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DX/900/AGM-2019

24 May 19

**MINUTES OF 27TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NAVY FOUNDATION HELD AT
KOCHI ON 05 MAY 19**

1. Admiral Sunil Lanba PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff and President, Navy Foundation chaired the 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Navy Foundation held at Kochi on 05 may 19. The following were present: -

(a) **Invitees.**

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|-------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| (i) | V Adm AK Chawla, AVSM, NM, VSM | FOC-in-C (South) |
| (ii) | Cmde G Prakash, NM | CO, INS Venduruthy |
| (iii) | Cmde Y Kumar | Dir ECHS (Kochi) |
| (iv) | Capt PVGK Nambiar | CRSO (South) |

(b) **Members.**

- | | | |
|-------|--|--------------------|
| (i) | V Adm Biswajit Dasgupta AVSM, YSM, VSM | Vice President, NF |
| (ii) | R Adm Deepak Kapoor, VSM | Secy RGC (East) |
| (iii) | R Adm JS Sekhon | Legal Member |
| (iv) | R Adm LS Suriaraj, NM | Secy RGC (West) |
| (v) | Cmde Joginder Chandna, VSM | Secy RGC (South) |
| (vi) | Cmde Vivek Karnavat | Treasurer, NF |
| (vii) | Cmde Pankaj Sharma | Secretary, NF |

(c) **In Attendance.**

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|-------|---------------------|--------------------|
| (i) | Cmde Sanjay Nirmal | Cmde(ECHS)Navy |
| (ii) | Capt VK Gupta | Capt(PA) |
| (iii) | Capt Dalbir S Rana | Secy INCCB |
| (iv) | Cdr Tapobrata Dutta | Cdr(ESM Affairs)NF |

(d) **Chapter Representatives.**

(i)	V Adm M P Muralidharan (Retd), AVSM*,NM	President, NF Kerala
(ii)	V Adm VK Namballa (Retd), AVSM	President, NF Vizag
(iii)	R Adm Sushil Ramsey (Retd), YSM	President, NF Delhi
(iv)	Cmde VK Gautam (Retd), NM	President, NF C'garh
(v)	Cmde S K Pawnday (Retd)	V President, NF L'know
(vi)	Cmde KM Nair (Retd)	V President, NF B'gluru
(vii)	Cmde PK Malhotra (Retd)	President, NF Pune
(viii)	Cdr Vijay Vadhera (Retd), NM	Secy, NF Mumbai
(ix)	Cdr L Radhakrishnan (Retd)	Secy, NF Chennai
(x)	Cdr Ravi Dixit (Retd)	Secy, NF Goa
(xi)	Cdr G Eswara Reddy (Retd)	Secy, NF Hyderabad
(xii)	Cdr Ashutosh Sharma (Retd)	Secy, NF Jaipur
(xiii)	Cdr I Aravanan (Retd)	Secy, NF Coimbatore
(xiv)	Cdr DK Swain (Retd)	Secy, NF Odisha

Item I - Welcome Address by Vice President, NF

2. The Vice President, NF extended a warm welcome to all present and in particular thanked all veteran flag officers and out station veteran Navy Foundation representatives who had taken the efforts to attend this Annual General Body meeting of the Navy Foundation. He also placed on record sincere thanks to all Navy Foundation Kerala charter veterans who turned up in large numbers to participate. The Vice President then added that Service was in a fine shape due to the efforts and foresight of officers of yesteryears.

3. He expressed his gratitude towards the veteran officers and re-emphasised the role of the veterans in motivating the younger & current generation of requisite calibre to join our fine service and constructively use the social media to further the interests of the Indian Navy. He also asked them for exercising due restraint while expressing opinions on various social media platforms and that the *IN* was looking forward to receiving constructive suggestions from all veterans in order to improve conditions for the serving as well as the retired personnel. Rules were made by men like us, hence, the *IN* will spare no effort to resolve issues facing the veteran community and pursue changes as required, raising the matter to the highest levels. He also informed the NF members about the changes in nomenclature wrt appointments of officers at IHQMoD (N) to address the issues between the armed forces personnel and civilians.

