

**MEETING OF THE VATSIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**QUARTER 3 – 2014**  
**SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014 21:00Z**  
**LOCATION: ONLINE (TEAMSPEAK)**

**PRESENT:**

- Amir Paz (AP) – RD VATSIM Africa Middle East
- Anastasios Stefopoulos (AS) – RD VATSIM Asia
- Apostolos Damkalis (AD) – RD VATSIM Europe
- Nicola Felini (NF) – RD VATSIM North America
- Mark Richards (MR, Chair) – RD VATSIM Oceania
- Federico Navarro (FN) – RD VATSIM South America
- Steven Cullen (SC) – VATSIM President
- Peter Nielsen (PN) – Vice President Regions
- Kyle Ramsey (KR) – Vice President Operations

**1. WELCOME**

Meeting Opened at 21:11 hours.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Nil

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

***Motion: Minutes from the previous meeting be taken as read and accepted.***

***Moved: MR. Seconded: NF. MOTION CARRIED.***

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**a. TRANSFER & VISITING CONTROLLER POLICY (NF)**

- i. This is to be held over while a complete review of VATSIM CoR 1.01A is reviewed and distributed by the BoG, as there has to be a flow over into the T&VC policy.
- ii. There has been no update on these changes so this is still a work in progress.

**b. UPDATE ON AFRICA DIVISIONS (AP)**

- i. Deon Matthews has been appointed as the new Division Director for the combined Africa division.
- ii. Website will be online shortly and once done this is done the official launch will occur.
- iii. CERT changes will need to occur once the launch.
- iv. Plan for launch by 1 December 2014.

## 5. BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT (PN)

- i. Gunnar Lindahl has been appointed as VP Supervisors.
- ii. VP Membership due for appointment in the next few weeks.
- iii. SC acknowledged the excellent cooperation between the EC and BoG at the recent meeting to discuss the GRP and recorded his appreciation, and that of the BoG, for the manner in which the BoG and EC are now working together to achieve better outcomes for VATSIM.

## 6. GENERAL BUSINESS

### a. *GRP REVIEW*

Following the combined EC and BoG meeting in September, all current Major Airports and Special Centres were discussed.

It was agreed that these are often causing significant stumbling blocks for the advancement of controllers to their next level as controllers were all too often providing Tower control at airports with low or minimal traffic volumes and were therefore not benefiting from learning their craft with more traffic. In some cases, controllers were taking upwards of two years to transition from DEL to CTR and it was agreed by all present that this was unacceptable and that we needed to work to improve this.

Following a thorough review given at the meeting by each individual EC member and having taken on board the views of Divisional team members, the EC unanimously agreed that the GRP should be amended to make any local competency restrictions to Major Airports relate only to Approach and Departure controller positions and positions covering them 'top down' and Special Centres to reflect airspace where there are a number of large or busy airports under Centre Control, including at least one designated Major Airport.

It was agreed that the training and assessment required for a Tower controller should be reflective of them being able to control at any tower in their Division/vACC/ARTCC and that tower, ground and delivery positions should not be restricted by the Major Airport designation. This will see controllers being able to control greater traffic volumes to improve their skill level, which should in turn see controllers online more often.

It was also agreed that the current wording of Section 3.2 B was ambiguous and that some Training Directors had interpreted this as meaning that they could set a pass rate of anything higher than 80%. The FAA has a pass rate of 70% for aviation exams and it was agreed that this was a more reasonable pass mark to achieve.

To remove ambiguity, any VATSIM Controller trainee a trainee for a given rating shall pass a theory exam with a score of 70% or higher. No Division, ARTCE, vACC shall set a pass mark higher than 70%.

With the suggested amendments to the GRP to only included APP and DEP positions affected by the Major Airport and Special Centre designations and the changes to Section 3.2 B, MR will draft a proposed amendment to the GRP and circulate this to the EC mailing list to vote on.

**ACTION: MR to provide a recommended amendment to the GRP that will be voted on in writing through the EC Mailing List**

Given the changes to the Major Airport and Special Centre designations, MR will draft a letter for RDs to give to their Divisions outlining the change and reason for the change with a view for implementation from 1 January 2015.

**ACTION: MR to draft a letter for all RDs to take to their Divisions**

b. *GLOBAL CHART PROJECT*

MR outlined Daniel Rechberger's email to KR and himself about a proposed VATSIM-wide Global Chart Project. This would see charts hosted and administered by Divisions/vACCs/ARTCCs but linked back to a central repository to provide aviation charts in one place for members.

It was agreed that the proposal was sound but needed strict governance so that when staff responsible moved on that the work continued. It was felt that there needed to be clear documentation of process and that the website should be hosted by VATSIM with administrator access so that VATSIM was not reliant on potential single points of failure.

MR and KR to arrange a TeamSpeak/Skype meeting with Daniel to progress this. If a new VP Web Services is appointed prior to this meeting, they should also be invited to attend the meeting.

c. *SPECIAL OPERATIONS POLICY*

On behalf of Roger Curtiss, PN asked how many of the RDs have knowledge of the Special Operations policy. All RDs demonstrated a good understanding of the policy and had been following discussions in the VATSIM Supervisor forum regarding the matter.

It was felt that the intention of the policy was to provide a level of control over military style operations as opposed to single aircraft flying with a military, SAR or law enforcement call sign or a couple of VFR aircraft flying in formation on a cross-country, no military trip.

MR suggested that, as a review of the policy had not been completed for some time, that the BoG could consider this.

**ACTION: PN to provide this feedback to the BoG**

d. *VATSIM MIDDLE EAST*

AP advised that Shahin Najafi had been appointed as Division Director for VATSIM Middle East.

***There being no further business the meeting closed at 22:50z.***