

Joint Air and Space Power Conference 2005

JAPCC Executive Director's Opening Remarks

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this conference, which is very important to the Joint Air Power Competence Centre. We feel very fortunate indeed to have such an illustrious audience here today, with two of NATO's outstanding Generals representing the military community, a significant number of personalities from the academic domain, and a selected group of industrial experts, all expecting to take something of value back home from the conference.

We are confident that your expectations will be met by a balanced combination of presentations and a free and open exchange of perceptions, information and knowledge. But there is more to it than that, because discussions and talks do not only build professional and personal bridges, they also strengthen relationships and mutual trust.

The Director of JAPCC and the entire JAPCC staff welcome the opportunity to be your hosts during the next one-and-a-half days. We hope to foster an atmosphere of friendship and unconditional co-operation, now and in the future.

The friendship and co-operation I mean go beyond the military meaning of jointness and include all the other domains being brought together through transformation. If we get that right, we can I hope achieve a major breakthrough in relationships for the benefit of acquiring effective and efficient capabilities for our multi-national military mission.

The theme of our conference has been selected with a purpose. Transformation must not be allowed to degenerate into just another buzzword like so many others of our time, such that it is used and then discarded when the next flavour of the day arrives. The applicability, usability, and affordability of transformed capabilities characterise their relevance and are the yardstick of their acceptance as well as their effectiveness. In the context of holistic effects-based thinking, the domains of academia, defence industry and the military must quickly learn to exploit all collaborative possibilities. This new category of collaboration must focus on contemporary issues as well as longer-term requirements. Both areas are linked by time and must be seen as cornerstones of systematic transformation.

Since time-jumps are just fictional, transformation must help enable us to execute a transition from legacy capabilities to network-enabled capabilities without degrading the effectiveness of our in-place capabilities. We must avoid creating a two or more class military society, in which specific nations can only co-operate with the ones that have similar characteristics or capabilities. At the same time, we must continue to address the growing gap of operational capabilities between the United States and the other NATO member nations, which ultimately could weaken the Alliance. Some of that is

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occurring as we speak. Fewer and fewer people talk about integration because they realise that freedom of interference has become more important in our capability-divergent Alliance. This must be stopped!

In clear language, can we honestly expect the United States to slow down its technological advancement; can we realistically ever expect the other members of the Alliance to catch up? Affordability seems to pose one of the greatest challenges for longer-term transformation, culminating in the need to operate fielded systems for many decades. What is a feasible way out of this dilemma of the Alliance?

There is certainly no big-bang solution. The way ahead is one of harmonised evolution rather than one of revolution. I would like to mention a number of areas that I believe deserve our consideration.

- One issue that may be confrontational is that of role specialisation. At the top of the military scale in capabilities is the United States, who has the capabilities to undertake any and all missions from peace keeping to high intensity warfare. Below this level of capability are a number of Alliance countries with impressive all round military capabilities. Below this tier are a large number of NATO countries with military capabilities that while robust may not allow them to contribute to all missions especially high intensity warfare. I believe that Alliance nations should consider specialising on what they can do best and on what they can afford. I am not talking about swing-role or multi-mission capabilities, I am talking about international mission specialisation, based upon a correctly understood definition of burden-sharing and mutual trust in common defence and shared security interests. An example of this would be the Deployable Airfield Activation Wing or DAAW concept that addresses this issue. It would be capable of ensuring the timely deployment of high readiness forces requiring airlift, through the provision of enabling forces at deployment airfields, and by providing multinational personnel to receive forces in theatre. Does this sound futuristic as well as contentious. You bet it does!
- Another area is in the discussion of National versus the NATO acquisition of capabilities. The Alliance Ground Surveillance project has recently made the news again when our National Armament Directors discussed the feasibility of acquiring both the manned and unmanned portions of this project.