4. He then drew attention to a few initiatives that have been taken to meet the requirements of our veterans. He stated that the *IN* was processing a case for development of a mobile app so that the veterans could forward all their requests through a mobile phone. He added that a MoU was signed with Andhra University in Feb 19 for medically boarded out cadets of National Defence Academy and Indian Naval Academy for Lateral Entry to Andhra University Engineering College. He further added that all out efforts were being made to reduce the timelines for processing various cases being received at IHQMoD (N). He brought to the notice of all members that a widow hostel – “Sahara hostel” was planned to be commissioned in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, as part of CSR activity with NBCC. He assured that Navy was committed to look after well-being of our veterans. He concluded by once again welcoming everyone present for the AGM and wished a long, happy and healthy life.

Item II - Presentation by Cmde (NPF)

5. Cmde(NPF) provided details of the various welfare measures undertaken by the DNPF and in particular highlighted the following aspects:-

- (a) Post Retirement Death Insurance Extension Scheme (PRDIES).
- (b) INBA Welfare Schemes.

Item III - Presentation by Cmde (ECHS Navy)

6. The Cmde(ECHS Navy) covered the following aspects in his presentation:-

- (a) Procedure to avail benefits by WW II, EC, SSC, and PMR officers.
- (b) Types of emergencies and procedure for reimbursement.
- (c) Status of empanelled hospitals.
- (d) Online processing of bills.
- (e) Recent ECHS developments.
- (f) Medicine Management.
- (g) Channel of grievances.

7. During the presentation, veterans aired their concern over shortage of medicines in various polyclinics. Cmde ECHS informed the members that the issue was specific to only a few locations where vendors were not able to supply medicines within 24hrs. Vice President, NF advised the members to shift to Naval polyclinics, wherever, feasible.

Item IV - Review of Old Agenda Points (Part I)

8. Review of three actionable points from the last AGM were provided to the forum. Details are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

Item V - New Agenda Points (Part I)

9. Five new agenda points were discussed under the chairmanship of V Adm Biswajit Dasgupta, CPS and Vice President Navy Foundation. Details of discussions and decisions arrived at are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

Item VI - Welcome Address by President, NF

10. The President, Navy Foundation requested all present to join him in paying homage to members who had departed for their heavenly abode since the last meeting by observing two minute's silence. He, thereafter, extended a warm welcome to all the members and office bearers of NF for attending the AGM and mentioned that it is always an honour to interact with the members of the Navy Foundation, many of whom have mentored and guided him over the years.

11. He said that the Annual General body Meeting gives the Navy an opportunity to reaffirm Navy's commitment to the veteran community, as well as re-state Navy's gratitude for their invaluable contribution towards giving the Indian Navy a firm foundation. He added that even as the Indian Navy grows from strength to strength, the Indian Navy would remain committed to maintaining a robust and meaningful relationship between the serving and retired members of the family. The President NF further added that the Indian Navy was privileged to have the continuing benefit of experience and wisdom of our veterans. Their guidance would always be welcomed, and he requested all the members to continue to remain engaged with the Service.

12. He said that the Navy continues to do yeoman service for the Nation in times of crisis. He stated that earlier in the year, while our fleets were participating in the theatre level exercise TROPEX spread across the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean, terrorists attacked a convoy of the CRPF in Pulwama. Immediately thereafter, our combat power was poised to take action in accordance with the national intent. He added he was sure that they had all read about the effect that has had on our adversary.

13. He mentioned that he was sure that the members would have also noticed the steady increase in the maritime focus within the nation in sync with our nation's maritime vision, the Navy too has re-aligned its operational philosophy, to enhance its presence, readiness and situational awareness, all of which has reinforced our being the first port of call for all our friends in the region. We now have near continuous deployment of task forces, in critical parts of IOR, mission-ready to address a wide range of situations and contingencies.

