

2016 Canadian Armed Forces Outlooks (Navy)

Navigating a Year of Transition

Welcome Remarks

April 6th, 2016 08:20, Ottawa Shaw Centre, 55 Colonel By Dr. Ottawa, Ontario

Check Against Delivery

Welcome to day two of the CAF Outlooks. We had a busy and productive day yesterday with the Army Outlook and I am sure everyone is anxious to get down to business today.

Before I get things started, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Louise Mercier, the Navy Outlook Chair, and our Navy liaison Lieutenant Commander David Puddington. Making sure that our program is thoughtful and that the Outlooks serve the mutual interests of the Canadian Armed Forces and Canada's defence industrial community is critical and these two individuals have played a leading role making the Navy Outlook exactly that kind of event. We couldn't have done it without you.

As one of the years' most important events along with CANSEC, the Outlook Series provide a platform for the senior leadership of the Army, Navy and Air Force to give our industry their frank perspectives on the capital priorities of the services over the short-medium term. If the Defence Acquisition Guide is the map, then the Outlooks serve as the GPS, giving us more precision, so that the probability that we all deliver a successful defence equipment program, both those procuring and those of us supporting with products and services, will be all the much higher.

I want to thank the Army, Navy and Air Force leadership for taking the time to speak to and network with us over the next few days in what is a busy time for them.

It's "anchors aweigh" this year at National Defence. With the change in Government will come a change in defence priorities and with that some uncertainty.

We eagerly await the Defence Review and our committees are already preparing for our eventual contribution. On pense que nos connaissances et l'expertise de l'industrie dans le cadre de ce processus est importante. Plus particulièrement, nous croyons pouvoir enrichir le dialogue sur la manière d'améliorer l'efficacité du système d'approvisionnement en défense, ce qui est essentiel pour garantir l'efficacité de la politique du gouvernement en matière de défense.

Next year at this time we will likely have in front of us a new defence white paper, articulating this government's defence policy which will probably have implications for the capital program. We also hope that within it, we don't lose sight of the longer-term sustainment program.

I had the pleasure of being a part of a panel last week that included Rear-Adm (ret'd) Pat Finn. He reminded

us all that while the conversation around NSPS is often focused on the shipyards that it was also key to re-establishing a marine industry in Canada because of the longer term implications of sustainability and serviceability for the fleet. And to that argument I added that it was critical - especially in regards to the Canadian Surface Combatant - for the creation and procurement of Canadian capability whether it be by design or transfer. Put together all of these ideas will let our Navy do what is asked of it by its citizens and let our Industry cover off the aft.

We in industry are also particularly interested in the government's commitment to "modernize procurement practices so that they are simpler, less administratively burdensome...and support the government's economic policy goals".

These commitments, are why the Outlooks are particularly important this year. They provide us all the opportunity to exchange practically and constructively and to give our industry the opportunity to hear the priorities of the Army, Navy and Air Force as they head into the Defence Review process.

The program today is fully rigged. We will hear a Maritime Force Development Overview, followed by a status update on major shipbuilding projects, and then a Maritime Engineering and Support Overview. We will then roll into a series of detailed breakout sessions on a wide range of topics, including auxiliary vessels and additional programs, underwater warfare, training, and ILS. I hope you find the presentations, discussions and networking opportunities informative and profitable.

Before I leave you today, I'd like to share with you some news. Over the past year, we have been taking a more public stance on the capabilities that we bring to our Canadian Armed Forces and our Nation's Industrial base. You may have seen some of these communications in trade publications, policy magazines and even in digital ads. A small part of this material was shared with you in the slideshow that was playing as you sat here waiting for the Outlook to begin.

Behind the scenes, we've also been working towards a new, modern image and story for CANSEC - more representative of us all.

The inspiration for our new CANSEC brand is two-fold: the shield, symbol of security, pride and forward vision; and the chevrons, symbols of military and police rank, authority and our connection to those who protect us. Finally, if you look closely at the logo, you will see hidden inside the letters C and S from CANSEC. This new logo is now the official symbol of Canada's global defence and security tradeshow.

In addition, I'm also happy to present to you the CANSEC 2016 website - not only is registration open, but I am hoping that we catch a couple of Navy officers taking a selfie at the event like we did last year.

Thank you and enjoy the day.