

= FOR
abstained

The motion was carried.

3. Proposed Changes to Region Transfer Format

Lengthy discussions took place on this issue, the main thrust being that more information be provided to the member wishing to transfer from one region to another. For example a pilot/OBS transfer would see the Divisions or VACC's in each region and would be "encouraged" to join one but not made compulsory.

ACTION: Kyprianos Biris to draw up a suggested change to the Region Change Form – See Appendix B

VP Regions to discuss proposed changes with BOG and advise EC of results of discussions

4. Other Business

4.1 The proposed change to voice restrictions was discussed and all were in agreement that this change was good for membership and would encourage more members to take the ATC assessments knowing they would not have to revert to text for their initial period.

4.2 RD EUROPE tabled a letter from Martin Georg with a suggestion to create a special forum on VATSIM to better facilitate information exchange. – See APPENDIX C

The matter was deferred for later discussion

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2200hrs UTC

Attached

Appendix A – Region Reports

Appendix B – Proposal For Change To Region Transfer Form

Appendix C – Forum Suggestion from Martin Georg

APPENDIX A – Region Reports

North America Region

North American Region Report: 01/28/2006

The North American Region has been busy since the last reporting period.

1. VATNA

- a. Will be meeting with the VATPAC director to discuss arrangements regarding the oceanic arrangements for controllers. It is my hope that through this arrangement that other types of cooperative agreements can be reached with other regions.
- b. Situation regarding pilot requirements vice controller requirements has been presented to me at various levels within VATNA. Would like to initiate a dialog with other regional directors regarding future pilot requirements.
- c. VATNA website will available soon.
- d. Bill Morris, Dave Klain and John Binner are the members of VATNA Regional Conflict Resolution Panel. Bill is the Chairman.

2. VATUSA

- a. VATUSA has been making marked improvements. I am extremely impressed with the leadership of Jeff Turner and his staff, and they way that the facilities are working together for the benefit of all who use VATSIM.
- b. Richard Green has been named the new Events Director for VATUSA.
- c. Bill Alderson is to be commended for his work in the Divisional Conflict Resolution Panel. Since taking over as VATNA in October, I have only had one event which required a regional look. The results from the regional panel was a 3-0 vote for what was already emplaced from the division level. That indicates fairness, integrity, and being true to what the divisional position really means.
- d. VATUSA is prepping their training Academy. This has been in the works since October. The purpose of the Academy is to teach a new controller the very basics of using voice, understanding basic ATC phraseology and procedures, and aircraft characteristics and issues.
Upon graduation, the student will be assigned to a Center to where they will continue their training, but will already have a basic foundation to where they can make a positive impact to the facility.
- e. Part of the new structure of VATUSA was re-establishing the position of Regional Managers. The results have been well received and is working great. This has also made a positive increase in communication and teamwork.
- f. We have had 7 people promoted to SUP within VATUSA. I have been working with the VATUSA director to make sure that these people understand their responsibilities, and that they could lose their new rating if they do not take these responsibilities serious.
- g. VATUSA website is under major renovations.
- h. VATUSA Conference will be held from 24-26 March in Chicago, Illinois

3. VATCAN

- a. Eric Fortin has been named as the new Division Director of VATCAN. He replaces Richard Durocher who stepped down in December. Eric appears to be breathing new ideas into VATCAN and so far all indications show that he will do well in the new position.
- b. Phil Knox has been named as the Deputy Director for VATCAN
- c. Eric has a couple of huge projects that he has presented to his staff. The biggest of this is increasing the teamwork and cooperativeness amongst the other Canadian areas. Additionally, Eric and Jeff Turner of VATUSA will be working together with me in creating cross-cultural events whose purpose is to educate, increase awareness and to have fun within the region.

Regards,
Todd Cox
Regional Director
VATSIM North America

Oceania Region

Region Report – OCEANIA December 2005

Membership

The Oceania region continues to grow in numbers with an additional 250 new members that have joined the region since the last report in October 2005. The region now has 2914 members with 1300 being attached to its only division VATPAC.

