

Air Force Outlook 2015

Opening Remarks

April 9th, 2015, Shaw Centre, Ottawa, Ontario

Check Against Delivery

THANK YOU, DAVID, FOR INTRODUCING ME. AS MANY OF YOU ARE NO DOUBT AWARE, DAVID SERVED IN THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS AS A FIGHTER PILOT, COMMANDER OF OPERATIONAL FORMATIONS AND STEWARD OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS. SINCE HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FORCES, HE HAS SERVED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WITH BOMBARDIER AEROSPACE FOR MORE THAN 13 YEARS, AND NOW AS VICE PRESIDENT WITH MARSHALL AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE GROUP. HE HAS ALWAYS "DONE CADSI SOLIDS" BY HELPING US MAINTAIN CONNECTION WITH THE AIR FORCE. THANK YOU, DAVID, FOR YOUR WORK IN FACILITATING THIS AIR FORCE OUTLOOK.

I AM PLEASED TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY. WE ARE ON DAY 3 OF THE MISSION. DAY 1 AND 2 WERE WITH ARMY AND NAVY RESPECTIVELY AND TODAY WE'RE ADDING THE AIR COVER; UPON REFLECTION, I THINK THAT WE MAY HAVE DONE THIS IN THE WRONG ORDER. UPON FURTHER REFLECTION, I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE MISSION IS QUITE REAL: CANADA HAS DEPLOYED CF18 HORNETS TO THE EASTERN BALTIC TO DEMONSTRATE PRESENCE AND INTENT IN THE FACE OF THE TURMOIL IN THE UKRAINE; CF18 HORNETS ARE FLYING OPERATIONAL COMBAT MISSIONS OVER IRAQ AND SOON, OVER SYRIA IN SUPPORT OF OP IMPACT AND THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY RCAF AIR-TO-AIR REFUELING AND AURORA AIRCRAFT. FOR OUR PART WITHIN THIS MISSION I'M TALKING ABOUT, WE, THE INDUSTRY, BRING OUR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES TO HELP YOU DO THE THINGS THAT YOUR COUNTRY ASKS OF YOU.

L'ANNÉE DERNIÈRE, LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE A PUBLIÉ LE GUIDE D'ACQUISITION DE LA DÉFENSE. EN CE QUI CONCERNE L'INDUSTRIE, LE GUIDE NOUS PROCURE UNE PLUS GRANDE VISIBILITÉ SUR LES EXIGENCES ÉVENTUELLES DES FORCES ARMÉES CANADIENNES EN MATIÈRE DE CAPACITÉS DE DÉFENSE AU COURS DES VINGT PROCHAINES ANNÉES. POUR L'ARMÉE DE L'AIR, LE GAD DÉFINIT UNE QUARANTAINE DE PROJETS DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DES CAPACITÉS AÉROSPATIALES, ALLANT DES AIDES À L'ATTERRISSAGE DE PRÉCISION AUX AÉRONEFS DE RECHERCHE ET SAUVETAGE À VOILURE FIXE.

AS YOU KNOW, THE DEFENCE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY, INTRODUCED MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, WITH ITS VALUE PROPOSITION REQUIREMENT, WILL REQUIRE PRIME CONTRACTORS TO PUT FORWARD THEIR BEST PLAN TO PARTNER WITH CANADIANS IN

WAYS THAT PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOPHISTICATED CAPABILITIES IN CANADA. THE CONCEPT ALSO INCLUDES THE GOAL TO CREATE MORE CANADIAN PRIMES. OF NOTE IS THAT ON THE AIR SIDE WE HAVE STRONG INDIGENOUS CAPABILITY THAT HAS BEEN BUILT OVER YEARS- IN-SERVICE SUPPORT, TRAINING AND SIMULATION ARE JUST A FEW THAT COME TO MIND.

TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT THE AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT RENEWAL PROGRAM AND ABOUT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CANADIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY. AND BREAKOUT SESSIONS WILL OFFER UPDATES ON SOME KEY CAPABILITY AREAS, INCLUDING AIRCRAFT, VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT PROJECTS, C4ISR PROGRAMS, SIMULATION AND TRAINING, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS.

JE SUIS TRÈS HONORÉ QUE LE LIEUTENANT-GÉNÉRAL YVAN BLONDIN, COMMANDANT DE L'AVIATION ROYALE CANADIENNE SOIT ICI AUJOURD'HUI PARMİ NOUS, COMME CONFÉRENCIER PRINCIPAL À NOTRE DÉJEUNER. APRÈS AVOIR ÉTÉ AU SERVICE DE CAE PENDANT DIX-SEPT ANNÉES JUSQU'À TOUT RÉCEMMENT, JE CROIS QUE VOUS POUVEZ TOUS DEVINER QUE J'AI PARTICULIÈREMENT À COEUR LE LEADERSHIP ET LA RÉFLEXION STRATÉGIQUE DE L'ARC EN CE QUI CONCERNE LE RECOURS À LA SIMULATION; LE GÉNÉRAL BLONDIN A ÉTÉ UN GRAND CHAMPION DE CETTE VISION.

I TRUST THAT THE PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES TODAY WILL BE HELPFUL AND PROFITABLE.

THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE DAY.