

# VATSIM Executive Committee Meeting

## 4th Quarter – 2008

January 31, 2009

### Regional Directors In attendance:

Ilan Jonas – RD Africa/Middle East/ EC Chairperson  
William Woo – RD Asia/ EC Deputy Chairperson  
Kyprianos Biris – RD Europe  
Terry Scanlan – RD Oceania

### Non Voting members in attendance:

Richard Jenkins – VATSIM President  
Roland Collins – VP Regions  
Alfred Tang – Deputy RD Asia

### Apologies accepted from:

Craig Merriman – RD North America

13:10z – Meeting called to order.

### ***Agenda item #1: Global Unicom proposal***

**Roland** – Following BoG discussion and briefing notes provided to the EC, the question is whether to enforce a uniform frequency for Unicom, or to continue accepting local procedures. Also, if we are to choose a uniform frequency, we should decide which one.

**Terry** – If we are going to change something, I'm for one uniform frequency, otherwise it will be very confusing. I have no problem with 123.45.

**Kyprianos** – Against a change. A change involves changing hundreds of documents, including the PRC. I understand that in some parts of the world 122.8 is an active frequency, but it does not justify this complicated change. If we are to change it anyway, I would choose 123.45.

**William** – In my region 122.8 doesn't conflict. One uniform frequency is easier for pilots to remember. We still don't know for sure that 123.45 is not an active frequency as well somewhere – it need to be checked.

**Ilan** – Don't see why we need to change anything, though think a change wouldn't be as complicated as people might fear. I wouldn't go for "regional unicoms" – this might create a bigger mess than having a limited number of FIRs with special Unicom frequencies. To solve the chaos on Unicom text frequency, we can further limit its range – 100nm seems enough for Unicom purposes.

**Roland** – 123.45 is ICAO designated frequency for pilot's conversation, so it doesn't clash with any other frequency.

**William** – Some places use 123.45 indeed for pilot's chats – it might be a mess if we change Unicom to this frequency.

**Ilan** – One uniform global frequency is the preferred option. However, I'm against enforcing this specific UNICOM frequency on all divisions as a no-exception rule; divisions should still be allowed to set their own realistic procedures within their respective FIRs (South Africa for example has its own Unicom frequency). It works well nowadays and can be continued. We should encourage the use of the chosen global frequency, but should not dictate it.

**EC welcomes Mr. Richard Jenkins to the meeting.**

**Richard** – Since Brazil does not have an RD at the moment, I'll bring their point of view for the EC on their behalf. In Brazil 122.8 is the military towers frequency, and it is actually used for military operations. Using 122.8 as a Unicom frequency in Brazil is unrealistic.

**Terry** – I was not aware that there is any problem with Unicom frequency before this discussion.

**Kyprianos** – For all the reasons provided, I'll say we keep things as they are today. We can't have 100% of all frequencies correctly simulated.

**Ilan** – I would also vote for no change, taken that divisions can set their own rules. Same way that we "allow" flights in Russian airspace using the metric system like in real life, we can allow different Unicom frequencies. This is all part of the game: you fly somewhere, you check the local procedures.

**Roland** – I will take it back to the BoG for further discussion. We will look into better managing the info for pilots, making it more available to all pilots.

**Action Item:** Roland to take EC views back to BoG for inclusion in any further BoG discussion.

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***Agenda item #2: Global Rating Policy reports***

**Kyprianos** – VATEUR position on the GRP is reflected in VATUK and VATEUD reports (VATRUS report to be followed). In general, they didn't see a decline in ratings' upgrades, except in OBS->S1. Most vACCs are GRP compliant. The one major request is to "move" the whole GRP one step up, to include Senior Controller, so that an S1 is a Tower Trainee. S3 is a tower certified and Approach trainee, C1 is Approach certified and Center trainee, C3 is an all certified controller. The divisions also talked about S2, but I explained that it is not practical. In Short, S1 will not be a completely free rating, but will include a short evaluation to verify he is able to work without messing things up.

**Ilan** – The bigger divisions, namely VATIL and as far as I know also VATSAF are not 100% GRP compliant. It is, however, not intentional but rather incidental, and on the road to full compliance. All other divisions are fully compliant. From the reports I see that the variety of airports seen online is much higher since GRP implementation. There are some changes in online hours, but let us remember it is not an exact science and might mean nothing. VATNAF is not happy with the GRP, though complying with it. VATME (former VATGULF) is compliant and so does VATCAF which is training many new controllers constantly.

**William** – I am still waiting for some reports. All my divisions are fully compliant with the GRP.

**Terry** – Both divisions are fully compliant since January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. VATNZ were actually compliant even before, since the GRP was identical to their local procedures. The main issues are detailed in the reports. VATPAC finds that S3 might be a bit too early to a TMA controller, which is where most action is in the airspace. We use tower

trainer for the first assessment before S1, and it is working fairly well. I am very pleased with the VATPAC and VATNZ training – it is very professional.

**Roland** – VATPAC had Center before TMA, because this is how it is in the real world. They want it as before because it is more realistic.

*(Kyprianos leaves meeting, proxy given to Ilan)*

**Richard** – It certainly is a different approach.

**Terry** – I encouraged them to start training S3's immediately to C1. There is another option, which is to combine S3 and C1 together (TMA+Enroute), because that's the way it was done before.

**Richard** – Looking at the raw data we see that promotions of S3 and C1's are more a less constant from before the GRP. However there is a big decline in S1 promotions – my feeling is that we will see the same decline in other ratings as well, following the “shortage” in S1's.

**Roland** – I'll be setting up a special forum to discuss the GRP reports.

**Terry** – Do we know which regions suffer the most from the decline in S1 promotions?

**Richard** – Yes. The biggest decline is in Europe and North America (where the decline is around 75% decline on S1 ratings).

**Terry** – N. America used to give S1 to members as soon as they applied – GRP stopped that. Many of those S1's did not continue their training. It probably affects the data Richard brought.

**Richard** – It's something will have to look into – checking how many trainees continue through the system into higher ratings.

