

Minutes of Meeting

VATSIM Executive Committee

12th February 2005 at 2000 UTC

Roll Call

RD VATAME	–	Ilan Jonas	Present
RD VATASIA	–	William Woo (acting)	Present
RD VATCAM	–	David Liberman	apology
RD VATEUR	–	Kyprianos Biris	apology
RD VATNA	–	Chris McCarthy	not present
RD VATOCE	–	Terry Scanlan	Present (Chair)
RD VATSA	–	Paulo Ungar	not present
VP-Regions	–	Roland Collins	Present (minutes)

Also:

Chris Dobison	–	Deputy RD VATEUR	Present
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Executive Committee (EC) Meeting started at 2020 UTC

AGENDA:

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting
2. Matters arising from previous minutes
3. Controller Rating C2 - Draft Report
4. Review of Region Transfer Procedures
5. Africa Control
6. EC-Chairman - Rotation discussion
7. Relations with BOG
8. Other Business

Agenda Item 1: Minutes from Previous Meeting

It was noted that these were previously discussed by email immediately following the meeting on the 12th November when they were duly accepted and released.

Agenda Item 2: Matters arising from Previous Minutes

2.1 Pilot Ratings

RD Oceania and VP Regions reported that Mike Bevington appears to be returning to full strength and is at present recruiting staff to get the PRC goals back on track. EC members expressed their best wishes to Mike Bevington, and agreed that any inquiry in relation to joining the PRC team should be directed to VP Pilot Training. EC considered that this item does not need any further follow up from at this time.

2.2 Pilot Data Base

VP Regions reported that he had tabled this issue with BOG but there had been no

comment or specific answer from anyone on BOG. In further comment VP Regions mentioned how BOG had previously discussed the ability of the database to cater for multi-ratings. VP Regions thought that in view of other database matters that were going to be put to BOG, that this item should be included at that time since this would enable EC to approach BOG with a complete plan in relation to database changes.

2.3 Oceanic Airspace Boundaries

RD Oceania reported that he had held discussions with RD North America in relation to Pacific Ocean operations. Further discussion also involved the Oakland Facilities Chief Craig Merriman and focused on a proposal for VATPAC/OAKLAND to work toward a common Oceanic Endorsement acceptable for both regions. This joint venture would facilitate inter-region control over the Pacific Oceanic. Discussions included forming a working group and also creating a common Pacific Oceanic website.

Action: RD Oceania to continue discussion.

2.4 EC to prepare framework for global standard of OCEANIC CONTROL.

RD Oceania reported that this has not proceeded since it was considered dependent on the outcome of the VATPAC/OAKLAND work for a common model for the Pacific.

Action: Deferred until VATPAC/OAKLAND work complete.

2.5 CODE 7600

RD-Oceania reported that Richard Critz advised that the restoration of Code 7600 would take place with the next update of FSD expected some time in March.

2.6 Supervisors - development since the last meeting is self-explanatory.

There has been some good work from the new VP SUPs and all outstanding matters are in progress.

2.7 NDA's

VP Regions reported that this item was presented to BOG and there had been no comment or response. RD Oceania reported that there were indications of progress in this regard in relation to ongoing discussions with some 3rd party developers. Deputy RD Europe advised that he was aware that RD Europe still held grave concerns about the lack of meaningful progress by BOG in relation to the NDA, and felt the matter still required a response from BOG.

Action: VP Regions to follow up from previous meeting and seek a formal response from BOG.

2.8 BOG minutes before EC meetings

VP Regions reported that EC concerns were presented to BOG immediately following the previous meeting in November.

Agenda Item 3: Controller Rating C2

This item was first discussed some time ago and VP Regions offered to work with the comments and draw up a draft proposal. At the meeting VP Regions tabled the draft proposal and considerable further discussion took place. Deputy RD Europe reported that VATEUR is in favour of the concept but strongly opposed to any immediate change, favouring a more progressive process after those affected have had a chance to consider the

full extent of any proposal. VP Regions explained the need for a single implementation and assured EC that it was intended that any change would only be made with considerable lead-time to allow staff to adequately prepare for it. This led to further discussion about how such a scheme could be implemented, the options that would provide flexibility, and the features that facilitate minimal disruption.

Action: EC to continue with email discussion.