The OCEANIA REGION has:

Pilot/OBS: 2683 = 92%

Student: 108

Snr Student: 71

Controller: 28

Snr Controller: 9

Instructor: 4

Snr Instructor: 3

Supervisors: 6

Total ATC ratings = 8%

There are no issues affecting the OCEANIA Region at the time of writing this report.

Oceanic Alliance

Discussions with VATUSA in relation to shared Oceanic Airspace agreements have continued although circumstances at VATUSA have cooled progress. Any assistance from RD-NA or VP Regions would be appreciated in resolving issues.

ATC Training

In this quarter the 50th ATC promotion under the new scheduling system has taken place and we are delighted by the new blood entering the system and staff.

Staff Groups

VATPAC is continuing with the trend to increase support of growing projects and systems through the recruitment of support staff groups. This is proving to be a highly effective and empowering methodology for keen members.

Europe Region - VATEUD

VATEUD Division report

The division faces some significant changes in its training department. Effective January 30th, Serdar Sualp, the long-time training director of VATEUD will resign from his position. In consequence, the trainings department will be reorganized, and more focus will be put on supporting regional structures. Dedicated instructors/examiners will be responsible for regions where deficits in training have been located. In A first step, vACC's Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia will combine their efforts to form a common training department, which will also cover the area of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Eurotest 3.0](#), the automated theoretical exam and rating management system, continues to be developed. Latest addition is the so-called "suggestion center", where authorized users (TD chiefs, vACC chiefs) can make comments or request changes to Eurotest questions, and even propose questions to be suspended. Second, Eurotest has been expanded to allow national-specific questions to be included in the test sets.

During late January, several voice servers in Europe have been equipped with the new AVS voice server software from VATSIM. These servers are:

voice2.vacc-sag.org (Germany)
voice5.vacc-sag.org (Germany)
voice.vatsim.fi (Finland)
rw.vacc-cz.org (Czech Republic)
rw.euroutepro.com (Poland)

Changes on vACC level:

Spain vACC: Vicente Perez Matheu replaced Miguel Branco da Silva as the division director.

Martin Georg
VATSIM Europe Division Director (VATEUD1)
<mailto:vateud1@vateud.org>

VATUK

In November, UK Staff took over Heathrow for the night, which proved to be a very busy and entertaining night. CTP6 had quite a few departures from the Dutch vACC transiting our airspace.

In December, we had a very busy December with 11 VAs holding Christmas Flyins of varying sizes. Already happened this month was a variety of events including 2 VFR nights and a long haul BAV flyin. The ever-popular VATSIM-UK Sundays return to the events list for 2006. It begins this month with the Essex RTS Northern Lights Flyin in a couple of days time on Sunday 29th Jan. The rota for nights will be as below in the following RTS':

Jan 29 – Essex

Feb 26 - Scotland/Northern Ireland

Mar 26 – Capital

Apr 30 – Midlands

May 28 - South West

Jun 25 – Northern

Jul 30 - South East

Solent VFR night took place on January 18th. It was a very successful night with many pilots flying VFR routes across the South East of England.

Upcoming events in Feb/March include Real Ops nights in the Essex, Scottish/Northern Ireland and South East RTS'. UK Staff will take over the Scottish FIR and the long awaited LARS (Lower Airspace Radar Service) weekend for VFR traffic will happen at the beginning of March.

