

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Aviation Affairs Committee
Held at 1930 on Wednesday, 3 March 2010
at AFAC Headquarters, Ottawa**

10 March 2010

Present

In Ottawa: George Macdonald – Chairman
Brian Darling
Dean Black -- Secretary

By Telephone: Al DeQuetteville
Marc Terreau
John Melbourne
Greg Spradbrow
Terry Chester
Dave Peart (ex officio)

Item	Issue and Discussion	Action and Responsibilities
I	Welcome and Introduction. LGen Macdonald welcomed Greg Spradbrow to the core Aviation Affairs committee as 2 nd Vice-President.	
II	Review of Minutes. There were no issues remaining regarding the last meeting, held in Trenton on 15 Nov 2009 chaired by Terry Chester. George Macdonald explained he had a short conversation with LGen Carr regarding the concerns expressed by the latter regarding the legitimacy of the AAC. Although the Chairman was unable to change LGen Carr's mind, the matter can be considered closed. With respect to the minutes, Greg Spradbrow explained he was not in fact there as an observer, during the meeting and that the minutes should be corrected.	Dean Black will correct the record, eliminating Mr. Spradbrow's name as an Observer.
III	Chairman's Report. In his review of recent activities LGen Macdonald reported that work had been focused on two position papers -- one on the need for a new fighter aircraft and one on a Northern strategy. The first was finalized within AAC and then forwarded to the CDA for their information. The CDA office opted to circulate the paper for input, which caused some confusion, leading to the need	

	<p>for the AAC to clearly distinguish which papers are felt to be of an exclusively AFAC concern and which should be considered for wider input and endorsement. The paper on northern strategy exists in draft only and requires more work, to be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman further reported to the committee his involvement in a CDA paper produced on the need for government consideration of the future role in Afghanistan. This was prepared for widespread circulation at the time of a visit and public appearance of Gen McChrystal, Comd ISAF, in Ottawa.</p>	Chairman
IV	<p>Update on Correspondence. Terry Chester explained the circulation of correspondence. Papers are e-mailed out to a group of reporters, and a hard copy is sent to CDA, the Legion, the MND and Parliamentary Secretary, CAS, Senators Colin Kenny and Pamela Wallin, and MPs Maxime Bernier, Claude Bachand, Byron Wilford, and Paul Cardana. Media recipients are Alec Castonguay, Bruce Champion-Smith, Christie Blatchford, David Pugliese, Matthew Fisher, Sharon Hobson and Steven Thorne. In discussion regarding other possible recipients, it was agreed that papers would be sent to Brian Stewart, the newest Ross Munro Media Award recipient; MGen (Ret'd) Keith Macdonald, military advisor to the Senate Committee; the NCVA; the CDFAI; and FrontLine and Vanguard magazines. It was also noted that we should watch for any changes to the chairpersons of the parliamentary committees and ensure that we continue sending information to the clerks of same. George Macdonald agreed to provide contact information for Brian Stewart, Keith Macdonald, and the magazines to Terry Chester. Dean was tasked to provide the NCVA contact. Action: Terry Chester, George Macdonald, Dean Black</p>	The Chairman will provide contact information for Brian Stewart, Keith Macdonald, <i>Vanguard</i> (Clive Addy?) and <i>FrontLine</i> (Chris Maclean). Dean Black will provide NCVA contact information.
V	<p>Ideas for Future Position Papers. The Chairman indicated that a draft for a paper on Northern strategy had only been circulated to a few people, awaiting the availability of a paper on the Arctic by the Defence Science Advisory Board. Al</p>	Dave Peart will forward a copy of the CAS Arctic Planning Directive to the Committee Chairman.

	<p>DeQuetteville will continue to monitor the release of this report for our use, the intent being not to finalize the paper without the benefit of the DSAB conclusions. Dave Peart indicated that on 23rd February CAS signed off on an air force arctic planning directive, a copy of which he would send to George Macdonald. Action: Chairman, Al DeQuetteville, Dave Peart</p> <p>LGen Macdonald also suggested that there may be scope for another look at (again) refreshing the FWSAR paper, depending on developments with that project in the next several months. Another paper might focus on defence funding, in light of the impending withdrawal from Afghanistan and the anticipation from some quarters that there is a 'peace dividend' to capture. Action: Chairman</p> <p><i>(Secretarial Note: The 2010 Federal Budget, tabled the day after the meeting, did not reduce the defence budget but did restrain its growth beginning in the 2012-13 fiscal year. While the impact for DND might be manageable, it will be important to continue to monitor the situation.)</i></p>	<p>Al DeQuetteville will monitor release of the DSAB report</p> <p>Chairman to monitor</p>
<p>VI</p>	<p>Update by Executive Director. Dean Black reported on the continued progress with the publication and translation of position papers. Twelve papers have been published in <i>Airforce</i> magazine since the winter of 2006/2007, with two being published in bilingual format. All of the position papers that remain relevant have been translated. A number have been uploaded to the web-site. He also confirmed that the blog on the AFAC website remains unused. As proposed by the Chairman, it was agreed that the blog be removed from the website altogether.</p> <p>Dean also gave a short update on plans for this year's Air Force Day on the Hill to be held on Tuesday, 25 May 2010 from 1700 to 1915.</p>	<p>Dean Black will remove the blog from the web-site.</p>
<p>VII</p>	<p>Other Business. Brian Darling reminded participants that the CDA welcomes nominations for the annual Vimy Award and encouraged members to consider candidates which the AFAC could consider</p>	<p>All</p>

	nominating. Also, in noting that the CDA Ross Munro Media Award goes only to one person, he encouraged participants to take the opportunity to commend members of the media for defence-related reporting as appropriate. Positive reinforcement of their work is important to overall advocacy.	
VIII	The next meeting will be held at the time of the next AGM in Comox in October. <i>(Secretarial Note: the AGM in Comox will run from 14 to 17 October 2010, meaning that the Aviation Affairs Committee meeting is expected to be held at 1930 hrs (EST) 14 October 2010. This implies a start time in Comox of 1630 hrs PST for the AAC meeting).</i>	
IX	The meeting was adjourned at 1900.	



Dean Black
Secretary

Approved/~~Not Approved~~

Original signed by

George Macdonald
Chairman