Minutes of Meeting
VATSIM Executive Committee
10th May 2005 at 2000 UTC

Roll Call

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

Apology from Chris McCarthy; may not be able to attend.

Also present:
Deputy RD VATAME – Shadi Abo Ahmad

Executive Committee meeting started at 2017 UTC

AGENDA:
1. Minutes from Previous Meeting
2. Matters arising from previous minutes
3. Membership Issues
4. Re-introduction of S2 and C2 ratings
5. EC Website
6. RD access to NOTAM Console
7. Region Reports
8. Other Business

1   Minutes from Previous Meeting

1.1   It was noted that these were previously discussed by email immediately following the meeting on the 12th February 2005, when they were duly accepted and released.

2   Matters arising from Previous Minutes

2.2   Region Transfers

This matter relates to proposed changes to the automatic notification, and placing a link on the region transfer form. During the meeting VP Regions reported that this has been discussed with appropriate BOG staff, and should be able to proceed as requested.

3   Membership Issues

3.1   New members sign up and auto allocation to a Division if none selected.

RD Europe expressed a view that although a pilot is considered international, they nevertheless have a home base with a Division. This is quite apparent where a member is also a member of a VA, but it should apply to all pilots and be held on the database. RD Europe considered mandatory assignment to a division at signup as being important for better local handing of pilots in terms of welcoming scripts, training and administration.

RD VATAME considered that mandatory selection of a division would present problems in some regions where a suitable division did not exist, such as a person from Lebanon being faced with choices for either Israel or South Africa. RD VATAME thought a solution might be to have pseudo division (unassigned) option to cater for this.

RD VATASIA agreed with RD VATAME, and commented that a similar situation exists in Asia where there are lots of countries and few divisions.

RD VATOCE commented that at registration assignment to a division should be an option and not mandatory. After selecting a region a person should be presented with a list of division options together with additional information; the object being to assist a member at sign-up so that they can identify the most appropriate source of help available to them. A person could identify and attach them self a division at sign-up if they wished

VP Regions commented that the current sign-up was designed to be a simple hassle-free process, and therefore has the minimum number of mandatory fields.

RD VATOCE commented that the current process with mandatory region was adequate since all would initially join as Pilot/Observer. However, RD VATOCE considered the object of any proposed change is to make the sign-up as informative as possible since VATSIM is a huge organization and initially quite overwhelming.

RD VATAME suggested that sign-up could be re-arranged and based on declared country of residence. The appropriate region and division would be presented as the default choice with option for the user to accept it or modify it before proceeding with the registration.

VP Regions commented that the pivotal issue is what should be mandatory at sign-up. Currently a new sign-up person has to state where they live, and which region they prefer to join. An RD is expected to check new sign-ups and make sure they receive help. As soon as lots of options are introduced at signup, then it makes sign-up unnecessarily complicated. Such a system would also require mechanisms to cater for all of the choices provided. The registration process could be enhanced with more information at sign-up, together with regionalized sign-up scripts. VP Regions took the opportunity to draw attention to the need for a person undergoing ATC training and assessment to be properly assigned to a division for their rating could be adjusted.

Action: None – may need further EC discussion.

3.2   A welcome email sent out to new members directing them to the respective Division websites and resources

RD VATOCE continued the previous discussion in the direction of a sign-up script with options within a region since this is consistent with being more user-friendly, and more

personalized. This approach is able to direct a member to appropriate help within a region, and also to the PRC etc.

Deputy RD VATAME expressed concern about how much benefit would come from the proposed changes in consideration of the increased workload; updating sign-up scripts implications on CERT server, database management, region transfers, etc.

RD VATNA joined the meeting at 2043 and agreed that more information and guidance at signup would alleviate much of the newbie general inquiry.

RD VATCAM commented that a new sign-up person does not have a good knowledge of the VATSIM system and how it operates. A newcomer should immediately be made known to a region, and it is the region that should greet newcomers and make known all the facilities available within the region. If a person decides they want to operate somewhere else in the world they can transfer and the new region looks after them.

