

Tele 21410482

Dte of Ex-Servicemen Affairs
Naval Headquarters
Room No 004
Talkatora Stadium Annexe
New Delhi 110004

DX/900/VSF/AGM-2023

26 Oct 23

**MINUTES OF 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF VSF HELD AT KOLKATA ON
01 OCT 23**

1. Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, AVSM, VSM, Controller Personnel Services and ex-officio President, Veteran Sailors' Forum (VSF) chaired the 13th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the VSF held at Kolkata on 01 Oct 23. The following were present: -

Ser	Name	Desig
<u>Members</u>		
(a)	RAdm Sandeep Pradhan	President, VSF Vizag Charter
(b)	RAdm Rajat Kapoor	President, VSF Mumbai Charter
(c)	Cmde Alok Ananda	Vice President, VSF
(d)	Cmde Viju Samuel	President, VSF Kochi Charter
(e)	Capt Varun Singh	Legal Member
(f)	Capt T Ranjith Sundaran	Secy, VSF Kochi
(g)	Capt Sanjay Kumar	Co-opted Member
(j)	Capt R K Saini	Secy, VSF Mumbai
(k)	Capt TG Kumar	Secy, VSF Kolkata
(l)	Cdr Sarup Banerjee	Secy, VSF Vizag
(m)	Cdr Vijay Kumar	Co-opted Member
(n)	Cdr T Dutta	Secy VSF
(p)	Cdr N Kattaboorman	Secy, VSF Chennai
(q)	Cdr Prakadeeshwaran	Secy, VSF Zamorin
(r)	Lt Manish Kumar Mishra	Secy, VSF Odisha
(s)	SLt Sharmila	Secy, VSF Goa
<u>Special Invitees</u>		
(t)	Cmde RS Beniwal	Cmde (ECHS) N
(u)	Cmde VI Hoti	Reg Dir, ECHS Vizag
(v)	Cmde Sandeep Verma	Cmde (PA)
(w)	Cmde Supradeepan Sankaran	LOIC NAVPEN
(x)	Cmde P Sasi Kumar	Station Commander
(y)	Col Partha Pratim Barik (Retd)	Secy, RSB (WB)
(z)	Capt Ankur Kulshreshtra	RM INCS Delhi
<u>Charter Representatives (Retd)</u>		
(aa)	M Manganathan, Ex-CPOR (Spl)	Chennai
(bb)	D Rama Rao, Ex-POMA	Karwar
(cc)	Shashi Kant Mishra, Ex-MC ERA I	Mumbai

Ser	Name	Desig
(dd)	Smiju KA, Ex-POR (TEL)	Kochi
(ee)	MP Shaju, Ex-POR (TAC)	Ezhimala
(ff)	Bidyadhar Nayak, Ex-POR(Spl)	Odisha
(gg)	Ajay Pal Singh Hon. Lt	Delhi
(hh)	Rahul Dev Mahato, Ex-POWTR	Vizag
(jj)	Ajay Kumar Singh, Ex-CPOR (Tac)	Kolkata
(kk)	Bir Singh, Ex-LME	Jabalpur
(ll)	Ramesh Chandra, Ex-MCELR	Mumbai
(mm)	Members of VSF Kolkata	

Welcome Address by Vice President

2. Cmde Alok Ananda, Vice President, extended a warm welcome to all present for the 13th AGM of VSF. He thanked the out-station members and representatives who had taken efforts to travel to Kolkata for attending the Annual General Body meeting (AGM). He also placed on record his sincere thanks to members of Kolkata Charter for their presence in the AGM. He highlighted that from a humble beginning of 50 members in 2208, the VSF has grown to around 36,000 members to date. He thanked Secy, RSB for attending the meeting and assured the members that the *IN* is committed to look after the wellbeing of ESM.

Opening Address by President

3. The President welcomed all present and stated that it was a great honour to be amongst the members of VSF for the 13th AGM of VSF. Thereafter, he requested all present to rise and pay respect to veterans and their families, who have left for their heavenly abode since the last AGM. He appreciated the sterling role played by the VSF over the last one and a half decades, and mentioned that the AGM provides an opportunity to reiterate and reaffirm our gratitude to the veterans. He stated that maintaining a robust and meaningful relationship between the serving and retired members of our family has been a focus area at the Naval Headquarters, and the support organisations dealing with veterans are being reorganised into a 'Single Window' system. The President acknowledged that every person serving today would be a veteran in future and it is, therefore, imperative that focussed efforts be dedicated towards improving the quality of life of veterans. He also emphasised that our care and concern for veterans, to a great extent, is visible to the society at large and serves as a powerful message to attract the right talent towards Services.

