VAACs “Best Practice”
Benefits to daily Operations
The VAAC Buenos Aires’ experience

by Miriam Andrioli

Best Practices’ related achievements 2010-2015

Operational aspect

- Improved VAAC Buenos Aires website
- VAG transmission to WIFS (WAFS Internet File Service – NOAA) (2013)
- New International Volcano Database ID numbers for VAACs (as of October 1st, 2013; IAVWOPSG Conclusion 7/30)
- VAG T+24 (as of July 1st, 2014)

VAAC exercises

- Annual SIGMET WV tests (last one on Dec. 2014)
- Southern Hemisphere Ash Propagation Exercise (SHAPE) (2014)
  - VAAC Toulouse - VAAC Buenos Aires

- Improved hand-over procedures and CDAF (Guide for “Collaborative Decision Analysis and Forecasting (CDAF)” - ICAO 9766 Manual).
Best Practices’ related achievements 2010-2015

- Improved VAAC best practice documentation
  - Operations Manual
  - Competency assessment of VAAC BA personnel, in progress
  - QMS ISO 9001-2008, in progress
Inter-VAAC collaboration

- On June 13th, 2015, VAAC London detected a curious VA event in the vicinity of Nevados Ojos del Salado volcano (6,879 m-Chile/Argentina Northern Andes range border) and immediately reported it to VAAC Buenos Aires.

- The existent MET pattern and the extremely low probabilities of a volcanic eruption in the area, had led VAAC Buenos Aires to label the situation as a purely meteorological event, dismissing any VA presence.
Best Practices’ related achievements 2010-2015

✓ Inter-VAAC collaboration

• But the **substantial information** provided by VAAC London triggered a full thorough **research/verification process** involving scientists from...

... **5 (five)** Institutions from Argentina and Spain !!!

Servicio de Hidrografía Naval (SHN), Argentina  
CONICET-DF/FCEyN-UBA, Argentina  
INENCO-GEONORTE – UNSa-CONICET, Argentina  
Servicio Meteorológico Nacional (SMN), Argentina  
Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC), Spain
Best Practices’ related achievements 2010-2015
Inter-VAAC collaboration

• The intriguing VA episode was unveiled achieving **surprising results**:  

The discovering of VA re-suspended processes originated in ancient/hidden VA deposits in the Andes range, NW of Argentina...

✓ an unexpected threaten to aviation was successfully identified in our AoR ,

✓ being now under VAAC Buenos Aires´ daily surveillance.

**Full details on Wed Oct 21st, 10:50-11:10:** Satellite images uncertainty: eruption or re-suspension?  
The importance of the multidisciplinary approach. The case of June 13th, 2015 Ojos del Salado false volcanic eruption.

by Estella Collini, SHN, SMN VAAC Buenos Aires, Argentina
Inter-VAAC collaboration

Cases like the successful VAAC London – VAAC Buenos Aires’ collaboration encourages the implementation of a Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC) Common webpage focused on the sharing of relevant information/products amongst the 9 (nine) VAACs.

(Ref.: Conclusion 7/22 IAVWOPSG/7, ICAO).
VAAC Buenos Aires
Best Practices has clearly translated into...

• Best use of the available meteorological and vulcanological information

• Best use of Science and its direct application into Operations

• Best use of human resources capabilities by continuous enhanced Training

• Benefit from original inter-VAAC collaboration
VAAC Buenos Aires
Best Practices has clearly translated into

• Better communication with users

• Better understanding of their needs

• Better quality service delivery (continuous, harmonized, consistent)

• Reliable to aviation stakeholders, mass media and general public.
As an on-going effort to maximize Aviation Safety in S.A.

The National Meteorological Service of Argentina is glad to announce the hosting of the next,

- WMO VAAC Best Practice meeting, and
- ICAO METP MET Operations Group (MOG) meeting

25-29 April, 2016.

TKS!!