

Joint Air and Space Power Conference 2006

Lieutenant General Schubert's Closing Remarks

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

when I interpret some of what we have heard during the discussions correctly, it could be said that

“Unmanned Aerospace Capabilities constitute a transformational shift in the operational application of Combined and Joint Air and Space Power”.

I firmly believe that we do have the obligation to promote the transformation of air and space power in all its domains and that is why the JAPCC has produced the UAS Flight Plan. What does that mean? Staying in this picture, we have a defined point of departure, a series of planned waypoints, a set of standardised flight parameters and obviously a desired destination.

Our Point of Departure is the assessment that unmanned capabilities have to be integrated into the way NATO plans and operates. The efforts of the NATO nations must at least be coordinated in order to become operationally compatible. We think that this process needs an extra push and this COE can provide a significant added value to the Alliance. The Planned Waypoints in our Flight Plan intend to utilise existing markers already established in the NATO Command Structure and to define new markers in close collaboration with the military, the academia, and the industry.

Our accomplishments so far are really noteworthy. We have either taken the lead for Air Fora, produced Journals, done presentations at conferences, initiated close collaboration with NATO entities, visited air shows and attended meetings, produced a showcase and WEB presentations on classified and unclassified systems, visited industry and academic organisations, and prepared the draft outline of a UAS Flight Plan with potential cross-feed into ISR Roadmap and Air C2 work. This conference has been yet another waypoint on the flight to our intended destination.

The Flight Parameters to be established are characterised by the spirit of co-operation and collaboration based upon sharing information and knowledge. We intend to influence the parameters in such a way that there will always be adequate altitude and speed to move forward at the optimum pace. The JAPCC is firmly convinced to have the needed capabilities to lift, steer and push into the appropriate regime of flight parameters, preferably in formation flight with other entities.

This conference has provided valuable expertise to improve our proposed Flight Parameters.

The Destination can be described as the assured delivery of unmanned capabilities which are combined and joint, effects-tailored and network-capable, and with maximum utility for all commanders. The capabilities must reflect an affordable and sustainable balance of specialisation and redundancy maintained by the NATO nations, and the nations must support NATO operations with the needed capabilities as defined in the Defence Requirements Review and detailed in the mission-specific Combined and Joint Statement of Requirements.

In that sense, there is no difference between manned and unmanned capabilities!

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Please accept this brief excursion and take it as a personal amplification of what we have discussed during this conference. And, although I am a ground-based air defence-man by trade, I do appreciate the meaning and value of an approved flight plan for manned or unmanned flights.

Ladies and Gentlemen, now that we have reached the end of the conference, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your valuable contributions. The aim of the conference was to exchange ideas and opinions on the development and employment of Unmanned Aerospace Systems.

I am grateful that General Smith and General Hobbins took the time to address the conference and to discuss a variety of relevant issues with us.

The panel discussions helped us to focus our thoughts on the conference theme and will motivate and enable us to refine the JAPCC UAS Flight Plan, which apparently has the potential of filling a current void in NATO.

We have just heard what the Moderator had to say and I can assure you that we listened carefully to his assessment. My UAS project team will have to analyse the outcome of this conference in order to identify the golden nuggets and to turn them into a visionary concept of high standards. If we succeed, we can contribute quite a lot to the relevance of air and space power in NATO, something that we already addressed in great depth during our first JAPCC conference last year.

My thanks also go to the folks that made it happen, namely our own organising team, and the external supporting organisations.

The JAPCC is very grateful for the financial contributions and I believe that we could offer real value for little money. When I recall the engaged discussion during the icebreaker, lunch and dinner, I can say that the so-called networking must have been a great success. But I also have to say that we have reached the ceiling of our capacity for accommodation and catering in the local area, something to consider for the JAPCC conference in 2007, when we intend to put the spotlight on expeditionary peacekeeping and stability operations, possibly with innovative ideas on civil-military collaboration in matters related to air and space operations.

For the time being, we plan to hold the conference on 16-18 October 2007.

Until then, the entire JAPCC team wishes you a safe trip to your next destination and a very successful future until we meet again.

Auf Wiedersehen.