

VATSIM Executive Committee Meeting

1st Quarter – 2008

February 16, 2008

Regional Directors In attendance:

Craig Merriman – RD North America / EC Chair
Kyprianos Biris – RD Europe
Ilan Jonas – RD Africa/Middle East
Terry Scanlan – RD Oceania
William Woo – RD Asia

Roland Collins – VP Regions

12:11z – Meeting called to order.

Agenda item #1: EC Chairman rotation

Craig – Opened discussion to rotate EC Chairman position.

Roland – Reminding EC that a deputy chairman should also be selected, as previously discussed.

Craig – Motion made to elect Ilan Jonas as the next EC Chairman.

Terry – Seconds motion.

Vote taken for the election of Ilan Jonas as EC Chairman.

North America – For

Europe – For

Asia – For

Oceania – For

Africa/Middle East - Abstain

Central America – Abstain

Ilan Jonas is elected as the EC Chairman for 2008. William Wo is chosen as the Deputy EC Chairman.

Kyprianos – Volunteered to fill in as deputy, if needed

Ilan is now in charge of the remainder of the meeting.

Agenda item #2: Global Ratings Policy Status

Roland – Asked for a status report on the Global Rating Policy.

Craig – Things are moving along well in North America. Both divisions are starting to move forward in a positive manner.

Terry – Oceania has updated documentation and adjusted training to support Global Rating Policy. The division is using Sweatbox successfully as a training tool for evaluating new students.

William – Divisions are complying with policy. Some areas do not have official divisions. There are people interested, but need further training and support to provide ATC for these areas.

Roland – Pointed out that members do have the appropriate rating(s) to control in these new areas. If the area has a division established, then the controller can go in as a visitor.

Ilan – Region implementation has gone well and is operating according to policy. Discussed major airport issues that were raised within divisions.

Kyprianos – Talked about each division's reaction to the policy. Russia Division is in compliance. United Kingdom Division some negative initial reaction, but has since brought the division into compliance as of February.

Europe Division disagreed with the policy from the outset. Part of this was from the division already having started on their own internal ratings structure. Discussed students changing regions / divisions to gain ratings and returning to Europe. Discussed some administrative issues within the division that led to the departure of the Division Director. Talked about change in leadership and having the new staff come to an understanding of how the Global Rating Policy works. This led to the division coming to be in compliance with the policy. A lot of work was done in a short period of time.

Terry – Complimented Kyp on a job well done with the Policy implementation.

Roland – Talked about controllers who go away for a while, who may have a loss of competency. These controllers could have their ratings reduced, as was always the case, upon returning and not meeting the current competency requirements.

Ilan – Felt that the issue of downgrading people was a sensitive issue and should be done rarely. Discussed the departure of the Europe Division Director and what the EC might learn from this.

**** EC entered into executive session ****

Agenda Item #3: Training Staff forum

Roland – Discussed the need and usefulness of the Training Forum. This was put in place to discuss questions that are commonly asked. The forum also allows for more open discussion related to training concerns / issues. Asked again for a list of training directors and suggested that the training directors need to be notified of the forum. Training directors are quite busy and may not have the time to fully participate.

Terry – Added his support for the forum and the need for training directors to participate. Talked about the use of Sweatbox and asked for some assistance with creating scenarios.

Kyprianos – Noted that region was not asked by membership for a status of division staff members. Staff lists are kept on division sites. Region was not asked for names of people to grant / deny certificate database access. Talked about some of the issues related to resistance from the previous EUD director and communicating the existence of the forum to the training directors at the vACC level.

Roland – Noted that the response from Europe has been tremendous. Also discussed that training directors should have cert database access.

Kyprianos – Explained how the Europe division handles upgrades for ATC ratings.

Ilan – Felt that VATSIM might be losing some of its cohesion and that some divisions seem to be acting independently, when they should be cooperating more. The divisions should be participating in the global ATC training forum to share ideas.

Roland – Talked about local areas administering the testing for competency. Therefore, shouldn't the local people have the ability to change the ratings?

Ilan – Thought that this was more of a technical issue.

Roland – Felt that putting the trust in individuals to test people and uphold standards, why should they not have cert access.

Ilan – Mentioned that this level of responsibility (cert database access) should not be given to the training directors.

Roland – Reiterated that this should apply to division training directors only, not FIR, vACC or ARTCC training directors.

Ilan – Agreed that division training directors probably should have access.

