

Tel : 022-22751223
Fax : 022-22660857

Headquarters
Western Naval Command
Ballard Pier, Near Tiger Gate
Naval Dockyard
Mumbai - 400 001

WE/1022/NF/6/28

08 Oct 18

**MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF NAVY FOUNDATION
REGIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL (WEST)
HELD AT MUMBAI ON 13 AUG 18**

1. The 4th meeting of the Navy Foundation, Regional Governing Council (West) was held at WNC (O) Mess Conference Hall on 13 Aug 18 under the Chairmanship of Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command and President of Navy Foundation, Regional Governing Council (West). The following were present:-

(a) **Members.**

- (i) RAdm Pradeep Joshi VSM
- (ii) Cmde Sandeep Chakravarti

CSO (P&A) - Vice President
Cd Edn & Wel Officer - Secy RGC

(b) **Invitees.**

- (i) Surg RADM Ravi Kaira
- (ii) Cmde RK Dahiya
- (iii) Surg Cmde Naveen Chawla VSM
- (iv) Surg Cmde CS Naidu
- (v) Cmde JPS Sobti
- (vi) Cmde MMS Shergill
- (vii) Cmde Kalpesh I Rawal
- (viii) Cmde AM Sabnis
- (ix) Capt Rajeev Kishore
- (x) Capt Devendra P Pant
- (xi) Capt MM Sharma
- (xii) Cdr PVR Krishnan
- (xiii) Cdr DS Suhag

CO Asvini
CAPO
Exo Asvini
ACMO
CO Kunjali
CO Angre
Regional Director, ECHS
CO, Tanaji
CRSO (W)
SSO (Works)
ECHS,
NAVPEN
General Manager INCS

(c) Charter Representatives.

(i)	RAdm RM Bhatia (Retd)	President Mumbai Chapter
(ii)	RAdm SR Sampath Gopal (Retd)	President Bengaluru Chapter
(iii)	Cmde P K Malhotra (Retd)	President Pune Chapter
(iv)	Cdr Ravi Dixit (Retd)	Secretary Goa Chapter
(v)	Cdr Vijay Vadhera (Retd)	Secretary Mumbai Chapter
(vi)	Cdr Mohan Philip (Retd)	Secretary Pune Chapter
(vii)	Cmde Prodip Mehra (Retd)	Member NFMC
(viii)	Cdr GC Rai(Retd)	Member NFMC
(ix)	Maj PP Jadhav (Retd)	Zilla Saink Welfare Officer (Thane)

Opening Address by the C-in-C

2. The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the NF members of all chapters of RGC(West). He brought out that the RGC (West) meets every year and there is a regular communication with all chapters of Navy foundation. C-in-C mentioned that he had visited all Navy Foundation chapters once or twice in last year and interacted with all Navy Foundation officer bearers / members.
3. He informed that the command is in touch with Ex-sailors community also. In order to improve our liaison with all pension disbursing banks, first ever NAVY-CPPC meeting was conducted in Jul 17 and next meeting is scheduled on 29 Aug 18 under the chairmanship of CSO (P&A). He assured the Veterans that HQWNC is monitoring pension related issues closely. The NPO and Naval Pension Office under WNC are taking care of pensioners of not only Western Command but the entire Navy.
4. The chairman appraised the members that he has been interacting with various authorities to solve issues related to ECHS. Management of ECHS is going to become even more challenging in coming years as not only the retired personnel but their dependents were also registered with ECHS. With increasing number of dependents, the load on ECHS will be much more in coming years. Budget of ECHS has significantly increased in the last few years. Demand of Naval Veterans to shift RC ECHS has been addressed and it would start functioning from new location from End Sep18. Additional Polyclinics have also been sanctioned to cater to large area of Mumbai.
5. He appreciated Veterans' working in civil organisations which has helped the Navy in reaching out to the civilian community.
6. The Chairman brought out the acute shortage of accommodation in South Mumbai and the steps taken to address the issue by transferring 23 acres of land in different pockets of Mumbai from Army to Navy, for construction of different accommodation for Officers & Sailors.
7. He informed the gathering that WNC is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year. Accordingly, additional events have been planned to celebrate Golden Jubilee of the Command along with Navy Week activities this year. Some initiatives are taken by WNC as part of Golden Jubilee celebrations such as modernization of RC Church Bus stand, various Swachata Abhiyans and initiatives to keep our residential and office areas clean and hygienic. The main Golden Jubilee event is being planned in Dec 18 for which dates were being worked out in consultation with NHQ.

8. He concluded the opening address by reiterating that the Command is committed to resolve the issues of veterans in a prompt manner.