Agenda Item 4: Review of Region Transfer Procedures

RD VATAME raised concern that in Israel members wanting rapid promotion change division or region and then come back to VATIL, bypassing local processes and upsetting those still waiting for promotion. RD VATAME acknowledged that on one hand movement between regions is good, but on other hand any abuse such as this should be prevented. RD VATAME considered that the region transfer process should contain more coordination between parties, suggesting that there should be a communication channel that would include the Training Director of the previous division.

RD Oceania explained the current transfer process and the communication features. RD Oceania talked about the effect of the auto-acceptance after 48 hours where in many cases the transfer goes ahead by default. RD Oceania suggested the situation might be improved if the NEW RD is more aware of the transfer process and tracked the progress of the transferee within their region. RD Oceania considered that it would be a good idea for an RD to be notified when a person leaves the Region in addition to the notification that is sent to the receiving RD. The merit of the notification of an outgoing transfer request was discussed. RD Oceania reiterated the need for the receiving RD to follow up those that were auto-accepted upon expiry of the 48-hour period. VP Regions provided advice about the rights of an individual within the regional transfer process.

VP Regions also detailed the process in relation to joining a Division after the Region transfer had taken place, and how local standards are protected by there being an onus on a transferee to demonstrate the proper standard or the transfer could be rescinded.

RD VATAME acknowledged the merit of the EC Region Transfer policy but considered it would be far better if it were more widely accessibility. There was some discussion about the merit of having a copy of the document on each website but it was discounted in favour of having one single EC source. VP Regions suggested that the on-line Region Transfer Request could contain a link to the EC Region Transfer policy document with instruction for a member to read it before proceeding.

Those present considered there was some value in:

1. Changing the auto process so that the OLD RD received notification of a regional transfer along with the current notification to the NEW RD.
2. Providing a link to the EC document on the on-line Region Transfer Request.
3. Making sure each website has information about the Region Transfer policy and a link to the EC document.

Action: VP Regions to follow up with BOG in relation to these requested changes.

Agenda Item 5: Africa Control

RD VATAME raised concerns about providing ATC in large areas where no divisions presently exist. RD VATAME was particularly concerned about the provision of training and assessment for rating changes. RD ASIA expressed concern in relation to requests for training that VATASIA had received from those in places such as India.

VP Regions described the situation at the time when VATIL was started and the type of workaround that is still available if required.

RD VATAME deferred this item until he has completed some further work on it.

Agenda Item 6: EC Chairman - rotation discussion

RD Oceania introduced this item and opened the discussion. RD Oceania urged other RD's to consider this matter since his current term of office is due to expire soon. RD Oceania also indicated a willingness to continue as EC Chairperson.

This item was left for further discussion by email prior to the next EC meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Relations with BOG

RD Oceania expressed a growing concern in relation to the poor response from BOG when EC concerns are raised with BOG through the VP Regions liaison process. Those present expressed confidence in the VP Regions but were anxious to have a better insight to matters under discussion by BOG. RD Oceania suggested that EC should have access to BOG mail. RD Oceania stressed that this issue is about improving relations between BOG-EC and remove the current "them" and "us" feeling.

VP Regions discussed how some aspects of his liaison role were not clear, and he had previously commented to BOG about this in relation to his inability to release BOG minutes to the November EC meeting. VP Regions explained the difficulty in discussing matters still under discussion within BOG since these were often subject to certain privacy constraints. VP Regions suggested the issue raised by RD Oceania might be resolved if VP Regions approached BOG with a view to his being able to more routinely share information with EC, except where BOG considered a wider discussion was not desirable.

Action: VP Regions to approach BOG with his suggestion.

Agenda Item 8: Other Business

8.1 VATSIM 2005 Convention

Deputy RD VATEUR asked VP Regions if he could report on the status of the VATSIM 2005 Convention, and in particular the two bids that he believed had been submitted by Europe. On behalf of RD VATEUR, Deputy RD VATEUR also asked VP Regions whether there was any announcement from BOG, and the timeframe for any member vote.

VP Regions reported that BOG had declined an offer from Israel due to the current security situation in the region. This matter had been fully discussed with VATIL staff and they understood and accepted the situation. VP Regions also mentioned that there were two other inquiries, one from Finland, and another from the UK. When asked he said that he was not aware of any bid from North America, and RD North America was

not present to make any further comment. VP Regions went on to say that the matter had not been finalised by BOG but he expected a decision would be made very soon.

EC asked VP Regions to express to BOG their concern about the VATSIM 2005 Convention process and the lack of communication from BOG. EC suggested that all submissions received should go out to membership for vote as soon as possible since time is running out.

