

Tele: 24102305
Fax : 26880943
E-mail: vsfdelhi@yahoo.com

Integrated Headquarters, MoD (Navy)
Directorate of Ex-servicemen Affairs
Veteran Sailors' Forum
4th Floor, Chanakya Bhawan
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021

DX/VSF/46/AGM/VIZAG/15

28 Sep 15

**MINUTES OF 7th ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF VETERAN SAILORS'
FORUM (VSF) HELD AT VISAKHAPATNAM ON 30 AUG 15**

1. The Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the VSF was conducted from 1000h to 1430 h on 30 Aug 15 in Meghadri Auditorium, Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam. The AGM was chaired by Vice Admiral AK Jain, AVSM, VSM, Controller Personnel Services in his capacity as President, VSF.

(a) **Charter Representatives.**

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|---|---|
| (i) | R Adm Sunil Anand | - | President, VSF Mumbai |
| (ii) | R Adm Pradip Rana VSM | - | President, VSF Vizag |
| (iii) | Cmde Ajay Saxena VSM | - | President, VSF Delhi and
Vice President, VSF |
| (iv) | Cmde Sandeep Chakravarti | - | President, Kochi |
| (v) | Capt Sanjeev Malhotra | - | Secretary, Mumbai |
| (vi) | Cdr VRR Reddy | - | Secretary, VSF Vizag |
| (vii) | Cdr Sundeep Thapa | - | Secretary, kadamba |
| (viii) | Cdr George Abraham | - | Secretary VSF |
| (ix) | Lt Cdr Santosh Kumar C | - | Secretary, Porbander |
| (x) | Lt Cdr Parichay Kalra | - | Secretary, Ezhimala |
| (xi) | Lt S Pujar | - | Secretary, Jabalpur |
| (xii) | SLt Vishwender Dalal | - | Secretary, Goa |
| (xiii) | Dharampal, MCPO I | - | VSF Dehradun |
| (xiv) | Dharam Pal, MCPO I | - | VSF Dehradun |
| (xv) | N Ahmed, PO | - | VSF Delhi |
| (xvi) | Sachin Pal, RPO | - | VSF Delhi |
| (xvii) | AK Singh, POELP | - | VSF Jabalpur |
| (xviii) | KK Jha, MCPO WTR II | - | VSF Goa |
| (xix) | DN Kumar, RPO | - | VSF Mumbai |
| (xx) | Ravi K Kampara, LS RP I | - | VSF Porbander |
| (xxi) | Kurmarao Pilaka, LS | - | VSF Kadamba |
| (xxii) | Aji PK, POELA | - | Kochi Charter |
| (xxiii) | Chinni K Nakka, LS | - | Ezhimala Charter |

(b) **Invitees**

- | | | | |
|-------|---|---|-----------------|
| (i) | Cmde Subhash Gadvi | - | PD ECHS |
| (ii) | Capt DR Sharma | - | MS INCCB |
| (iii) | Lt Cdr Sandeep Murarka | - | Secretary, INBA |
| (iv) | Cdr Vijay Kumar | - | DPA |
| (v) | Representative of ECHS Polyclinic Vizag | | |
| (vi) | Representative of ZSWO Vizag | | |
| (vii) | Representative of INHS Kalyani | | |

(c) **ESM Representatives.**

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| (i) | Pratap Singh, Ex-CHMECH | - | Rep. VSF Delhi |
| (ii) | Vijay H Shahane, Ex-POR | - | Rep. VSF Mumbai |
| (iii) | BD Nayak, Ex-POR (Spl) | - | Rep. VSF Chilka |
| (iv) | C S Singh, Ex-POMA | - | Rep. VSF Vizag |
| (v) | Alok Singh, Ex-Hon Lt | - | Rep. VSF Kolkata |
| (vi) | AK Rai, Ex-MCPOR(Tel) | - | Rep. VSF Goa |

Item I – Welcome Address by Vice President

2. At the outset, Vice President welcomed all Governing Council Members, ESM representatives, veterans and veer naris to the AGM. He informed the members of the efforts being taken by the Navy and VSF to resolve problems and grievances of the veterans. He also informed the General Body that procedures to amend govt policies require time and the members should remain confident of the efforts being made by the Navy to address them. The General Body was informed of the progress on Widows' Hostel Project. He highlighted that large number of agenda points were received for the AGM and requested members to adhere to the schedule agenda for the day.

Item II – President's Address

3. The President highlighted the efforts of the Navy to reach out to the veterans through various means and requested the General Body to support these efforts. He informed the General Body that a large number of naval veterans are still not members of VSF and therefore various schemes / measures are being planned to enhance membership of VSF.

4. The President informed the General Body that efforts are underway to enhance participation of veterans in the affairs of VSF and towards this, amendments to the VSF Rules are being brought in. He highlighted the ongoing efforts to ensure Aadhaar registration by all naval veterans and requested the General Body to advise all naval veterans to undertake Aadhaar registration on priority and forward details to NAVPEN.

5. He also informed the General Body that focused efforts are being taken by the Navy as part of the 'Year of the Sailor' initiative to facilitate better welfare schemes, resettlement opportunities, and to enhance accommodation for Sailors. He thereafter elaborated on the progress on 'Skill Development of ESMs' initiative.

Item III – Secretary’s Annual Report for FY 2014-15

6. Secretary VSF presented the organisational structure of VSF as well as its Aims and Objectives. He informed the gathering of major activities undertaken by VSF since the last AGM held on 21 Sep 14 at NAVPEN, Mumbai. The presentation covered the following aspects:-

- (a) Introduction of VSF, Aims and Objectives of the Forum.
- (b) Organisational structure and hierarchy.
- (c) Details of Charters and membership strength.
- (d) Initiatives undertaken by VSF.
- (e) Activity report of various charters.