**Ilan** – Suggests that this raw data on promotions is not an exact science. The most important info we have is the online presence. If we see the online presence going up, then promotions are of less importance.

**Richard** – I agree with that. We tried to clean the data as much as possible, and we continue analyzing the data. Indeed online presence is either increased or maintained.

**Action Item 1:** Outstanding GRP Reports to be immediately sent to EC.

**Action Item 2:** RDs, DD, and TDs to be advised of the NEW GRP Review Forum and actively join the discussion in relation to the reports from their region/division.

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**Agenda item #3: Open issues from previous meetings**

**Ilan** – I finally got the access to the EC website, and we can now update the data independently. EC requests an update about the changes requested in region transfer process and new members' sign-up process.

**Roland** – The BoG discussed the requested changes and was positive about most requests - We are working on making it to an action item. The only question was about changing the region transfer to a manual process instead of an automated process (item #2 in the document)– it will be a big structural change. We are working on making it an action item.

**Richard** – We talked a lot about the EC document and were in favor of it. VATSIM is currently converting its servers to a more advanced system. I suppose a lot of your requests would be implemented during this upgrade process.

**Roland** – Back to item #2: making it a manual process is too much of a work. Changing the process to 7 days seems a bit too long for us.

**Ilan** – Suggests a combination of having it an auto process of 7 days, with the option of manually accepting the region transfer by the RD anytime within those 7 days.

**Terry** – seconds that. Also reminding EC requested a note to the region's director a member is leaving.

**Roland** – It was approved along with all the other items except item #2. It's just a matter of doing it.

**Ilan** – Asking if the EC request about suggesting the correct division and vACC to new members based on country of residence was discussed as well.

**Roland** – I can't recall it was discussed yet.

**Action Item:** Roland to continue working with BoG to have the changes implemented as soon as possible and keep EC advised of the progress. A further report will be required from VP Regions at the next EC meeting.

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#### ***Agenda item #4: Region reports and other matters***

**Terry** – I've been approached by a member who is interested in seeing more activity in French Polynesia. My deputy is helping them setup a new vACC in Oceania.

**Ilan** – VATAME is growing constantly. We have some new activity in different places. VATSIM Egypt requested to leave VATNAF and join VATME, and we approved this change. VATCAF is doing exceptionally well and showing good online presence. VATNAF is struggling, having a tough competition from other networks but is holding its place. vACC Morocco-Algiers has developed enough to be separated into 2 vACC's. VATGULF had become VATME (Middle East) and is advancing rapidly, also with the Hitsquad active in Dubai at the moment.

**William** – VATASIA shows a steady growth in year 2008. However, it also faces lots of problems. The management team suffers from severity shortage of staffs which limit the growth of various divisions.. VATJPN has new deputy division director too, although he is not new to us. Bill Reynolds now takes the post of deputy division director of VATJPN. The most problematic division is VATROC. Most of the staffs of VATROC left due to various personal reasons. The training of new ATC virtually stopped in the post few months. The whole management structure needs to be reformed. We also have new Deputy Region Director – Alfred Tang joining the team. He mains duty is to overlook the development of various new vACC within the region. Other significant developments include the vACC within China like Shanghai vACC. A few join events with the existing divisions has been organized successfully. The Thailand vACC is also underdevelopment and hopefully it can be up and running soon.

**Ilan** – I am finishing my 12 months role as an EC chairman. EC needs to select the Chairperson for the next 12 months.

**Action Item 1:** Outstanding Region Reports to be immediately sent to EC.

**Action Item 2:** The filling of the EC Chair position to be discussed and completed by email as soon as possible.

Following the EC Meeting of January 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 an action item was created to elect the EC Chairman for the 2009 year. This process has now been completed by email and the results are as follows.

**Motion 1; "That Terry Scanlan (RD Oceania) be appointed as EC Chair."**

4 votes FOR and 1 ABSTAIN, The motion is **UPHELD**

**Motion 2; "That Kyprianos Biris (RD Europe) be selected as Deputy EC Chair."**

5 votes FOR. The motion is **UPHELD**

I declare that;

The RD for OCEANIA, Mr. Terry Scanlan, is appointed EC Chairman for the 2009 year and that

The RD for EUROPE, Mr. Kyprianos Biris is appointed Deputy EC Chairman

**Meeting adjourned Region reports hereinafter**

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**From:** Terry Scanlan

**To:** VATSIM - EC

**Date:** January 22, 2009

**Subject:** OCEANIA Region Report December 2008 QTR

Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands,  
French Polynesia, Marshall Islands,  
Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, New  
Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New  
Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands,  
Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and  
Futuna.

The  
OCEANI  
A  
Region

continues to increase in numbers and this can be attributed to the excellent management and team leadership of staff from both VAPAC and VATNZ.

Events are run continually with some new and innovative ideas coming forward to keep both Pilot and ATC members interested in online participation.

The Global Rating Policy has been running for a full 12 months and some interesting comments are to be seen in the individual Division Reports on GRP (see separate reports uploaded previously)

An approach has been made to establish a vACC for French Polynesia which both Regional Staff and local VATPAC staff are assisting. There are quite a few IVAO members who would like to join this vACC when it gets established.

Membership for both Divisions is currently ;

DIVISION	PILOT/OBS	ATC	TOTAL
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VATPAC	1759	288	2047
VATNZ	234	44	278
TOTALS	1993	332	2325

## DIVISION REPORTS



# VATSIM NEW ZEALAND QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR - Q4 2008

October-December 2008 has been a busy quarter at VATNZ with Worldflight having passed through the area in early November and Operation Deep Freeze bringing increased traffic volumes through Oceanic areas and into Christchurch in particular.

273 VATSIM members are now formally part of VATNZ, up from 214 at the end of the last quarter, so we continue to see steady growth in our membership numbers. Many more supporters regularly visit the Website and participate in the forum discussions.