Pending Points of 3rd RGC Meeting

On completion of opening address, the pending points / follow up action on last years 3rd RGC Meeting were taken up.

Item I : Setting up of ECHS Polyclinic at Thane

9. Point Setting up of ECHS Polyclinic at Thane.

10. Deliberations.

(a) It was brought out that the ECHS Polyclinics under the RC are catering to 84757 veterans / dependents. The number of registered members in each ECHS polyclinic show that all the ECHS polyclinics are handling a large number of clients.

(b) ACMO informed that the approval of ECHS at Navi Mumbai and two more polyclinics has been received. As and when the Community Hall at Kharghar becomes operational, ECHS at Belapur would be shifted to Thane and ECHS Navi Mumbai would start functioning from Kharghar Community Hall, taking care of all Veterans of Navi Mumbai.

(c) ZSWO, Thane proposed to start Thane Polyclinic without waiting for opening of Kharghar ECHS. CSO(P&A) clarified that, it will take some more time to raise infrastructure at Thane for ECHS Polyclinic.

11. Decision - C-in-C directed that whilst the infrastructure is getting ready at Thane and Kharghar, a board be formed to monitor the progress of ECHS Kharghar and liaise with CIDCO and other authorities for early completion of work.

Action: DIR RC ECHS/ ACMO /
ZSWO, Thane / NFMC

Item II : Provision of Resource, Navy Foundation.

12. Point Provision of Resource, space and allocation of funds to Navy Foundation, Pune.

13. **Deliberations.**

(a) Secretary NFPC submitted that three meetings are held in a year, one meeting at INS Shivaji and two at Pune. For the meeting held at Pune, Army mess booking charges are 20,000/- and another Rs 30,000/- is needed for hiring of furniture etc. Where as, in RSI booking / hiring charges are less i.e. Rs 33,000/-. But RSI is mostly not available due to other functions. Secretary NFPC also brought out that, there are only three stations where for Navy Foundation Chapters Naval Infrastructure is not available and Pune is one, so a grant can be considered for the organizing annual meetings of NFPC from WNC.

(b) CSO(P&A) brought out that a case has been taken up to get the land from ordinance factory at Pune for construction of permanent infrastructure for NAI Pune. The same can also be utilized by NFPC for holding meetings.

14. **Decision.** C-in-C informed that the proposal of funding to each chapter of Navy Foundation for holding annual meetings is under consideration at IHQ. In the interim proposals for funds may be put up to Command by respective Chapters. Further NFPC may approach NAI(Pune) for booking of venue within ordinance factory premises or Army officers Mess Khadki. CRSO to monitor the progress of case at IHQ regarding funding to each chapter.

Action: NFPC / PNAI (Pune) / CRSO

Item III : Felicitation of Octogenarians.

15. **Point.** Felicitation of Octogenarians by Navy and DO letter from CNS.

16. **Deliberations.**

(a) This issue was referred by the Command to IHQ / DESA. CNS hands over the octogenarians mementos to veterans personally. Therefore DESA has not recommended issue of DO letter from CNS.

(b) Secretary NFMC brought out that, octogenarian are happy to receive mementos and stated octogenarians other than those residing in Delhi, do not get the memento personally from CNS. It will be nice to get a DO letter from CNS along with memento.

17. **Decision.** C-in-C directed CSO(P&A) to speak to CPS to convey the request of veterans.

Action: CSO(P&A)

Item IV : Admiral Tahillani Memorial Lecture.

18. **Point.** Reducing the frequency of Admiral Tahillani Memorial Lecture conducted by NF Pune Chapter.

19. **Deliberations.** NFPC is required to conduct Admiral Tahiliani Memorial lecture once a year. However, the chapter has now proposed to reduce the frequency of the lecture to once in two years.

20. **Decision.** C-in-C directed NFPC to submit formal proposal to HQWNC. In case change in nomenclature is required then, HQWNC will take it up with DESA.

Action: NFPC / HQWNC

Item V : Camps at Powai and Navi Mumbai for making Veteran I-Cards.

21. **Point.** Periodic camp may be held at Powai and Navi Mumbai by Kunjali and Angre for making Veterans and spouse I-Cards.

22. **Deliberations.** Details of camps held in last once year were informed to veterans. Secy NFMC stated that members are satisfied with efforts taken up by INS Kunjali.

23. **Decision.** Point closed.

Item VI : Relocation of office RC ECHS.

24. **Point.** Relocation of office of Director RC ECHS to south Mumbai for easy accessibility.

25. **Deliberations.** Director informed that RC ECHS office will be functional at Noorbhoy Building, Colaba w.e.f. 30 Sep 18.

