**Record of Discussion**

**NCR Chapter Canadian Forces Logistics Association**

**General Meeting**

**15th May 2015**

1. The meeting once again took place at the Holland Armoury with the kind permission of the Commanding Officer of 33 Service Battalion. A change of Command has taken place within that unit and the new CO, LCol Patterson, was in attendance as well as the past CO, LCol Chapman.
2. **In attendance:**
   1. There were only 37 members of the Logistics family in attendance, the poorest turn out in a year and a half.
   2. The new Log Branch CWO, CWO Coté was in attendance as well as several other senior members of the Branch, both serving and retired. The President introduced and welcomed all, especially the first time attendees.
3. **Introduction**
   1. The president noted that the program was abbreviated as recent DND policy about restricting speaking to the public during an active Federal Government election campaign had reduced our presentations by one.
4. **MSE Op Update:** In keeping with the Chapter aim to highlight at least one of the Logistics NCM trades at every meeting, CWO C Lafrance, Director Transportation CWO/Asst Co-Trade Advisor MSE Op, Strategic Joint Staff provided an impassioned and lively briefing “from the heart”. His presentation slides are attached. His main points were that the vision of providing properly trained MSE Ops to directly support operations must be fulfilled or the trade would cease to exist in the future. Although manning levels have improved somewhat, attrition remains a serious concern. Also several current trade courses are outdated, not relevant to how things are done at base/unit level and must be updated quickly. This process has been started. Another sharper focus needed is to make Sr NCMs capable of being advisors to commanders at all levels and they need to be given the skills and confidence to do so. An excellent presentation.
5. **Logistics Branch Update**: Col A Banville, Logistics Branch Advisor/Integrator, who has been in those positions for one year, provided a comprehensive overview of her organization, the difference between the responsibilities of the LBA and the LBI (something which had not previously been clear to many of the retired members), the Branch Vision, what has been achieved or at least initiated, and the dreaded “Challenges” (we are not allowed to call them problems anymore). We were brought up to date with most of the components who contribute to Branch Governance including all the new faces that have come in over the APS. She emphasized that the Branch recognizes the need for effective communications, on Branch matters, and she has programmed improvements to electronic newsletters, and sites on both the Intranet and the Internet. Someone once told us that to “Keep the Troops Informed” was a principal of war and the Log Branch is getting better all the time. She announced ongoing studies of our Museum, History & Heritage, the Logistics Association, morale, esprit du corps, professional development, training and manning. The above are only a few highlights. It was clear to the audience that the Branch is busy, very busy, engaged and dedicated to maintaining and improving our credibility through effectiveness. The presentation is attached.
6. **NCR Chapter Update:** 
   1. The Chapter President briefed the audience on the newly expanded executive committee and introduced the members by function (except for John Page as the Pres screwed up and forgot him). It is now truly representative of all the elements of the Branch – serving (regular and reserve) and retired.
   2. Given the support by the Branch in underlining the relevance and importance of the Association, and especially recent efforts by the A4 RCAF, it is highly likely that additional Chapters will appear across the country. That would necessitate an effective, visible, and capable National Executive. To that end the Chapter has proposed to the current National President that some key members of our committee be double hatted as National as well. More to follow.
   3. Our local program for 2015/16 will focus on the Logistics Family. Some of subsets are our Lest We Forget page on the website (now including the Logistics Honour Roll), rethinking visits to Log Vets in Long Term Care, and listing retirements and promotions on the website.
   4. General meetings will usually include an unclassified CJOC J4 brief, NCM trade updates, remarks by the Col Cmdt and/or the LBA and presentations by both public and private sector invitees on subjects of professional interest to the members.
   5. Membership must continue to increase or we are not relevant. On line surveys to both members and potential members will be going out this Fall to determine what people want/don’t want from the Assn.
   6. Slides attached
7. **Adjournment**
   1. The next meeting will be held 17 Nov 2015. Meeting notices will be issued well in advance.
   2. The meeting adjourned at 2145 hrs.

Ian Nicholls

President NCR Chapter CFLA