Craig – Felt that having less people with access to the cert database was better than opening it up to more. This is because of the type of information is private and carries a lot of responsibility beyond training members.

Ilan – Agreed that less people with access is better.

Roland – Insisted that the divisional training directors need access, asked for RDs to submit the names.

Ilan – Asked which regions needed to submit names.

Roland – Mentioned that only Africa/Middle East and Oceania had submitted names.

Terry left the meeting due to previous engagement. Passed Oceania's voting proxy to Kyprianos.

Roland – Commented that the S1 Assessment Guide needed to be placed on the EC website.

Ilan – Agreed and will make sure it is posted on the site. Will work with Craig for further in getting it posted.

Agenda Item #4: Hit Squad

Ilan – Likes the idea of the VATSIM Hit Squad, noting the success of the new India division. Suggested the Africa/Middle East and Asia are the regions with the greatest need for Hit Squad assistance.

William – Talked about China possibly being next, or other areas of Southeast Asia. Would need to reach out to them to see where the needs and interests are before making a decision.

Ilan – Talked about a report that Richard Jenkins distributed that showed the potential for divisional growth in each region. Kenya and Saudi Arabia are seen as excellent candidates for the Hit Squad as far as growth potential. Kenya would be the natural choice, but due to the unrest that is currently going on, it may be better to wait. Saudi Arabia was tried once and might be better to try at another time. Another excellent candidate would be the Emirates (Dubai, Bahrain and the area). Asked if the Hit Squad could be used to strengthen areas, as well as build new areas.

William – Mentioned that Thailand could be a good growth area, as there is interest there and is a choice of many pilots.

Kyprianos – Noted that Iran needed help at one point, but had no other suggestions for new areas.

Craig – Agreed that Ilan and William would be best served by the Hit Squad.

Ilan – Thought that the Hit Squad might be able to expand, to develop scenery, local procedure and documentation.

Agenda Item #5: Region reports

Ilan – Asked about the need for the reports going forward.

William – Mentioned that some of the Asia divisions are very new and will need some time to establish themselves before they'll formally report. Gave an overview of the divisions.

Kyprianos – Noted that the reports help wrap things up and allow the divisions to report out to the general membership.

Ilan – Noted that the workload was high as some of the divisions were just getting started.

Agenda Item #6: Other business

Ilan – Mentioned that the EC has some open issues on matters that were submitted to the Board of Governors. The issues seem to remain open for a long time.

Kyprianos – Made mention that the region transfer item is still open and was asking about the status.

***** EC entered into executive session *****

All - The VATSIM EC requests that a status be provided by the Board of Governors for a request the EC made in July 2006 regarding the update of the region transfer process and associated web pages.

Roland – Acknowledged that this issue has been presented to the BoG at that time, along with a later reminder. Since then more important and/or urgent issues have arisen and this matter may have been moved to the back burner temporarily. Roland will go back to the BoG to inquire for about the status on behalf of the EC.

Ilan – Suggested the BoG-EC Forum should be utilized more to enable better discussion.

Meeting adjourned approximately 14:08z

VATSIM Europe Region Report

www.vateur.org

February 2008

Kyprianos Biris VATEUR1

director@vateur.org

Europe Region has a new Deputy Director as of January 2008

Christian Sager VATEUR2 deputy@vateur.org

VATEUD Division report

www.vateud.org

No report submitted by VATEUD1

Compiled by VATEUR1 :

Europe Division Director Martin Georg VATEUD1 resigned from the position on 21st January 2008 and did not wish to submit a Division Report for the last quarter.

Acting Division Director is Peter Nielsen VATEUD2 the Training Director.

Work is in progress between VATEUR1 & VATEUD2 to administer the change of staff within VATEUD.

VATEUD Training Department worked hard since January 2008 to implement the EC Global Rating Policy (GRP). There were extensive talks with vACCs as to how they would align their active and competent controllers per Facility Type (FT) recently served to the rating for this FT in GRP. Most of the alignment is now complete in the way vACCs chose to process it. Most ATCO's went through a Theory test and then got upgraded to next rating without practical test.

VATUK United Kingdom Division.

www.vatsim-uk.org

Staff Changes:

Matt Hardman takes over from Glen Watson as the Division's Event Manager. Matt has some great ideas for events to keep both pilots and controllers in the Division busy over the coming months.

Scottish Simflight Charity Show:

VATSIM-UK had a presence at the Scottish Simflight Charity Show in Glasgow in November. This was an excellent PR event for the Division with many sign ups to Vatsim on the day. We also had around 6 people controlling at the show.

