

# Minutes of Meeting

## VATSIM Executive Committee

### 11<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at 2000 UTC

#### Roll Call

RD VATAME	–	Ilan Jonas	Present
RD VATCAM	–	David Liberman	Present
RD VATEUR	–	Kyprianos Biris	Present
RD VATNA	–	Todd Cox	Present
RD VATOCE	–	Terry Scanlan	Present (EC Chair)
RD VATSA	–	Jesus Betancourt	Present
VP-Regions	–	Roland Collins	Present

Also present:

Deputy RD VATOCE – Norman Blackburn (minutes)

Apologies from William Woo, RD VATASIA who is recovering from an illness.

#### Executive Committee meeting started at 2007 UTC

#### AGENDA:

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting
2. Matters arising from previous minutes
3. World Flight 2005
4. Other Business
5. Region Reports

Prior to Item 1 on the Agenda EC Chair welcomed the two new Regional Directors, Todd Cox for North America and Jesus Betancourt for South America. He said that it was great to once again have a full team and thanked VP Regions for his caretaking and assistance in bringing this to fruition.

#### **1 Minutes from Previous Meeting**

- 1.1 It was noted that these were previously discussed by email immediately following the meeting on the 26th July 2005, when they were duly accepted and released.

#### **2 Matters arising from Previous Minutes**

- 2.1 EC President outlined that he is very pleased to see some previously discussed items tabled for the forthcoming BoG meeting with some of our prior concerns being addressed once again.

EC Website. EC President noted that this is tabled as part of the agenda for BoG meeting on 22nd October.

VP Regions indicated that a complete rewrite of the main VATSIM site is currently being discussed and that any EC website changes would be contingent on that rewrite.

## 2.2 Proposal of C2 Rating.

RD OCEANIA presented a document outlining a proposal to introduce the rating of C2. Previously EC had tabled the introduction of S2 and C2 ratings and obtained a majority vote. BoG required a 100% consensus and therefore the tabled proposal now concerns only the introduction of a C2 rating. In simple terms it allows the opportunity to recognise long standing Senior Controllers with the C3 rating taking the name "Chief Controller." Regional Directors asked to take the proposal back to Divisional Directors for feedback.

**Action:** Email vote.

## 2.3 Member transfers to other Regions.

RD OCEANIA detailed to the new Regional Directors how Regional Transfers worked. He outlined the proposal where that it is proposed that CERT send a report to both the applicant's existing and requested Regional Directors.

RD VATSA asked if the system questioned the user for a reason behind their transfer.

RD OCEANIA said it didn't and that this was one of the reasons that such a proposal was in place. He commented that most of the transfers he has seen personally are pilots, not ATC rated members.

RD VATNA asked if such a proposal would have the outgoing RD in a position to stop such a transfer. RD OCEANIA said that currently only the incoming RD can stop a transfer. If nothing is done the transfer will happen. The proposal at least allows the current RD to liaise with the RD of the requested Region, should there be such a need.

RD VATNA felt that this should be introduced at a Division level.

RD OCEANIA felt that the increased workload on BoG to keep a current list of all Divisional Directors in Cert would be too much to ask and that it would remain with the Regional Directors to filter such information to their subordinates should they feel the need.

VP Regions explained that the database structure is hierarchical, therefore a person is required to change a Region first.

RD VATSA asked when a controller changed Regions do they retain their existing rating or would they be starting over.

RD OCEANIA explained the Transfer Policy Document which essentially says that a user keeps their rating but must take a local check ride. If the member fails to attain local levels they can either be locally restricted or sent back to their previous region.

RD VATNA questioned the wording of the last paragraph of the Regional Transfer Policy.

VP Regions explained that a user may wish to visit a Region whilst retaining membership of their own Region. At Divisional level visiting/transfer rights should carry the same spirit.

RD VATEUR outlined that the wording was such to make sure that a Visiting Controller had to attain the same skill set as a local controller.

DRD OCEANIA explained the procedures he had to undertake to acquire visiting status in a number of Regions, all of which were in the spirit of the Transfer Policy and in keeping with local controlling skills.

RD OCEANIA explained that visiting status shouldn't be a Regional issue and should be dealt with locally between the user and the local authority.

VP Regions stated that when a person goes to the transfer pages the policy document is linked and reiterated that as long as the spirit is captured then the object is achieved.

RD OCEANIA asked that if RD VATNA wished to table this for discussion by email or at a further meeting then it could be given more time. RD OCEANIA noted that the request to have CERT send these messages was tabled for further discussion with the BoG and asked VP Regions if he would follow this up.