26. **Decision.** Point closed.

Item VII : Last Rites of Veterans.

27. **Point.** Mortal remains of the deceased veterans be wrapped in Naval Ensign as done by IAF.

28. **Deliberations.**

(a) The issue was taken up with IHQ / DESA and has not been approved by IHQ.

(b) Secretary NFMC stated that in Mumbai, the practice has already been started.

29. **Decision.** C-in-C informed that, as a policy it is not possible to use Naval Ensign for all deceased veterans and therefore it has not been approved by IHQ.

Point closed.

Item VIII : Charges for functions at IMSC for veterans.

30. **Point.** Charges for functions at IMSC for veterans are more than serving personnel.
31. **Deliberations.** NFMC brought out that, for functions like New Year eve etc, charges for veterans to be kept same as service officers like in any other club.

(a) CSO (P&A) gave example of US Club and stated that in US Club, retired officers are members and pay monthly subscription like service officers, therefore charges for function were same. In IMSC, only the serving officers posted at South Mumbai were compulsory members. Retired officers are not entitled for IMSC membership and hence do not pay monthly subscription. Monthly subscription is utilised for maintenance of IMSC. Therefore only entry charges for the functions are kept higher for non members, rest all charges are same for members and non members.

(b) C-in-C enquired if online booking of rooms or hall is possible. LOIC NPO informed that booking is possible through phone / fax / Email. However payment has to be made at IMSC. NFMC brought out that there is absolutely no problem in booking.

32. **Decision.** Point closed.

New Agenda Points

All chapters – 4th RGC Meeting

Subsequent to completion of discussion on old agenda points, New agenda were taken up.

Item IX : RSI membership to naval veterans at Bangalore.

33. **Point.** Obtaining RSI membership is very difficult for naval veterans at Bangalore. (NFBC)

34. **Deliberations.** NFBC stated that now the RSI has been renamed as RSAi and treated like Army institute. Navy and IAF do not have any say in its management. Hence obtaining membership is very difficult. It was informed by Secy RGC that RSI has well defined membership rules in which Army Officer gets higher priority.

35. **Decision.** C-in-C informed that issue is under considerations of COSC at IHQ. The proposal was taken up by IAF. Navy also gave its inputs. Decision of COSC will be conveyed to all.

Point closed.

Item X: ESM I-Card with endorsement 'Not eligible for benefits offered by Maharashtra state'

36. **Point.** Veterans with non-Maharashtra surname are being issued ESM I-Card with endorsement 'Not eligible for benefits offered by Maharashtra state' even if the veterans is domicile of Maharashtra but has non Maharashtra surname. However an ESM with Maharashtra surname who is non domicile of Maharashtra are being issued I-Cards without such endorsement. (NFPC)

37. **Deliberations.** NFPC informed that issue has been resolved. He requested to withdraw the point.

38. **Decision.** Point closed.

Item XI: Sailor for local NFPC work.

39. **Point.** Positioning of suitable sailor may be considered for appointment to a local Naval unit for duties with NFPC. (NFPC)

40. **Deliberations.** Positioning of serving sailors is not feasible.

41. **Decision.** C-in-C directed that issue may be sorted out by hiring casual staff on hourly basis as and when required by NFPC.

* Point closed.

Action: NFPC

Item XII: Slow processing of pension documents.

42. **Point.** Slow processing of document at CDA(Navy) Mumbai in issuing revised PPOs is causing inconvenience to Veterans. (NFMC)

43. **Deliberations.**

(a) It was informed that all 396 cases of pending PPOs in respect of post 2016 have been resolved. However, the cases of pre 2016 retirees are held up due to preparation of concordance tables at MOD / GCDA level.

(b) All chapters appreciated NAVPEN for fast resolution of the issues related to pension. LOIC NAVPEN requested that specific cases of delay may be projected to NAVPEN directly. CSO(P&A) informed that any issues with disbursement of pension by banks can now be resolved within a week.

44. **Decision.** C-in-C directed NAVPEN / CSO(P&A) to write a letter to IHQ for early formulation of concordance table iro personnel retired prior 2016.

Action: NAV PEN / HQWNC

Item XIII: KSB Policy for Dependent I-Card.

45. **Point.** IHQ MoD(N) / KSB vide letter 061/Policy/Gen Po/Vol-1 dated 24 Apr 18 had directed RSBs / ZSWOs to stop issuing dependent cards to NOKs of ESM. (NFMC)
46. **Deliberations.** It was informed by Secy RGC that, on 03 Aug 18, KSB has withdrawn the directives and RSBs have been told to issue dependent cards. ZSWO confirmed the same.
47. **Decision.** Point closed.