VP Regions commented that the situation outlined by RD VATCAM is how it is now. A new member is required to select a region at sign-up, and must therefore come under one of the seven RD's. The selected region must then look after the newcomer. VP Regions agreed that if too many sign-up options are introduced to a person who doesn't understand the system it is likely to lead to confusion and error. VP Regions concluded that regionalized scripts seem the best way to provide the most assistance without interference at registration.

Action: VP Regions to follow up with the BOG in relation to a requested change in new member registration and introduction of regionalized scripts.

3.3   Member transfers to other Regions.

EC Chair introduced this topic and outlined the advantages of an RD being advised about a person leaving a region, in addition to the current system of being notified of arrivals. He suggested that the benefits from this proposed change outweigh any increased workload in relation to extra email etc.

RD VATNA agreed that the proposed change would make it better for an RD to be able to keep tabs on all transferees.

RD VATASIA put forward a suggestion that a transferee should declare a reason for transfer, even if it is simply due to incorrect region selection at registration.

Action: None – already covered by VP Region report in 2.1, but may need further discussion in relation to final comment from VATASIA.

3.4   A new more friendly logon message.

EC Chair opened discussion on this item by drawing attention to the VATSIM network log-on, describing it as being extremely unfriendly when compared to other organizations.

RD VATEUR agreed about the unfriendliness of the VATSIM network log-on, and went on to describe it as being a new member's second big step, the first one being registration. RD VATEUR stated that after registration a member is confronted with 10-lines of text at every log-on, and this is not friendly or very useful, especially since most of the content is contained elsewhere. RD VATEUR explained that the first welcome could include all this detail and cover all of the required legal aspects. From a technical

perspective, reducing the log-on is a saving in bandwidth. A much shorter log-on script is better, and should say something like: "Welcome to VATSIM network, please …."

VP Regions acknowledged the comments about the log-on script and agreed to convey this to the BOG.

Action: VP Regions to follow up with the BOG in relation to a requested change in network log-on script.

4   Re-introduction of S2 and C2 ratings

4.1   EC Chair introduced this topic and retraced the background. He restated that the proposal would not introduce a change where it was not desired, and divisions that wish to remain as they are will be able to do so. The main intent of the proposal was the C2 option, which would open up greater opportunities for a division to give recognition to long-serving members already at a high level. It would provide an opportunity for a division to distinguish those that had achieved a higher level of performance, or had been given greater responsibilities. EC Chair then requested comment from each region, as requested earlier by email.

RD VATEUR reported that there had been no response from VATUK or VATRUS, but VATEUD considered the change was unnecessary as far as they were concerned. VATEUD had also commented that the proposed change would result in considerable hassle in relation to changes to examinations, especially theory, and to their own databases. The VATEUD perception was that problems outweighed any perceived benefit. RD VATEUR also commented that there had been some concern expressed about differences between those divisions that have implemented change, and those that chose not to.

RD VATNA reported that VATUSA and VATCAN are set in their ways and reluctant to change.

RD VATAME reported that his region supports the change, and went on to explain that this should be considered from the members' point of view rather than the impact that any change would have on division staff. Member considerations should outweigh other considerations

RD VATOCE reported that Oceania is in favour of this proposed change, and restated that the change would not result in mandatory change being imposed on those that do not want it. If implemented on the database then a division would be free to use whatever new parts they wished.

