



SPECIAL OPERATIONS POLICY DOCUMENT

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VATSIM SPECIAL OPERATIONS POLICY DOCUMENT

§1.01 OVERVIEW

VATSIM SPECIAL OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION (VSOA) has been established for members of VATSIM wishing to realistically pursue interests in Virtual Airlines, Military, and Paramilitary Organizations. Incorporating VSOA within VATSIM provides the framework for regulation and control of all such events and activities so that these can be properly conducted under VSOA to ensure minimal negative impact to other users of the VATSIM network.

§1.02 DEFINITIONS

Flying Operations on the VATSIM network are classified into-the following two broad categories:

A. Standard Operations.

Standard operations comprise flying any aircraft within; General Aviation; Private; Corporate; or Commercial operations; but excluding aircraft operated as part of a "recognized" Virtual Airline (VA), virtual corporate entities, or government agencies. There are no special requirements when conducting 'standard operations', and these are therefore NOT subject to these Special Operations Policies. At not time shall a virtual government agency, or any aircraft actively engaged in military, paramilitary or search & rescue activities, be considered as a "standard Operation entity or aircraft" nor shall said entity or activity be exempt from policy set forth in this document.

B. Special Operations.

Special operations comprise flying any aircraft that is; part of a "recognized" Virtual Airline;; a "recognized" corporate entity; or any military / government agency; or any aircraft engaged-in military and/or paramilitary operations. All aircraft within the 'special operations' category are subject to the terms and conditions of these Special Operations Policies.

C. The term "recognized" as used in this segment refers to those Virtual corporate entities; Virtual Airline or entity other than military, paramilitary or government agency whereby said virtual corporate entities or virtual airlines have applied and are listed on the VATSIM V.A. PARTNERS segment of the VATSIM SPECIAL OPERATIONS area of the VATSIM website and those sites are displaying the VATSIM website logo per VATSIM policy. It does not in any way reserve call signs for those entities listed as a V.A. Partner.

§1.03 AUTHORITY

- A. In accordance with Article II of the VATSIM Code of Regulations, the VATSIM Vice President- Special Operations, hereinafter referred to as the VP Special Operations, shall be the determining authority for all individuals and organizations wishing to utilize the VATSIM network for events and activities described in §1.06 of this document.
- B. The VP-Special Operations reserves the authority to approve or deny the use of the VATSIM network for those individuals and organizations wishing to conduct such activities or events outlined in §1.06 of this document.
- C. The VP-Special Operations reserves the right to set standards, guidelines, and procedures for individuals and organizations within Special Operations to ensure that individuals and organizations conducting any event or activity described in §1.06 of this document shall cause the least adverse impact to other users of the VATSIM network.
- D. The VP-Special Operations reserves the authority to remove any individual or organization from VATSIM Special Operations membership, thereby suspending their privilege to conduct any event or activity described in §1.06 of this document. An email notice of VSOA suspension will be sent to the member and/or organization and to the VATSIM VP - Conflict Resolution. The VP-Conflict Resolution, or a delegate of his choosing, may review a VSOA suspension and provide the targeted party (ies) with an appeals process.

§1.04 APPLICABILITY

These Special Operations Policies shall apply to any VATSIM member on the VATSIM network conducting any type of event, activity, or operation described in §1.06 of this document.

§1.05 REQUIREMENT

Any individual or organization wishing to conduct an event or activity described in §1.06 of this document shall first be members in good standing of VATSIM Special Operations. Any individual or organization in breach of this requirement shall be subject to disciplinary procedures in accordance with VATSIM Code of Regulations Article VI.

§1.06 SPECIAL OPERATIONS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- A. Only 'standard operations' (as defined in §1.02 A), or events and activities that are within the 'special operations' (as defined in §1.02 B) and described below in §1.06B, are permitted on the VATSIM network. No other event, activity, or operation is permitted on the VATSIM network.