Action: VP Regions to take EC concerns to BOG.

At 2225 UTC, RD OCEANIA declared that he had to leave the meeting, and asked Regions to submit their reports by email.

RD OCEANIA asked RD VATAME to take the chair.

Agenda Item 8: Other Business

Continued with RD VATAME in the chair.

8.2 RD VATAME announced that next week he expects there to be a new division in Egypt thanks to some splendid work undertaken by Shadi Abo Ahmad. RD VATAME went on to say that other countries are expected to follow and a full account will be in his Region Report.

The meeting finished at 2245 UTC on 12th February 2005.

VATSIM REGION REPORTS FEBRUARY 2005

OCEANIA

Oceania's only Division, VATPAC, is undergoing some changes to their Board structure at this time following the resignation of three directors.

The following resignations were accepted and became affective on December 31 2004

Division Director - Mark Richards

IT Director - Skip Fulton

Australian Airspace Director - Jackson Harding

The following appointments have subsequently been made;

Division Director - Rob Hooley (Appointed by the Regional Director)

Rob Hooley was previously the Deputy Division Director at VATPAC and his appointment created a vacancy of Deputy Director. It was decided that this position would be offered to present and past Directors and two applications were submitted.

Deputy Division Director - Jackson Harding (Previously Australian Airspace Director)

IT Director - currently vacant and applications will be called for this position within the next few days

Australian Airspace Director - currently vacant and applications will be called for this position within the next few days.

Oceanic Boundaries

Several discussions have taken place at Regional Level and subsequently at Division Level focussing on improving the OCEANIC services between the West Coast of the USA and Australia. These discussions have so far been productive and there is an encouraging sense of cooperation between the two regions.

VATPAC continues to be good division with strong leadership and dedicated staff. The membership is quite satisfied with the way the Division has been run.

Terry Scanlan
RD - Oceania

EUROPE

1 - Announcing Eurobook for Pilots

Never before has VATSIM come so close to real Air Traffic Forecast & Management Units like the ones used in the real world.

On January 18, 2005 the "Eurobook" team announced a big change for this excellent tool. Eurobook was initially launched as a centralized ATC reservation system only, and over the past months, Arek Olesiak from Poland, created a completely new reservation system for all pilots flying in Europe.

Basically, with upgraded Eurobook, pilots can now pre book their flights in a central database, and these are projected in textual and graphical form on colored maps. Pilots can login to book via the central Eurobook website or via their local vACC / FIR / Division or Virtual Airline websites, as long as their webmasters perform the (easy) integration into the system. While the pilots book their flights there, they also have access to other tools like flight plan databases and VATSIM profiling.

This latest development increases the potential of a total activity forecasting for ATCs (old Eurobook) and Pilot activity (new addition). In the near future ServInfo (www.vsim.com/hangar/utills/servinfo/) will also be updated to include Eurobook for pilots. The aim for this tool is to become a VATSIM wide facility when it will also be renamed to VATBOOK. With this tool, virtual Air Traffic can be projected and this adds another step towards a total integration of VATSIM network towards forecasting tools like the ones used in real Air Traffic Management Units.

If you surf to Eurobook you can see a map of Europe which is showing active and inactive FIRs in different colours, together with detailed statistics on forecast ATC and flights

presence. If you click on a certain FIR you will get a more detailed status about booked flights that are expected in this FIR at certain times. You can filter the times and dates according to your needs. More details and information about all this can be found in the section "Information" of the website of EUROBOOK for pilots.

If you wish to book a flight and your local vACC or VA has not registered its local flight-booking-interface with Eurobook, you need to register. This is to avoid misuse of the system, and we ask for your understanding here. Make sure you do NOT use your regular VATSIM password. The data is basically safe on EUROBOOK's server, but the safest way is to keep it strictly with you. Expect more and more VACCs and VAs to join EUROBOOK. If your Virtual Airline is interested in joining us, please register as an organization at Eurobook website.

You can reach EUROBOOK for pilots at <http://www.euro-book.net/>

2 - Announcing EURoute

On November 14, 2004 Michal Rok, ACCPL1, announced EURoute : After 6 months of development, over 8000 page views and with three vACCs using it as of today, I have a great pleasure to show you our most recent development.

EURoute is a flight plan database that easily integrates with your vACC website, does not require any special programming skills or server-side software, and provides high quality routes by checking all flight plans with real-life Eurocontrol servers.