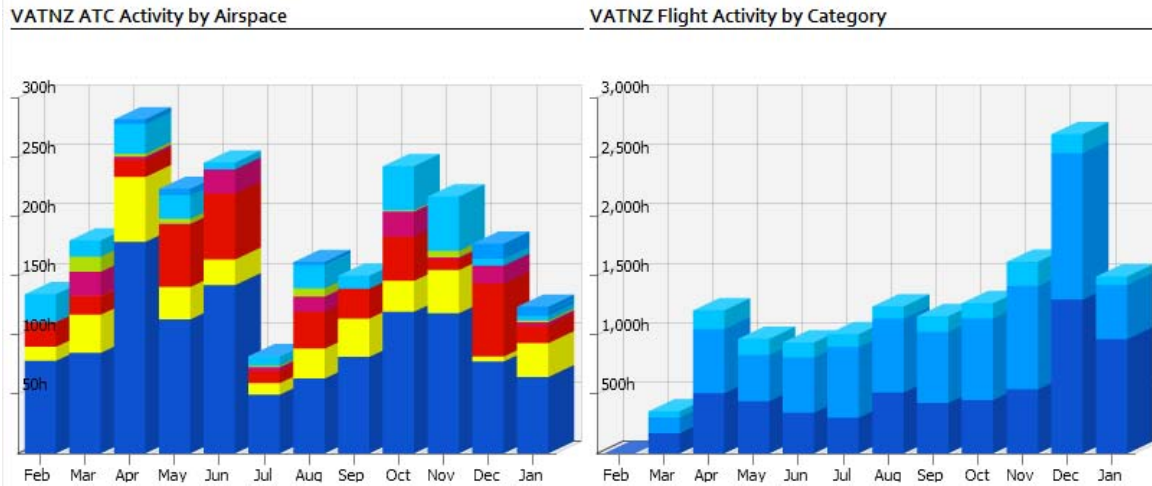
Development of the Website continues on a daily basis with many new initiatives by all members of the VATNZ Board and especially by our Director of IT Nick Johnston who continues to develop more and more tools for our members. Projects worked on this quarter include:

- Flight Activity reporting enhanced
- Membership management: Automated notification of new members and new NZ-based Oceania Region members
- Membership management: Automated welcome emails to new members (leading to significant uptick in number of users moving from VATSIM registration to joining VATNZ website/forum)
- Membership management: Automated transfer of new NZ-based Oceania Region members with no specified Division into VATNZ (with welcome email)
- Membership management: Automatic email to Division Director when someone transfers out of the division
- VATNZ Activity Animations for GoogleEarth - including a special one produced for Worldflight.

- Near-Automated Update Process for VATNZ Airspace Ref Charts

In the coming quarter, we will be getting more members involved with creating content for the VATNZ website to call on their real world knowledge and experience. This should see the website get more and more articles of interest for the members and visitors.

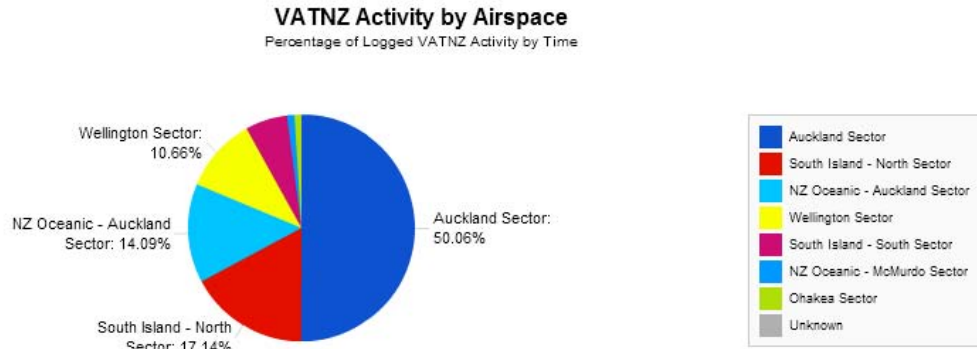
As can be seen, this has been a busy quarter for both ATC and Flights with a steady increase in both, and a huge leap in traffic volume in December, mostly due to Operation Deep Freeze and flights to the Antarctic.



As expected, the Auckland Sector is the busiest by controller sessions as this is the area that usually sees the highest volume of aircraft movements:

## Airspace Summary

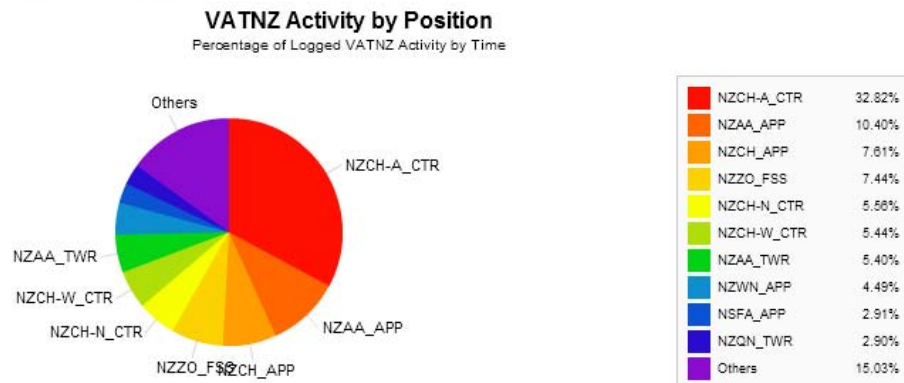
A summary of the recorded controller activity in VATNZ airspace broken down by airspace.



#	Airspace	Name	Sessions	Time Online	%
1	NZCH-A_CTR	Auckland Sector	253	314h 59m	50.06
2	NZCH-N_CTR	South Island - North Sector	86	107h 49m	17.14
3	NZZO_FSS	NZ Oceanic - Auckland Sector	71	88h 40m	14.09
4	NZCH-W_CTR	Wellington Sector	69	67h 03m	10.66
5	NZCH-S_CTR	South Island - South Sector	14	37h 51m	6.02
6	NZCM_FSS	NZ Oceanic - McMurdo Sector	3	6h 29m	1.03
7	NZOH_CTR	Ohakea Sector	5	6h 15m	0.99
8		-- Unable to Determine Airspace --	1	1m	0.00
8	airspaces		502	629h 10m	

## Position Summary - Q4 2008

A summary of the positions that have recorded activity in VATNZ airspace.