14. Most recently, the First Training Squadron, undertook prompt and effective HADR operations at Mozambique, being the only naval force to arrive at the scene just a few hours after the disaster and leaving no stone unturned in providing relief to the locals.

15. He mentioned that our foreign cooperation has also grown in sync with our growing stature in the region as well as globally. Last year, the Indian Navy undertook around 20 exercises with foreign navies including bilateral and multilateral exercises. These exercises covered the entire spectrum of naval operations, ranging from basic SAR to coordinated actions in multi-threat environments and coordinated ASW actions. He said that through these we continue to build up a deep sense of mutual trust as well as interoperability with friendly foreign navies.

16. He reiterated that Hydrographic cooperation and training were two additional cornerstones of our foreign cooperation outreach. Our survey ships have undertaken coastal surveys in critical areas for some of our maritime neighbours, and we have even signed inter-governmental agreements to sustain such cooperation in the long term, in addition to the significant amount of training conducted at SNC for foreign trainees, he said that the Indian Navy has also started deploying mobile training teams to some countries to provide on-site niche training, tailored to the needs of the host Navy. These measures have further shored-up our standing in the region.

17. The Indian Navy has, therefore, taken a number of initiatives towards community support measures that together make the Navy a taut, efficient and happy service. In the same vein, wellbeing of our veterans and widows has always been an area of prime concern for the Indian Navy and will always continue to remain so.

18. He then highlighted some significant steps, taken recently, to empower our veterans and their families:-

(a) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of Qatar for employment of retired officers and sailors of Indian Navy in Qatar Emiri Naval Force.

(b) The *IN* has given due impetus to construction of facilities for veterans and widows under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Act. The Widows Hostel at Delhi, which was progressed as part of the CSR initiative, has been completed and the Navy is in the process of taking over the building. Another proposal for similar hostel at Mankhurd, Mumbai has been accepted and funding for the same was being organised.

(c) Furthermore, ECHS facilities have recently been extended to all World War Veterans, Emergency Commission, Short Service Commission as well as personnel who had left service prematurely without pensions. There have been some other initiatives to improve services under ECHS and he was sure that they have been familiarised with these earlier in the day.

19. He said that the Directorate of Ex-servicemen Affairs was accessible to all of them through email and its helpline. He further added that there was also the Indian Navy website, 'Facebook' page, Twitter account as well as an Instagram handle, all of which were regularly updated. He reaffirmed that most of the members were increasingly being made tech-savvy by their children, and grandchildren, and could connect with the Navy through these forums as well. He then requested the members to go through DESA blog and the quarterly DESA e-newsletter. He said that these contained information that was valuable to the veterans. He added that all in uniform would be veterans sooner or later and for him it was very soon. He requested the members to keep sending their ideas and suggestions.

20. He then briefed the members on projects in the pipeline and said - as far as growth of Navy is concerned at the moment we have 32 ships and submarines under construction all within India. We have signed the contract with Russia for 2 additional Tegu Class ships and additional 2 with GSL. We have recently signed contracts for 8 plus 8 shallow water ASW craft. A contract for 24 MRH would be signed by Sep 19 and should be available with us by 2021. We have signed the contract for lease of the second SSN with Russia and our case for 6 indigenous SSNs is in progress. We have commissioned the first Scorpion class s/m and the second one is undergoing sea trials at the moment and should be delivered in the month or two. Third one has also started sea trial and hopefully by 2024 we should be able to commission all 6 of them. The endeavour to be a 200 plus ships and s/m and 500 aircrafts Navy, which was to be achieved by 2027 may not be achieved in this time frame. Because of mission based deployments, our ships are present on call in the IOR and are augmented by the P8I and its extended surveillance capability. They have flown more hours in less than 3 years compared to what TUs flew in 29 years. The whole world has started looking up to the Indian Navy and this is what has come out clearly in my interaction with colleagues from all over the world. Another huge capability boost has been that we have finally started doing non diversionary flying from Vikramaditya's deck with Mig 29K. We have left behind us most of the issues with Mig 29K and have fully qualified crew who will now graduate towards non diversionary night flying also.