Item XIV: Renewal of ECHS Cards.

48. **Point.** All polyclinics are required to setup online renewal of ECHS card facility by the data entry operator for helping out the veterans. This needs to be expedited since Sep 18 is the last date for renewal. There is shortage of Data Entry operators in the polyclinics. (NFMC)
49. **Deliberations.**
- (a) It was informed that data entry for renewal of card is working out well. 32 KB cards were being replaced with and new smart cards with 64 KB chip. The entire process was online. Hand holding desks have been setup at all Polyclinics. A dedicated sailor has been put on job at Station Headquarters to help Veterans.
 - (b) Director RC ECHS informed that new and renewed cards were being sent to polyclinics / Station Headquarters and veterans to contact Station Headquarters for collections of cards.
50. **Decision.** C-in-C directed Director RC ECHS to put up a brief about the process and also to ensure that, personnel now retiring should get 64 KB cards and not the old one, so that there is no requirement for them to renew the card.

Action: Director RC ECHS

Item XV: Shortage of Medicines at Polyclinics.

51. **Point.** There is shortage of medicines in the polyclinics. At present the satisfaction level is only 40% to 50% at Nerul Polyclinic. Asvini is unable to provide full quota of medicines demanded by OIC Nerul Polyclinic. NFMC also requested exploration of obtaining generic medicines at almost 80% discounted rates over the MRP from Pradhan mantra Bhartiya Jan Ausadhi Kendra. (NFMC)
52. **Deliberations.**
- (a) There was a temporary shortage of medicines due to admin issues. Situation had subsequently improved. CO Asvini brought out that, Asvini was handling tremendous load and all efforts are put in to provide medicines on time and reduce the deficiency. He said that, he exhausted all his financial powers in LP and he is even using serving personnel quota to fulfill requirement of ECHS.

- (b) Empaneled hospitals have been directed not to prescribe brand names so that generic medicines can be procured.
- (c) Central ECHS organisation has approved all 'Jan Aushadhi Centers' to be deemed as ALCs.

53. **Decision.**

- (a) C-in-C asked ACMO to develop an efficient methodology for data collection to know authorization of each Polyclinic, so that the deficiency can be calculated. Also there must be stocking policy for each polyclinic which can be work out with respect to number of veterans registered with each Polyclinic.
- (b) Efforts are to be put in to further improve the situation. Point to be monitored.

**Action: ACMO / Dir RC ECHS /
Station Cdr ECHS Polyclinics**

Item XVI : Local Chemist for Navi Mumbai.

54. **Point.** Facility for purchase of medicines from local chemist in Navi Mumbai had still not started. CGHS registered chemist shop in Navi Mumbai & Andheri should also be empaneled. Also, there was only one CGHS registered chemist in fort which supplies LP medicines all over Mumbai. As per the contact, LP medicines were supposed to be delivered within 24 Hrs but actually it is taking almost a week. (NFMC)

55. **Deliberations.** ACMO informed that chemists were not coming forward for empanelment, however efforts were being made to empanel more ALCs at the vicinity of the polyclinics. Recently central ECHS organisation had lowered the criteria for empanelment of new ALCs. Further, all 'Jan Aushadhi Centers' could now be deemed as ALCs. This would improve the situation.

56. **Decision.** C-in-C directed that fresh tender enquiry be made to empanel more chemists as per the latest guidelines of LP. Director RC ECHS to issue guidelines to Station Cdr of ECHS polyclinic on LP of medicines.

**Action: ACMO / Dir RC ECHS /
Station Cdr ECHS Polyclinics**

Item XVII : Community Hall in Kharghar.

57. **Point.** Provision of community hall in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai and shifting of ECHS Polyclinic, in Nerul to the community hall needs to be expedited. (NFMC)

58. **Deliberations.**

(a) ZSWO Thane informed that community hall plan had been submitted to CIDCO and technical sanction had been obtained. Money had been sanctioned for construction of building. Construction work is expected to start in early 2019.

(b) CSO(P&A) may write a letter to CIDCO requesting early approval of building plan. If required one meeting can be fixed up with CIDCO, Dir RC ECHS, ZSWO members from NFMC etc. ZSWO may coordinate the meeting. Volunteers from NFMC to be in contact with ZSWO (Thane).

59. **Decision.** C-in-C directed that:-

(a) ZSWO to give details of concerned officers to be approached at CIDCO and Command to write to CIDCO for early approval of Building Plan.

(b) A meeting be held with CIDCO officials, for early approval of building plan. Volunteers from NFMC to get in touch with ZSWO and liaise with CIDCO office to facilitate the meeting.