Enroute continues to be the most popular position in VATNZ airspace accounting for almost half of all controlling but well down on the last quarter. This quarter has seen a huge jump in Approach controlling:



## Position Type Summary - Q4 2008

A summary of the position types that have recorded activity in VATNZ airspace.

**VATNZ Activity by Position Type**  
Percentage of Logged VATNZ Activity by Time



#	Type	Sessions	Time Online	%
1	Enroute Control (CTR)	175	299h 36m	47.62
2	Approach (APP)	166	168h 58m	26.86
3	Tower (TWR)	111	96h 17m	15.30
4	Oceanic Control (FSS)	44	53h 16m	8.47
5	Departure (DEP)	4	6h 41m	1.06
6	Clearance Delivery (DEL)	1	2h 41m	0.43
7	Ground (GND)	1	1h 38m	0.26
7 position types		502	629h 10m	

## FLIGHTS

As can be seen, the three main cities of New Zealand are the busiest for flight movements, which is as per expectations.

There was a big increase in flights in the Oceanic airspace into Apia, Pago Pago, Rarotonga and Tonga but this was primarily because of Worldflight and the VATNZ events leading up to Worldflight but it is interesting to note that the Oceanic area has four of the top ten airports as destinations or origins and not all of these were Worldflight sectors.

In total, 93 different airports covered by VATNZ saw 3,956 aircraft movements in the quarter.



- **Note:** Flight Activity is only included if the flight passes through VATNZ airspace.
- **Note:** Flight Time Rankings are based upon flight time that occurs within VATNZ airspace; not total flight time.

#	Airport	Flights	% of All Flights	Average Duration	Arrivals	Arr/Dep Ratio	Departures	Internal	Int/Ext Ratio	External
1	NZAA	1155	29.20	3h 41m	654		501	462		693
2	NZCH	723	18.28	3h 17m	353		370	527		196
3	NZWN	401	10.14	2h 00m	173		228	342		59
4	NSTU	290	7.33	5h 09m	153		137	142		148
5	NSFA	190	4.80	3h 59m	86		104	57		133
6	NZQN	134	3.39	1h 33m	51		83	113		21
7	NCRG	82	2.07	3h 03m	40		42	56		26
8	NZOH	61	1.54	1h 46m	30		31	58		3
9	NZDN	50	1.26	1h 25m	34		16	49		1
10	NFTF	45	1.14	2h 54m	24		21	27		18

## TRAINING

Training is coming along slowly with a number of Controllers undergoing training. The skill level and capability of the Controllers is improving all the time and New Zealand ATC is a lot more active now following a dramatic increase in online traffic.

We were also fortunate this month to have David Walsh transfer into VATNZ from VATUSA. David has just completed his training as a Real World ATC and is a tower controller at Hamilton. David has been appointed as a mentor and is already mentoring some new students.

We have submitted our comments on the Global Ratings Policy as part of the EC review of the policy and find that it is working very well for VATNZ.

## EVENTS

We have seen a steady increase in traffic supporting the Sunday night events each week. We continue to advertise the SNOs far and wide and this has also seen a number of international pilots supporting the event each week. Of most note here have been the numbers who have seen the SNOs announced each week in route.

Commencing during the quarter has been our regular weekly VFR flyin on a Thursday evening, coined "VATNZ Flight Club". We have appointed one of our younger, newer members, Wesley St. George, as the co-ordinator of these events and he is doing a remarkable job. Each week, he plans a 90 minute VFR flight, creates a web-map and details of the flight and posts the details for everyone. The flights are well thought out and cover different parts of New Zealand each week, leaving from the previous week's location. These flights are proving popular with members with more and more joining in the flight each week.

Overall, VATNZ is progressing well and continues to support the needs of its members.



Mark Richards

**DIVISION DIRECTOR**

5<sup>th</sup> October 2008



Division Report – Q4

The last quarter in the division has seen us hosting the WorldFlight 2008 charity event, with several staff members taking part in one of VATSIM's only truly global events. WorldFlight 2008 started and ended in Sydney (YSSY) airport, and as per other years, traffic has continued to grow.

As mentioned in the last report, three new staff members, namely Sean Harrison, Greg Wilson and Jake Saw have entered staff ranks, they quickly have taken up their new roles and responsibilities

The VATPAC Moodle system (ATC Training) entered a new phase, with the first stage of the TMA Module being released. Moodle is a highly interactive form of training, providing alternatives from the traditional instructor / student question and answer session which VATPAC has been using over its history. Moodle provides indepth training manuals, multiple choice questions etc, to allow the majority of training / testing to be user driven, rather than relying on staff to sit in on assessments.

The new website as mentioned in the last report is still running well, we are progressing on implementing front page "gadgets" such as "users online" etc in order to have the website appear more dynamic, and increase traffic volumes.

For the next 12 months, the vision of the division is to increase traffic levels by 10%, over the previous 12 months. This ambitious target has been agreed by staff at a recent board meeting and will provides a goal that all staff members can work toward.

Shannon Wells

Deputy Director - VATPAC

## **VATSIM Europe Region Report**

For the period May 2008 – January 2009

[www.vateur.org](http://www.vateur.org)

Kyprianos Biris VATEUR1

[director@vateur.org](mailto:director@vateur.org)

### **VATEUD Division report**

[www.vateud.org](http://www.vateud.org)

#### **VATSIM Europe Division Report to the Executive Committee May to December 2008**

Please be advised that this report will not contain any statistics what so ever as a full report for VATEUD is being prepared separately for the GRP review.

Following my appointment as VATEUD1 in April 2008 a number of initiatives were started in an effort to restructure the overall divisional management in an effort to be more effective and above all more transparent and less bureaucratic. VATEUD as the single largest division in the network (at time of writing) has historically been understaffed at divisional level.