7. The Secretary also informed the General Body that the Governing Council had decided to conduct the 8th AGM/GCM under the aegis of Kochi Command Charter in Aug-Oct 16.

Item IV – Consideration and Adoption of Audited Balance Sheet of VSF Fund for FY 2014-15

8. Treasurer presented the GCM with the audited Balance Sheet of VSF Fund. He also informed the GCM that centralised Audit of VSF Fund incorporating the portion of VSF Fund being operated by all four Command Charters (Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi and Visakhapatnam) was undertaken for the first time.

9. Shri MNS Rao, ex-POELR proposed that the General Body may adopt the audited Balance Sheet. Shri Jagdish Patil, ex-CHAA seconded the proposal. Thereafter, the General Body adopted the audited Balance Sheet of VSF Fund for FY 2014-15.

10. **Decision.** General Body adopted the audited Balance Sheet for FY 2014-15.

Item V – Presentation on Key Issues

11. Following presentations were made for the benefit of the members:-

- (a) Progress made in ECHS - PDECHS.
- (b) New schemes / scholarships by INBA - Secy, INBA.
- (c) Update on pension issues - DPA.

Item VI – Review of Old Agenda Points

12. The details of action taken on decision of 6th AGM held on 21 Sep 14 at NAVPEN, Mumbai are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

Item VII – Discussion on New Agenda Points

13. The details regarding discussion on agenda points and decisions arrived at are placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Item VIII – Concluding Remarks

14. The AGM ended with concluding remarks by the President. The President expressed his gratitude to HQ ENC for extending support towards conduct of the AGM.

15. There being no further points, the meeting was adjourned with the permission of the Chair and all the members were requested to proceed for lunch.

16. These minutes have the approval of President, VSF.



(George Abraham)
Commander
Secretary VSF

Distribution: - Normal.

REVIEW OF OLD AGM AGENDA POINTS

Item I - Permanency of ESM Appointed in Odisha Marine Police (Chilka Regional Charter)

1. **Point.** The 6th AGM had decided that the case be taken up with Odisha State Govt and monitored by VSF Vizag Charter. 6th AGM had directed VSF Chilka to follow up the case with State Govt.
2. **Status.** The issue has been taken with State Government and the same is pending with Home Dept of Odisha. The matter was discussed by DCNS with Chief Secretary, Odish on 10 Jul 15 during his visit to Odisha during the Apex Committee meeting held at Visakhapatnam. The issue is also being examined as part of the National Committee for Strengthening Coastal Security (NCSMCS) meetings through MoD.
3. **Decision.** Secy VSF to update the forum of the progress of the case.

Action: Secy VSF

Item III - Reservation for ESM in State Govt Jobs (Chilka Charter)

4. **Point.** ESM reservation policies are not implemented in the State of Odisha. Secy VSF was directed to take up the matter with Directorate General Resettlement (DGR).
5. **Status.** DGR has informed that in addition to the provisions of Reservation in Central Govt posts, Odisha State has implemented following:-
 - (a) Reservation of 3% of vacancies in Group B, C and D in State govt Depts. and State PSUs.
 - (b) Reservation of 3% in selection of contract teachers in High School.
 - (c) Relaxation in education qualification of ESM for appointment in any reserved post for Class III appointment in State Govt.
6. **Decisions.** The Chair directed that the case be taken up directly with Odisha State Govt. for enhancing the reservation.

Action: Secy VSF

Item VI – Non-Availability of Sainik Rest House in Odisha (Chilka Charter)

7. **Point.** Requirement exists for a Sainik Rest House in Bhubaneswar. The Sainik Rest House in Cuttack requires renovation. VSF Chilka Charter was requested

to monitor the case and if necessary project the issue to HQ ENC for taking up during the next Apex Level meeting between Chief Secretary and FOC-in-C East.

8. **Status.** Approval for renovation of Sainik Rest House at Cuttack has been accorded by Govt. and the construction is likely to commence in end 2015. State Govt has accorded approval for removal of encroachment at land allotted for construction of Rest House at Bhubaneswar and the construction will commence post removal of encroachment.

9. **Decisions.** VSF Chilka to monitor the progress of the case. Point to be retained. **Action:** VSF Chilka.

Item VIII – Change of Nomenclature of Balasore ECHS Polyclinic (Chilka Charter)

10. **Point.** Director ECHS informed the General Body that the case for change of nomenclature of Balasore ECHS Polyclinic was taken up with Central Organisation and is under process. VSF Chilka was directed to follow up the case.

11. **Status.** ECHS (Navy) previously informed that case could not be processed since the number of ESMs are only 3000 against the requirement of 5,000. Notwithstanding, PD ECHS(Navy) informed the General Body that a new case will be taken up with Govt.

12. **Decisions.** PD ECHS(Navy) to take up a case and update the forum during the next AGM.

Action: PD ECHS(Navy)

Item IX – Opening of Polyclinic at Cuttack (Chilka Charter)

13. **Point.** The 6th AGM had requested VSF Chilka to take up a case for a polyclinic at Cuttack through ZSB / RSB / KSB and HQ ENC by 31 Dec 13. VSF Vizag was requested to monitor the case.

14. **Discussions.** PD ECHS(Navy) informed the General Body that the case for ECHS Polyclinic at Cuttack is pending with Central Organisation ECHS and would be taken up only after the remaining 08 ECHS Polyclinics of the ECHS Phase I are completed.