21. He thanked everyone once again for sparing their valuable time to be at the meeting. The President NF then, on behalf of the Navy and our Nation, conveyed sincere gratitude to veterans for their leadership and contributions whilst in service, and for their steadfast support and guidance even after swallowing the anchor, and wished everyone good health, happiness and success in every endeavour.

Item VII - Confirmation of 26th AGM Minutes.

22. The Secretary NF confirmed that the minutes of 26th AGM were forwarded to all Chapters. Cdr G Eswara Reddy (Retd), Secy, Hyderabad Chapter proposed confirmation of the minutes of 26th GCM, it was seconded by Cdr Vijay Vadhera (Retd), Secy, Mumbai

Chapter. Thereafter, minutes of the 26th GCM were confirmed and signed by the President, Navy Foundation.

Item VIII - Secretary's Report.

23. The Secretary presented the report on the activities of the Navy Foundation since the last Annual General Meeting held at Vizag on 11 Mar 18.

24. He highlighted the change in the stewardship of a few Chapters since the last AGM and that he looked forward to a fruitful interaction ahead. He informed that DESA has constantly endeavoured to serve as the bridge between the 'Uniform' and the 'Civvies' by providing all the relevant information through emails, DESA Blog and the e-newsletter. He brought out that the guiding principle at DESA was 'Enhancing Index of Satisfaction of the Retirees Life'.

25. The members were informed that the process regarding issuing service certificates and change of permanent home address of our veterans has been streamlined and issue and despatch of service certificates has commenced. An advisory has also been issued to all commands towards improving and maintaining high standards of silver salver that are given to officers on their retirement, including its timely etching with finesse, polishing and preservation.

26. Thereafter, he highlighted various activities undertaken by the respective Chapters that included meetings, get-togethers, lectures and awareness programmes conducted including visits to various places of interest. The activity report was compiled based on the individual reports received from the Chapters at DESA. The activity report indicated that 'Navy Foundation' continues to be a lively organisation engaged in social, philanthropic and larger nation building work. The activity report was highlighted in the alphabetical order of the Chapters.

Item IX - Review of Old Agenda Points (Part II).

27. Review of two actionable points from the last AGM was provided to the forum. Details are placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Item X - New Agenda Points (Part II).

28. The President, NF presided over the discussions for balance three new agenda points. Details are placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Item XI - Concluding Remarks by President NF.

29. The President, NF once again thanked all the participants for coming over and actively participating in the discussions. He wished all the members good health and long life.

Item XII - Vote of Thanks.

30. The AGM ended with a vote of thanks by Secretary, Navy Foundation on behalf of the President, Navy Foundation.

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

32. These minutes are issued with the approval of President, Navy Foundation.



(Pankaj Sharma)
Commodore
Secretary, Navy Foundation

Distribution: - Normal

AGM Part I (Chaired by CPS)

Status of Old Agenda Points

1. **Exemption of Toll Tax for ESM (23rd NF AGM Part I).**

Deliberations. Secretary NF brought out that the issue regarding exemption of Toll Tax to veteran community is being pursued by the Services with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The issue has also been taken up by the Chairman PPOC with MoD and is currently pending with MoD and MoRTH. Further update on the issue will be intimated to the Chapters by DESA.

Decision. The Vice president directed that the Point be closed.

2. **Last Rites of Deceased Naval Veterans (26th NF AGM Part I).** There has been a persistent demand from the veterans' community for adoption of additional ceremonials and procedures similar to Army and Air Force for accord of dignified last rites to the departed naval veterans. NF Mumbai has requested that along with laying of wreath on the body of the deceased veteran, Naval Ensign be also draped on the mortal remains of the veteran as is being done by IAF for their departed. The issue was discussed in the 26th AGM and a decision was taken to examine the feasibility of providing the Naval Ensign for last rites at IHQMoD (Navy).