The second half of 2008 has therefore seen some rather large changes with the VATEUD staff growing from a team of 8 to a team of 14.

VATEUD at this time counts some 23,000 members, with 1,984 members having joined the division between April 2008 and December 2008. The division has 35 different vACCs covering 31 different languages, cultures and interpretations of how to apply guidelines according to their specific needs.

VATEUD2 historically Training Director is now ATC Training Director and Deputy Division Director.

VATEUD3 historically Assistant Training Director has now become Pilot Training Director.

#### **VATEUD Division Staff changes**

##### ATC Training Department

Soon after Thomas George rejoined us in the capacity of Assistant Membership Director I asked him to consider taking on the task of restructuring the Training Department and rolling out a number of new ideas including splitting the TD into an ATC and Pilot section. Thomas accepted this task in the midst of a division coming to grips with GRP and the TD has become much more proactive in liaising and above all listening to the concerns and wishes of the individual vACCs in Europe.

**vACC Support** - To facilitate communication and more hands on interaction with the vACCs the old vACC support team concept was enhanced and a pan European “buddy” system was put in place with dedicated representatives of VATEUD TD having specific responsibility for certain vACCs ensuring an ongoing two way communication at all times.

**Instructor Courses** - These are continuing as planned with the current course having started on Tuesday 13th January 09. Overall the number of Instructors in EUD has decreased due to a major and long overdue reassessment and update of certain individuals who were downgraded accordingly. At the end of 2008 the Division has 25 Instructors and 18 Senior Instructors and the aim is to end 2009 with 60 members in total holding either of these two rating (Please note: This includes SUP and ADM).

**Eurotest** - Steady progress is being made on the next generation Eurotest (version 4) which we plan to complete by the 3rd quarter of 2009. In the mean time all the questions and test sets have been updated to be GRP compliant a brand new OBS to Student test was rolled out in November with a new Senior Student test currently under development with a pass mark to date of 89%.

#### Pilot Training Department

In order to ensure VATEUD is at the forefront of developments in this area and to ensure the continued enjoyment of all members we decided to set up a standalone training department of pilots in the latter part of 2008. The department will roll a number of initiatives during 2009 amongst them the creation of a new course 'Training for Trainers' similar to the ATC-TD instructor courses. These courses will cover the following topics:

- why do we train pilots
- how to train the pilots
- structure and realisation of the courses
  - theory
  - practise
  - exams
- special instruments to realize pilots training in local vACC's

The department will work closely together with the VP Pilot Training.

#### Membership Department

**General** - Following a number of staff resignations and changes within this department in the early part of 2008, Mr Ivan Kovacevic was appointed to the position of VATEUD4. Prior to this the membership department was totally restructured and it has now become an integral part of the system, whereas in the past this position was limited to handling transfers and acting on Eurotest upgrades. They have now been tasked with monitoring and reporting on vACC membership trends, member retention and close liaison with the training department.

**Welcome Emails** - all members joining VATEUD now receive a welcome email in their local language pointing them to their chosen vACC and contact persons. Using the MAPS tools, this was very simple to achieve and we would encourage other divisions to do the same. A follow up email is generated after 30 days to keep in contact with new members inviting them to contact us for any matters or information. This service was briefly interrupted during the server migration in December but is now back online.

#### Events & PR Department

We appointed Mr Mixalis Nikolakes to this position in June of 2008. Unfortunately for all concerned the real life obligations and job position for Mixalis changed and he found it almost impossible to devote sufficient time to VATEUD as a consequence he resigned in November. A new Event Coordinator was appointed on January 10th 2009 and I am hopeful that Mr Frederic Navarro, a long-standing member of VATEUD, will be able to step into this position full of energy and ideas.

#### Operations

In August 2008 Ton Out, who since the very beginning has been providing us with continuous updates to sector files, Squawk Code and ATC frequencies to be used across the division, tended his resignation. Mr Stephen Slot Odgaard was appointed in his stead.

## Website

A new [www.vateud.org](http://www.vateud.org) website was launched on December 31st 2008 following a good 60 days of work by the team and especially by our webmaster Nico Plambeck who also doubles up as Assistant Membership Director. It is not simply a new front-end but a new server, mail account, forum and totally changed back-end. We are currently experiencing some teething problems and are averaging 100 hits a day.

## EUD vACCs notable changes

□ **SAG** - The largest change as far as EUD is concerned this year has been the dissolution of SAG into three components. Austria started the trend by becoming an individual and stand alone vACC in August and has done remarkably well with 22 upgrades between August and December.

□ **The Swiss FIR** has remained a part of SAG and is scheduled to go its own way at the end of February 2009. The German vACC will remain the single largest vACC in the division with close to 5000 members and is still headed up by Marc Riedel.

□ **France** is one of the star performers in EUD this year with a new and dynamic team in place which has significantly increased the on line hours in comparison to previous years. The French vACC now counts some 1800 members.

□ **Scandinavia** now has close to 1900 members and continues providing regular and quality service with more than 50 recommendations issued for higher ratings in 2008.

□ Areas that are of concern to us in EUD and which are being addressed at this time is the rather lacklustre performance of the **Baltic** and the **Balkan** areas due to a number of different factors, amongst them a heavy outflow towards other networks.

□ **Italy** also suffers from this problem and we are in talks with the staff there to see what can be done to overcome this problem in the short and medium term.

□ **Hungary, Portugal** and **Ireland** have increased both online hours and ATC upgrade recommendations in comparison to 2007 by scheduling regular events attracting significant traffic.

□ **Poland** has had a year of contradictions with fewer recommendations than expected for a vACC of its size (2000 members) yet have provided high quality on-line service and some unforgettable events. The recommendation and training issues there have been addressed and we are seeing an ever increase in new students coming through ranks in vACC Poland.

□ **Turkey** is of the larger vACCs (ones with more than 1000 members) the underperformer of the year with a total of only 3 upgrades in 2008. This has been noted and is being monitored by VATEUD.

