CZEG Staff Meeting - August 10, 2022

Call to Order

A Staff meeting of CZEG Edmonton was held on **August 10, 2022** at VATCAN Team Speak - Edmonton Staff room. It began at 21:00ET/19:00MT and was presided over by Thomas Smith (FC), with Cody Newman (WM) as scribe.

Attendees

Staff members in attendance included: Thomas Smith(FC), Nathan Dean(DC), Tony Koch(FE), Ryland Kruk(AFE), Simon Brown(AEC), and Cody Newman(WM)

Guests in attendance included: N/A

Members not in attendance included: Matthew Bleakney(EC)

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the provided agenda was made by Thomas Smith and seconded by Nathan Dean.

FC Opening Remarks

Thomas Smith(FC) opened with an acknowledgement of the new staff team for Edmonton. As a group we will reunite the community of the Edmonton FIR. Staff members will begin to have a regular forum to help to make things cohesive.   Team oriented and team building. A round table was then performed to get updates from those present on what they are working on personally. Nathan(DC) is now working and controlling. Tony(FE) is doing more flying and scenery building for XP. Cody(WM) started a new job and is way over his head learning new skills for a technical role. Ryland(AFE) is looking for work and happy to be learning FE duties. Simon(AEC) work is going well despite it being very hot, and he is looking forward to woodworking in his shop.

Staff Reports

Facility Engineering was presented by Tony Koch(FE).

- There are 2 developments to look forward to with the release of the next sector files (AIRAC 2208)
    - New CZEG_APP Callsign will be added to the system. At this time our partners at VATSPY and SimAware will only be able to draw the app circle around CYYC when this position is active. The frequency selected was thanks to Gus A who had programmed every frequency into the FIR sector files which do not get used because of how we operate FSS/CTR top down.   Question from Nathan(DC) was if this position will have an auto handoff from Centre/FSS? Answer from Thomas(FC) is that this is a training position which will be rarely used so for those circumstances there will be manual handoffs.   Further - This position is responsible for the CYYC and CYEG TCA's and the airspace between up to FL280. Tony(FE) says this will not be recognized by ES but rather an agreement between upline control and CZEG_App.
    - AIRAC 2208 will contain colour changes in the ASR and definition files. Thomas(FC) has seen many ES setups from the places he visits as a controller and made a definition for the facility to implement that will put us in line with other FIRs. Complaints about the changes can be made to Nathan(DFC).

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- Ryland is in training to understand how Aeronav works with CZEG files.
  Ryland was then kicked from the TS server (time 09:18)

Website was presented by Cody Newman(WM).

- Since taking control of our website the following goals and strategy is taking place for the future:
  - The current website (edmontonfir.com) still resides on a server bought by former staff and is under the ownership control of VATCAN execs.
  - Currently the goal of the WM is to harden the existing website to allow for operations to continue for Edmonton.   Some minor adjustments have been made and some improvements will be rolled out.
  - Our plan is to purchase our own hosting and move to a new domain and website. There is no ETA on this action as it takes a long time to build a website from scratch. The WM has a team of people working on design and backend.
  - We have been offered space on the division hosting but feel that we are better off on our own infra to prevent the issue we saw with Toronto being down for days.
- In the interim the WM is looking at the current website and making the following actions:
  - Home page image(s) .. will look to our community to generate some screenshots we can put up there in a carousel.
  - Airports listing - there is a page in this package that will allow us to list our airports with ATIS information and ATIS codes of active controllers … These pages are good to list scenery for the airports that pilots can use.
  - Discord fix. With the shut down of the built in bot and moving to the bot created by Nathan we lost some functionality for discord linking. WM is working on this issue to correct.

Events was presented by Simon Brown(AEC).

- Northern Lites is slowly growing. This week we had an influx of newbie pilots and some learning by our controllers for what NOT to do on shift changes. Invites are now being extended to CXA and WJA VA's.
- 2 events we are tagging onto: Townsville with CZVR and CYEG Release Party with (WJA Virtual). We are going to see how these events go before planning our Fall lineup.
- Event Recaps: Crossover went great!   CZVR is a good ally when it comes to event partnering and traffic generation.
- US ARTCC's currently do not want to plan anything until the Fall.
- Question: Tony(FE) - are we in contact with humans at VA's or just email addresses. Response: Simon(AEC) yes we are talking to people with exception of VAC who are posting our events automatically - but we have not been able to reach anyone there. Cody(WM) suggested that VAC has a lot of VATCAN staff on their staff and to reach out to Graham Curnew (VC5) for further contact with VAC.
- Simon(ACE) does not have access to Discord to create/delete event channels. *Action Cody(WM) to correct.*
- Simon(ACE) does not have access to VATCAN to edit events.   Thomas(FC) suggested that as it stands only staff roles with VATCAN can do this and to work through him or Matt(EC).