While no one debates the importance of this capability or even the benefits achieved through common NATO projects, AGS has had a difficult life as the nations try to resolve technological and financial issues. Obviously there is a need to better coordinate Research and Technology activities, make advances in the interoperability arena between the various proposed systems, improve our Armaments planning advice by making it more comprehensive and focussed and speed up the delivery of capabilities especially in the C4I area while developing improved

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mechanisms for measuring progress. To help alleviate these concerns, SACT is clearly asserting his jurisdiction in many Transformational areas, as is his prerogative. The JAPCC can aid SACT in this work and provide a joint airpower perspective in all of these transformational areas.

- Space or near space is also a huge area of interest. Satellites for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance or communications missions have been the purview of Nations. Can we through the use of aerostats and other UAVs find a more cost effective mechanism to provide NATO the attributes including persistence that it requires? Weapons in space are so far a political issue, but one that we as NATO airman should be aware and have a perspective on. Finally, can we afford in the future to have NATO military authorities waiting while possible time critical information obtained by national sensors is vetted by national authorities before release to NATO authorities?
- An issue dear to the hearts of all pilots is the Unmanned versus Manned philosophy. In this context, I don't mean will we use UAVs, but will we embrace them wholeheartedly and gain the absolute maximum we can from these exciting technologies. There has been much discussion on UAV employment and especially three areas, Air Space Control, the Integration of UAVs and the various Command & Control issues. These issues must be managed because of the large increase in numbers of UAV operated by all services. Our job must be to ensure all UAVs especially in a Joint operation are managed safely and that our procedures and equipment have the capability to include the various Land and Maritime UAV assets whether sophisticated or not. On a totally different note, while a reduction in casualties is one of the oft-mentioned positive aspects of UAVs, how do we ensure that these UAV forces, from the relative safety of their positions, perhaps even located oceans from the battle, continue to be imbued with the same warrior spirit that we find in today's air forces?
- Modelling and Simulation holds the potential to provide us with the mechanisms to conduct realistic, cost effective training and accreditation of Command and Control forces as well as tactical assets. For example, the JAPCC involvement in the NATO SMART for Simulated Mission and Rehearsal Training Project led by Allied Command Transformation holds the key to providing a NATO capability in this area.

Now, I would just like to throw out a suggestion. As a precursor to a future evolution of Exercise Clean Hunter or a similar live fly tactical air exercise, the Command & Control and tactical assets due to participate could engage first in a virtual exercise where the learning curve for individuals could be much steeper and various options could be trialled prior to attempting in a live fly environment. The follow-on real live flying portion could then be used to confirm the lessons already learned and practiced in the virtual environment. While initially

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focusing on Joint Air aspects this concept would be expanded to include all services and provide a tool for the Joint Force Commander to certify the component commanders.

- This leads me finally to the increasing demand for a Future Air Exercise Concept. Future Air Exercises have to rid themselves of the typical old legacy style (of counting airframes and missions) and need to address the operational and tactical requirements for the NRF. New Concepts, Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for example on Time Sensitive Targeting have to be exercised from the Joint Force Commander to the Component Command and finally to the tactical level. This means more emphasis on integrated training with more attention to Information Exchange Requirements, standardization, interoperability, as well as specific attention for the required NRF support functions like Combat Support, Combat Service Support especially Logistics.

Now for the million-dollar question, where do we start? Well, one important short-term step would be to find a solution to ensure the commander of the NRF has the assigned forces based upon a detailed robust, mission-tailored Combined Joint Statement of Requirement that would be fulfilled by the force contributing nations.

I would be surprised if we do not find at least one gold nugget during our conference, but I do hope that we will raise the awareness of what needs to be done and how we should collaborate in order to provide the touch of relevance to the transformation of joint and combined air and space power in NATO.

We are truly fortunate today to have the NATO military authority with us in person. The Chairman of the Military Committee is best suited to give us the overarching perspective for our conference, ensuring we appreciate the standing of air and space power as one of an enabling, facilitating, supporting and force-multiplying asset in the overall set of required military capabilities.