There were no other responses from regions and EC Chair asked VP Regions to summarize an briefing document circulated earlier in the year, which was based on previous EC discussion. VP Regions outlined how reinstating the 6-levels created a better opportunity for a division to service it's members by providing an improved training structure, and more opportunity for recognition. VP Regions confirmed that the change proposed by EC would still make it totally optional in terms of which parts were implemented locally, and a Division need not change their current structure unless they wished to do so. In any event, whether a division changed or not, there would be no change to current language or the wording of forms; only a hidden number on the database would change. If the 6-levels were reinstated then it would be up to each division to use it in a way that best suits their own situation in trying to provide the

optimal service to members. In addressing the concern about differences between divisions, VP Regions stated that it is VATSIM intent to allow local variation and local rules, as long as these remain within VATSIM general rules. It is quite necessary that a local division is able to exercise it's discretion; no one questions that you have to be a controller to operate as Approach in London but not in Sydney. Differences between divisions have never been a problem.

EC Chair closed the discussion allowing a further 7 days for discussion with divisions before calling for a vote by email.

Action: VP Regions to re-circulate documents if necessary.

Action: EC Chair to call for vote after adequate time for further discussion with divisions.

5   EC Website

5.1   EC Chair introduced this item and stated that he considers that at the very least EC should have direct access to the EC Website. He went on to say that the current Website was put together to fulfill a need at the time, but it is timely for it to be redesigned and updated. He stated that in order to function properly EC must have access to upload files.

Deputy RD VATAME offered assistance and said that he can provide the necessary technical expertise.

RD VATEUR mentioned that he also has access to web designers, but cautioned that the EC website is part of VATSIM.net and there is likely to be some restrictions or limitations imposed on any access.

RD VATAME commented that there might be a problem if the same username and password are required, but it should be possible to assign separate username and password. He suggested that a redesign ought to incorporate a restricted part for EC access only.   RD VATAME recommended that the offer of help from Deputy RD VATAME be taken up if EC is allowed to go ahead.

Deputy RD VATAME sought clarification on the scope being a complete redesign, one that provides all the features mentioned, and agreed to undertake the project.

Action: Deputy RD VATAME to produce a briefing note about current shortcomings of the EC Website, and the technical improvements required.

Action: VP Regions to approach the BOG with the briefing note and a general request in relation to changes to the EC Website.

6   RD access to NOTAM Console

6.1   EC Chair introduced this item and outlined how access was had been removed to prevent over-use of this feature how it had previously resulted in VATSIM email being classified as SPAM. He reported that the loss of this feature has made it difficult for an RD to notify their members about important local matters. VP Regions was asked if there had been any further discussion by the BOG in relation to this matter.

VP Regions reported that he had nothing further to add from what had already been seen discussed in VATSIM email-list.

RD VATAME asked for the minutes to show that there is a general lack of ability for communication between EC and community since EC is too hidden. RD VATAME went on to say that he considers an RD should have access to NOTAM for occasional needs of the region or divisions, and that these must all go through the RD.

VP Regions asked EC what sort of guidelines they thought appropriate for NOTAM use if RD's are given NOTAM console access?

RD VATOCE responded that he considered it was essential to have NOTAM console access for changes to policies within the region or division. Items such as advertising fly-ins were not appropriate, except a world event such as One-Sky.

RD VATCAM commented that most regions have a website and a regionalized list could be held on the region Website. If necessary this could be utilized to decentralize the process.

RD VATAME suggested that EC write a guide for NOTAM use.

VP Regions agreed with RD VATAME, and outlined how it was far better for EC to prepare an "acceptable use policy" to present with their request to the BOG.

RD VATOCE remarked that it had been quite a while since RD's had used the NOTAM console and called on VP Regions to elaborate.

VP Regions explained that there are a variety of filters for sign-up, region, division, country, rating, etc, and it was expected that a NOTAM console user would apply the maximum filtering each time so that minimum email is sent. VP Regions commented that he considered a move away from NOTAM console to a local system would significantly increase RD workload. In his view it was better for EC to produce an "acceptable use policy" and continue to seek NOTAM console access.

