

QUARTERLY MEETING
VATSIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SATURDAY 12TH MAY 2012

Present	Daniel Abellá (DA) - VATSA RD Thomas George (TG) - VATEUR RD (Minutes) Ilan Jonas (IJ) - VATAME RD Mark Richards (MR) - VATOCE RD Bryan Wollenberg (BW) - VATNA RD (EC Chairman) Steven Cullen - VP Operations Peter Nielsen - VP Regions
Apologies	Deepan Mehta (DM) - VATASIA RD

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes from the previous meeting read and confirmed
4. Matters arising from the previous meeting / action items
 1. Supervisor Application System Update - BW
 2. Pilot Training Program – PN/BW
 3. S2 Rating Realignment and Approval
 4. Data Services Update - TG
 5. New Member Retention
5. Region Reports
6. General Business
 1. S3 Rating Realignment (VATCAN) – BW
 2. Procedural Tower Amendment (GRP 4.5)
 3. Major Airport Criteria Realignment and Review – BW
 4. GRP: The Future of VATSIM ATC
 5. CoC B11
 6. Voting Item: Remove EDDT and add EDDB as major airport
 7. Executive Session (VATNA Division Issue) – BW
 8. Instructor Ratings Standardization – TG/BW
 9. Instructor/Mentor Expectations (“behind the scope”) – BW/TG
 10. Data Services: Sending NOTAMs – DA

1. BW welcomed all to the meeting which was convened at 1218Z
2. Apologies received from DM through VATSIM EC Mailing List
3. MR moved that the previous meeting's minutes be considered read and confirmed. Motion seconded by TG, no objections, motion carried.
4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting / Action Items:
 1. BW: Supervisor Application System (SAS) operational due to a rollback to a slightly earlier version. Should almost be functional though some RDs are still having problems viewing their regional references. The matter of eligibility to apply was also raised by MR who received a reference request for a Suspended member.
 2. PN: Pilot Training Program going well with the recent announcement of our 1000th ATO. The P2 is now active and the P3 rating is due to go live. The Pilot Training department (PTD) and Regions and their constituent parts are working well together on the rollout.

TG: Spoken to VP Pilot Training about the Regional/Divisional structure working with the PTD to trial VATEUD acting as a support and audit unit for ATOs at vACC level rather than an ATO itself. VATEUD considering how this might work so that agreement can be reached on how this might work.
 3. TG: S2 Solo Validation on Approach - trial has gone very well in VATUK, wording for GRP amendment being finalised.
 4. TG: Data Services - VP Web Services currently appointing members (confirmed later in the meeting by SC that 2 candidates have been approached)

PN: Reiterated that the BOG recognises the need for more manpower on Data Services

MR: Spoke of need for VATSIM.net website to "catch up" with Divisional/vACC websites in terms of design and functionality

PN: Commented on Javascript issues with the top menu
 5. BW: Commented on heavy dependence on Data Services

TG: Spoke of impressive activity following NOTAM directing people to Facebook/Twitter. MR later commented that over 900 members had joined the Facebook group since the NOTAM was issued.

PN: Spoke of importance of Social Media

SC: Looking at options for multilingual welcome emails
5. Region Reports - submitted by Region Directors to the website.

6. General Business

1. BW: Solo Validation on Centre for S3s being trialled on Centre positions in VATCAN. Will be starting in the next couple of days, the website is just being finalised and staff are being briefed. The team are very keen to see how it goes and are quite optimistic.

PN: Expressed satisfaction at recent progression in GRP and enquired as to the trial duration.

SC: Suggested 90 days.

PN: Asked whether anyone had any concerns with the GRP changes?

DA/MR: All positive feedback so far.

TG: Reiterated that none of the changes made enforce change, they just provide flexibility.

BW: No notable widespread concerns, generally very positive feedback.

SC: Informed attendees that he would be releasing an article over the weekend about the success of the S2 trial and the pending S3 trial.

BW: Looking forward to seeing this.

2. "Procedural Tower" amendment

MR: Circulated proposal and has received feedback from VATPAC/NZ despite some concerns with the multiple visibility point method.