Action: Dir ECHS /ZSWO, Thane /
Secy NFMC

Item XVIII : Veterans Day at WNC.

60. **Point.** Veterans Day on 14th Jan 19 should be celebrated on a grand scale involving print / social media. (NFMC)

61. **Deliberation.** Secy, NFMC stated that this will be the third year we will be celebrating veterans day. There was a need to reach out to civilians and let them know about veterans. Therefore, the event is required to be publicized for awareness of public and students.

62. **Decision.** C-in-C mentioned that Command was already organizing events for veterans officers and sailors as part of Navy Day activities. Also, it has been observed that participation of veterans is very less on veterans day. He further brought out that it was a Tri-Services activity. Therefore publicity in media by Navy alone was not recommended. However, C-in-C requested secretary NFMC to give names of volunteers to be interviewed on FM / TV channels. HQWNC to contact FM / TV channels willing to publish / broadcast interview of veterans on Veterans Day. He further requested NFMC to design a publicity advertisement and send it to Command to examine feasibility of funds and put out advertisement if possible.

Action: NFMC / CRSO / Cd PRO

Item XIX : Membership of Navy Foundation.

63. **Point.** New centralized procedure for membership of Navy Foundation has been introduced wherein all retiring Naval Officers are being given Membership of the Foundation. Membership fees for all new members are being paid by INBA and not by the individual officers. NFMC recommended that officers retiring from Mumbai and wanting to take up membership of NFMC be asked to get in touch with Secy. NFMC before retirement for filling up the membership form. (NFMC)

64. **Deliberation.** Retiring officers fill up membership forms along with other forms and forward them to DESA. Filled up forms are then forwarded by DESA to concerned NF Chapter opted by retiring officer along with membership fees.

65. **Decision.** Centralised process adopted by DESA to be followed.

Point closed.

Item XX : Best ECHS Polyclinic Award

66. **Point.**

(a) The criteria for selection of best ECHS polyclinic should also include feed back from Veterans (through the Navy Foundation) residing in that area.

(b) Contents of the complaint book kept in each ECHS Polyclinic should be scrutinized by the Station Cdrs. (NFMC)

67. **Deliberation.**

(a) The criteria for selection of Best ECHS Polyclinic is promulgated by IHQ of MoD(N) and same is being followed PAN Navy.

(b) CSO (P&A) highlighted that feedback taken from individuals would be subjective and, therefore, might not be ideal for deciding best ECHS. However, NFMC may constitute a sub committee of members and feedback of the committee may be sent to RC ECHS / HQWNC on quarterly basis.

68. **Decision.** C-in-C directed that feedback from Veterans to come to Headquarters on quarterly basis. Though, this will not be included in the criteria for best ECHS trophy however the feed back will certainly help in improving facilities of ECHS polyclinics.

Action: ACMO / Dir RC ECHS
/Station Cdr ECHS Polyclinics
/Secy NFMC

Item XXI : Timely clearance of bills of hospitals

69. **Point.** Navi Mumbai had three super specialty hospitals like Apollo, Fortis and MGM. It is requested to ensure timely clearance of their bills so that hospitals do not opt to get dis-empanelled for delay in payments.

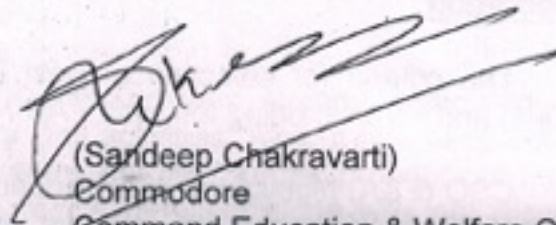
70. **Deliberation.** Director RC ECHS informed that time taken to clear bill in new system has been reduced to 49 days from 79 days. ACOMO informed that timely clearance of bills will be monitored and efforts are on to empanel more hospitals with ECHS.

71. **Decision.** C-in-C directed:-

- (a) Close monitoring of clearing of bills by O/C ECHS / Station Commander.
- (b) Point closed.

Closing Address of the C-in-C

On completion of discussion on agenda points, C-in-C thanked all members for whole hearted participation and assured that, follow up action will be ensured by the Command in respect of each issue. He mentioned that, to resolve the issues such as ECHS, Veterans need not wait for RGC meeting and CRSO / RC ECHS may be contacted whenever difficulties are faced. He also suggested to have a separate meeting to solve ground level problems related to ECHS by Station Commanders, O/C ECHS Polyclinics, Dir RC ECHS & representative of Navy Foundation Chapters and VSF.


(Sandeep Chakravarti)

Commodore

Command Education & Welfare Officer

Distribution: - Normal