Worldflight 2007:

The UK supported Wordflight 2007 providing control to the teams as they flew into Birmingham and Glasgow. Our controllers made sure that we had ATC cover from the time the aircraft flew in from mainland Europe until they left for Scotland for Iceland.

Global Ratings Policy:

The GRP has caused us the biggest workload (and some would say headache) of 2007. I will be honest at the outset and say that the UK's initial interpretation of the policy was wrong. Myself and the training team had a hectic Christmas and New Year period as we tried to get all the systems ready for the change. We also embarked on educating the Division on what the changes would mean. The news has been met with mixed reactions from members who believe that standards will drop because of this policy - the staff have been doing their best to advise members that this is not the case. The 2 major issues for the UK have been the changes that have had to be made to our RTS Training system - everything in the System was geared up to manage students through the old ratings (S1-S3 on Tower for example), we have made huge progress on this in a very short space of time but there is still some work to do - I estimate that we should have the web changes in place by the beginning of January.

Our other major issue is the OBS-STU process - there is still some confusion as to what constitutes a fair process in upgrading people. Some people are

using ACSIM and Tower Trainer while others are using a mixture of roleplay and written exam. We hope to have uniformity within the division over the coming months. Again the change in the OBS-STU caused us some website issues, these have now been resolved.

In conclusion I would say that the UK are about 90% there in fully adopting this - our main challenges are those to the website, however we have an excellent webteam and I am optimistic that we will have everything in place very soon.

Kind regards,

Simon Irvine
Director VATSIM-UK VATUK1
Vatsim Network Supervisor

director@vatsim-uk.org

VATRUS Russia Division

www.vatrus.net.ru

1. Staff changes:

Resource manager: Sergei Sumarokov (instead of Michael Volchenkov) - VATRUS10

Deputy resource manager: Sergey Karach - VATRUS11

Web services manager: Ilya Yagodinsky - VATRUS12

Event coordinator: Roman Zimin - VATRUS6

Deputy event coordinator: Roman Toporkov - VATRUS7

2. Site Development:

In the Fourth quarter of 2007 year we started active development of VATRUS site, we found a lot of people who have programming or designing skills and who are able to help us in that task, at this time we have sketches of the site - this fact makes us possible to get any information on the regular control, the Staff contact information (Names, E-mail, etc) and other information.

Also started the forum in two languages, there are sections for Russian-speaking and English-speaking users, was written topics with the FIR information, like links to the charts, sector files etc are available. For a month of work we already have about 400 users, many

of which actively communicate there.

So, as you see work is in progress. We try to finish work on a site so quickly, as it possible.

3. Event Coordination:

We had accomplished a lot of events since our last report. We increased quantity of FIR's, which provides ATC service on regular schedule basis. We also continue to respond easily on help requests from our colleagues from various VA, VACC's and other divisions. As an example of such cooperation we want put emphasis on World Flight 2007 fly-in, which crossed the whole Russia. Not less significant were massive "Velvet season" and "Radiocheck, Moscow!" fly-ins, where our controllers and pilots showed their very high qualification. In order to support and raise professionalism of our pilots and controllers we opened new "Dobrolet" training centre in June. Now, we are preparing for new massive events, planning a lot of new interesting innovations within the region and are looking forward to the coming year.

4. Membersip report:

Up to 21st December 2007, VATRUS has 1282 members. After 28st April, VATRUS staff organized a special revise of all ATC ratings in Division. More than 100 ratings were reviewed. Non active instructors (INS and INS+) were informed that their rating can be downgrade due to low training activity in Training Department. Accordingly seven of them were downgraded to CTR+. However, due to effective work of Training Department the dynamic of pilots and ATC increment is sensational.

Yuri Trunov
VATRUS1

OCEANIA REGION REPORT – DECEMBER 2007

The period ending December 2007 has been an extremely busy one for the OCEANIA Region.

Activities within the region include the OCEANIA Regional Conference held in Melbourne early in October followed by representation at the OZFLIGHTSIM EXPO held on the Gold Coast in QLD late October.

Introduction of the Global Ratings system has been a major focus of both divisions within OCEANIA and I can report that implementation of the policy took effect on January 1st 2008. It has been a big task for the training departments in both divisions and I congratulate them on their achievements.

Division Reports are below;

VATPAC DIVISION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2007



1. Events & Steve Cullen

Steve has returned from his leave of absence and has met with Rob to discuss the state of events a strategy going forwards as advised by Steve.