TG: Received concerns over the term "Procedural" but agreed that so long as a sentence is added clarifying exactly what we mean, we can go with this. Also highlighted that the 20 hours requirement as S2 to cover "Procedural Tower" is not necessary. Agreed by others.

DA: Considers the name to be acceptable and happy to drop the 20 hours requirement.

MR: Moves that the amendment be incorporated into GRP. TG seconds the motion. No objections, carried.

3. "Major Airports"

BW: Conducted some analysis, thinks we should review the criteria.

TG: Mentioned the slight caveat with dates used in the analysis, proposed the need to evaluate airports looking at volume vs. complexity. Spoke of the possibility of requiring that major airports need to fall within the Top X airports for traffic movements.

IJ: Referred to earlier GRP discussions and the difficulties in standardising requirements due to variations between airports in different cities, countries and regions. The concept of a major airport also being a step in a controller's progression was also mentioned.

BW: Good points from IJ, likes the idea from TG but sees this as being quite relative.

IJ: Agrees. Highlighted importance of monitoring/reviewing majors.

PN: Agrees with IJ. Sees the use of majors as an extra step in training progression as well as protecting vACCs/divisions from operational problems at complex airports.

TG: Spoke of the importance of Management Information in managing major airports.

Slight digression...

SC: Idea of Iron Mic for pilots considered

PN: Spoke of the idea of "Iron Stick"

IJ: Spoke of importance of looking at takeoffs/landings rather than hours

PN: Emphasised the importance of looking at pilot recognition

4. BW: Need for data but GRP due for review.

SC: Confirmed that two people have been approached by VP Web Services to assist with departmental work

TG: Agreed on the need for more data for GRP review

PN: Rating realignment in the future?

TG: Success of S3/CTR solo trial as well as previous trials will help shape the rating structure going forward.

5. BW: Complimentary towards the COC B11 change, recognising the need for it.

PN: VPs Regions, Conflict Resolution and Supervisors working on enforcement guidelines, should be ready in next 1-2 weeks. Emphasis on educating pilots rather than punishing.

DA: Spoken with divisions, little worry on implementation, VATSUR asked whether there was a plan to ask for a basic endorsement when members join the network.

TG: Queried the technical implications of anything like this.

DA: Agreed with TG.

SC: Not in keeping with network strategy as things stand.

PN: In light of the intentions of this policy, commented on the great joining page of VATSIM Israel.

IJ: Reiterated the need to educate and how intimidating it can be for the new member.

6. TG: Moved that the new EDDB Berlin Brandenburg airport be added as a major airport alongside EDDT Berlin Tegel ready for its opening with a view to remove EDDT as a major airport when EDDB is open.

MR: Seconds the motion.

FOR: BW, MR, DA, IJ, TG

AGAINST: NIL

ABSTEIN: NIL

Motion carried.

MR: Added that this should be reviewed in the future.

TG: All major airports need to be constantly reviewed, VATEUD Director already has planned a review, three other airports have also been referred to VATEUD1 by TG for review.

EC agreed on need to keep an eye on majors.

7. Executive Session

8. TG: Did want to discuss this, withdrew item.

IJ, DA, MR: Local matter

BW: Expressed desire to be able to better keep track of who has INS

9. EC decided to move past this, keeping mentoring/instructors a local matter.

10. BW: Spoke of the need to improve member communications

SC: Reminded RDs that the NOTAM was withdrawn due to VATSIM becoming recognised on SPAM "blacklists."

MR: Recent social media NOTAM is a good example of their effectiveness with 904 new members of the VATSIM Facebook group (at time of comment) within 24 hours. Ventures the idea of moderated NOTAMs.

PN: Questions the need of the NOTAM system if we are suitably active in social media.

IJ: Inconvenient to keep having to send NOTAMs to VATGOV1/2 each time.

SC: Will discuss with concerned parties.

TG: Agrees on idea of moderation.

IJ: Highlighted that some form of confirmation would be useful when sending a NOTAM, also added that he did not always get copies.

MR: RDs will only get copies if they go to the division that the RD is a member of.

IJ: Reduced risk of being flagged as SPAM if the NOTAMs were sent in batches? Stagger sending of emails.

PN: Issues with time differences? Not sure.