RD VATEUR concurred that submitting an agreed EC guideline was the best way to proceed. In describing his own usage since direct access had been lost he outlined that he strictly avoids advertising any event except region sponsored events such as One-Sky. The only exception to this was related to a VATSIM supported charity event. He primarily used NOTAM to advise about staff changes, FIR changes to navigation or procedure, and used the bottom part for reminders such as PRC, Servinfo, end of software, etc. In any event, each NOTAM was kept short. He went on to detail that he generally needed to send a NOTAM every 2-3 months, and not longer than 3 months.

RD VATOCE commented that he doesn't need to use a NOTAM that often, but the facility should be available to an RD.

RD VATEUR responded by outlining how his own usage tended to be a bit more regular since a NOTAM is not only an administrative tool but it is also useful to keep everyone aware and in the loop. He described how his NOTAMs contain a welcome message so that the recipient knows who it is from, and why they are receiving it. He commented that this part would no longer be necessary if the use of regionalized scripts at sign-up are adopted.

Action: Each RD to draft an "acceptable use policy" for NOTAM console and these will be consolidated into a singular EC agreed policy for submission to the BOG.

Action: VP Regions to approach the BOG with the "acceptable use policy" and a general request in relation to regaining access to the NOTAM console.

7. Region Reports

These were due prior to the EC meeting and had been received from RD VATAME, RD VATASIA, RD VATCAM, RD VATOCE, and these have been uploaded to Yahoo EC Group.

Action: EC Chair asked the other RD's to upload their May 2005 regional report to Yahoo EC Group.

7.1 RD VATOCE reporting on Oceania mentioned that there had been a number of staff changes within VATPAC since the last meeting. The Division Director had been unable to continue and therefore resigned. The Director IT and Director Australian Airspace had also resigned for their own quite different reasons. The Deputy Division Director, Rob Hooley, had been appointed as the new Division Director, and a selection panel with input from general membership was put in place to fill the consequential vacancies. This process has been used to successfully fill the Deputy Division Director and Director IT positions, and the Director Australian Airspace position is still progressing. RD VATOCE gave a status report on discussion between VATUSA and VATPAC in relation to shared use of Pacific oceanic sectors. The discussions so far have focused on agreeing to a standard for an Oceanic Endorsement so that an oceanic controller from VATUSA (Oakland), or from VATPAC, is able to control in either pacific sector. Whilst this is still a preliminary proposal, it is hoped that an agreed standard for an Oceanic Endorsement will become global. There has already been agreement between VATUSA (Oakland) and VATPAC in relation to setting up a central website for oceanic resources.

7.2 RD VATEUR advised that his region report would be available shortly, and gave passing mention to the recent One-Sky event organized by VATEUR as a global event.

7.3 RD VATCAM reported that Dan Liberman has resigned as Director VATMEX, and been replaced by Javier Casarin, who has already appointed all of his staff. It is now under the new regional directive of increasing activity, and has started with the first event in a Sunday series called "Tequila Fly In". VATCA, under the same regional directive, has continued with local activity with special focus on activating CENAMER control more often. As far as VATCAR is concerned it is expected that there will be change in Division Director and, with the help of EC Chair and VP Regions, a procedure has been established to conduct elections in the area. As soon as this election takes place RD VATCAM will advise EC and VATSIM of the changes of staff within the region.

7.4 RD VATAME spoke of his report, and stated that there had been a growth in membership of 20% since last report, and this was from all around the region. He mentioned that there has been lots of new activity, and a new division about to be established in Egypt. There had also been activity in Jordan, Lebanon, Persian Gulf, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Tunisia and also East Africa. RD VATAME reported that South Africa still has some problems, and he is continuing to work on these with assistance from VP Regions. RD VATAME detailed a new operation started in VATIL operating in conjunction with EL AL. This involved testing new EL AL pilots at VATIL so that they could improve their use of proper phraseology, and improve cockpit resource management. In the current program 4 VATIL members hosted EL AL pilots in their homes. Many people from EL AL were present, including the Chief Pilot and Fleet Manager. RD VATAME reported that EL AL was simply amazed by the professional operation of the network, and the opportunities that it presented. RD VATAME concluded by stating that it was a big achievement for VATSIM, and asked VP Regions for comment or advice about this project. VP Regions