15. **Decisions.** The point to be closed.

Action: All concerned.

Item XV - Provision for Accommodation of Widows in West Bengal (Kolkata Charter)

16. **Point.** VSF Kolkata took up a case for provision of accommodation for widows in West Bengal with the State Government through RSB Kolkata. Point to be monitored by VSF Kolkata and retained for review during next AGM.
17. **Status.** RSB has informed vide letter 09/2014-202/RSB dated 27 Feb 15 to take up the matter through CMLC to obtain decision on the subject. Matter is pending with State Govt.
18. **Decisions.** VSF Kolkata to monitor the issue. Point to be retained.
Action: VSF Kolkata

Item XVI – Amendment of Land Act in Chhattisgarh (Vizag Charter)

19. **Point.** VSF Vizag was directed to take up a case for amendment of Land Act with the State Government through RSB Raipur. Point to be monitored by VSF Vizag and retained for review in the next AGM.
20. **Status.** RSB Chhattisgarh has intimated that the point was put on hold at Collector's office, Raipur and to be included in Rajya Sainik Board meeting for current year.
21. **Decisions.** VSF Vizag to monitor the issue. Point to be retained.
Action: VSF Vizag

Item XVII – Exemption of House Tax for ESM in Uttar Pradesh (Delhi Charter)

22. **Point.** House Tax exemption is not provided by Uttar Pradesh Govt. to ESMs. Point to be monitored by VSF Delhi and reviewed during 7th AGM.
23. **Status.** Issue was taken up three times with RSB Lucknow by VSF Delhi. RSB Lucknow has intimated that the State Govt has not accepted the proposal.
24. **Decisions.** Point to be closed.
Action: VSF Delhi

Item III – Trade Certificate with NCO Code (Ram Lakhan Soni ex-CHELRL)

25. **Point.** Trade Certificate is issued in accordance with Directory of National Code of Occupation published by DESW. There is a need to examine necessity of modifying Trade Certificate with NCO code and inclusion of marks awarded. In order to take up a case for amendment to the NCO Code, specific inputs are required from the ESM regarding the amendments to the existing NCO Code.

26. **Status.** Inputs received from veterans indicated requirement of revision of NCO Code. The proposal has been included in the ongoing implementation of MoU for Skill Development of ESMs.

27. **Decisions.** Secy VSF to peruse the case and update the forum. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item V – Pension Calculation for Pre-1983 Retirees (VSF Kochi)

28. **Point.** GOI letter dated 28 Sep 1960 treats 180 days and above as complete year for pension w.e.f. 22 Apr 60. GOI letter dated 06 Aug 84 treats 90 days and above as half year for pension w.e.f 28 Jun 83.

29. **Status.** IHQ MOD(Navy) has taken up a case with MoD/Department of Pension / Policy for extending benefits of MoD letter dated 06 Aug 84 to pre-28 Jun 83 retirees. The case is still under consideration of MoD/D (Pen/Pol).

30. **Decisions.** Case still pending with Govt. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item VII – Reduction of Age Limit from 80 Years to 70 Years for Additional Pension (VSF Goa)

31. **Point.** The proposal was received earlier and consequently forwarded to Pay Commission Cell (Navy) (PCC (N)) for inclusion in the recommendations for 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC). Forum to be updated on the issue after the recommendations of 7th CPC were published.

32. **Status.** 7th CPC recommendations are not published.

33. **Decisions.** Case pending with 7th CPC. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item VIII – Education Allowance from Kendriya Sainik Board (Sachidananda Singh, ex-SCPO)

34. **Point.** Education Grant from KSB, which is admissible to Havildar/equivalent and below, be extended to JCOs and equivalent. Secy VSF to take up case with KSB and update the forum.

35. **Status.** Proposal forwarded to KSB for reconsideration. KSB has intimated that the proposal was not accepted by the Executive Committee citing fund restrictions.

36. **Decisions.** Case to be taken up with KSB again with a request to seek additional funds from Govt. Point to be retained.

Action: Secy VSF.

Item X – Toll Tax Exemption for ESM (VSF Mumbai)

37. **Point.** ESM should be exempted Toll Tax. The case needs to be pursued with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for exempting Toll Tax from ESMs.

38. **Status.** Case taken up with KSB, MoRTH and NHAI. A separate case has been taken up with Principal Personnel Officers Committee (PPOC) to take up the matter as a Tri-Service proposal with the Govt. Proposal pending with PPOC.

38 **Decisions.** General body to be informed on further progress time to time. Point to be closed.

Action: All Concerned.

Item XII – Financial Assistance to Widows Not in Receipt of Pension (VSF Vizag)

39. **Point.** Current rules of INBA permits grant of financial assistance only to widows of pensioners. Secy VSF to forward to INBA for inclusion in INBA AGM.

40. **Status.** The issue was examined on file and was forwarded to INBA for consideration of INBA AGM held on 25 Jun 15. INBA AGM has requested PDNPF to take up a detailed proposal of Item XVII (Para 52) of the minutes of INBA AGM.

41. **Decisions.** Secy INBA to update the forum on the progress of the proposal.

Action: Secy INBA

Item XIV – Financial Assistance to Participants of 1946 Naval Uprising (VSF Chennai)

42. **Point.** Participants of 1946 Naval Uprising be provided with financial assistance similar to Rs One Lakh given by Army to World War veterans. All VSF Charters and members to forward details of any such sailors or widows of such sailors to VSF. Secy VSF to then take up a consolidated case for consideration by INBA.