Lee Redmayne
VATUK1

VATRUS

1. Changes in staff:

Egor Koronovsky (VATRUS9) - Training Department Pilots faculty chief

2. Division news

a) Training Department

During the past 6 months VATSIM Russia has seen a dramatic increase in pilot students applying to our virtual Training Department located in N.Novgorod (UWGG) 200km from Moscow. In spite of that fact our team of instructors have revised and restructured pilots training and examination programs. Voluntary ratings for pilots (within VATRUS) have also being developed, but not yet implemented.

b) ACC news

A lot of virtual pilots and controllers are starting to discover and develop ACCs of Siberia and Russian Far East: USSS, UNNT, UNKL, UOOO, UHPP, UHHH and other.

c) Fly-ins

Christmas holidays have resulted in slightly lower than usual activity, which is expected to reach its maximum peak in spring.

"Christmas is coming from the sky" fly-in (17 Dec 2005) was a dramatic and pronounced conclusion to the year 2005. With over 300 participants, improvised ATC facility in Moscow university and a story on National TV News next morning - it was the greatest event VATSIM Russia has ever held.

3. Problems

During the initial registration, a lot of newcomers are choosing the wrong region- Asia, because that is where MSFS puts Russia. In VATSIM, Russia is under European region (which is correct). That mistake causes difficulties for our training department when it comes to rating upgrade. As you know, it is impossible to upgrade a rating if the CID is registered in another region.

Yuri Trunov
VATRUS1
airman@ongp.ru

Asia Region

Region Report – VATASIA, December 2005

Membership

The VATASIA Region currently has 3910 members. In between October 1st 2005 and December 31st 2005, 259 new members join our region; which represents a 7% increase.

The following is break down on the current membership status

Rating	Members	% of Total
Pilot/OBS.	3629	92.81%
Student	141	3.61%
Sr. Student	59	1.51%
Controller	36	0.92%
Sr. Controller	16	0.41%
Instructor	10	0.26%
Sr. Instructor	11	0.28%
Supervisor	7	0.17%
Administrator	1	0.03%
Total ATC	281	7.19%

There are 3 official divisions in our region, namely VATJPN, VATAKOR and VATROC. Besides these, there are also a few active FIRs like Hong Kong FIR and Manila FIR which provide regular ATC services and hold online flyin events.

Regional Staff

Until now, the post of Deputy Regional Director is still vacant. There are 2 advertisements in the year 2005 to fill the post but no suitable candidate identified so far.

Regional Conflict Resolution Panel

The Regional Conflict Resolution Panel still have one vacancy which should be fill in by a member from VATJPN.

Regional Website

The current official website for VATASIA is www.vatasia.net It provides a common platform for all members of our region to discuss varies matter about virtual flight simulation and obtain relevant information to plan their flight. A booking system for ATC and Pilot is currently under development.

Divisional Development

VATJPN:- VATJPN is experiencing problem of lacking management staffs. Several important posts like the DCRM and Training Director resigned and they are still actively looking for suitable person for fill the post.

VATKOR:- The Korea division has problem with their website. Due to the withdrawal of free sponsorship, the VATKOR website is forced to shut down temporarily. The division is looking for alternative and tries hard to rebuild and get the website running as soon as possible.

VATROC:- Similar to VATJPN, the ROC division also experience shortage of management staffs. The progress of training and growth of ATC team is adversely affected.

Besides these 3 divisions, there is steady growth in activity in area not covered by official division. Hong Kong FIR and Manila FIR has steady increase in pilot and ATCs, some other area like Singapore, Sri Lanka, Indonesia also start to have ATC/Pilot signing up and request for training.

Prepared by:
William Woo
VATSIM – Asia Regional Director
28/01/2006

Central America Region

Region Report – VATCAMC, December 2005

Membership

The VATCAMC Region continues to grow in numbers with an additional 106 new members that joined between October 1st 2005 and December 31st 2005 which represents a 6% increase. By December 31st 2005 the region had 1875 members, 364 attached to VATCAR, 314 attached to VATMEX and 1197 unassigned. The Central America Division didn't exist in the VATSIM Database so members attached to this Division couldn't be accounted for.

The following member distribution by rating existed on December 31, 2005.