commented that any link with the real world should be strengthened since these are the people that VATSIM is trying to simulate. VP Regions detailed how he continues to do the same within his own locality, and receives some support from Australian authorities since many local VATSIM members are pilots in real life. VP Regions went on to say that when dealing with any organisation it is particularly important to make sure that VATSIM and it's members remain as a volunteer community, and are not in a position to offer services or make promises on behalf of VATSIM. Local members can make others aware of VATSIM and if there were some mutual sharing of ideas or assistance, then that is splendid would be encouraged. RD VATEUR offered advice about dealing with professional real life people. He described how there is excitement about their involvement and seeing them on-line, but usually it is short-lived. From his personal observation over a number of years he found that real life people are amazed at the performance of VATSIM virtual people on-line, but after a few weeks or months they leave VATSIM because they came and had a look but spending a lot of time on-line simulating is beyond the scope of their interest. When real life people participate more formally as part of a cooperative venture then there is an added caution if you have to somehow guarantee what they can expect on-line since you will often find that it becomes difficult to meet their expectations. There are exceptions to this generalization, but in the main they will disappear within 3 months; they don't have the same passion as the virtual person. RD VATAME thanked RD VATEUR for his comments, and agreed that he himself would not be on-line much at all if he had remained active as real life ATC. RD VATAME went on to explain that this current project is a bit different since it has a training purpose, and gives the real life pilots a chance to practice talk on ATC frequencies, which is not available in real life. RD VATAME was adamant that VATSIM operations will not be changed to suit EL AL, and besides, what VATSIM has now is excellent for them. The cooperation between the two organizations is a great benefit. The project is good for public relations, and also promotes a good feeling with members. VP Regions gave his reassurance about support for the EL AL project, and agreed that it is OK as long as VATSIM continues as a volunteer FS community and there is no commercial involvement in any way. If real life people want to tap into VATSIM and use it for their own purposes then that is OK, but VATSIM can't become a service to them. VP Regions remarked that RD VATEUR had made some valuable points about dealing with real life people, and this applies even when they are participating as a general member. The expectations of real life people can be quite different from core virtual members and it should not change the focus of what VATSIM is all about. RD VATAME concluded his presentation by assuring this was all quite clear at the outset and the project is proceeding on a friendly basis only without any commercial or business involvement. Deputy RD VATAME left at 2230

8. Other matters

8.1 UK_HLP_CTR/OBS, raised by Chris Dobison

RD VATEUR reported that this item had arisen after VATUK Division started a trial using the callsign UK_HLP_CTR, which was providing on-line help and not ATC. RD VATEUR recounted how this had been discussed in the Supervisors Forum and was not sure what VATUK wanted to have discussed by EC since, as far as he is concerned, the matter is closed. After a brief discussion about the problem delivering on-line help, RD VATAME suggested that complete newcomers were better served by receiving help offline before going on-line.

Action: none.

8.2   RD VATAME raised a problem with latest Supervisor appointments

RD VATAME expressed a concern that everyone has a limited time to devote therefore a SUP should not also be a staff member. RD VATAME described how within VATIL there had been discussion relating to downgraded SUPs being reluctant to lose the title. RD VATAME thought there should be a policy about who should be a SUP, and this should apply to the whole of VATSIM. RD VATAME reported that he is dissatisfied with an item in the last BOG that suggests that Supervisors and Instructors are a different role and not a rank. RD VATAME stressed that SUP is a rank and that is the basis of this discussion. SUP is the highest rank. If it had been 'zero' then there would be no problem. RD VATAME suggested that something must be done to produce a universal guideline.