Deliberations. Secretary NF brought out that the matter has been discussed on numerous occasions and adequately deliberated at IHQMoD (N) on file. It has been decided that status quo (laying of wreath on the body of the deceased veteran) be maintained as the support infrastructure of Indian Navy is limited view non availability of naval units in all the cities. VAdm RP Suthan (Retd) member NF brought out that guidelines do exist and that it was imperative to reiterate to all naval stations to follow the guidelines as per the policy on last rites of deceased veterans. Vice President, NF informed that all naval stations will be directed to follow guidelines and also changes in the policy, if any, will be brought out and intimated to all chapters and naval station post examination.

Decision. The Vice President suggested that individual chapters can handle the issue locally with Local Naval Authority and that the Point be closed.

3. **Pension Issues (26th AGM Part I).** Consequent to implementation of OROP and 7th CPC, major changes have taken place in matters concerning Pension/Family pension. It is, therefore, considered essential that fresh PPOs be issued to all

pensioners. The matter was discussed in the 26th AGM wherein it was decided that the issue of corrigendum PPOs be pursued energetically by DPA.

Deliberations. The members brought out that though as on date, pension of all veterans has been updated as per the 7th CPC recommendations. However, corrigendum PPOs have not yet been issued as the fixation and correct amount being credited by the bank can only be ascertained after receiving the PPO. Capt (PA) brought out that the matter has been discussed with Additional CGDA by DPA during a meeting held on 05 Feb 19. The same is expected to commence by Jul/Aug 2019 once PCDA (Allahabad) takes over the pension accounts of all naval veterans. This is an ongoing process and status will be informed through DESA Newsletter/ Blog to all NF Chapters. Also, individual cases can be put up to CSOs (P&A) of the respective Commands.

Decision. The Vice President directed CSO (P&A), HQWNC to seek intervention of FOC-in-C (West) and resolve the matter with PCDA (Navy). Also COL would be requested to intervene and that the Point be kept open for monitoring till the next AGM.

Action: CSO (P&A)WNC, DPA

New Agenda Points

4. **Interaction with Core Committee.** CPS/ Cmde (ESM Affairs) during their visit to HQWNC, should also interact with the Core Committee members of NFMC.

Deliberations. Secretary NF brought out that Cmde (ESM Affairs)/ rep of DESA do attend the AGM and RGC meetings of various NF chapters, which are formal events and these include interactions with the core committee. However, efforts will be made to have more interactions in future.

Decision. The Vice president directed that the Point be closed.

5. **Octogenarian Memento for Widows.** Mumbai chapter brought out that para 4(b) of the MoA of NF mentions that widows (Hon. Members of the Foundation) have voting rights. If that is so, then they should also be entitled to receive the Octogenarian memento on attaining the age of 80 years.

Deliberations. Secretary NF brought out that eligibility of membership as per MoA extends only to personnel who have served in the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Navy including Short Service Commission officers and the Naval Reserves as commissioned officers. Under Para 6 of memorandum of association, it is clearly stated that "Honorary members and members with foreign citizenship may attend meetings but shall not have any voting rights". Widows are honorary members and thus are not extended any voting rights. There is a typographical

error in Para 4(b) of MoA which has already been informed to Mumbai Chapter on previous occasions, and will be corrected during the next revision of the MoA. More so, felicitation is only for officers who have served in the Indian Navy and may not be extended to widows.

Decision. The Vice president directed that the Point be closed.

6. **Dual Membership.** Mumbai Chapter is enrolling veterans from other chapters. Even members residing in Pune have been enrolled. This is causing a lot of confusion and on many occasions IHQMoD (N) has forwarded Octogenarian mementos to Mumbai for the veterans living in Pune.