□ **Spain** found itself slightly inundated with students towards the start of the year however fortunately the slight incipient backlog was updated thanks to the efforts of Antonio Martín. No other major concerns here at this time.

*\* vACC Support and Buddy system is active in a dozen or so vACCs across the Division in an effort to boost support and provide training compliant with GRP as a number of predominantly smaller vACCs found it difficult to make the transition.*

Peter Nielsen VATEUD1

Thomas George VATEUD2

## **VATUK United Kingdom Division.**

[www.vatsim-uk.org](http://www.vatsim-uk.org)

### **Staffing**

We welcome Stuart Duncan to the staff team as VATUK5 – Events Manager following the departure of Matt Hardman – real life pressures of being a BA pilot meant less time for Matt to devote to online controlling and a busy events position. Stuart is a welcome addition to the team and has slotted into the role with ease during a busy events period within the UK.

As you are now all probably aware Simon Irvine stepped down as VATUK1 in December to be replaced by myself – Simon was a great asset to the Division during his reign and will still be with us in an advisor role.

I have now stepped up to UK1 from my position as DCRM which is still currently vacant – we do have a person in mind for the role and are waiting for confirmation as to whether he is willing to accept the position.

There are currently two staff vacancies at board level; these are the London FIR Operations chief and the Pilot Training Co-ordinator.

The first post will remain vacant at the present time as we have a capable Regional Training Manager within EGTG in John Mawston who is able to combine both roles whilst reviewing the changes made to London airspace in late 2008.

The pilot chief is proving a difficult position to fill as candidates who applied on the first advert were not up to the task and the preferred candidate has no desire to perform the role.

We have a staff meeting again on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the positions and filling vacancies.

### **Membership**

Chris Barham continues to do a sterling job with membership and in conjunction with our superb web team we are performing well.

There were no major membership issues for the last quarter, the changes made by the web team to the database update system have worked flawlessly and there have been very few members with login problems. The most common complaint is failure to receive the initial email; this is usually down to a typo in their email address. A number of duplicate accounts have been identified by staff. These have been suspended and warnings issued. Membership queries are running at an average rate of 1 per day for the UK Division so all seems to be working well.

There have been a large number of visiting controller requests to the UK and we are finding that the standard of controller is on the whole quite poor and the ability to adjust to a complex airspace around London is proving difficult for some.

We have not approved visiting controllers recently due to the current number and need to bring them and our own students up to standard on the London area procedures.

### **Training**

Individual RTS (Regional Training Schemes) continue to mentor and develop controllers within the confines of the GRP.

Each individual RTSM (Regional Training Scheme Manager) has been tasked to seek feedback regarding GRP for the forthcoming review which will be submitted by the end of January 2009.

I have attached a PDF file which is part of the GRP submission to identify our training and membership statistics over the past three years and to 2008.



We have recently had a success of Tower examinations and at present only have one outstanding exam in the system to be conducted.

The recent standard of candidate has been very high and accredit to the mentors and training department in maintaining such high standards prior to submitting for exams.

There are still issues around the observer to S1 position which will be further submitted as part of the GRP review.

*[Attached GRP report will be sent separately to EC & BoG – Kyprianos Biris VATEUR1]*

## **Events**

The 3 months has been a busy period for events in the UK with Real Operations events taking place within Essex (Luton and Stansted), Scotland (Glasgow, Edinburgh and Prestwick) and more recently within Heathrow.

The main issues have been around servers and observers with ridiculous range settings trained on busy events.

It has to be said however that the organisation has been excellent with turnout from controllers being exceptional for all events.

## **Military**

Chris Norman is pushing the military aspect of flying and controlling within Vatsim-UK and has a number of plans to improve the facility further during 2009.

Main points for military completed to date are:-

Progress to date:-

- ✚ Military Flying Order Book Completed and approved by VP SOA & Vas and issued
  
- ✚ Various Publications to help controllers and pilots published on the web site:-
  - Military Phraseology
  - Military ATS Frequencies
  - Air Traffic Services Outside Controlled Airspace
  - Radar Corridors
  
- ✚ After lengthy negotiations with VP SOA & VAs (Kyle Ramsey) a policy document has been agreed and published
  
- ✚ Operating Procedures for Mildenhall, Lakenheath & Fairford have been published. This is primarily aimed at our US colleagues so that they would have an understanding of UK procedures
  
- ✚ An attempt has been made (with vatuk1 and vateur1) to agree Operating Procedures for the UK Sovereign base at Akrotiri. Due to politics the Cypriot VACC would not agree so vateur1 enforced his ruling that we (VATUK Mil) had the right to provide ATC services as per the document
  
- ✚ Lengthy negotiations took place resulting in Letters of Agreement for the provision of ATC at Gibraltar, Ascension & Mount Pleasant. There were all carried out in a spirit of good will and notwithstanding the real world political situation

- ✚ A Military version of the Examination Manual plus a bank of Military multiple choice questions have been produced and approved by Simon. They were also sent to Will Le Bargy but I have had no response
- ✚ I have approached RAFvirtual.com and RAFvirtual (as you know) to try and persuade them that flying on VATSIM would be to their advantage. So far no response but I will have another go at them in the new year
- ✚ John Mawston was the RTSM but defected to a civvy RTS. Unfortunately I found out on the forum of his move. At present I am covering the RTS but would like an enthusiastic volunteer as I will be involved in Military exams

## **Conclusion**

The first few weeks of my tenure as VATUK1 have been extremely busy adjusting to the role and learning the ins and outs of the position.

I am sure we will continue to drive the ethos of the B.o.G forward through 2009 and beyond and look forward to working with everyone in the future.

