the Winnipeg FIR

Q1 2023 MEETING MINUTES

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1.1   Document Information

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1.2   Revision Records

Revision	Date	Description of Change	Author(s)
1	24 Jan 2023	Initial Creation	NP

1.3   Attendance

Position	Name	Initials
FIR Chief (ZWG1)	Nate Power	NP
Deputy Chief (ZWG2)	Kolby Dunning	KD
Chief Instructor (ZWG3)	Liam Shaw	LS
Events Coordinator (ZWG4)	Tavis Harrison	TH
Facility Engineer (ZWG5)	Ryan Miltenberger	RM
Assistant Chief Instructor (ZWG9)	Ethan Mason	EM

1.4   Apologies

Apologies from KD and RM, both of whom were unable to attend the meeting.

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2.1   Welcome

NP opened the meeting at 0200z. The meeting was held on the official VATCAN TeamSpeak server. Each member was encouraged to bring their own items to discuss, no official agenda was created.

2.2   FIR Chief Updates

NP discussed the general status of the FIR - noted a slowdown in training, as was also discussed in the recent VATCAN FIR Chiefs meeting. Mentioned the need to look further into what has caused the recent change, but was encouraged that the rest of the division has also been noticing the same issues and that FIRs could work collaboratively on a solution. Also briefly mentioned FNO and CTP events, however deferred to TH for further information.

2.3   Chief / Assistant Chief Instructor Updates

LS agreed on the previously mentioned point of many students slowing down training. Stated otherwise training going well - thanked TH for their help in taking on a large student load compared to some other instructors.

EM mentioned they have had a relatively busy work schedule but has been keeping a close eye on the training waitlist - noted that there have been a few students who have clearly been skipped over and need immediate contacting to start their training. NP noted that some instructors in the past have allowed specific members to skip wait lines due to favouritism, and that this can not be allowed moving forward.

TH suggested the FIR work more with training specialties (Local, Radar, En-Route) and consider starting students with local specialty instructors before handing them off. NP added that the FIR will be moving away from Trello and to a spreadsheet to manage waitlists and instructor workloads. Also agreed that specialties were created for a reason but really haven't seen their full potential but the idea is good. LS also agreed with the statement, also offering to take a few students in the interim to alleviate the waitlist.

Discussion held on creation of a concrete training program for instructors, a document outlining specific training syllabuses to assist both instructor and students will be beneficial and has been started. Further talk about an online training system to allow students to do more classroom work on their own time before logging on the network also occurred.

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NP brought up the need to standardize some aspects of training, going back to the syllabus document - noted that while the diversity of instructor knowledge is welcomed, a general outline on specific training items for each rating should be published to the FIR's training team. TH has already completed an S1/S2 document, will be reviewed and published once fully vetted. EM noted that the documents should be thorough, but also not too in-depth as to allow for a good real-world to VATSIM realism balance.

FIR staff in attendance voted 4-0 (2 abstaining) in favor of creating documents outlining training standards for S1, S2, S3 and C1 ratings for all instructors. Documents, once completed, will be used to create training for students in a new online training system.

2.4   Events Coordinator Updates

TH, similar to LS, agreed that there has been a clear slowdown in training. Noted that FNO is coming up in a couple weeks, expecting a good turnout controller-wise with the majority of signed-up controllers being C1+ ratings. Expecting a large traffic load but confident in controllers managing the workload.

Regarding CTP, stated that it wouldn't be a bad idea to consider submitting an application based on success last year. Both FNO and CTP are major events for any FIR and always welcomed as a training opportunity.

Currently holding approximately one event per month - one event in January canceled with CZEG due to lack of interest, a first for TH, but no controllers were available either. Moving forward by looking at more events with VATUSA neighbours among others, as well as more local events within the FIR. NP agreed that events being around monthly is likely good - not trying to have so many events that controllers lose interest in showing up.

2.5   Facility Engineer Updates

The facilities department is continuing work on the enhanced files to improve their realism, with the addition of the correct sector boundary borders. Plus with the added help of KD, LS, and others the FIR continues to step closer to the most realistic controlling experience possible, much thanks with plugins like Situ and the upcoming vEXCDS system.

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2.6   Deputy FIR Chief Updates

ChiefBot came back to the Winnipeg FIR Discord for a short period of time. Unfortunately it did some technical damage to the Winnipeg website, and had to be put away now.

KD mostly just playing a review role for now, new policies, training, sector files, etc. In the future, more new website features will likely be coming. Further discussion to be had on new updates to the website system and possible VATCAN integration for some features.

2.7   FIR Chief Voting System Discussion

NP opened discussion on an early proposal regarding a new system to select the FIR Chief, revolving around a system allowing each active member of the FIR to vote on the Chief, with a newly-defined term of one year for the Chief role. NP believes this would push staff to work continuously to keep their members happy, knowing of the pressure of potential time constraints on their position, while also giving members a fair opportunity to choose who leads their FIR. A proposal will be worked on and thoroughly vetted before a vote is held.

Dates for elections, term dates and more specific details regarding the entire process will be confirmed in the proposal document and clearly outlined should the proposal be voted in favour of.

Noted was the importance that the proposal be clear and not miss any points prior to being voted on, as modifications to an electoral system could be difficult to create without causing issues within the system. A voting system would likely be built into the FIR or the VATCAN website, allowing each active user's CID to vote once, making the voting system secure. Further discussions will be held within the FIR staff and VATCAN leadership to ensure a fair process is created and proposed in the future, should the idea carry through with support.

3.1   Closing

NP thanked the staff for attending and contributing - also moved to close the meeting at 0450z - LS seconded, the vote was recorded as 4-0 in favour.