You can read more about EURoute at <http://www.pl-vacc.org/euroute>.

Thanks to my friends from Hungarian and Malta vACCs for participating in beta tests of this software. These tests helped us nail down some bugs and we're now going public.

3 - New VATEUD staff members

Europe Region would like to welcome:

Martin Georg, the new Europe Division Director (VATEUD1)

Nicklas Jansson, the new VATEUD5 and

Krzysztof Szerszen, the new VATEUD6

More information on www.vateud.org -> Staff & Contact Info

We also thank predecessors Pedro Sousa, Jose Pereira and Kemal Baki (in same order) for all their hard work in the past.

4 - New VATEUR staff

Europe Region www.vateur.org would like to welcome new Deputy Region

Director Chris Dobison, VATEUR2, from UK. Chris, a real Air Traffic Controller, has been monitoring Region issues for months before coming on board.

Kyprianos Biris
VATEUR1

NORTH AMERICA

Region report from NA is brief, because there isn't much happening. Besides the weekly flyins in VATUSA and flyins in VATCAN running smoothly, as well as a few special events coming up, everything is going well.

The Boston ARTCC is hosting the NorEaster 2 flyin event on March 2nd. Controllers will be gathering in a central location, and working side by side as they do in a real world set up. Having taken part in a few of these, they are very fun.

VATUSA is looking to hire a new DCRM for conflict resolution. VATCAN, as usual, is running very well.

Chris McCarthy
RD – North America

CENTRAL AMERICA

VATMEX is in the process of changing Director. Dan Liberman is stepping down and all seems to indicate that the strongest candidate is Javier Cazarin.

In the rest of the region all seems well. We had a few very succesfull events, but attendance is not as high as it should be.

David Liberman
VATCAM1

AFRICA MIDDLE EAST

Africa: First negotiations toward re-opening of VATRSA were made, but no significant progress so far. Activity in the region is rising though, and hopefully we can talk about the new VATSIM RSA or Southern Africa division in the next meeting.

VATAME continues to provide flight info services until the establishment of local FIRs.

Middle East:

Jordan. There is new activity in Jordan, for the first time in VATSIM. A new VA was established (Wings VA), along with some ATC training for local and visiting controllers in Jordan.

Egypt is close to opening as a new vACC or division. ATC services are currently provided by local guys and a roster of visiting controllers.

We are in the process of creating a visiting controllers roster for the rest of the Middle East, mainly for the Gulf area and Morocco.

Israel: VATIL is growing rapidly, with over 300 members and around 50 controllers among them. Activity is rich as always, including:

1. A series of online events.
2. A tour to the faculty of aeronautics in the Technion University, a world famous faculty in its field (special thanks to our member, Mr. Zvi Rodes for the opportunity!).

3. New scenery for LLBG goes official – thanks to Mr. Seev Kahn the online community can enjoy the new LLBG as in real life, including the new Terminal.

VATIL Director, Mr. Kobi David appointed a new staff as follows:

Deputy, DCRM and Pilot training assistant (VATIL2) – Mr. Shmulik Lin.

Training Director (VATIL3) – Mr. Amir Paz.

Human Resources (VATIL4) – Mr. Yossi Dalal.

Events Director (VATIL5) – Mr. Izik Bakshi.

Operations and Assistant Human Resources Manager (VATIL6) – Mr. Ran Finkels.

Public Relations Manager (VATIL7) – Mr. Oren Geva.

Webmaster and Development (VATIL8) – Mr. Ben Bogin.

Assistant Training Director – ATC (VATIL9) – Mr. Elad Zeireman.

Assistant Events Director (VATIL10) – Mr. Or Netzer.

Good luck!

VATAME wishes to thank VATIL for its support in VATAME activities in the new developing areas.

Ilan Jonas
VATAME1

ASIA

Our Regional Director, Bill Reynolds recently resigned and the post now opens for application. Until the arrival of new RD, the Deputy RD will take up the duties. The Regional website of Asia also have problem with the server closed. We are still working on setting up another site, may be with different host. We also experience some communication breakdown as many of the senior staffs in each division are either on leave or resigned. We are now trying to re-establish a proper communication channel between the Regional staffs and each division. We hope the situation may be improved with the appointment of a new RD.

Drafted by: William Woo, Deputy RD, VATSIM-Asia

SOUTH AMERICA

Unavailable at time of posting.