43. **Status.** Details of personnel who participated in 1946 Naval Uprising was sought from VSF Charters and only two names were received. The proposal was forwarded to INBA vide Note DX/VSF/023/15 dated 19 Mar 15, with a proposal for

implementation of INBA welfare schemes. INBA vide Note BA/3000 dated 31 Jul 15 intimated that details of such personnel along with (Name, Rank, P. No. and Bank details) be forwarded to INBA for further action. These additional details are sought from VSF Charters and will be forwarded to INBA on receipt.

44. **Decisions.** Point to be monitored. **Action:** All Concerned.

Item XVI – INBA Grant on Death of Naval Pensioner (VSF Chennai)

45. **Point.** Rates of death grant has been enhanced from Rs. 20,000/- to 25,000/- in Jun 14. Therefore, Secy INBA proposed that the point be forwarded for next AGM of INBA.

46. **Status.** Rates were enhanced to Rs. 25,000/- by the INBA AGM held on 25 Jun 15

47. **Decisions.** Point to be closed. **Action:** All Concerned.

Item XXIII – Establishment of ZSB in the UT of Daman Diu and Nagar Haveli (VSF Mumbai)

48. **Point.** KSB intimated that approval of GOI/MOD has not been accorded for constitutions of District Sainik Board of Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli due to lesser strength of ESM/Families and dependents being less than the requisite number of 7500. The ESM residing in Dadra Nagar Haveli are not issued with ESM I-Card due to this.

49. **Status.** Case taken up twice with KSB for facilitating issue of ESM Identity Card to 08 ESMs residing in UT of Dadra Nagar Haveli. Matter was taken up with KSB twice. KSB's directive to ZSB Surat and ZSB Daman for issuing ESM Identity Card to the affected ESMs were not implemented since these ZSBs are not authorised to issue I-card to ESMs residing in other States/UTs. KSB has indicated that regulations do not permit the establishment of ZSB for 08 ESMs and issue of ESM I-card by ZSBs located in other States / UTs.

50. **Decisions.** Case to be taken up with MOD/DESW for special provision for the affected ESMs. Point to be retained.

Action: Secy VSF

Item VI – Reservist Pension (Shri Niranjan Chakravarty, ex-L/TEL)

51. **Point.** The ESMs who served for 10 years and not drafted to Fleet Reserve in accordance with Gol order dated 03 Jul 1976 be granted Reservist Pension.


Implementation of judgment delivered by the Hon'ble AFT Chennai in OA 83/2012 on Reservist Pension issue be considered. 6th AGM had decided to undertake an internal examination of the matter.

52. **Status.** A case for a *de novo* look into the issue is under progress at IHQ MOD(Navy). Inputs of Shri Niranjana Chakravarty and Shri S Ramdas were taken while preparing the case. An SLP by Govt challenging the order of AFT Chennai in the matter is pending with Supreme Court.

53. Shri Niranjana Chakravarty, ex-L/TEL explained on the historical background of related regulations and Acts.

54. **Decisions.** The case for internal examination of the issue to be progressed by DESA. Point to be retained.

Action: Secy VSF


(George Abraham)
Commander
Secretary
28 Sep 15

DISCUSSION ON NEW AGENDA POINTS

Item I – Proposed Amendments to Rules of VSF

1. **Point.** 10 amendments to Rules of VSF were approved by 6th Governing Council Meeting of VSF held on 21 Sep 14 at NAVPEN, Mumbai. As required by Societies Registration Act, 1860, these amendments were presented to the 7th AGM. It was highlighted that the amendments are aimed at enhancing the participation of veterans in the decision making process of VSF. Each amendment was presented to the General Body one by one and the approval of the General Body was sought for each amendment. The proposed amendments and the decision of the General Body on each proposal are appended in the succeeding paragraphs.

2. **Amendment No I.** It was proposed that the following new article be inserted in to the VSF Rules to formalise the requirement of a dedicated website for VSF:-

Website of the Forum. The forum shall maintain a webpage to enhance visibility and to enable quick dissemination of information. The webpage will host various welfare, organisational, and administrative information of relevance to the members and general public. Suitable provision should also be made in the webpage for various charters to upload and display information relevant to them through VSF/DESA. Suitable measures to connect to websites of other organisations/ agencies operating in the field of ESM affairs shall also be provided in the webpage.”

The amendment was approved by 6th GCM held on 21 Sep 14 vide Amdt I under Item III of 6th GCM minutes.

3. **Decision.** The General Body unanimously accepted the requirement of a website and decided to insert the new article in the VSF Rules.

4. **Amendment No II.** It was proposed to replace the existing Article 11 of VSF Rules with the following:-

“The Chief of Naval Staff will be the Patron-in-Chief of the Veteran Sailors’ Forum. The Chief of Personnel shall be the Patron of the Forum.”

The amendment was approved by 6th GCM held on 21 Sep 15 vide Amdt II under Item III of 6th GCM minutes.

5. **Decision.** The General Body agreed with the proposal to accept Chief of Personnel as the Patron and decided to amend Article 11 as proposed.