Action: Shannon has been appointed Acting Director of Events until Steve's return.

2. Revised VATSIM Rating - Compliance

Rating compliance is on track for implementation on 01JAN08. Implementation plan is being executed. Brand new TWR module will replace classic student rating and classic senior student rating to be split into TMA and CTR.

Action: Implementation plan to be finished by 01JAN08.

3. TWR (Student Rating)

TWR Module is complete and tested.

Action: None – task now complete / closed.

5. Founders Charter

Finalised, implemented and uploaded.

Action: Non- task now complete / closed.

6. Revised VATPAC Website

Rob has spent about another 10 hours this month on remaining actions. Work will continue during the holiday period as Rob is on leave and has extra time available. Document management and library mechanisms have been addressed and implemented.

The remaining actions are:

- Tweak training content to reflect forthcoming changes (Rob)
- Add promotion request form (Rob & Neil)
- Finish VA pages (Rob)
- Consolidate About/Staff/Administrivia pages (Rob)

- Build dynamic front page (Neil)
- Test all links / usability (Rob)
- Misc minor housekeeping tasks (Rob)

7. Building Up VFR Events

Ideas have been discussed with how this will look in new website so that new comers can access past information, flights and resources.

Action: On hold until new website available.

8. John Keech & Director of Australian Airspace

Rob has had discussions with John relating to his recent comments and they are currently mapping a path forward to satisfy all stakeholders.

Action: On hold due to higher priority tasks.

The following tasks are on hold until resources become available/ it becomes appropriate to continue with them:

- Pilot Services Director
- 2008 and beyond strategy
- KPI tracking
- ADS-B

[VATNZ DIVISION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2007](#)



VATSIM New Zealand – Quarterly Report – 4th Quarter 2007

VATNZ continues to move forward in leaps and bounds with a number of new initiatives being introduced.

This quarter saw the development and implementation of Online Controller Stats. Pasted on the front page of the VATNZ Website, the stats record the hours any person spends Controlling in the New Zealand Airspace. This has seen a steady increase in online activity of Controllers as they work to remain in the top five controllers for the month and in turn the year. Although statistics were only recorded from 22 October 2007, the top Controller for 2007, Ray Lang, recorded 104 hours, followed a close second by your's truly! Also implemented with these stats was an automated alerting system which will email various division members in the event that an Unauthorised Controller logs in and controls in NZ Airspace or any Controllers logs on with an incorrect callsign or frequency so that we can ensure that over time all positions and frequencies are consistent.

VATNZ have been watching the progress of the VATSIM Global Ratings Policy with interest as the Division implemented this system well before the remainder of VATSIM. VATNZ has found that the system has worked exceptionally well as Controllers progress steadily as the levels of traffic that they control increase with each promotion and with each increase in Airspace that goes with it. From a personal perspective, it has been disappointing to see the lack of planning and foresight that other VATSIM divisions have put into the Global Ratings Policy with many either leaving it until the last minute or finding problems rather than solutions to implementing the policy. While I accept that the larger divisions have more issues to address that a division the size of VATNZ, there has been plenty of lead-in time for them to have worked through some of the issues in advance. The Global Ratings Policy is working well in VATNZ and I believe it will work well for VATSIM globally, if only the divisions take it on board and make it happen.

VATNZ was well represented at the VATSIM Oceania Convention in Melbourne in October with a number of VATNZ members present and two of us on the organising committee. The presentation on VATNZ and New Zealand airspace appeared to have been well received by those attending the convention.

At the beginning of October, VATNZ introduced its Partner Virtual Airlines policy and has partnered with three Virtual Airlines to date, with a few more applications having been received. We now have partnerships with Compass Virtual, Virtual Air New Zealand and VOZ Virtual. This has assisted to keep focus on supporting our partners and giving them priority for forum announcements, and support of their events. By introducing the policy, VATNZ has found that we have had reasonable control over the “school holiday” VAs that come and go each year.

The next quarter will see a number of new developments being introduced, including an “airspace reference” section of the website providing pilots and controllers a ‘one stop shop’ for all information about the VATNZ airspace and providing direct links to charts etc. Although VATNZ turned one on 1 January 2008, we are not celebrating our birthday until 27th January with our “Destination Wellington” flyin around the Wellington Airport in an attempt to simulate real world operations in and out of the capital city for three hours.

This has been another successful quarter for VATNZ thanks to dedication of the Board and its members.