Rating	Members	% of Total
Pilot/Obs.	1661	88.59%
Student	98	5.23%
Sr. Student	40	2.13%
Controller	44	2.35%
Sr. Controller	12	0.64%
Instructor	9	0.48%
Sr. Instructor	6	0.32%
Supervisor	3	0.16%
Total ATC	212	11.31%

Not having the Central America Division present in the VATSIM Database presented issues in keeping track of the members attached to that Division. Actions were taken to include VATCA and all the FIRs in the Region to better assess the growth and performance. At the time of writing this report VATCA has already been included in the database which now has to be informed to all the Region members for them to update their profiles. Actions should be considered to require that all VATSIM members update their profiles to indicate which Division they're attached to and that all new members select a Region and a Division when they sign in.

Regional Staff

By December 31, 2005 there was no Regional Deputy Director appointed. Actions will be taken to appoint a Regional Deputy Director shortly as well as recruit additional support staff as needed.

Regional Website

By December 31, 2005 there was no active website for the region. Actions have been taken to secure the www.vatcamc.org domain and hosting service to deploy a regional website in the near future.

Regional Conflict Resolution Panel

By December 31, 2005 there was no Regional Conflict Resolution Panel established. Actions will be taken to appoint the members of the Regional Conflict Resolution Panel shortly.

Training and Promotion

Areas of opportunity were identified in the training and promotion practices. Some members have complained about the procedures, or lack of them, which result in delays in their training and promotion. Actions have been taken to assess the current training and promotion policies to then proceed to streamline both processes.

APPENDIX B – Proposal For Change To Region Transfer Form

Prepared by Kyprianos Biris

Member goes to VATSIM Home page and clicks on:

Member Services → Account Changes → Change Region

<http://cert.vatsim.net/vatsimnet/regch.php>

This initial page I propose to be updated to warn the member to make sure he or she has an active email address in the database since the process may require communications in this email by the Region staff. A link to email update page should also be put there.

Then I propose for us to have other sub-pages depending on the member being ATC rated or not.

If Pilot/OBS rated I still recommend having him or her select a receiving Division (at least) so as to have a DCRM assigned in the future and not the EC Chairman processing non-Division specific suspensions. For pilots I propose not to be compulsory but advisory (to select Division & vACC/ARTCC).

If rating is > than Pilot/OBS (ATC rated) then I propose that the member should (obligatory) be guided to another page where he or she gets to choose the receiving Division & vACC/FIR within this Division. The drop down list is already available in cert server. All that needs be done is for Divisions to be available below their pre-selected Region and vACC's/FIR's below their pre-selected Divisions (i.e. no invalid Region/Division/ARTCC combination possible). There should be a text message explaining there why we need more specific destination details and that this chosen Division/vACC/ARTCC/FIR will be in charge of "receiving" them as ATC in the Region and monitoring their ATC status from now on. Ideally web links for Regions & Divisions could be provided in a request filed confirmation (last) page.

APPENDIX C – Forum Suggestion from Martin Georg

if possible could you please table a proposal for the EC meeting? I want to propose the creation of a common VATSIM staff discussion forum.

Why this? At the moment, information exchange in VATSIM is unorganized, and going through several channels, some of them unofficial, some of them official. There is no common place where senior staff members from VATSIM can discuss general topics together. One indication that such a place is missing yet is the fact that the supervisors forum is often misused to discuss general VATSIM-related topics.

My proposal would be to create a forum to which the following group of people should have access:

- Founders
- BoG members
- Region Directors
- One deputy RD from each region
- Division Directors
- One deputy DD from each division
- All officially VATSIM-registered developers

This forum could discuss topics such as:

- Ideas to further develop our databases and software
- Exchanging information about ongoing regional or local projects
- Announcements about network outages or problems

VATSIM management could use the forum to transport information quickly down through the levels. This forum should not decide anything, it's simply for the free exchange of idea and information. VATSIM has tremendous potential in terms of know-how and personal abilities, however, this power is not brought together yet.