4. He briefed the gathering about the activities planned towards centennial celebrations on the occasion of 100th Birth anniversary of Late Adm RL Pereira, Ex-CNS. The President highlighted several significant steps that have been taken to empower ESM, including conclusion of MoUs with multinational corporations/ PSUs towards second career opportunities, conduct of entrepreneurship courses at National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), and the farewell interactions being organised prior retirement.

5. He encouraged ESM to follow the digital way, and utilise the applications – ‘Handshake’ and ‘Samuha’ for networking with retired as well as serving community. He further urged the members to follow the various social media handles of the Indian Navy including the X (erstwhile Twitter) handle of DESA. He emphasised on the positive aspects of real-time, instantaneous communication that is available now to every citizen because of the advent of smart phones. He informed the members that the Naval Headquarters was aware of the difficulties faced during transition to SPARSH, and reaffirmed that these issues are being monitored, addressed and resolved with utmost priority.

6. He concluded by briefing the members about the major digital initiatives being taken up by the *IN*, in terms of Human Resource Common Data Framework (HRCDF) and Veteran Common Data Framework (VetCDF).

Confirmation of 12th AGM Minutes

7. The Secretary VSF stated that the minutes of 12th AGM were forwarded to all Chapters. Hon. Lt Ajay Pal Singh, member Delhi Charter proposed confirmation of the minutes of 12th AGM. The proposal was seconded by Shashi Kant Mishra, Ex-MCERA I, member Mumbai Charter. Thereafter, minutes of the 12th AGM were confirmed, and signed by the President, VSF.

Secretary's Report

8. The Secretary presented the report on the activities of the VSF, since the last AGM held at Mumbai on 03 Apr 22.

9. The Secretary welcomed all members, especially those who were attending the AGM for the first time. He confirmed that all the Charters had conducted their respective AGMs and welcomed the new ex-officio members. He emphasised that VSF has constantly endeavoured to be the bridge between the serving and retired personnel. He brought out that in the present digital age, VSF has been effectively harnessing technology to provide relevant information to all ESM through various measures, namely, e-News Letters, Social Media, digital applications, etc. He also informed the gathering about the conduct of Memorial Lectures and Centenary Celebrations to honour Late Adm RL Pereira.

10. He then briefed the members about various initiatives like felicitation of centenarians, more than 50 outreach programmes conducted pan-India, invitation to ex-sailors for POP of *Agniveers*, institution of ‘Samanvay’, a common platform for interactions between NF & VSF. etc. The Secretary requested all members to spread the awareness about VSF so that maximum ex-sailors can become members of the organisation. While concluding his report, the Secretary mentioned that the VSF Charters were involved in various philanthropic and social awareness activities, undertaken towards nation building.

Adoption of Audited Balance Sheet

11. The Secretary informed the members that the audited consolidate balance sheet of VSF fund for FY 2021-2022 was presented to the Governing Council during the GCM and that the Governing Council had adopted the audited balance sheet of VSF for FY 2021-2022.

Presentations

12. Presentations by representatives of the following departments/ organisations were made during the meeting: -

- (a) ECHS.
- (b) NAVPEN.
- (c) INBA.
- (d) INCS.

Old Agenda Points

13. Review of old agenda point from 12th AGM is placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

New Agenda Points

14. Eight agenda points were discussed. Details of deliberations and decisions arrived at are placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Concluding Remarks

15. The President, VSF thanked all members present for the meeting and conveyed gratitude to them on behalf of the Indian Navy and reassured that all issues pertaining to ESM are handled with utmost priority at Naval Headquarters.

16. There being no other points for discussion, the meeting was adjourned. These minutes are issued with the approval of President, VSF.



(T Dutta)
Commander
Secretary VSF

Distribution. Normal.

OLD AGENDA POINT – 12TH AGM

1. **ZSB at Daman.** There is no ZSB at Daman, and ESM are facing considerable difficulties in making ESM I-Card.

Deliberations. As per policy, a new *Zila* Sainik Board (ZSB) can be set up by the concerned State/ UT Govt themselves, if the population of ESM and families of serving/ deceased Service personnel is 7,500 or above in a district. In other cases, prior approval of the Central Govt is required for setting up a ZSB. KSB Sectt has requested the Administration of Daman & Diu to set up a ZSB, and forwarded the requisite guidelines to them. Secy, RSB (WB) brought out that the setup of ZSB in Daman & Diu is held up in view of less number of ESM residing there. Notwithstanding, the matter is being pursued with the UT administration.

