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Veteran Sailors' Forum
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DX/VSF/47/GBM/DELHI/18

Dec 18

**MINUTES OF THE 10th GENERAL BODY MEETING OF VETERAN SAILORS'
FORUM (VSF) NORTH ZONE HELD AT VARUNIKA AUDITORIUM,
CHANAKYAPURI ON 02 DEC 18**

1. The 10th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the VSF Delhi Charter was conducted from 1000 h to 1500 h on 02 Dec 18 in Varunika Auditorium, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. The AGM was chaired by Cmde Vivek Karnavat, President, VSF Delhi Charter.

2. Approximately 350 ESM, veernaris and IHQ MoD (Navy) staff personnel were present during the AGM. A folder containing brochures and important information on VSF, INBA, ECHS, etc., was distributed to all members on their arrival.

3. Following officials were present in the meeting:-

(a) **Invitees.**

(i)	Cmde BK Munjal	-	Cmde(ECHS-N)
(ii)	Capt DS Rana	-	MS INCCB
(iii)	Capt S Sharma	-	Capt(NPF), Secy NGIF
(iv)	Capt D K Gupta	-	Capt (NPF), Secy INBA
(v)	Capt Naveen Razdan	-	Director, CRSO(Central)
(vi)	Capt DS Hada	-	Secretary, VSF
(vii)	Cdr DP Singh	-	Capt(ESM Affairs- INPA)
(viii)	Cdr V Viswanath	-	Secy NWWA
(ix)	Cdr MM Bokil	-	Cdr(ECHS-N)
(x)	Cdr George Abraham	-	Cdr(ESM Affairs- INPA)
(xi)	Cdr T Datta	-	Cdr(ESM Affairs- Coord)
(xii)	Lt Cdr Kumar Animesh	-	Lt Cdr(ESM Affairs)- Coord

(b) **Representatives of VSF Charters.**

(i)	Vipin Kumar, POPTI	-	Rep, VSF Dehradun Charter
(ii)	Mukesh Verma, POGS	-	Rep, VSF Jabalpur Charter
(iii)	BD Sethi, Ex-Hon Lt	-	VSF Coordinator, NOIDA
(iv)	Shivraj Singh, Ex-SCPO	-	VSF Coordinator, Ghaziabad

Item I – Opening Remarks by President

4. At the outset, President welcomed veer naris and veteran sailors for the meeting on behalf of all personnel of the Indian Navy. He also thanked special invitees, officers from various directorates at Naval HQs and representatives of outstation Regional Charters of VSF for having taken the time out to be present for the event.

5. Cmde(ESM Affairs) affirmed that the DESA has always upheld motto of '**Navy Cares for its Veterans**'. It has always been endeavor to reach out to the veterans, veernaris and their dependents and provide them with necessary support as and when needed. He reiterated that DESA personnel always sincerely strive to extend a helping hand to the veterans and take up their grievances with concerned agencies. The faith and trust shown by the retiring community in VSF organisation is quite evident from the fact that membership of the forum is 21,097 and increasing at a rapid pace.

6. He informed that in order to enhance the placement opportunities for naval veterans, a new website of Indian Naval Placement Agency was launched on 14 Mar 18. INPA also has a tie up with Monster.com to provide job opportunities and career services at discounted rate. He informed the forum that in line with the 'Skill India Mission', a MoU was signed between MoD and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 13 Jul 15 to enhance skill-set of ex-servicemen and to enable them to be gainfully employed in nation-building. Indian Navy has trained over 3200 sailors last year. Training of 2600 sailors has been planned during the current financial year.

7. Cmde(ESM Affairs) apprised the forum that a hostel for naval widows has been constructed in New Delhi and would soon be ready for occupation. This would provide a temporary living area to widows at a very nominal cost when they transition from naval accommodation to their own premises.

8. He stated that DESA has been receiving requests and grievances through emails, letters, telephone etc, however, it has been seen that members fail to provide contact details and telephone/ email identities. In order to avoid inordinate delays due to unnecessary correspondence, he urged members to write telephone numbers/ contact address/ email ids on their correspondence.

9. He finally requested the members to actively participate and provide their much needed inputs during the deliberations on the scheduled agenda points.

Item II – Confirmation of Minutes of 9th AGM

10. The Secretary, VSF proposed confirmation of the last minutes of the 9th GBM held at Delhi on 26 Nov 18. The minutes were approved by the President VSF.