Deliberations. Secretary NF emphasised that dual membership is not permitted as per MoA, however, change of chapter is permitted. Once a member joins another NF Chapter his name is to be struck off from the previous chapter. It was brought out by the members that there needs to be a provision in which a member can be associated with another chapter so that he can stay up-to-date with activities of that chapter as well. Vice President, NF informed the members that the procedure for members to be associated, and nor dual membership, with other chapters would be worked out and an advisory will be issued within the framework of the existing MoA and the same will be intimated by DESA.

Decision. The Vice president directed that the Point be closed.

7. **Tax Deduction from Interest Earnings.** As per the MoA of NF, all the funds of Vizag chapters are deposited in SBI (PSU Bank) and only the interest accrued is being used for the activities. However, the bank is deducting 20% as TDS from the meagre interest earned, even after submitting the copy of PAN card of Navy Foundation.

Deliberations. Hon. Treasurer, NF brought out that deduction of TDS on interest accrued from FDs is as per Govt. regulations. To avoid paying tax, the chapter has to register itself independently and avail a Pan No. Once done, the same Pan No. can be used to fill form 15(H) and claim tax returns as per extant regulations. In this case, the TDS of 20% will be reduced to 10%.

Decision. Vice President directed Cmde (NPF) to work out a solution and issue an advisory so that the TDS of 20% can be reduced to 10% and directed that the Point to be kept open till the next AGM.

Action: DPNF

8. **Standard Retired Officers' Directory**. Most of the chapters have directories but with different format and layout. Standardised format may be prescribed and an all India Directory issued.

Deliberations. Secretary NF brought out that directories of members is maintained by respective NF chapters as per their convenience. However, if the need be, a standard format can be issued in form of an advisory to all chapters to standardise the format. Chapters thereafter can share amongst them respective directories. Vice President, NF reiterated to the chapters that it is internal to each chapter and they may take a call and share directories amongst them.

Decision. The Vice president directed that the Point be closed.

AGM Part II (Chaired by CNS)

Status of Old Agenda Points (Part II)

1. **Provision for Retirement Home for Veterans.**

Deliberations. Feedback regarding particulars of volunteers who wish to stay in a retirement home was sought from NF Chapters and the Coast Guard. However, the response was poor. President NF mentioned that enough deliberations have been made towards making retirement homes by all three services but because of lack of volunteers they have been turned down.

Decision. The President directed that the Point be closed.

2. **Headgears for Naval Veterans.**

Deliberations. NIFT was approached to design a Side Cap and the proposal received was turned down on file as the consultation charges were exorbitantly high. Thereafter, the NF Chapters were approached and again there were divergence in views between side cap and sea cap. NF Goa has intimated that a prescriptive step is not required towards designing of a veterans head gear view diverging views of veterans and it be left to individual preference. However, President NF directed that Sea caps without braids and stars will be designed for naval veterans and the design will be forwarded to all the chapters.

Decision. The President directed that the Point be closed.

New Agenda Points (Part II)

3. **Conduct of Biennial Admiral JG Nadkarni Memorial Lecture.**

Deliberations. NF Pune Chapter sought approval to conduct Adm JG Nadkarni memorial lecture biennially at Pune. President NF approved the proposal.

Decision. The President directed that the Point be closed.

4. **Veteran Membership at RSI Bangalore.**

Deliberations. President NF mentioned that this point has already been discussed with the Army and it was intimated that RSI Bangalore is at its full capacity and cannot accommodate more members. However, he stated that this issue will be pursued once again with the Army.

Decision. The President stated that he would once more take up the issue with the Chief of Army Staff and directed that the Point be monitored till Next AGM.

5. **Extension of NOM facilities to NF Bangalore.**

Deliberations. President NF brought out that extending facilities to veterans might have administrative issues till such time suitable infrastructure comes up for NOM Bangalore. However, the President NF directed RGC (West) to look into the matter of hiring the lawn by individual veterans for personal functions and pass orders accordingly.

Decision. The President directed that the Point be closed.