- B. The following on-line events and/or activities are deemed to be within the scope of VATSIM Special Operations (VSO) and therefore under the exclusive jurisdiction of VP-Special Operations
 - 1. VA registration and VA operations.
 - 2. Simulated online military / Para-military activities such as; Peacetime military exercises, range practice, military transport operations, aircraft escort / intercept operations, any other non-hostile event or activity implied or expressed as military / Para-military in nature.
 - 3. Online aerial refueling.
 - 4. Formation flying expressly for the purpose of simulating any military / Para-military activity permitted under §1.06 B.
 - 5. Search & rescue, fire-fighting and law enforcement operations.
 - 6. The use or acquisition of airspace for military, or paramilitary, related events or activities. The term acquisition refers to the research and development of letters of agreement with local, divisional and regional ATC administrators for the explicit purpose of establishing SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE and AIRSPACE DESIGNATED FOR SPECIAL USE to include supersonic flight operations.
 - 7. Any other event or activity deemed as potentially disruptive by one or more of the following:
 - A. VATSIM Board of Governors
 - B. VP-SPECIAL OPERATIONS
 - C. VATSIM Executive committee
 - D. Regional Directors

In the event that §1.06 B(7) has been invoked, the VP-SPECIAL OPERATIONS will refer the matter for review by the VP-CONFLICT RESOLUTION for independent review. Said review and shall determine if the event or activity in question is within the jurisdiction of the VATSIM SPECIAL OPERATIONS.

§1.07 RESPONSIBILITY: CIVILIAN AIRLINE ORGANIZATION REGISTRY (VA PARTNERS)

The office of VP-SPECIAL OPERATIONS shall be responsible for the VATSIM V.A. (Virtual Airlines) PARTNERS segment of the VATSIM website. Responsibilities shall include but not limited to:

- A. Generate minimal standards as well as general policy and procedure for the processing of applicant virtual organizations to meet in order to be listed as a VATSIM VA PARTNER.
- B. Ensure that applicant virtual organizations meet and maintain prescribed standards.
- C. Maintain a website that lists all VA PARTNER virtual organizations. Said website shall also clearly post requirements for applications as well as policy and procedure for maintaining membership as a VATSIM VA PARTNER.

§1.08 RESPONSIBILITY: MILITARY, PARAMILITARY AND OTHER SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS.

The office of VP-SPECIAL OPERATIONS shall be responsible for the MILITARY, PARAMILITARY and other SPECIAL OPERATIONS interest groups segment of VATSIM. Responsibilities shall include but not limited to:

- A. Generate minimal standards as well as general policy and procedure for the processing of applicant virtual organizations to meet in order to be listed as a VATSIM SPECIAL OPERATIONS ORGANIZATION.
- B. Ensure that applicant virtual organizations meet and maintain prescribed standards.
- C. Maintain a website that lists all VATSIM SPECIAL OPERATIONS ORGANIZATIONS. Said website shall also clearly post requirements for applications as well as policy and procedure for maintaining membership as a VATSIM SPECIAL OPERATIONS ORGANIZATION.

§1.09 RATIFICATION

Document generated on 24th July 2003 and adopted by majority vote of the VATSIM Board of Governors on 8th August 2003 as shown below:

Votes for the motion:

"Vote to adopt the Special Operations Guidelines document as posted on the egroup on 08-01-03"

Proposed by: Robert Phillips

Voting closed: 8th August 2003

Robert Phillips	FOR
Michael Bevington	FOR
Mike Hayden	FOR
Harv Stein	FOR
Neal Truitt	FOR
Ed Hemsley	FOR
Richard Jenkins	FOR
George Marinakis	FOR

With 8 votes for the motion, and 0 votes against, the motion was passed.

APPENDIX A

REVISION HISTORY

This appendix shows the changes and amendments made to the Special Operations Guidelines Document by the VATSIM.net Board of Governors and the VATSIM.net Founders. Code Section numbers and/or paragraphs are shown to allow for quick reference.

Conventions: Amendments are numbered sequentially based on the effective date of the amendment. Amendments and additions appear in **RED CAPS**. Deletions appear as ~~red strikethroughs~~.

Revision 1: 20th July 2005 enacted by Board of Governors 11th August 2005

Document title change:

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ~~GUIDELINES~~ POLICY DOCUMENT

§1.06 B(2): Simulated on-line ~~military exercises~~ **MILITARY / PARA-MILITARY ACTIVITIES** such as; ~~transport operations range practice; target practice~~ **PEACETIME MILITARY EXERCISES, MILITARY TRANSPORT OPERATIONS; AIRCRAFT ESCORT / INTERCEPT OPERATIONS, ANY OTHER NON-HOSTILE EVENT OR ACTIVITY IMPLIED OR EXPRESSED AS MILITARY / PARA-MILITARY IN NATURE.**

§1.06 B(4): Formation flying ~~/ Authorized MARSAs (Military Assumes Responsibility for Separation of Aircraft) operations.~~ **EXPRESSLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SIMULATING ANY MILITARY / PARA-MILITARY ACTIVITY PERMITTED UNDER §1.06 B.**

§1.06 B(5): Search & rescue, ~~or~~ fire-fighting **AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS.**