6. **Amendment No III.** It was proposed to replace the existing Article 14 of the VSF Rules with the following:-

“The Governing Council shall comprise of the following:-

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--|
| (a) | President | - Controller Personnel Services, IHQ MOD(N) |
| (b) | Vice President | - Principal Director, Directorate of Ex-servicemen Affairs / IHQ MOD(N) |
| (c) | NHQ Members | - Joint Director (Canteen and Welfare), Directorate of Personnel Services/IHQ MOD(N) |
| | | Joint Director
Directorate of Pay and Allowances (Pay and Pensions)/IHQ MOD(N) |
| | | Secretary, Indian Naval Benevolent Association |
| (d) | Secretary | - Joint Director (Veteran Sailors’ Forum), Directorate of Ex-servicemen Association/IHQ MOD(N) |
| (e) | Treasurer | - Joint Director (Veteran Sailors’ Forum), Directorate of Ex-servicemen Association/IHQ MOD(N) |
| (f) | Co-opted Member | - Judge Advocate (Navy) |
| | | Director ECHS |
| | | Secretary, Naval Wives Welfare Association |
| (g) | Forum Reps | - One veteran sailor from each of the four Command Charters.” |

The amendment was approved by 6th GCM held on 21 Sep 14 vide Amdt II under Item III of 6th GCM minutes

7. **Discussions.** Shri KR Babu, ex-PO highlighted the need for increasing the participation of the veterans. It was clarified by the Chair that the amendments enhances the representation of veterans not only in the Governing Council, but also in the Management Committees being set up at Command and Regional Charters. Shri Niranjan Chakravarty, ex-L/TEL highlighted that the transformation of the organisation need to be undertaken on a progressive basis and therefore the proposed amendment was in order. Thereafter the General Body decided to replace the existing Article 14 with the proposed amendment.

8. **Decision.** The General Body decided to replace the existing Article 14 with the proposed amendment.

9. **Amendment No IV.** It was proposed to replace the existing Article 23 of the VSF Rules with the following to correct clerical error of “General Council”:-

“When a person becomes a member of the Governing Council by the reason of the office or appointment he holds, his membership shall terminate when he ceases to hold that office or appointment.”

Approved by 6th GCM held on 21 Sep 14 vide Amdt III under Item III of 6th GCM Minutes.

10. **Decision.** The General Body decided to amend Article 23 as proposed.

11. **Amendment No V.** It was proposed to replace the existing Article 25 of VSF Rules by the following:-

“The Executive Council shall comprise of the following:-

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|---|
| (a) | President | - | Principal Director, Directorate of Ex-servicemen Affairs / IHQ MOD(N) |
| (b) | Secretary | - | Joint Director (VSF), Directorate of Ex-servicemen Affairs/IHQ MOD(N) |
| (c) | Treasurer | - | Joint Director (VSF), Directorate of Ex-servicemen Affairs/IHQ MOD(N) |
| (d) | NHQ Members | - | Joint Director

Directorate of Pay and Allowances (Pay and Pensions)/IHQ MOD(N)

Secretary, Indian Naval Benevolent Association |
| (e) | Charter Members | - | One Veteran Sailor from each Command Charter” |

The amendment was approved by 6th GCM held on 21 Sep 15 vide Amdt III under Item III of 6th GCM minutes.

12. **Discussion.** It was highlighted that the representation of veterans in the Executive Council will be enhanced through the proposed amendment. The General Body accepted this requirement and decided to amend Article 25 as proposed.

13. **Decision.** The General Body decided to amend Article 25 as proposed.

14. **Amendment No VI.** It was proposed to insert the following new Articles related to Charters of the forum in the VSF Rules:-

“Command Charters. The Veteran Sailors' Forum shall organisationally comprise four Command Charters namely, Delhi Command Charter, Vizag Command Charter, Mumbai Command Charter and Kochi Command Charter, working under VSF Governing Council.

Regional Charters. The Command Charters could establish various Regional Charters at places as proposed by the respective Command Charter Management Committee and approved by Governing Council. Such Regional Charters would operate under the respective Command Charter within their area of jurisdiction and the list of Regional Charters established till to date are as follows:-

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) | <u>North Zone.</u> | Delhi, Dehradun and Jabalpur. |
| (b) | <u>East Zone.</u> | Kolkata, Chilka and Chennai. |
| (c) | <u>West Zone.</u> | Goa, Karwar and Porbandar. |
| (d) | <u>South Zone.</u> | Ezhimala. |

Details of charters established from time-to-time would be disseminated suitably.”

The amendment was approved by 6th GCM held on 21 Sep 14 vide Amdt V under Item III of 6th GCM minutes.

15. **Discussion.** The General Body accepted the requirement to specify the details of Command and Regional Charters in the Rules of VSF.

16. **Decision.** The General Body decided to insert the new Articles in the VSF Rules.

17. **Amendment No VII.** It was proposed to insert the following new Article in the VSF Rules:-

“Associate Charters. Any individuals/ organisation of retired naval sailors throughout the country, who shall agree to adhere to the bye-laws of the Forum, would be authorised by Command Charters to open an Associate Charter. However, they should have a minimum of **50 members**. Formation of multiple Associate Charters at the same place / location would not be permitted.

The amendment was approved by 6th GCM held on 21 Sep 14 vide Amdt V under Item III of 6th GCM minutes.

18. **Discussion.** The General Body was informed that VSF had established various Associate Charters but the definition and other details are not specified in the VSF Rules. Therefore, the General Body accepted the requirement to insert the proposed amendment.

19. **Decision.** The General Body decided to insert the new article in the VSF Rules.

20. **Amendment No VIII.** It was proposed to replace the existing Article 34 with the following:-

“Office Bearers of Charters. The Charters shall be governed by the constitution of the Forum, but will have autonomy of local functioning. Each Charter shall have a Managing Committee comprising the following:-

(a) Ex-officio Members - President, Secretary, and Treasurer

(b) In addition, ESM members are to be nominated for Managing Committee of Command and Regional Charters for their respective charters.