Kind regards,

Sean Reedman  
Director VATSIM-UK VATUK1  
Vatsim Network Supervisor

[director@vatsim-uk.org](mailto:director@vatsim-uk.org)

## **VATRUS Russia Division**

[www.vatrus.net.ru](http://www.vatrus.net.ru)

\* Staff changes:

VATRUS3 - Dmitry Stolyarov - Event coordinator - [dich@yandex.ru](mailto:dich@yandex.ru)

VATRUS4 - Dmitry Purgin - Training Center - [dpurgin@gmail.com](mailto:dpurgin@gmail.com)

\* Fly-ins and actions:

For last three months except local fly-ins we have made six rather large international fly-ins: "The Borscht.", "Feet-o-Meter", "The Northern Wind", "The First Snow fly-in", "Khrabrovo Open Air" and "Near Frontier Area". A lot of pilots were invited. Firm Interaction has been adjusted with event-coordinators of others VACC and FIR. The quantity and quality of fly-ins has increased, and we hope to keep on this tendency.

The regular control has been considerably extended. We expect, that every operating FIR will have a day of regular control in near future.

Also we plan to make a lot of international, city hopping fly-ins and formation flights as well as reaching deeper interaction with Russian and foreign virtual airlines.

Yuri Trunov  
VATRUS1

[vatus1@gmail.com](mailto:vatus1@gmail.com)

## VATSIM Asia Regional Report (2008)

VATSIM Asia region does not have a very good time in year 2008 although there was steady growth in number of membership. The total number of members (excluded suspended) increased 34.7% from 5445 to 7334. There was only slight increase of 6% in the number of ATCs of all level, from 474 to 503.

This was mostly due to the slow progress or nearly completes halt of the training system in a few divisions. VATIND, VATROC and to extend VATJPN has difficulties in training up new ATC because of the shortage of staffs and instructors.

A detail breaks down of membership as follow:

	Pilot/Obs	STU	Sr. STU	CTR	Sr. CTR	INS	Sr. INS	SUP	ADM	Total ATC	Total
<b>VATASIA</b>	<b>6831</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>7334</b>
	<b>(93.14%)</b>	<b>(3.74%)</b>	<b>(1.32%)</b>	<b>(0.82%)</b>	<b>(0.37%)</b>	<b>(0.34%)</b>	<b>(0.19%)</b>	<b>(0.07%)</b>	<b>(0.01%)</b>	<b>(6.86%)</b>	
VATIND	142	15	5	7	2	1	0	1	0	31	173
	(82.08%)	(8.67%)	(2.89%)	(4.05%)	(1.16%)	(0.58%)	(0.00%)	(0.58%)	(0.00%)	(17.92%)	
VATJPN	341	81	40	25	11	1	2	3	0	163	504
	(67.66%)	(16.07%)	(7.94%)	(4.96%)	(2.18%)	(0.20%)	(0.40%)	(0.60%)	(0.00%)	(32.34%)	
VATKOR	502	31	6	12	3	4	7	1	0	64	566
	(88.69%)	(5.48%)	(1.06%)	(2.12%)	(0.53%)	(0.71%)	(1.24%)	(0.18%)	(0.00%)	(11.31%)	
VATROC	570	44	18	6	2	8	4	0	0	82	652
	(87.42%)	(6.75%)	(2.76%)	(0.92%)	(0.31%)	(1.23%)	(0.61%)	(0.00%)	(0.00%)	(12.58%)	
VATSEA	593	80	24	10	9	11	1	0	1	136	729
	(81.34%)	(10.97%)	(3.29%)	(1.37%)	(1.23%)	(1.51%)	(0.14%)	(0.00%)	(0.14%)	(18.66%)	
Undetermined	4683	23	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	4710
	(99.43%)	(0.49%)	(0.08%)	(0.00%)	(0.00%)	(0.00%)	(0.00%)	(0.00%)	(0.00%)	(0.57%)	

(% of total division/region strength)

Despite all the difficulties, there regular activities, fly-in in various divisions. Several inter-divisional flyin event have been held between VATJPN and VATKOR.

The annual regional flyin "Eastern Wind 2008" completed with great success. All the divisions within Asia actively participated together with a developing vACC- Shanghai. We are looking forward to another annual flyin for the region in year 2009.

For the development of the region, we are facing lots of difficulties as many experience members are leaving. VATIND and VATROC need to undergo staff restructuring to keep the division running. VATJPN completed the restructuring with a new Deputy Division Director named. Bill Reynolds, our old friend and former Region Director of Asia, now agrees to take the deputy director post of VATJPN. Welcome back, Bill!

Other significant development of the region includes the appointment of Alfred Tang as the Deputy Region Director. With the dedication of Alfred, some of the previously underdeveloped are like Shanghai and Guangzhou vACC is now actively growing. We hope that it can soon develop into fully functional division.

The Thai division is also under development by the progress is slow due to lack of manpower. We hope there can be more volunteers to join a team for the development of this division.

The Global Rating Policy was successfully implemented in all divisions with no difficulties. In fact, nearly all the division already has a training and operational policy very similar to the current GRP even before the announcement of GRP.

Prepared by

William Woo

VATSIM Asia Region Director

Jan, 2009

## Region report for Vatsim Africa/Middle East

January 2009

### General

- VATAME has over **4100** total members. This shows a more than satisfactory growth in the region, which almost tripled its membership in about 14 months.
- VATAME continue to show excellent level of discipline, with very few disciplinary actions taken against members.
- RCRP member rotation was made during this quarter.

A word about each division:

### Vatil

- **Continues its excellent job, working mainly on online presence at the moment.**
- **There have been some staff changes in the membership department and in Events department.**
- **New connections with real world facilities, along with the ongoing ones – to be reported in the future.**
- **Vatil enjoyed some fine media coverage during this quarter, and membership increased accordingly.**

### VATSAF

- **Nothing new arrived.**

### VATNAF

- **vACC Morocco/Algiers to be divided into 2 separate vACCs, due to increase in membership and satisfactory level of management/ATC.**

## VATME

- VATME (Middle east) is the former VATGULF. It is now handled by Mahmoud Fadli, region deputy director.
- VATEG(ypt) left VATNAF and is now a part of VATME, upon the request of VATEG director.
- The hitsquad is active in Dubai, attracting good traffic and ATC.
- Some ongoing development in new FIRs – to be announced.

