

Joint Air & Space Power – JAPCC Conference 2008

General Roger A. Brady's Opening Remarks

General Lather, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I wish you a very warm welcome to the Joint Air Power Competence Centre Conference 2008. I would like to thank you for taking the time to come to our conference, and thank you in advance for your contribution.

Before we take off into the heart of this year's conference, I would like to take a quick look at what your NATO Air and Space Power Centre of Excellence has accomplished, aided in significant part by your contributions from last year's conference. As a direct product of the 2007 conference and related coordination, they published "*The Role of Air Power in Security and Stability Operations*" and provided it to ACT and the Air Command Component staffs. Expanding ideas from the 2007 conference in the critical application of command at all levels of air power, the "*NATO Future Joint Air and Space Power*" paper has already been released and its core concepts have significantly shaped this year's conference panels. We worked long hours with our partners in ACT and the NATO Standardization Agency in establishing and promulgating new alliance close air support rules and procedures that will continue to show results in reducing the chance of fratricide in air to ground operations. In a visionary look at NATO's future aspirations in space, ACT asked us to review the current situation and provide recommendations. The "*NATO Space Operations Assessment*" provided numerous recommendations that, while not yet universally accepted, have continued to move the dialogue forward for a formal NATO policy on space. Obviously, we feel this topic is important enough that we dedicated a panel for the space discussion at this conference. Finally, in a fast moving topic critical to ongoing operations in ISAF, ACT asked us to recommend an infrastructure and procedural baseline for the new Afghan National Army Air Corps, as they take on a more active role in the defence and support of their country. The draft report has been submitted and we will continue to progress to a final recommended structure later this year. As you can see through this small set of the overall work and through the journals and continuing success of the annual conference, the JAPCC is playing a vital role in the progress of Alliance air and space power. We look forward to your continued participation through this conference and the upcoming year.

I am delighted and grateful that our conference will begin with General Lather, Chief of Staff, Allied Command Operations, providing words on the strategic perspective on decision superiority and how better to achieve it in today's fluid environment. In addition, we'll also be hearing from Allied Command Transformation on where they're focusing in the realm of effectively guiding the Alliance in improving command decision-making and relaying it throughout the battlespace.

The keynote speaker will be followed by four panels examining, in turn, Command and Control, and Shared Situational Awareness; a look at the role of Battlespace Management in operations; then a look at Space as a critical enabler in NATO's operations; finally, a look at gaining and maintaining intelligence and information superiority. In doing so, we hope that we will all be able to share our knowledge, views and aspirations in a frank and open discussion. This relies on the willingness of every one of us in attendance to articulate our views and questions. Therefore,

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I ask every one of you to observe, throughout the conference, the Chatham House Rule of non-attribution.

The JAPCC will be furthering work on numerous ongoing projects and papers on behalf of the nations and Allied Command Transformation, based in large part on the views emerging from this conference. Your active participation in the panel discussions will be your opportunity to influence that work. I'm confident that this esteemed group made up of our JAPCC sponsoring nations, senior representation from other NATO nations, and key European partner nations, in particular from our Austrian delegation, will have no problem being active participants.

I'll add one other thought that I ask you to keep in the back of your minds over the next day and a half.

I have told you about the JAPCC's aim for this conference, but everyone here, whether you are an academic, from a NATO organization or one of our partners in industry, you will have come here with your own ideas about what you hope to gain from this conference. Make sure you get what you need. We are all here to help each other in our different capacities, skills and expertise.

Before I hand over the controls to our moderator, I would like to highlight contributions of one individual to the JAPCC and this conference. Lt Col Charly Litzenberger, one of our German officers, here since the founding of the JAPCC, died suddenly last month. Charly's contribution to the Air Power Conference in particular and to the men and women of JAPCC in general will be sorely missed.

Finally, it is my pleasure to introduce our conference moderator, Air Marshal (retired), Philip Sturley, who has kindly agreed to give up his own time and assist us once again. Philip had a distinguished career in the Royal Air Force, including that of Assistant Chief of the Air Staff and culminating with his final appointment as Deputy Commander at the NATO Air Component HQ Ramstein. So, I'm sure keeping this distinguished audience of over 50 flag officers from 17 nations in line will be a simple task.