VATSIM Sub-Sahara Africa

VATSSA Staff Team

Staff Team meeting minutes

January 25th, 2026, 18:00z

Meeting Overview

January 25th, 2026,1800z	
Meeting lead by	Wian Saptouw
Minutes	Josh Martin
Attendees	Miguel Albano **(MA)** - Division Director Wian Saptouw **(WS)** - Deputy Division Director Luke Van Zyl **(LV)** - ATC Chief Instructor Tyron Ross **(TR)** - Events Manager Shaun Megit **(SM)** - RVA Manager Wiliam Clarke **(WC)** - Deputy Events Manager Josh Martin **(JM)** - Deputy Membership Manager Clark King **(CK)** - Deputy ATC Instructor Connor Dyr **(CD)** - Team Operations George Daniel Schoonraad **(GD)** - Team Operations
Absent	Jonathan Hanekom **(JH)** - Team Operations Liam Saacks **(LS)** - Team Operations

Meeting Summary

- Previous Meeting Recap
- Division Management
- Operations
- Sector Files / Plugins
- ATC Training

MA opens the meeting by welcoming the Attendees.

WS and **MA** begin the discussion about VATSSA publishing public Staff minutes. **GD** proposes a monthly update from each department instead of Staff team meeting minutes. **WS** makes the point of showing the division how committed each department is to achieving their goals. This will be evaluated in the next Staff Team meeting.

Item 1: FAPE Proposal

JM Speaks about the FAPE Proposal and its purpose. The FAPE proposal suggests creating an ATC Training Centre (TC) at Port Elizabeth. **MA** speaks about why GOBD was chosen and why we benefit from offering a TC in West Africa. **JM** discusses the pressure on the FACT TC when it comes to Solo Certs. One solution is the ATC booking systems. **GD** will look into an issue of the booking system not allowing those on solo certs to book their relevant position. **LV** agrees that the FACT TC is overloaded and a potential solution is more sweatbox files. **LV** will be collecting all the new Sweatboxes from the development team before Feb 1st.

Action Plan
- Staff agrees that we need to review training centres around regions and not cities to provide more diversity of training, where possible.
- Staff agrees that diversity also needs to happen across the Division.
- Control Center to become the operational ATC booking system for the Division.

Item 2: Resource Guides

JM asks about observing guides for Euroscope. **GD, WS** and **MA** discuss that the S1 moodle isn't too focused on Euroscope setup. **MA** suggests a tooling section in the eAIP to include this. **GD** will look into a tooling section for the eAIP. **JM** talks about CDM and how user guides are in the process of being made. **MA** asks about the new eAIP migration. **CK** and **JM** talk about progress towards the migration with new contributors being encouraged to migrate from the old eAIP to the new eAIP whilst making any relevant changes to outdated AIP data. **MA** outlines his plan to shut down the old eAIP by the end of Q1.

Action Plan
- Staff agrees that the eAIP (v2) needs to provide documentation on tooling.
- Staff agrees that any new tooling should always be deployed with proper documentation.

Item 3 : Policy Development

MA discusses Policy creation and how our new policies are increasing transparency. **LV** and **CK** discuss their progress and a release date is set.

Action Plan
- Staff agrees that policy development will be managed through the SSA Policy Github Repository in an open and transparent process.

Item 4: VACS

VACS has recently been added to the Sector Files. The Staff Team appreciates and acknowledges the effort to introduce this. **MA** does point out this is optional. VATSSA are unable to force anybody to use said software.

Action Plan
- Staff agrees that any new tooling needs to be accompanied by an education effort to help promote its benefits and usage.

Item 5 : BARS V2

Stopbars V2 will be introduced across a few airports in VATSSA where real world procedures allow for it. Members will be informed when BARS V2 releases. **JM** will also create some user guides for BARS. BARS is also an optional client.

Action Plan
- Staff agrees that any new tooling needs to be accompanied by an education effort to help promote its benefits and usage.

Item 6 : Common vs Local Profiles

GD talks about how we can use .prf files across the entirety of VATSSA. They only exist in FASA currently. **GD** is exploring this concept.

Action Plan
- Staff agrees to further test the usage of airport / airspace defined Profiles on Sector Files.

Item 7 : S1 Towers

JM asks about how we develop S1 towers. **MA** says he needs to check documentation for it. **GD** talks about GCAP requirements (GCAP 5.9 6.1). **LV** and **CK** will be researching it.

Action Plan
- Staff agrees (in principle) on having S1 Tower Endorsements but subject to review as per GCAP.

Item 8 : Chess Tournament

Staff discuss it and it will be looked into soon.

Action Plan
- No further action decisions at this time.

Item 9 : Suggestion Box

Staff discuss how we manage the suggestion box. We are asking members to provide more detail in their suggestions. Ideally a banner, when it will run, staffing required and a detailed description of the idea including what part of VATSSA.

Action Plan

- Staff agrees that a Suggestion Box continues to provide value to the community and should be maintained, while addressing any moderation issues as needed.

The meeting concluded at 1958Z