VP Regions stated that there are already strict guidelines and these have been in existence since the beginning of VATSIM. As far as the 'numbers' are concerned, these are hidden. VP Regions elaborated that a person can have two roles; there is nothing to stop a staff member also being a SUP. VP Regions commented that a problem arises where a staff member believes they automatically have the right to be a SUP. This right does not exist, and there are many staff that are not SUPs, and there are many SUPs that are ATC and do not have a staff position. A person is a SUP because the have the qualities and satisfy the requirements that are laid down for becoming a SUP.

RD VATAME agreed that this was all very clear, but staff members expect it. RD VATAME concluded that if VATSIM wants to change this overwhelming desire to become a SUP, then it must change the numbers that are used. The BOG idea is excellent and it will solve the whole thing.

RD VATEUR stated that he agrees with the BOG and thinks if it is taken as a decision it will help the situation. In a separate statement RD VATEUR spoke of the current VP Supervisors and how he has moved quite fast to apply his new view. VP Supervisors is very carefully monitoring SUP activity to identify those that are not active enough in the true role of a SUP. RD VATEUR stated that VP Supervisors is looking at those SUPs who are not on-line much at all as his target group for downgrade. RD VATEUR went on to describe how if VP Supervisors sees that a person is not on-line enough then VP Supervisors will make a first contact to find out a person's intention about remaining as a SUP. Some respond by agreeing to lose their SUP status but this does not change staff situation.

Action: none.

8.3   RD VATEUR raised concern about members not being able to use a free-email address.

RD VATEUR commented that the main reason for this restriction is the absence of positive identification of individuals, and therefore the minimizing of multiple ID's. RD VATEUR raised a concern that this restriction is a serious hardship for some, especially those that had to share an email account with other family members or had to terminate a membership because they were unable to comply with a "pay service ISP". He went on to say that perhaps if there were to be established a process of "Recommendation" of free-mail individuals by VATSIM senior staff to VATSIM Membership department

then, this would minimize some of these problems. This off course necessitates that the VATSIM senior staff (Region, Division, ARTCC Director etc.) acts as a "guarantor" of legitimacy for the individual user's request. The concern behind this issue is that often members portray the "no free email" policy of VATSIM as a "you don't pay, you don't play" message, and then flame VATSIM for making a discrimination between users based on their financial abilities. The local staff have better knowledge of ISPs, individual persons etc, and should be able to guarantee legitimacy when it comes to people from their area.

RD VATAME agreed, and commented that this particular situation was very common with younger members, there being many of these in VATIL.

VP Regions responded that VP membership has discretionary power and special hardship cases should be referred to VP Membership for consideration.

Action: RD's to refer to special hardship cases to VP Membership.

Action: VP Regions to approach the BOG for comment and/or a review of this policy.

8.4 RD VATEUR spoke of the recent BOG Activity Repot, and there was general praise from EC for this initiative.

Action: RD's to make suggestions for the draft format of Monthly Region Reports to the BOG.

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 2315 UTC on 10th May 2005.

APPENDIX A – AD HOC EMAIL VOTING

After the EC meeting on 10th May 2005, and pursuant to action detailed in agenda item 4.1, on 26th May 2005 EC Chair (Terry Scanlan) circulated an email vote in relation to:

Agenda item 4: Re-introduction of S2 and C2 ratings.

[Motion] *"To forward to BOG the EC request to re-introduce the old S2 and C2 in order to provide divisions with a better assessment strategy for learners, as well as the opportunity for Divisions to provide additional recognition of achievement."*

RD VATAME	–	Ilan Jonas	YES
RD VATASIA	–	William Woo	YES
RD VATCAM	–	David Liberman	YES
RD VATEUR	–	Kyprianos Biris	NO
RD VATNA	–	Chris McCarthy	NO
RD VATOCE	–	Terry Scanlan	YES
RD VATSA	–	Paulo Ungar	no vote cast

With a majority 4 votes YES, the motion is <u>CARRIED</u>

APPENDIX B – FULL REGION REPORTS

NORTH AMERICA
5/13/2005

North America has been quiet since the last report filed.