(c) All members of the Managing Committee of the Associate Charters will be elected by their members.

(d) Details of office bearers to be forwarded for approval of Governing Council.”

The amendment was approved by 6th GCM held on 21 Sep 14 vide Amdt VII under Item III of 6th GCM minutes

21. **Discussion.** The General Body was informed that the proposed amendment formalises the mechanism for Managing Committee at all charters of the Forum and enhances the involvement of the veterans in the decision making process of the Forum at all levels. The General Body accepted this justification and decided to replace the existing Article 34 with the proposed article.

22. **Decision.** The General Body decided to replace the existing Article 34 with the proposed amendment.

23. **Amendment No IX.** It was proposed to insert the following Article to the VSF Rules:-

“Working Rules of Charters. Each Command / Regional / Associate Charter shall frame its Working Rules as per format promulgated by the Forum. The personnel desirous of forming Associate Charter shall sign a copy of the Working Rules promulgated by the Forum as the evidence of their agreement to adhere to the bye-laws of the Forum. The sample Working Rule for the Charters is placed at Appendix C.”

The proposed amendment was approved by 6th GCM held on 21 Sep 14 vide Amdt VIII under Item III of 6th GCM minutes

24. **Discussion.** It was highlighted that the proposed amendment makes it mandatory for the Charters to have a Working Rule. Also the Associate Charters will be required to sign a formal document indicating their willingness to abide by the

Constitution of VSF. The General Body accepted the justification and decided to insert the proposed article in the VSF Rules.

25. **Decision.** The General Body decided to insert the proposed article in the VSF Rules.

26. **Amendment No X.** it was proposed to insert the following new Article in the VSF Rules:-

“Disaffiliation of Associate Charters. If any Charter fails to adhere to the Rules and Regulations of the Forum or fails to produce the required documents within the time frame, as decided by the Governing Council from time to time, shall be treated as disaffiliated. The Forum may also then, assume direct control of the affairs or merge with the nearest Charter of its members till another Charter in the area/locality is constituted and recognised by the Governing Council.”

27. **Discussion.** It was highlighted that the proposed Article is necessary to disaffiliate any Associate Charter that may decide not to abide by the constitution of VSF. It was highlighted by few members of the General Body that the detailed conditions for disaffiliation should specified in the proposed article. However, it was clarified by Shri Niranjana Chakravarty, ex-L/TEL that it would be beneficial to indicate the terms of disaffiliation in as general terms as is practically feasible. Subsequently, the General Body decided to adopt the proposed article.

28. **Decision.** The General Body decided to insert the proposed article into the VSF Rules.

Item II - Promulgation of Policy Directives on Pay Protection / Pay Fixation of ESM (Ashok Kumar T, Ex-CHA(SE), VSF Kochi and Pratyush Sahoo, Ex-CHEAP, VSF Chilka)

29. **Point.** A case may be taken up for promulgation of common directives for pay fixation of ESMs on re-employment and mechanism to monitor implementation of the same.

30. **Discussions.** The General body was informed that applications regarding incorrect pay fixation by Currency Printing Press Nasik, HAL Bangalore, Bharat Dynamics Limited Hyderabad and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited Secunderabad were previously processed by DESA. It was observed that the DPSUs have autonomy in HR matters and therefore have undertaken pay fixation for their employees. Cases have been taken up with MOD/JS(ES) and Dept of Public Enterprises for suitable directives. The General body was informed that DGR has initiated a case for issuance of directives to all Govt Department by DoP&T. The Chair directed Secy VSF to update the Forum of the progress on the case initiated by DGR.

31. **Decisions**. Secy VSF to monitor the case initiated by DGR and update the forum in next AGM. Point to be retained.

Action: Secy VSF

Item III – Pay Protection / Fixation of ESMs Reemployed in Navy (Ashok Kumar T, Ex-CHA(SE), VSF Kochi)

32. **Point**. Some ESMs re-employed in Navy are given Pay Protection while pay of some ESMs is not protected. It is requested to publish clear directives and existing orders on the subject, with clear illustrations, so that Pay Protection of the re-employed ex-servicemen in the Navy as civilian employee can be understood by all.

33. **Discussions**. The General Body was informed that pay fixation of ESMs in Navy are undertaken as per DOP&T OMs 3/1/85-Estt(Pay-II) dated 31 Jul 1986, 3/19/2009-Estt(Pay-II) dated 05 Apr 2010 and 08 Nov 2010. Some members highlighted the disparity in the interpretation of pay fixation orders issued by various naval agencies such as Ship Building Centre, Naval Dockyard (Vizag), and CDA(Navy), Vizag. The Chair requested VSF Vizag to examine the issues reported with respect to SBC and ND(V). Due to the apparent disparity in the orders issued by various naval authorities on the subject, the Chair directed Secy VSF to take up a case with Dte of Civilian Personnel to issue latest guidelines on the subject to all Commands. All affected members were also requested to forward their cases to VSF Sectt for centralised analysis.

34. **Decisions**.

(a) VSF Vizag to examine the disparity in pay protection of ESMs employed in SBC, Vizag and ND(Vizag). **Action: VSF Vizag**

(b) Secy VSF to take up a case with DCP for promulgation of latest guidelines on the subject of pay protection of ESMs employed in the Navy to all Commands. **Action : Secy VSF**

Item IV – Ex-Servicemen Job Opportunity (VSF Dehradun and Pratyush Sahoo, Ex-CHEAP, VSF Chilka)

35. **Point**. Case for reservation for ESMs in Group B post be taken up.