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Other Reports

Generative Thinking was presented by Thomas Smith(FC).

- Introduction: A blue sky open forum for Staff to suggest things for improvement.
- Idea: FIR Group flights made by Thomas(FC)
  - On Fridays when traffic is at its lowest due to FNO we could have an impromptu group flight. Announce on discord what the flight will be and gather as a group.
  - Idea: Make a submission form for members to suggest flights.   Staff will pull 1 flight per week and announce on discord.   *Action Ryland(AFE) to create form and Cody(WM) to update discord.*
  - Tony(FE) suggested this not be associated with the Events team but this rather be something of a grassroots initiative.   Tony VFR flights are not to be confused with FIR flights and wishes for those to remain private.
- Idea: Future staff meetings by Thomas(FC)
  - Do we want quarterly meetings - *taken to a motion*
  - Use of Robert's Rule for staff meetings will be used going forward.
- The next staff meeting will be a FIR Town Hall
  - Idea is to have a members only forum where all members of CZEG and visitors can come onto TS for the Staff Meeting.   This is to encourage that over and above meeting notes that our members can join in 1 meeting - *taken to a motion*
- Controller Event Conduct and Coordination by Thomas(FC)
  - NLT on Aug 9 had an unfortunate training opportunity where multiple controllers decided to change positions while the FSS controller change was happening thus leading to confusion. Controllers during the event have been spoken too but how to handle this going forward:
    - Suggestion to create a roster position for ALL events called (title tbd) similar to the "controller in charge." The idea is this position will be formally posted as a part of the call for controllers for an event.   Roles/Responsibility to be written by Thomas based on suggestions from the team. -- Action Thomas(FC) to write policy and action for all staff to submit thoughts to Thomas.
    - For major events this is a critical role to have. Weekly NLT we would ask for volunteers and have an order of operations on replacement if one is not available.
    - Tentative idea for the role would be the controller to: Perform Pre-Event Briefing / Communicate between teams / coordinate controller hand overs or facility closures.
    - Cody(WM) suggested this is a good thing for student controllers if they do this often for NLT to be given opportunities to do so on bigger events where they could not normally control.   Thomas(FC) confirmed it's a nice chance to allow others to see the event workflow.

Main Motions

Motion: Moved by Thomas Smith(FC) and seconded that future FIR Staff meetings shall be held quarterly. The motion carried with all in favor and none against.

Motion: Moved by Thomas Smith(FC) and seconded that November Staff Meeting will be a FIR Town Hall format. The motion carried with 5 in favor, 1 withheld and 0 against.

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Announcements

- Thomas(FC) is planning to release the vATIS profiles for S3/C1+ Controllers. Discussion: we have both the vatATIS and built in atis links in the profile now but should we force only vatatis given our relationship with Alex at vatATIS. Tony(FE) to give clarification on relationship with Alex from vatATIS. Tony: does not think it will be an issue as the software is not in active development anymore and we don't think Alex will have hurt feelings if we don't use vatATIS. Update: profiles will explicitly use vatATIS urls now.

Actions

- ☐ Cody(WM) to grant access to Simon(AEC) to edit Discord channel in Events Category
- ☐ Cody(WM) to create Discord Channel for Friday Night Flights.
- ☐ Ryland(AFE) to create a google form for Friday flights submissions.
- ☐ Staff to submit ideas on Event Coordinator to Thomas.
- ☐ Thomas(FC) Next closed staff meeting will have staff room locked to prevent interruption

Adjournment

Thomas Smith(FC) moved that the meeting be adjourned, and this was agreed upon at 22:15ET. Next meeting will be in November after Remembrance day.

Cody Newman (WM)   August 11th 2022 by FC

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Scribe   Date of Approval
CZEG Edmonton FIR

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