Some ARTCCs did participate in the OneSky event, and from the feedback I received, was a fun event for the controllers in North America. Except of course for the network outages.

The Chicago ARTCC has named a new Chief. Ian Abel, the long time Chief of Chicago was asked to step down, and Mark Zameda has been named the ARTCC's new Chief.

Other ARTCCs within VATUSA are planning some events in the next couple of months. The Boston ARTCC held it's "Tea Party" in March, and are planning another in August. This event brings controllers from Boston to one central location to control together side by side simulating a real TRACON and En Route facility.

VATCAN, as always, is plugging along well and not making much noise. They are a pleasure to work with. VATCAN reports many promotions through its revamped training program.

As Terry mentioned in his Oceanic report, The Oakland Oceanic FIR has been in negotiations with Oceania in regards to combining their efforts, and I'm told the talks are going quite well.

I guess that is it for this quarter. More news later, as it develops.

Chris McCarthy
VATNA1

EUROPE
1 - "OneSky 4" event
VATEUR organized on 7th of May, "OneSky" #4 event. It escalated to a vatsim global event with almost all vatsim regions joining.
http://onesky.vateur.org
There were serious network problems which are under investigation for future planning of similar large scale events. Apart from the network problems the members participation was tremendous and never before was such a massive gathering of members on line ever observed in vatsim network.

2 – ATC ratings from other networks
Europe Division (VATEUD) Training Department has initiated a new procedure for ID upgrades of members who already have ATC ratings on other networks and hold a vatsim ID. More information on http://www.vateud-td.org/

3 – Lack of DCRM & RCRP staff
Region is facing a lack of interest for RCRP & DCRM staff coming from the UK Division. VATEUR2 is holding UK DCRM position until a new candidate is found.

4 – Increase of members

There is an increase of members especially after the new pilot clients were released. Currently EUR Region stands at almost 31,000 members whilst vatsim total is 71,000. On Feb 2005 (before the new pilot clients) there were 27,000 EUR members.

Apart from these EUR Region has not had any major news this quarter. There is a constant presence of national events (about 4 per week) that keep pilot & ATC participation on high levels.

Kyprianos Biris
VATEUR1
http://vateur.org

OCEANIA

In the February OCEANIA report I advised of changes within the VATPAC Board structure following the resignations of the Director, Mark Richards, the IT Director, Skip Fulton and the AIR SPACE Director Jackson Harding.

I can report to you that following the appointments of Rob Hooley as Division Director with Jackson Harding as his deputy a new IT Director, Steve Ollis, has been appointed to that vacant position.

The position of AIR SPACE Director is still open and being advertised within the VATPAC membership.

The release of SB3 last month brought a lot of new members as I am sure it did throughout all regions with a great many of them coming out of VA's where they were conducting their flights offline due to their hesitation of trying the old pilot client software with all its 3rd party software requirements to get connected.

The regular local VATPAC Division events continue to be popular with a good mix of "focussed" TMA activities interspersed with Navigational Exercises.

Negotiations with OAKLAND OCEANIC are progressing well with an agreement in place to have common guidelines for training and combing both resources onto the one website so that there is a "one stop shop" for prospective ATC and Pilots to visit to get the information required to conduct OCEANIC flights in the Pacific region.

When completed, our mutual and joint agreement will allow OCEANIC "endorsed" ATC to provide ATC in Oakland's oceanic areas and the OCEANIA Fir's of Nandi, Tahiti, Auckland, Brisbane and Melbourne. The finer details of the endorsement policy are still to be finalised but an agreement in principal is a big step forward.

Terry Scanlan
OCEANIA - RD

ASIA
09-May-2005

The VATASIA region is still under reorganization. After Bill Reynolds resigned, William Woo now appointed as the new Regional Director.