36. **Discussions**. It was highlighted that the present policy for reservation of ESM in Govt jobs cater to only Group 'C' & 'D' employees, which restricts the reservation of senior sailors leaving service. The General Body was informed that a case has been taken up by DGR with Govt for 20% reservation in Group C and 10% in Group B non-gazetted posts and the same is under consideration of MOD and DOP&T. The Chair directed Secy VSF to monitor the progress of the case initiated by DGR and update

the Forum.

37. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to monitor the case initiated by DGR and update the forum in next AGM. Point to be retained.

Action: Secy VSF

Item V – Exemption of Professional Tax (Manoj Abraham Mampilly, No. 121210B)

38. **Point.** Corporation of Kochi started charging professional tax from ESMs employed at HQ SNC.

39. **Discussions.** It was highlighted that in the past, Professional Tax was waived off for the re-employed ESM and also for the employees of the Defence Organisations. But off late the Kochi Corporation has reinstated the deduction of Professional Tax from these categories of employees through HQSNC, including the ESMs re-employed at HQ SNC, but does not levy professional tax from ESMs employed in private firms. The background to the issue was elaborated by President, VSF Mumbai, based on his previous tenure at HQ SNC. The Chair directed VSF Kochi to ascertain the facts of the matter and take up a case with HQ SNC and Kochi Corporation.

40. **Decision.** VSF Kochi to examine the issue in consultation with HQ SNC and Kochi Corporation and update the Forum. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Kochi.

Item VI – Linking of Database between all State Govt & Record Offices of Three Services (Bidyadhar Nayak, Ex-POR(Spl), VSF Chilka)

41. **Point.** It is proposed to link database of the Record Offices of the three Services and all State Govts so that when an Armed Forces personnel completes their engagement they can automatically be enrolled to the respective State Govt / PSU directly from the Regiment/ Defence Establishment. An equation of Military ranks/trades to civil side and vacancy position in all State Govt posts should also be reflected in this software.

42. **Discussions.** The necessity and benefits of the proposed structure was elaborated by Shri Bidyadar Nayak, ex-POR(Spl). The ongoing efforts to set up National ESM Employment Portal, launching of ESM Placement Portal by DGR, and upgradation of Indian Naval Placement (INPA) website were highlighted by Secy VSF. The security concerns in sharing database of serving personnel was also highlighted. The Chair directed Secy VSF to update the forum on the progress of the cases for National ESM Employment portal.

43. **Decision.** Secy VSF to update the forum of the progress on National ESM Employment Portal. The point to be closed.

Action: Secy VSF

Item VII – Smart ECHS Health Card (P Thulasidasan Pillai, Ex-CPO, VSF Kochi)

44. **Point.** The present ECHS Smart card be replaced with a new Smart Card which permits users to visit any hospital of their choice while bearing additional expenses outside the limits of ECHS rates.

45. **Discussions.** PD ECHS(Navy) highlighted that the ECHS aims to provide cashless, quality health care through the network of ECHS polyclinics, service medical facilities and civil empanelled/Govt hospitals, on the lines of CGHS. Efforts are in hand to empanel quality medical facilities throughout the country. Also, case for additional contractual manpower is under consideration of the Govt to improve quality of treatment at ECHS polyclinics. The issue of Smart Health Card to be implemented for ECHS is not feasible at present as ECHS is cashless scheme and bills of only empanelled hospitals are paid from ECHS funds. The General Body accepted this point of view and decided to maintain status quo on the subject.

46. **Decision.** Maintain status quo. Point to be closed.

Action: All concerned

Item VIII – Provision of Availing Facilities of Empanelled Hospital During Off Working Hours of ECHS Polyclinic. (Patitapaban Senapati, Ex- POME, VSF Chilka)

23 **Point.** A case may be taken up for provision of consultation and medicine during off working hours at empanelled hospital without hospitalization.

24 **Discussions.** It was brought out that empanelled hospitals admit the ECHS members for treatment of heavy fever, loose motion, stomach pain etc., and charges considerable amount towards accommodation and other facilities. It was brought out that this can be avoided by provisioning of consultation and medicine only. PDECHS informed the General Body that the proposal was justified and has been taken up with Central Organisation, ECHS for approval. The Chair requested PD ECHS(Navy) to update the forum during the next AGM.

25. **Decision.** ECHS (Navy) to update the forum on the progress of the case during next AGM. Point to be retained.

Action: PD ECHS(Navy)

Item IX – Third MACP for Y Group POs (Retd) (Jaleswar Ram, Ex-POAF, VSF Kochi)

26. **Point.** POs who were originally in Y Group did not receive third MACP, as their service was limited to 23 years. However, NMER sailors who were converted to Y Group received third MACP as their service is limited to 26 years. Therefore, POs who were originally in Y Group be granted third MACP.

27. **Discussions.** The forum was informed that MACP was instituted w.e.f 01 Sep 12 and there is no provision for retrospective effect. Further, the proposal requires amendment to maximum length of service, and it would not be justified to take up a case with Govt for extending the length of service only to facilitate MACP. The Chair directed that in view of the possibility of extending the benefits to the veterans as also the likelihood of retaining experienced personnel for additional period of one year, a case be taken up by VSF Delhi with DOP.

28. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to take up a case with DOP for examining the feasibility of extending the maximum length of service of Y-Group POs. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item X – Issue of New Discharge Book (A Vikraman Nair, Ex-MCPO II, VSF Kochi)

29. **Point.** Veterans holding old / damaged Discharge Books be issued with new pattern Discharge Books.