Item III – Secretary's Report

11. The Secretary apprised the AGM of the various aspects of VSF Delhi Command Charter for the period of 27 Nov 17 to 02 Dec 18 through a presentation covering the following aspects:-

- (a) Introduction of VSF, Aims and Objectives of the Forum.
- (b) Details of Charters and membership strength.
- (c) Activities and initiatives undertaken by VSF Delhi Command Charter.
- (d) Activities and initiatives undertaken by VSF Dehradun and Jabalpur Charter.

Item IV – Presentation on Key Issues

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

- (a) Progress made in ECHS - Cdr(ECHS-N)
- (b) INBA Welfare Schemes - Secy, INBA

Item V – Review of Old Agenda Points

13. Action taken and present status of the old agenda points are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

Item VI - Discussion on Agenda Points

14. The AGM considered various agenda points received from members. Details of discussions and decisions on respective agenda points are placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Item VII – Vote of Thanks

15. The AGM ended with a vote of thanks by Secretary, VSF Delhi Command Charter on behalf of the President. 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 Delhi Command Charter.

(Digvijay Singh Hada)
Capt (ESM Affairs- VSF) and Secretary
VSF Delhi Command Charter

Distribution: - Normal.

UPDATE ON ACTIONABLE AGENDA POINTS OF THE 9TH AGM

1. **Item XVI - Conversion of C-Group Pension to Y-Group Pension (PNKS Nainital)**. In a number of cases, previous C-Group pensioners have been placed in Z-Group in place of Y-group. In some case, pension of many C-group pensioners are not revised at all. This affects those residing in remote locations.

(a) **Previous Decision**. VSF Delhi to update the forum on the status of case taken up with MoD. Point to be retained.

(b) **Status**. Secy VSF brought out that DPA (Pension) has intimated that the case is still pending with MoD/D(Pen/Pol).

(c) **Decision**. Since action is still not completed, the Chairman directed to retain the point.

Action- DPA

Item VII – Veteran Family Function (Shiv Raj Singh, Ex- CPO WTR)

2. **Issue**. Veteran's families should also be given opportunity to re-collect their memories when they were there in naval family quarters and enjoyed the Naval atmosphere. Suitable function with the families of the veterans be organized at Delhi.

(a) **Previous Decision**. The Chairman directed that if the response is found to be encouraging, the event could be planned.

(b) **Status**. Secretary VSF brought out that an event to felicitate octogenarian VSF members and interaction with the family members was conducted on 17 Mar 18. He further brought out that logistical support in Delhi is difficult to get and require lot of effort by many personnel to arrange an event. Despite this, the meeting was conducted and the attendance was very low.

(c) **Decision**. The Chairman directed to close the point.

Item XVIII – ECHS Polyclinic Panipat (Haryana) (Zila Singh, Ex-CPO no 054692 A Surender Kumar, Ex-POMA, no 160523 Y)

3. **Issue**. Panipat is a type-C polyclinic. There is no Central Govt/ Defense/ State Govt. building for ECHS Polyclinic at Panipat (Haryana). A piece of land measuring 911 sq. yards was allotted in 2011 in Huda Sector-3 near Hotel Narula. Estimate of over 02 Crores was framed and forwarded to the higher up authorities in 2015 but there seems to be no progress. It is requested that estimate cost of this building may please be approved, so that work for the ECHS building can be started and this Polyclinic be upgraded to Type-B Polyclinic.

- (a) **Previous Decision.** The Chairman directed ECHS and VSF Delhi to progress the issues.
- (b) **Status.** Cdr (ECHS-N) stated the following:-
- (i) The Type 'C' ECHS Polyclinic at Panipat is administered by the Army. As has been correctly brought out, a piece of land, measuring 911 sq yards was allotted for construction of Polyclinic building in Huda Sector – 3 near Hotel Narula. Budgetary estimates have already been obtained and are being processed at Central Organisation, ECHS. The proposal is in final stages of approval.
- (ii) Upgradation of Type of Polyclinic is based on the realistic figure of Daily Average Sick Report (DASR). Additional staff is being provided as warranted by the DASR. The present DASR of Polyclinic at Panipat has been reviewed by the Central Organisation and it has been decided that it does not merit upgradation to Type 'B' Polyclinic.
- (c) **Decision.** The Chairman directed to close the point

Item XIX – ZSB Panipat (Haryana) (Nar Singh Das, Ex- Hon SLt no 091237 H)

4. **Issues.** There is no Secretary ZSB at Panipat (Haryana) since many years and as of now Secretary, ZSB- Sonipat (Haryana) is looking after it. Issuance of Dependents I- Cards not yet started at ZSB Panipat (Haryana).
- (a) **Previous Decision.** The Chairman directed VSF to progress the issues.
- (b) **Status.** Secretary VSF brought out that KSB has informed that :-
- (i) Secretary at ZSB at Panipat has been appointed.
- (ii) MoD has approved policy on issuance of dependent cards in Aug 18. KSB has compiled total requirement from all the RSBs/ ZSBs. As per the projection by the states, about 4 lakh cards are required. These are being printed and are dispatched for issuance by Feb 19. ESM card is issued free of cost, however, dependent card will be levied Rs 100 for each.
- (c) **Decision.** The Chairman directed to close the point.