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

## 2.4 VATSIM Registration Process.

RD VATEUR outlined that whilst controllers have a base the current system doesn't facilitate pilots having a base. Pilots are part of a local community and have a need of belonging in the same way as a controller where they can identify friends in the same locality. He proposes that pilot members should be required to register with a division / local artcc or FIR. Although vACC selection is currently possible in CERT nobody at VACC level is notified of such a selection. This selection could be used to provide the new member with a local message. The main point is to have members to feel as part of a local community and be welcomed locally.

RD OCEANIA asked RD VATEUR if he thought that the proposed welcome message is already Region specific and could then direct new members at Division websites, encouraging them to join locally rather than make things compulsory.

RD VATEUR agreed that this was a good idea in general until you looked at VATEUD which has 26 separate vACCs or VATUK and VATRUS with 4 or 5 FIRs each which in

turn are further split; the generic message would need to be huge to include links to them all.

RD OCEANIA said by the same token the welcome message in local language would need to be considered, however many people are already hesitant in filling out information since at that stage they simply don't know what they are getting themselves into. If the process had them drilling down making decisions like this there is a strong chance of scaring people away. Whilst he could see the merits behind such a system his personal view was that such a specific system would ultimately deter potential signups from joining at all.

RD VATEUR agreed and suggested a midpoint of having them choose a Division.

VP Regions indicated that currently 90% of the membership does not belong to a Division and feels that such mandatory moves for new signups are unnecessary.

RD OCEANIA believes that there is some merits on having users select a division since this would direct many more members at the local community websites, especially in the more densely populated areas.

RD VATNA agreed with VP Regions and asked how such a proposal could be policed.

DRD OCEANIA said there was no need to police such a vehicle since there was no requirement that a pilot lives in his chosen Division.

RD VATSA agreed saying that he also lives in a region other than the one he was originally a member of.

RD VATNA clarified his position was more of making unnecessary work.

VP Regions indicated that a member is required to belong only to a Region and this was mostly for discipline matters. He agreed with previous comments that it matters not which Region they choose.

RD VATEUR said that he utilises Region NOTAMs every three months for new pilots to remind them of their local community websites in lieu of such a change to the signup process.

VP Regions noted that the BoG had previously agreed to make changes in regard to the Welcome Message.

RD OCEANIA stressed that this was something that the EC were requesting, not demanding since this is clearly a membership issue but would like VP Regions to ask BoG for ratification for Region Specific signups.

**Action:** VP Regions to follow up and seek ratification from BOG.

### 3 World Flight 2005

#### 3.1 Temp visiting controller status for World Flight 2005

RD OCEANIA asked Regional Directors for a blanket visiting controller status for a group of controllers staffing an ATC Centre in absence of local ATC for the period 7-13 Nov for World Flight 2005.

RD VATNA asked if the ATC positions would be specifically for the event.

RD OCEANIA said that this was the case.

RD VATNA indicating that local ATC would be present in his Region.

RD VATNA left the meeting at 2116z

Those remaining indicated that there were no objections with a belief that native ATC will be present for the event.

### 4 Other Business

#### 4.1 Radar Clients.

RD VATEUR reports members of his Region feel that there is a lack of a less complex Radar Client. ASRC can be a very complex piece of software which requires a lot of study, though once mastered many people like it and it does what it was designed to do. The problem occurs though for people when they first attempt to use it. They may try a few hours observing and then return to piloting only. With a simpler client we could see more people enjoy the fun that is Air Traffic Control.

RD OCEANIA replied that he on occasion does student assessments, most of whom don't appear to have any issues with ASRC.

RD VATEUR agreed those who have made the progression to Student are able to get the most out of the software; his concern is for the many who don't make it to that stage.

**Action:** VP Regions to enquire if BoG are receptive to additional ATC clients being developed.

#### 4.2 Network Stability.

RD VATEUR commented that during the last OneSky event the network saw unprecedented levels of traffic. Sadly the network showed signs of stress with the load causing frustration in some parts.

VP Regions indicated a statement had been made after OneSky by BoG detailing some changes that had been made soon after that event.

RD VATEUR expressed there is a desire to hold such events again in the future but organisers need the confidence to do so. An update in network changes and comments on its ability to run such events would be much appreciated.

RD OCEANIA said that given the experience of OneSky in the past he feels that given sufficient notice, the Network people would be much better prepared.