Decision. The President directed that the point be closed.

Appendix 'B'
(Refers to Para 14)

NEW AGENDA POINTS – 13TH AGM

Agenda I – Reservation in Jobs for ESM

1. **Issue.** ESM may be provided reservations in Group 'A' & 'B' also. Percentage of reservations with the increasing number of ESM may be enhanced proportionally.

Deliberations. Secy, VSF informed members that iaw directives of the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, 25% reservation for ESM in all categories of employees, i.e Gp 'A' to Gp 'D' in the Defence Departments/ DPSUs is under deliberation at MoD. He further informed the members about reservation available for ESM at present, which is as follows: -

<u>Ser</u>	<u>Type of Reservation</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Central Govt Ministries/ Departments</u>		
(a)	Direct recruitment posts up to the level of Asst Commandant in Central Para Military Forces (CPMF)	10
(b)	Direct recruitment in Group 'C' Posts	10
(c)	Direct recruitment in Group 'D' Posts (Merged with Group 'C' in Ministries/ Subordinate and Attached Offices)	20
<u>Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs)</u>		
(d)	Direct recruitment in Group 'C' Posts	14.5
(e)	Direct recruitment in Group 'D' Posts	24.5
* Including 4.5% for disabled ESM and dependents of Service Personnel Killed in Action		
<u>Public Sector Banks</u>		
(f)	Direct recruitment in Group 'C' Posts	14.5
(g)	Direct recruitment in Group 'D' Posts	24.5
* Including 4.5% for disabled ESM and dependents of Service Personnel Killed in Action		
<u>Defence Service Corps (DSC)</u>		
(h)	ESM	100
<u>States & UTs</u>		
(j)	Reservation in posts in States and UTs differ with every state. Few States do not have reservation, but priority is given during recruitment	
<u>Defence Departments/ DPSUs</u>		
(k)	25% vacancies in all categories of employees, i.e Gp 'A' to Gp 'D' for ESM in the Defence Departments/ DPSUs is under deliberation at MoD iaw directives of the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri.	

Decision. Vice President brought out that though reservation exists, it has been observed that naval ESM, post retirement, settle at places which are convenient to their requirements and take up local employment. Hence, most of these reserved seats remain unfilled and thus are released. Taking the above into consideration, the President directed that the point be closed.

Agenda II – Procedure for Change of Name of ESM & Dependent

2. **Issue.** The procedure for change of name is lengthy and updation of records takes time at NAVPEN. Further, even after updating records, Corrigendum PPO is not issued. Correction in spelling/ expansion of initials in records may be simplified, instead of following the lengthy procedure of Gazette Notification/ publishing in newspaper, etc.

Deliberations. Secy, VSF informed members that the procedure for Change of Name & Date of Birth of ESM/ dependent is governed by MoD/ DESW and PCDA (P), Prayagraj guidelines issued from time to time. HQIDS had convened a board for adopting uniform procedure iaw MoD directives. The draft policy letter with /N comments was forwarded to HQIDS in Aug 22, and was sent by HQIDS to MoD/ DESW for approval and promulgation. Issue of the policy letter is still awaited.

Decision. The President directed that the revised procedure be shared with ESM expeditiously as and when it is promulgated. He further directed that the point be closed.

Agenda III – Change of Address

3. **Issue.** Change of address is allowed only once in lifetime, iaw extant guidelines. However, due to various unavoidable circumstance, one might have to change their residence more than once post retirement. Hence, it may be extended to at least three times in a lifetime.

Deliberations. Secy, VSF informed that in accordance with revised guidelines promulgated vide IHQ MoD(N) letter PP-01/2023/PB/DX/ESM dated 15 May 23, there is no limit to the number of times an ESM can seek change of permanent home address, subject to meeting documentary requirements. Vice President informed the members that change of address and the issue of domicile status should not be mixed up. Though the change of address can be undertaken many times, however, the domicile requirements of each state varies and thus, members should not assume that changing address on the service documents will entitle them to domicile status.

Decision. Considering that the policy has already been revised and promulgated, the President directed that the point be closed.