MINUTES OF DISCUSSIONS ON NEW AGENDA POINTS

Item 1 – MSP Included as Basic for Calculating Pension(Poorav Nau Sainik Kalyan Samiti Haldwani, Nainital)

1. **Issue.** As MSP is now included as basic for calculating pension and various benefits, the veterans from Jan 2006 to Sep 2008 are getting less pension as they lost the benefit of MSP. MSP may be considered for these retirees.
2. **Discussions.** Secy VSF brought out that Cdr(PA-Pension) has intimated that MSP is already included and reckoned towards pension. However, it cannot be applied for 2006-2008, retrospectively. Shri Ved Parkash, ex-LS, who is advocate at AFT, Delhi informed the forum that the case has already approved for Army and Air Force and there should not be any problem for Navy in this regard. The Chairman requested Shri Ved Prakash to forward detailed case to DESA to take up further.
3. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications, the Chairman directed VSF to follow it up with DPA.

Action- DPA

Item II – Dormant Account of NAVPEN PNB Branch(Poorav Nau Sainik Kalyan Samiti Haldwani, Nainital)

4. **Issue.** Whether veterans money is still laying in dormant account of NAVPEN PNB branch. If yes the same may be transferred to pensioner of family pension account.
5. **Discussions.** Secy VSF brought out that Cdr(PA-Pension) has intimated that the money in the CABS PNB branch is deposited in the name of the individuals and they only are authorized to withdraw money from the accounts. NAVPEN has intimated to all the account holders to do the needful.
6. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth, the Chairman directed to close the point.

Item III – Issuing a New 64 KB ECHS Cards (Shri Nar Singh Das, Ex- Hon Sub LT, No 091237 H)

7. **Issue.** Ex-naval pensioners/ dependents applied for 64 KB online for new ECHS cards in the month of Feb 2018 which are still awaiting verification/response/documents from Naval Records Office.

8. **Discussions**. Cdr (ECHS-N) brought out that the process of printing and delivery of the 64 Kb Smart Cards commenced in Jul 18 and over 3 lakh cards have been delivered to-date. The process of verification of records at NAVPEN is being done manually at present. The process is likely to be automated soon, which will increase the number of applications that are verified daily. A software interface is being provided to NAVPEN to expedite the verification process. Validity of 16 KB cards extended upto 31 Dec 18.

9. **Decision**. Taking note of the clarifications put forth by Cdr (ECHS-N), the Chairman directed to close the point.

Item IV – ARMAAN App Facilities (Poorav Nau Sainik Kalyan Samiti Haldwani, Nainital)

10. **Issue**. A list of Naval Guest house available for veterans may be promulgated and ARMAAN app facility for defence guest house may be extended to veterans if vacant, presently it is only for serving personal.

11. **Discussions**. Secretary VSF brought out that DIAV has confirmed that the ARMAAN- Army Mobile Aadhar App Network is only for **serving Army** personnel for information dissemination, messaging, MES complaints, DDQ application, Aramgrah booking, COAS interaction etc. purpose. It is not available even for retired army personnel. Further, he brought out that the veterans can book accommodation online in Sainik Aramgrahas. Naval guest houses are limited and bookings are available through the respective stations only.

12. **Decision**. Taking note of the clarifications put forth, the Chairman directed to close the point.

Item V – Seats may be allowed for Naval Wards in Higher Education (Poorav Nau Sainik Kalyan Samiti Haldwani, Nainital)

13. **Issue**. Wards of naval veterans may also be allowed seats for higher education in Army Education Institutes. Also, Naval Higher education institutes may be opened.

14. **Discussions**. Secretary VSF stated that DNE has intimated the following:-

- (i) AWES have confirmed that it caters only for wards of serving and retired Army personnel and their widows. However, wards of Indian Navy personnel can apply, as per other eligibility conditions such as state domicile etc, for admission in colleges/ institutions under general category where existing. Information is available on website [www. awesindia.com](http://www.awesindia.com)

(ii) The case for opening naval higher institutes were taken up twice on the similar lines as Army, however, it was found not feasible view limited no of naval wards.

15. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth, the Chairman directed to close the point.

Item VI – ECHS Polyclinic- Panipat (Shri Nar Singh Das, Ex- Hon Sub LT, No 091237 H)

16. **Issue.** Following be considered for ECHS Polyclinic Panipat:-

(i) **Auto Analyzer.** BER auto analyzer machine has not been replaced since last 08 months.

(ii) **Reduction in the posts of Dental Hygienist.** One vacancy for dental hygienist and one for lab assistant were withdrawn for FY 2018-19 by Central organisation. Because of this there is a heavy rush and so it is requested that these posts be filled at an early date.

17. **Discussions.** Cdr(ECHS-N) informed the following:-

(a) The auto-analyzer machine at Polyclinic at Panipat became BER in May 18 and was surveyed. Demand for the same has been placed on AFMSD in Jul 18 and would be made available at an early date.

(b) Positioning of contractual manpower is done based on the type of Polyclinic and also the Daily Average Sick Report (DASR). Since there are only limited vacancies of contractual manpower available with Central Organisation, ECHS at present, the problem of shortage persists. A case for approval of additional contractual manpower is in advanced stages at MoD (Finance) and is likely to be approved soon. When this case is approved, it is anticipated that all shortages will be made good.

(i) **Dental Hygienist.** The DASR (Dental) at the Polyclinic is 8. A Dental officer has been posted at the Polyclinic and is considered adequate to handle the DASR.

(ii) **Lab Assistant.** One lab assistant has been sanctioned for the Polyclinic at Panipat.

18. **Decision.** The Chairman directed to monitor point (b).

Action- ECHS-N

Item VII – Delivery of new ECHS Card (Shri Shivraj Singh, Ex-Chief WTR)

19. **Issue.** New ECHS smart card is being processed online. But it is to be collected personally by ESM from the respective ECHS station HQs. ESM experiences difficulties in physically collection due to age, medical reasons and far locations. Also, it is not handed over to the authorised person. The following is suggested:-

- (a) ECHS card may be sent to the respective oi/c polyclinic to handover to concern ESM.
- (b) Authorised representative be allowed to collect from the concern oi/c polyclinic.
- (c) Send it by post and postal charge to be paid by the station HQ.

20. **Discussions.** Cdr(ECHS-N) intimated that the process of collection of ECHS Smart Cards has been simplified by the competent authority and Central Organisation, ECHS has promulgated the same vide letter No. B/49711-IT/AG/ECHS dated 13 Sep 18. This is enumerated as follows:-

- (a) After successful verification, the Smart Cards are printed by the contracted company and dispatched to Regional Centres. Further, the Regional Centres dispatch these to Stn HQs.
- (b) Once the cards are received at Stn HQs, these have to be accounted for. SMS is sent to the beneficiary, along with OTP and address of collection centre to collect the cards. Once OTP is 'fed' into the system, activated card is handed over to the beneficiary for use.
- (c) Stn HQs are currently responsible not only for issue of new Smart cards but also to collect old cards/ temp slips besides physical verification of all beneficiaries, as this is the only stage when physical presence is being used for authentication.
- (d) A number of ESM have represented that they are finding it inconvenient to take all the beneficiaries to the dependent Stn HQs for collection of ECHS cards besides Stn HQs being far off from their place of residence. Therefore, following measures have been promulgated:-
 - (i) The primary beneficiary can collect his own card and the cards of his dependents from Stn HQs.
 - (ii) The primary beneficiary will be responsible to handover all the old cards/ temp slips, as applicable, to Stn HQ while collecting the cards of self and dependents.
 - (iii) The primary beneficiary will be responsible to produce required documents to establish that the dependents are entitled for the ECHS Card.

(iv) The Stn HQ can also distribute the cards at Polyclinics on specified days/ dates and any nominated location on a pre-announced date, as per the procedure laid down for online endorsement & accounting of cards and documents.

(v) Option of video call based verification using mobile, if needed, could also be utilised. However, Stn HQs are responsible for accounting of all cards.

21. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth, the Chairman directed to close the point.

22. There being no other points, the meeting was adjourned.

23. These minutes are issued with approval of President, VSF Delhi Command Charter.

(Digvijay Singh Hada)
Captain (ESM Affairs)-VSF
Secretary VSF Delhi

Dec 18