#### 4.3 Pilot Resource Centre.

RD OCEANIA indicated that PRC team seems to be making great progress and is pleased to see the team increasing and looks forward to comments from the upcoming BoG meeting.

RD VATEUR commented that he too looked forward to these positive signs.

**There being no other business, the meeting finished at 2155 UTC on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2005.**

## **APPENDIX A – FULL REGION REPORTS**

### **NORTH AMERICA**

06 October 2005

Having recently taken over as VATNA, there are many things taking place

#### **1. VATUSA**

a. Right now, VATUSA is very dysfunctional. I have created four policies on a regional level that are basically in support of EC and VATSIM policies, in order to clarify how we are going to do business. So far, people are beginning to understand that as long as we do business fairly and unbiased, good things will come from that.

b. I have appointed Jeff Turner as the new VATUSA1. I expect to receive some resignations, but that is human nature.

c. Bo Gerke has been named the new ARTCC Chief for Jacksonville.

d. I am working with the VATUSA staff in revamping their policies, and creating new positions that will hopefully streamline how we do business.

#### **2. VATCAN**

a. VATCAN has been very receptive to the new policies, and understands the new policy intent. I foresee no problems regarding this division.

b. Matthew Horan has been named the new chief for the Moncton FIR.

Todd Cox  
VATNA1

**Europe Region**  
05 October 2005

## **VATEUD**

VATEUD division is on regular schedule, nothing spectacular to report. We had a few staff changes at the vACC levels, namely:

Dutch vACC: Mark Jansen replaced Alexander Staal as director

Ireland vACC: John Coughlin replaced Dwayne Doherty as director

VACC-SAG: Andri Koch replaced Andreas Fuchs as director

Changes in VATEUD itself:

Krzysztof Szerszen stepped back from VATEUD6 (Events Coordinator), Donato Torrese took his position

Hans Utne stepped back from his webmaster position (VATEUD7), a successor has not yet been nominated

Juergen Sager hat to leave as the director of ATC school. Marc Riedel was nominated as his successor

On the agenda at the moment is a revision of our theoretical exam questions database, Eurotest 3.0. Technical changes will now allow vACC directors and vACC TD chiefs to participate in revising the question.

VATEUD (together with VATUK, VATCAN and VATUSA) is also participating in the ongoing process to form a new organisation to improve ATC over the north atlantic. The main goal is to centralize all information related to these oceanic sectors, and to make these ATC positions available to a wider range of interested controllers. We all hope this will greatly rise the interests of pilot to fly transatlantic routes.

Fall is the time of flightsim shows, and there are quite a few where vACCs from VATEUD are involved. The german flightsim conference at Paderborn has just happened and attracted over 600 visitors (expect to see some pictures soon at the VATSIM forum). VACC-SAG was present in cooperation with 2 VA's and had VATSIM on display on not less than 13 PC's. Next on the schedule will be the FS weekend at Lelystad/Netherlands, with participation from Dutch vACC, Eurocenter vACC and Scandinavia vACC. VACC-SAG again will participate in the "ILS flightsim weekend" taking place at Hergiswil/Switzerland from November 12-13, 2005.

Upcoming events include a new incarnation of the ever-popular "cross the pond" event, this time starting from Amsterdam EHAM and Duesseldorf EDDL to KJFK and KIAD. The event is scheduled for sunday, november 13th. We all hope that we will catch a lucky day and the servers will stand the challenge.

No other region-wide events are planned for the moment, as we feel that

the current network stability doesn't allow such large-scale events.

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

## **VATUK**

### 1. STAFF CHANGES

- Neil Dewson-Smyth: DCRM
- Sean Reedman: Director of Events and Communications
- Chris Boustead: London FIR Deputy Ops Director
- Simon Irvine: Scottish FIR Operations Director

### 2. NEW INSTRUCTORS

The Instructor system has been reviewed and five new instructors appointed. A new scheme has been introduced where each Regional Training Scheme has an allocated instructor to run the training side of the scheme to support the RTS managers

### 3. VATUK WEBSITE

The software for the website has been upgraded as part of the programme to develop a new website. Problems with restoring the UK forum from backups have unfortunately led to extended downtime for the forum, but this is expected to be resolved shortly.

### 4. EVENTS

The summer holidays are a quiet period for events. Gibraltar was opened for a successful flyin. This, however, highlighted the need for liaison with our Spanish colleagues, and a proper LOA. This will be undertaken by the Military Ops Director.

Following previous successful "real-ops" nights, the next will be based on the South East RTS (Gatwick and Southampton).

