

Minutes of a Meeting
of the Aviation Affairs Committee
Held at 7:30 PM on Thursday, 15 October 2009
In the Loyalist Room, Holiday Inn, Trenton, ON

Present

Terry Chester, CD – National 2nd Vice-President – Chairman
Brian Darling, CD – National Vice-President
John Melbourne – National President
Ted Mahood, CD – Immediate Past National President

Via Teleconference

Al Dequetteville, CMM, CD
Dave Peart, CD

Regrets

George Macdonald, CMM, MVO, CD – Honorary National President
Marc Terreau, CD

Observing

Greg Spradbrow, CD

Item	Discussion	Action and Responsibilities
I	The Chairman, Mr. Terry Chester, opened the meeting at 7:45 PM. Technical difficulties forced the meeting to be moved to Mr. Melbourne’s suite. After a short delay, the meeting resumed.	
II	Acceptance of Minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed in detail. Both telecon participants had copies. Mr. Chester confirmed he had researched the CMA project with CAS staff and that it was their opinion that it was a bit early to put a position forward, as they are still very much in the definition stage. The AAC will monitor this project and determine when a paper would be appropriate. Similarly the suggestion that we put forward a position on Canadian AWACS participation has been OBE’d. Mr. Darling moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Mahood seconded the motion.	

III	<p>Position Paper Distribution. Mr. Darling confirmed the distribution of relevant papers.</p>	
IV	<p>AAC Mandate and LGen Carr's Letter. Mr. Chester explained that there is definite agreement that a reply to LGen Carr's letter should be published in <i>Airforce</i> magazine. Our role is to "educate and inform", he explained. Mr. Dequetteville reflected on the declaration of a need to be able to offer more contemporary views through stronger advocacy efforts. He claimed he believes we are increasingly successful, in this regard. The paper with which LGen Carr had apparently the most concern was one which the AAC had sought concurrence from CAS, regarding potential uses of Air Power in Afghanistan.</p> <p>Mr. Peart reflected on the idea that when appropriate, because some issues simply cannot be addressed by CAS that position papers carry an "AFAC Position Only" caveat.</p> <p>Some minor amendments to LGen Macdonald's letter will be proposed to LGen Macdonald on his return, and before the deadline for the next issue of <i>Airforce</i> magazine.</p>	
VI	<p>Ideas for AFAC Positions. Mr. Peart initiated discussion in two areas: Afghanistan post-2011 has been largely covered off, except perhaps for the possible need for a 147D Chinook reconstitution in advance of the 147F Chinook's arrival.</p> <p>With respect to the leased Heron and 147D, both capabilities risk being lost before a long-term capability (CH-147) is stood up. We might want to advocate a position making sure we don't lose this capability in the interim. If one doesn't buy the logic regarding keeping air force assets in theatre after 2011, then we risk creating a hole in our capabilities that requires attention or will create the need for attention.</p> <p>With respect to ISR, non-combat is the over-riding caveat.</p> <p>With respect to C4ISR in the Arctic, Mr. Dequetteville</p>	

	<p>explained that he serves on the Defence Science Advisory Board (DSAB). DSAB is given tasks by DND, to which they respond by developing papers. The DSAB is currently working on a C4ISR paper, and this is a task from the Chief of Force Development (CFD). The focus, Mr. Dequetteville explained, is on the maritime dimension because the aerospace dimension is handled/covered reasonably well by the NORAD capability. Some of the DSAB “C4ISR in the Arctic” work could be made available to the AAC.</p> <p>Mr. Peart suggested that the lack of an arctic national strategy could serve as a paper idea, because there is a lack of a strategy. How does any one particular department or agency address what they might feel is their part of the puzzle?</p> <p>Mr. Melbourne suggested the arctic had our attention a couple of years ago when Terry Thompson wrote a paper on it. Mr. Dequetteville reflected on how complex the issue is.</p> <p>Other paper ideas were discussed. With respect to upcoming procurements (CP-140, CF-188) the “<i>Whither Fighters</i>” issue could serve as a paper idea. People are hesitant to discuss fighters in Afghanistan, for some reason. Mr. Dequetteville further explained that the Canada First Defence Strategy has some pretty strong language to which we should link, in an argument in defence of fighters.</p>	
VII	<p><i>Publishing of Papers in the Airforce magazine.</i> Mr. Black reported on publishing and translating of the papers, and the status of the web-site. All of the AAC position papers were translated in July, and the process of uploading them to the web-site has begun. Efforts were made to find a volunteer to do the web-site work, to no avail.</p> <p>Mr. Chester relayed questions and concerns with respect to the blog. “If it does not engender sufficient interest, we should consider dropping the (blog) capability”. LGen Macdonald will be speaking to Mr. Black to determine how best to make the blog visible</p>	

	and accessible.	
VIII	The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM	



Dean C. Black, CD
Secretary

Approved/~~Not Approved~~

Terry Chester, CD
Chairman