Posts of Deputy Region Director and Region website master opened for application.
The recruitment exercise is completed. We are now pending for the announcement of the final result.

There is no other major personnel change within the region and the divisions

One major regional fly-in event held on 16/4 with all 3 divisions actively involves. All ATC learnt a lot as there was not common to such a load of traffic over Asian sky.

Prepare by
William Woo
Region Director, VATASIA

AFRICA MIDDLE EAST
10/May/05

General

- VATAME has 1124 active members, and has seen a growth of almost **20%** since last
- report! (19/11/2004).
- [VATAME website](#) is being updated with new info and sceneries when available, and lately we added a page for virtual airlines flying in the region.

New Activity In The Region

It is our pride and joy to introduce new areas of activity to Vatsim, as follows:
1. **EGYPT** – Egypt is very close to it's opening as a Vatsim vACC, under the leadership of Mr. Ali Abou-Zeid. You can see the activity in Egypt going on for a few weeks now, and expect some good news shortly!
2. **JORDAN** – some local ATC training is happening nowadays, towards the future establishment of a Jordanian vACC. Amman FIR is online from time to time, and we invite you to visit!
3. **The Persian Gulf** – A group of members is now almost ready to start operating the Gulf area (including Aman, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE and more – perhaps Iraq,

Iran and Saudi Arabia). You will see the controllers online pretty soon, toward opening a new division to officially unite the gulf countries in Vatsim.

4. **Lebanon** – roots of activity is seen I Lebanon too, and some ATC training is happening. You may see Beirut online from time to time, and hopefully we can restore this once active division (in SATCO…).

5. **South Africa** – VATRSA is rebuilding, and some activity is already seen on Vatsim. Not a lot to tell yet, but many new and veteran members are rejoining forces to bring RSA back online.

6. **The Rest –** We have some connections and new beginnings in East Africa (for the first time!) and in other countries such as Lybia and Tunis. More news to follow!

Division Reports

VATIL: Vatil is constantly growing, and continues to stay very active both pilots-wise and ATC-wise.

At the recent Onesky4 Vatil operated a special control center for 30 hours, with a very big success (see Vatsim forums-Israel for pictures, clips and more details).

Vatil is also about to open a new website, so stay tuned!

The most exciting news are the new cooperation with El-Al airline (the real one). Recently El-Al decided to experiment in Vatsim for the benefit of helping new pilots learn procedures, ATC rules and some correct radio phrasing. On 8/5/05 we made an experiment with 7 El-Al pilots, who visited 4 of Vatil veterans. The flight was from LLBG to LCLK (Larnacka, Cyprus) and back after 1 T&G, under full ATC. Some key people from El-Al were present to watch the experiment, and were amazed by the ATC professionalism and from what the network has to offer. It was a huge success and a key moment for Vatil and Vatsim as a whole.

We wish to personally thank Kobi David and Vatil members for this achievement, and expect more to follow!

Special thanks to our Cypriot friends for their support in this operation.

Once again, I wish to thank my deputy, Shadi Abo Ahmad for his devotion and fruitful work within the Middle East. Special Thanks also to Mr. Opher Ben Peretz who is

always willing to provide professional ATC services throughout the region – your help is much appreciated Opher!

Ilan Jonas

VATAME1

CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND CARRIBEAN

RD VATCAM reported that Dan Liberman has resigned as Director
VATMEX, and been replaced by Javier Casarin, who has already appointed all his staff. It is now under the new directive of increasing activity. For that purpose it started with the first event of a series (Tequila Fly In) to be held basic on Sundays local time. VATCA, under the same directive has continued with local activity, specially activating CENAMER control more often. As far as VATCAR is concerned, with the help of Terry and Roland, a procedure has been established to conduct elections in the Area. As soon as this election takes place, VATCAM will inform who the new Caribbean Director will be.

David Liberman

VATCAM

SOUTH AMERICA
Not available at this time