## VATCAF

- Shows excellent progress and is directed very professionally. Here is the report submitted by the division itself:



30 December 2008

## **Director's Quarter 4 report for VATSIM Central Africa Division**

### **Overview and announcements:**

VATCAF is undertaking many major changes with its structure and staff, which will take place by the beginning of Q1 2009.

Our new fully integrated website was launched on 29 December 2008. Several hundred hours of programming went into the new site. The site is co-hosted by:

SIMMILES.COM courtesy Tony Kovacs  
VATCAF.ORG courtesy Fabio Oliveira  
VATCAF.COM courtesy Thomas Mathieu

### **Former Staff:**

Thomas Mathieu, Director

Marco Balzarotti, Events Director

Mimmo Muraglia, Training Director

Tony Kovacs, Board Advisor

Fabio Oliveira, Board Advisor

## **New Staff adopted on 07 December 2008:**

*VATCAF will be changing its staff as follows:*

Thomas Mathieu, Division Director

Open, Deputy Director

Tony Kovacs, ATC Training Director, Webmaster

Marco Balzarotti, Pilot Training Director

Alex Cohrs, Events Director

## **Current FIR Directors:**

Kinshasa FIR: Marco Balzarotti

Luanda FIR: Thomas Mathieu (interim in recruiting phase)

Accra FIR: John Koranteng

## **Current Supervisors:**

VACANT

## **Current Instructors:**

Mimmo Muraglia, I1

Tony Kovacs, I1



## **VATCAF Structure and organizational Changes for Q1 2009:**

VATCAF will be changing its Division Structure from a vACC model to an FIR model. The vACC model does not provide an accurate representation of real world operations in Central Africa. All current vACC Directors voted for the move. We expect the FIR model to be fully implemented in January 2009. The FIR model will allow us to centralize the website, improve training and development of the Division. Only an FIR Director will be appointed for each active FIR. Controllers will be assigned to the FIR of their choice.

In addition, VATCAF will be implementing the following groups:

**MOVCON:** The VATCAF MOVCON will be established to provide advanced controller training for all VATCAF FIR's and will emulate real world operations in Central Africa. Members for MOVCON will be C3 rated VATCAF controllers with least 300 hours of network experience to join. The MOVCON will also host or supervise special operations and military movements within CAF's airspace. MOVCON will specifically link with the VSOA for full adoption of any para-military operations beyond cargo and relief flights.

**TALCE:** VATCAF TALCE will provide advanced IFR flight training for pilots. Our Chief instructor is an active real world airline transport rated pilot with over 2800 hours experience. Pilots will attend the IFR courses on a voluntary basis and TALCE will link with the new VP of VATSIM, Pilot Training, when the program is implemented by VATSIM.

Events:

VATCAF conducts at least one event per month averaging 20 movements per event. The exception was our MOVCON event at Mogadishu, which had double the average flights.

## **Current registered VATCAF Division Members:**

Unknown: access to data not available to VATCAF. Request sent to VATAME for updated member list.

## **Current Controller Roster as of 1 December 2008:**

### **Kinshasa FIR:**

Name	VATSIM ID	VATSIM Rating	Certification	Status
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<b>Mimmo Muraglia</b>	<a href="#">959952</a>	Instructor	Center	Full Time
<b>Tony Kovacs</b>	<a href="#">958372</a>	Instructor	Central Africa FSS	Full Time
<b>Marc Guetre</b>	<a href="#">986422</a>	Controller	vNATO	Visiting
<b>Marek Czajkowski</b>	<a href="#">829696</a>	Senior Student	Approach	Visiting
<b>Ray Lang</b>	<a href="#">899884</a>	Senior Controller	Central Africa FSS	Visiting
<b>Chris Mauro</b>	<a href="#">989429</a>	Senior Controller	Central Africa FSS	Visiting
<b>Thomas Mathieu</b>	<a href="#">998318</a>	Senior Controller	Central Africa FSS	Full Time
<b>Thomas Johnson</b>	<a href="#">928465</a>	Student	Tower	Full Time
<b>Chris Kovacs</b>	<a href="#">984909</a>	Senior Student	Approach	Full Time
<b>Marco Balzarotti</b>	<a href="#">1004607</a>	Senior Student	Approach	Full Time
<b>Robin van den Honert</b>	<a href="#">1037309</a>	Controller	Center	Full Time

### Ghana FIR:

<b>Controller</b>	<b>VATSIM ID</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Certification</b>
Aggrey Ellis	<a href="#">964561</a>	Student	Tower
Alexander Cohrs	<a href="#">899395</a>	Senior Student	Approach

Mamadou Kebe	<a href="#">959611</a>	Student	Tower
John Koranteng	<a href="#">1011061</a>	Senior Student	Approach
Patrick Werner	<a href="#">974248</a>	Senior Student	Approach
Robin van den Honert	<a href="#">103730</a>	Controller	Center
Stephane Hodonou	<a href="#">1027284</a>	Student	Tower
Thomas Mathieu	<a href="#">998318</a>	Senior Controller	Center
Tony Kovacs	<a href="#">958372</a>	Instructor	Center

### **Luanda FIR:**

<b>Controller</b>	<b>VATSIM ID</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Certification</b>
Bernardo de Carvalho	<a href="#">971262</a>	Senior Controller	Center
Diogo Baltazar	<a href="#">973798</a>	Student	Tower
João Borges	<a href="#">815184</a>	Student	Tower
João Gomes	<a href="#">1047286</a>	Student	Tower
Marco Gonçalves	<a href="#">884178</a>	Senior Controller	Center
Fabio Oliveira	<a href="#">965424</a>	Controller	Center
Thomas Mathieu	<a href="#">998318</a>	Controller	Center

Report Drafted by:  
Thomas Mathieu

Director

VATSIM Central Africa Division

[director@vatcaf.org](mailto:director@vatcaf.org)

Report Approved on 30 December 2008

Those are just examples; the activity in other vACCs is rising as well, and more about that in the next report.

Best regards,

Ilan Jonas, VATAME1 [ilan@vatsim.net](mailto:ilan@vatsim.net)

[Http://www.vatame.net](http://www.vatame.net)