Agenda IV – Provision to view NAVPEN Records by CRSOs

4. **Issue.** CRSO is responsible for taking up cases with various stakeholders pertaining to naval ESM/ NoK. Majority of the cases of retired sailors are wrt NAVPEN. It

has been observed that ESM engage in correspondence with NAVPEN for ascertaining the particulars in Service records, which could be avoided. Hence, a provision for **viewing (only viewing)** particulars of ESM at NAVPEN be made available for all CRSOs, which would resolve issues of majority of ESM at CRSO level itself.

Deliberations. Secy, VSF informed members that 'Geographical Mapping of ESM', a positive and futuristic step towards enabling better communicate with the Veterans, is being undertaken at Naval Headquarters. As a short-term measure, access of **limited** database iro naval veterans will be provided to the Command HQs/ CRSOs. Further, personal particulars/ data will be available in a **read only** format to all Command HQs/ CRSOs post development and implementation of the Veterans Common Data Framework (**Vet CDF**). The President explained the members about the Vet CDF and the individual data fields being incorporated. He requested the members to verify their data once Vet CDF is made available on the internet.

Decision. The President requested NAVPEN to prepare a limited database and share it with all Command Headquarters at the earliest, and closed the point.

Agenda V – Amendment in ESM Dependent Identity Card

5. **Issue.** The primary intention of holding a dependent card is to furnish proof of identity. The card is also utilised for additional benefits such as availing Air Travel concession, etc. In the existing dependent card issued by ZSBs, a clause has been quoted in the Notes as 'This Card is issued for the benefit of dependent of ESM for availing Air Travel concession'. Hence, it is proposed to take up a case with KSB to remove the clause from ESM Dependent Cards.

Deliberations. Secy, VSF informed members that the dependent I-Card is issued for the purpose of establishing identity of the dependent, and also to enable the dependent in availing air travel concession being provided by airlines. It was explained to the members that removal of the same may lead to a situation where the airlines refuse concession to dependents, and seek other documents.

Decision. The President reiterated that the clause has been inserted to aid the dependent and directed that the point be closed.

Agenda VI – Expiry Date on Canteen Cards

6. **Issue.** ESM are not aware about the expiry date of Canteen Cards (Grocery & Liquor) and when it expires, they face delays in renewal. Generally, the expiry of card comes to notice only when they visit the CSD, and are unable to purchase items. It is proposed that expiry date of Canteen Card (Grocery & Liquor) may be endorsed on the Canteen card like bank ATM card for awareness of the ESM, and when it expires then e-verification facility may be provided for automatic renewal. This process will save the ESM from unnecessary visit to the CSD Card renewal counter.

Deliberations. Secy, VSF informed members that the life of the smart card is 10 years iaw the existing regulations and that 'card expiring' message is now printed

on the bill, as well as highlighted to the billing clerk/ operator, 90 days prior to date of expiry of the card. He requested the beneficiaries to apply for renewal accordingly.

Decision. The President informed the members that validity of the card is restricted to avoid misuse and directed that the point be closed.

Agenda VII – Canteen Facilities

7. **Issue.** Canteen facility is not available in Tiruppur District. To avail canteen facilities, ESM have to visit Air Force Station, Sullur or INS Agrani, Coimbatore, which is about 50 Km from Tiruppur.

Deliberations. Members were informed that the guidelines for opening of a CSD/ URC are laid down in Army Order (AO) 19/2003/QMG. The primary requirement for setting up a CSD/ URC is that a Unit has to be based in that area with a minimum posted strength of 100 personnel and a minimum strength of 5,000 ESM. RM INCS Delhi reiterated to the members that online delivery of items has commenced and that the services should be utilised by everyone. The President added that these initiatives are being undertaken towards welfare of ESM, who are particularly away from Canteen facilities.

Decision. The President urged the members to utilise these services to make it a success and closed the point.

Agenda VIII – Canteen Stock

8. **Issue.** Canteen facility available at Bilaspur has very limited stock and supplies. ESM have to travel to other cities and districts for fulfilling requirements of various items. ESM have requested for enhancement of stock in the existing canteen at Bilaspur. Also, there is an extension counter of CSD located in ZSW office at Raipur, however the necessary items are not stocked regularly.

Deliberations. Secy, VSF informed members that demand of CSD items is based on the demand/ sales at that particular canteen, and decided by the Canteen Officer. Notwithstanding, the issue has been taken up with the local authorities. RM INCS explained the procedure for demanding items by canteens. He further mentioned that though, items as suggested by ESM would have been demanded by the specific canteen, there would still be a lead time of around three months, prior to which the specific item will be available in the canteen.

Decision. The President directed that the point be closed.