7. Any Other Business

1. TG: Moved that EC members be given access to the Hit Squad forum

MR: Seconds motion.

FOR: BW, MR, TG, DA, IJ

AGAINST: NIL

ABSTEIN: NIL

Motion carried, SC to action.

IJ: Used to be able to see this section, probably just a profile issue.

2. MR: Need to ensure expeditious handling of Region Transfers

BW: Agrees with MR. Mentioned issues with some aspects of validation with Region Transfers (c.f. VATSIM Transfer and Visiting Controller Policy).

TG: Region transfers are largely between subdivisions. Example given that if a member wishes to transfer from New York to Poland, it is between New York and Poland to arrange it with Regions and Divisions just monitoring. Hopefully will be addressed in CERT upgrade sometime in the near future.

BW: Some should not require approval, e.g. Pilot/OBS.

MR appreciative of early meeting time, BW proposed meeting time of 1200Z be maintained going forward. No disagreement. PN thanked EC for their achievements in last 12 months. SC particularly appreciative of Solo Endorsement work. Meeting brought to a close at 1413Z.

APPENDIX A - PROPOSED ADDITION TO GLOBAL RATING POLICY (S2 SOLO PRACTISE ON TOWER)

4.5 In order to allow trainees to develop confidence and improve the mentor-trainee time ratio, solo endorsements can be used by a division/subdivision for approach trainees. This means that candidates who are nearing their Approach/Departure Controller Practical Test can be given temporary permission to practise solo on an Approach/Departure position with the rating of Student 2 (S2). Such validations should:

- Be limited to one training airport
- Be clearly listed on the local facility's website, detailing the member's name, VATSIM ID and the positions that they are validated on.
- Have a maximum period of validity of 30 days
- Be subject to regular review
- Not be renewed/extended unless the candidate has made good use of the facility and has shown improvement over the period of validity of the solo endorsement.
- Renewable for a total period of up to 90 days

These endorsements should not be considered as a substitute for proper, timely advancement of a trainee.

APPENDIX B - PROPOSED ADDITION TO GLOBAL RATING POLICY (PROCEDURAL TOWERS)

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1.2 (B) TO ADD THE WORDS –

(except at a tower that provides procedural approach services as outlined in Section 4.6 of this Policy)

UPDATE THE GRP TO ADD A NEW SECTION:

4.6 – CONTROL AT PROCEDURAL TOWERS

A Procedural Tower is a Tower position that, in the real world, provides a Non-Radar Approach Service for arriving aircraft to that airport, and

Is clearly listed on the local facility's Website as a Procedural Tower

Control at a Procedural Tower can only be undertaken by a Tower Controller (S2) who has demonstrated the additional competencies listed in Appendix A to this policy to the satisfaction of the local facility; or any Controller rated as a TMA Controller (S3) or greater.

A list of Tower Controllers who have completed the additional competencies shall be clearly listed on the Facility's website detailing the VATSIM ID and name.

A Procedural Tower must login to the VATSIM Network with a Tower Facility and using the _TWR suffix.

To achieve adequate radar coverage, the Controller may utilize multiple visibility points in their Controller client. A Procedural Tower controller may not exceed the maximum visibility settings for a Tower Controller.

ADDITION TO APPENDIX A:

II) TOWER Controller (S2) – TWR positions

New Section:

G: PROCEDURAL TOWERS

In addition to the competencies outlined in Sections A-F above, in accordance with Section 4.6 of the VATSIM Global Ratings Policy, any Tower Controller (S2) must demonstrate the following competencies prior to providing ATC services at a designated Procedural Tower, where applicable in the real world for the Facility:

- Ensures pilot is in receipt of correct ATIS information
- Cancels STAR (if applicable) and provides tracking information for sequencing or separation
- Issues descent and provides runway assignment or reiteration
- Correctly positions aircraft for approach type
- Correctly issues the approach clearance
- Provides suitable tracking instructions (radar vectors or with reference to NAVAIDS) to aircraft when required.
- Initiates holding when necessary to regulate traffic flow
- Adjusts aircraft speed or track to achieve sequence
- Applies appropriate vertical separation between aircraft
- Applies appropriate lateral separation between aircraft