

# *The Role of Joint Air Power – JAPCC Conference 2007*

## *Air Commodore Garfield Porter's Presentation*

### *"Air Power in Expeditionary Security & Stability Operations."*

Expeditionary security and stability operations, as characterized for NATO by operations in Afghanistan and by coalition operations in Iraq, are a challenging area for Air Power. Air Power theory and doctrine in the main reflects that the history of air warfare is predominately one of high intensity inter-state warfare. However, conflicts with non-state actors, known variously as small wars, Military Operations Other Than War, Low Intensity Conflict, and including counter-insurgency operations, were the prevalent form of warfare of the late Twentieth Century and could remain so for the foreseeable future given the "Long War" on global terrorism. Western armed forces, normally configured to conventional warfare, have often struggled to adapt to such operations. Such conflicts are often viewed as land-centric, but increasingly airmen will need to consider how the Air environment can be exploited to deliver non-kinetic, cognitive effects, as well as more traditional kinetic effects, within an Effects Based Approach to Operations (EBAO) across diplomatic, economic as well as military lines of operation.

The aim of the conference is to inform the Role of Air Power in Expeditionary Security and Stability Operations through the development of Air concepts, doctrine and capabilities.

#### Scope of presentation

- Nature of Air & Space Power
- Modern Context
- Contribution of Air & Space Power
- Implications for Air & Space Power

#### Contribution of Air Power

- Joint Understanding
- Joint Effects
  - Physical
  - Cognitive
  - Unintended
- Command, Control and BSM
- Assessment of Effects and Activities

The Character of Contemporary Operations is focusing on three operational themes for contemporary and future operations.

The three operational terms are:

- The "*Big War*" – characterized by state (alliance) v state level operations, which may involve contested Air and Space.
- The "*Long War*" – characterized by irregular activity (potentially after a "Big War") in which ungoverned space is contested.
- The "*Contained War*" – characterized by a decision not to intervene against either a rogue or ungoverned state, but to contain through *inter alia* denial, blockade, and no-fly zones.