VATUK participated in the International Flightsim Convention in Blackpool, with 12 ATC positions on display at one time. Two public talks were given and the Deputy Director and Communications Director were filmed talking about VATSIM and demonstrating SB3. We will also have a display at the Bristol Flightsim Show on 15th October

Ruth McTighe  
Deputy Director, VATSIM-UK

## **VATRUS**

No submission



Kyprianos Biris  
VATEUR1  
<http://vateur.org>

**OCEANIA**  
October 2005

### ***Overall Remarks***

VATPAC continues to go from strength to strength so many ways; training, membership, events, projects, partnerships and online activity.

### ***Membership Summary***

OCEANIA membership stands at 2663 with 280 new members joining the Region since June 30th

### ***Training***

The demand for training continues to grow to unprecedented levels. Local training staff team continues to grow and provide high quality training and assessment services to members including numerous people transferring in from other regions.

### ***Operations and Agreements***

VATPAC continues to work with KZAK representatives to finalise implementation of the Pacific Oceanic Endorsement framework. Once implemented, this cross-divisional recognised rating will be a first for VATSIM and a great boon to pacific fliers.

VATPAC has received representations from our French colleagues seeking to establish a similar Oceanic-style partnership relating to New Caledonian and other French Territories located within VATPAC. We are keen to see this suggestion come into fruition.

### ***Events and Clubs***

World Flight 2005 is now upon our doorstep. We would like to take this opportunity to implore you to support us in any way you can including making appropriate postings to local forums and flying alongside us. Help us make this year's World Flight a truly international effort. Terry will speak more about this in the meeting.

VATPAC recently launched the VATPAC Log Haul Club (VLHC) and all divisions can expect group-flight visits from this club in the near future.

Terry Scanlan  
OCEANIA - RD

## AFRICA MIDDLE EAST

05 October 2005

### General

- VATAME has 1324 active members, and has seen a growth of about **17%** since may 05.
- [VATAME website](#) has suffered from some domain name problems, and is currently under [www.vatame.net](http://www.vatame.net) (instead of .org).
- **A new vACC is established in Egypt!** Under the direction of Ali Abou zeid (ACCEG1), Egypt went online. Expect some hot activities soon! vACC's website is <http://www.egypt-vacc.org/> .
- **Gulf FSS** - I will paste two reports I got: one from Mr. Opher Ben Peretz, and one from Mr. Alex Long – our two main controllers in Gulf FSS. I will take this opportunity to thank Opher and Alex for their contribution, as well as to some visitors we had during the recent event – Jonathan Perlamuter, Ran Finkels, Nayef El Copti.

### **Opher:**

1. Routine update:

- a. The UIR territory is now showing correctly following a Servinfo update patch, allowing pilots to recognize this ATC position.
- b. On top of routine activity, VATAME provided support for a few GULF events and fly-ins, specifically Norman's group which flew on consecutive weekends through the region, and the ILS Group recent event, all into and out of OMDB Dubai.
- c. Continued development of association and cooperation with regional VA's.
- d. Gradually increasing controller force, while utilizing visitor controllers for events.
- e. Continued work on support material- scenery, charts, regulations etc...

2. Other issues:

- a. Advise EC that while underlying CTR's are inactive, GULF\_FSS operates FL150 and up, the region's regulated ATC border of lower and upper traffic. Eurocontrol split is FL245.
- b. Consider modifying the above to allow GULF\_FSS to provide lower airspace ATC services, workload permitting, when underlying positions are inactive.
- c. Jordan and Lebanon appear to me natural participants in GULF\_FSS, as is Syria, and could be added to GULF\_FSS.

### **Alex** (somewhat revised):

So far, GULF\_FSS is still moving along nice and steady. I've been working to try and pick up some more controllers for the area.

**VATIL**: Vatil has 323 members, with 60 ATC. A new website is now running at [www.vatil.org](http://www.vatil.org) – worth a look!

At the end of the current month El-Al's new pilots course will begin, with cooperation of Vatil as detailed in the last reports. Some 20 members will "serve" as instructors for the pilots in El-Al's course.

Finally, some wishes: Vatil wishes to thank Omri Soudry and Yarden Ben Dor for their great help in building the renewed website.

Vatil congratulates with best of luck to the new neighbors, Egypt vACC.

Vatil Wishes Todd and Jesus the best of luck in their new role at the EC.

Ilan Jonas

VATAME1

## **CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND CARRIBEAN**

Not available at this time

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

Not available at this time

## **ASIA**

Not available at this time