30. **Discussions.** The necessity of replacing the old discharge documents issued in lower quality papers was brought out. It was also brought that all information as available in the Discharge Book cannot be provided to veterans holding Discharge Certificate due to lack of necessary data. NAVPEN brought out that provision exists for veterans to seek replacement of damaged / defaced Discharge Certificate by forwarding an application through their respective Zilla Sainik Boards. The Chair directed that veterans be advised to utilise this facility to replace the damaged / defaced Discharge Books.

31. **Decision.** Veterans holding defaced/ dilapidated Discharge Book/ Certificate may apply for issue of “Duplicate Discharge Certificate” from NAVPEN through ZSB. Point to be closed.

Action: All concerned.

Item XI – Release of Funds Based on Population of ESM (A Vikraman Nair, Ex-MCPO II, VSF Kochi)

32. **Point.** State Govts be requested to release funds for ESM welfare based on population of ESMs in the State.

33. **Discussions.** Secy VSF informed the General Body that presently the quantum of funds released by the State Governments is not linked with the population of ESM in the state. Also, State Govts annually contribute Rs. 1/- per each citizen of the State, which is shared between the RSBs and KSB. It was brought out that seeking funds as per population of ESMs may result in lesser contribution by State Govts. The Chair highlighted that the contribution of Rs 1/- per resident from State Govt is very low and a case needs to be taken up with DESW and KSB to revise this amount to at least Rs 2/- for each resident of the State.

34. **Decision.** Secy VSF to take up a case with DESW to revision of contribution by State Govt from existing Rs 1/- to Rs 2/- per resident. Point to be retained.

Action: All concerned.

Item XII – Recruitment of ESMs in Zilla Sainik Board (Anirudha Das, Ex-CHMECH(P), VSF Chilka)

35. **Point.** As per recruitment guidelines issued by KSB all employees in Zilla Sainik Board should be ESMs. However the same is not being implemented at ZSBs. It is proposed that a directive from central Govt be issued to all state Governments on the above subject.

36. **Discussions.** The General Body was informed that the point has been discussed in National Meeting of Directors of Rajya Sainik Boards on 29-30 Jul 15 and verbal directions have been passed by Secretary ESW for fill up ESM employees in all RSBs, for implementation of the same on priority. Secy, ZSB Vishakhapatnam brought out that the lack of ESMs in the ZSB is also due to the low pay / lack of pay protection for ZSB staff. The Chair directed Secy VSF to take up a case with KSB to issue directives for according preference to ESMs for employment in RSB/ZSB and for providing pay protection for ESMs employed in RSB/ZSB.

37. **Decision.** Secy VSF to take up a case with KSB for according preference to ESM for recruitment to RSB/ZSB and for providing pay protection for ESMs employed at RSB/ZSB. Point to be retained.

Action: Secy VSF

Item XIII – ECHS Cards / Canteen Card / Dependent Card (PB Rana, Ex-MCEAP II, VSF Vizag)

38. **Point.** ECHS, Canteen, and Dependent cards be merged into one Smart Card to do away with multiple cards.

39. **Discussions.** The General Body was informed that a case for single RFID card in place of various Identity cards has been approved by Defence Acquisition Council. It was brought out that the project will be implemented in two phases and the provision would be extended to ESMs also in the second phase. Secy VSF informed that a case for a single ESM card was initiated by DESA and the same will be dovetailed with case for single RFID card being processed by DPS.

40. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to take up a case for including ESMs in the single RFID Card case. Point to be closed.

Action: Secy VSF

Item XIV – Quota In IIT & IIM (Illa Tirupati Rao, Ex-CPOR(Tel), VSF Vizag)

41. **Point.** ESM Children to be given Quota in IIT & IIM.

42. **Discussions.** The General Body was informed that two seats in IIT Bombay, Delhi, Kharagpur, Kanpur, Madras and Banaras Hindu University Institute of Technology are reserved for children of the Defence/ Para Military Force personnel killed or permanently disabled in action. However, there is no such provisions for IIM's. The Chair directed Secy VSF to take up a case with Ministry of HRD through KSB for reservation for wards of ESM in IIT and IIM.

43. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to take up a case with Ministry of HRD through KSB. Point to be retained.

Action: Secy VSF

Item XV – Provision of Accommodation at Navy House Bhubaneswar (Anirudha Das, Ex-CHMECH (P), VSF Chilka)

44. **Point.** It is proposed to allocate one room at Navy House, Bhubaneswar for Naval ESMs.

45. **Discussions.** It was brought out that the establishment at Bhubaneswar is a Navy Office and not Navy House and it does not have any rooms for accommodating ESMs. Therefore, the Chair directed VSF Chilka to examine alternate options such as providing hired accommodation, PWD Guest House, Army Rest Houses, etc.

46. **Decision.** VSF Chilka to examine the feasibility of providing such accommodation for naval veterans in Bhubaneswar. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Chilka


Item XVI – Availability of Sailors Institute/Guest Room for Veterans at Chennai (VSF Chennai)

47. **Point.** Sailors Institute /guest room may be made available to veteran sailors in Chennai whenever they visit for admission of their wards in schools/college and ECHS Polyclinic Chennai.

48. **Discussions.** The General Body was informed that no Sailor’s Institute/ Guest House available in Chennai for the sailors (both for serving and veterans). VSF Chennai informed that such facilities could be created under NOIC (TN&P). The Chair directed VSF Chennai to take up a case with NOIC(TN&P).

49. **Decision.** VSF Chennai to take up a case with NOIC(TN&P) for Sailors’ Institute / Rest House at Chennai. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Chennai


(George Abraham)
Commander
Secretary
28 Sep 15

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