**Record of Discussion**

**NCR Chapter Canadian Forces Logistics Association**

**General Meeting**

**17th February 2015**

1. The meeting once again took place at the Holland Armoury with the kind permission of the Commanding Officer of 33 Service Battalion. (See below re the Ottawa Service Battalion Association)
2. **In attendance:**
   1. There were over 40 members of the Logistics family in attendance
   2. In the house were the Log Branch Advisor, Col Banville, the Branch CWO, CWO Ross, the Col Cmdt, LGen (ret) Leach, MGen (ret) Hearn, BGen Horlock, and the National President of the CFLA, Bernie Grover.
3. **J4 CJOC Update:** Col Chuck Mathé, the current COS Op Sp of CJOC, once again gave an excellent unclassified overview of Logistics involvement in current deployed ops, including Op Impact (Iraq), Op Reassurance (Lithuania), Op Sirona (Ebola W Africa), and contingency monitoring of hurricanes in SE Asia. These, and other, ops are heavily dependent on rapid, robust, and timely logistics support and sustainment. Also some of them involve delivery of humanitarian assistance, again largely a support event. Logisticians are working long hours, away from families, under austere and high risk conditions. Thank you, Col Chuck, for bringing us up to speed. His presentation, including some first class videos, will be posted to the website, ottawaloggies.com.
4. **The Supply Tech Trade**: In keeping with the Chapter’s theme this year of Logistics highlighting NCM trades, the third in our series focussed on Supply. This two part presentation was made by MWO Poirier from the career shop and LCol Zientek, the Supply Co-advisor. In location and in support were CWO Paulhus, senior supply career manager, and CWO Curtis, Asst Supply Co-Advisor. Never have so few been briefed by so many! The career managers presented a recurring theme that we have heard at both our previous meetings – recruitment cannot keep up with attrition and despite successful efforts to reduce training times, there remains a significant shortage at unit level at the Pte/Cpl ranks. This is exacerbated by the fact that another larger than usual percentage of the trade is suffering from medical limitations that prevent full employment so there is a constant juggling act required. This impacts additionally on promotions as filling up more senior positions with new promotees is a further takeaway from the basic coal face level. The second half of the presentation gave a road map of the way ahead with changes to a number of courses, challenges with specialties such as riggers, certification aimed at increasing the eligible population for intake, inventory management regulatory upgrade requirements, don’t talk to me about Stocktaking!, and new trade coins presented to recognize special contributions. A lot of work is being done on a wide spectrum of issues. LCol Zientek’s presentation will be posted to the website www.ottawaloggies.com.
5. **Service Battalion Association:**  As part of our aim to learn and share knowledge, our next speaker, Maj John Page, a member of the Chapter and a serving officer currently employed in DMGSP, briefed us on the earliest origins and subsequent evolution and development of Service Battalions in Canada. This was followed by a more focussed explanation of the Ottawa Service Battalion, its’ long journey from roots to present day 33 Service Battalion reality and its’ current mission and manning. Along with that he explained the mission and purpose of the Ottawa Service Battalion Association, of which he is President, and its’ activities to support the unit. These aspects closely mirror what the CFLA is trying to put in place and it was clear that there are some synergies available if we choose to pursue them. A number of their Assn members attended our meeting throughout and some of them joined the Chapter. Of course, the Battalion allows us to use their Mess for our meetings so it really does behoove us to have a better and closer understanding. John’s presentations, and his bio, will be posted.
6. **Chapter Update:** the Chapter Presidenter of the Chapter and his biography is attached. in Afghanistan and the successes that ADM(Mat) achieved. s reported that;
   1. The 47th Logistics Branch Birthday celebration was well run (by CFSU (O)), the mood was very positive, the speeches were inspirational, and displays by our Museum and CANEX well received.
   2. MGen (Ret) Hearn will represent us at the CDA/CDAI conference this month and provide a summary which will be posted to our website.
   3. The Chapter will organize the (now) annual golf tournament on behalf of the Branch Advisor. Date is fixed at AM 29 May 2015. Info will be posted in our website and through the DWAN.
   4. He called for a show of hands on who may be interested in participating in a car rally for the Chapter. Not many were so there will be a proper survey conducted prior to planning continuing. More to follow.
   5. He invited all to check out the History and Heritage page in our website.
   6. The LBA briefed on the Senior Council/Log Senate initiative to examine a number of Branch wide issues affecting morale, identity, pride, esprit du corps and the Assn. Initial reports are due from the various OPIs in late February. Both National and the Chapter are engaged and the president read out the initial summary (prepared by BGen Russell) regarding the relationship between the Branch and the Assn. It is clear that there are still some gaps of perception but the fact that there is now a dialogue at the most senior level of the Branch is very encouraging.
   7. The LBA also informed the meeting of the Branch’s recent decision to increase the number and dollar amount of annual bursaries available, via competition, to dependents of Logisticians, including Reservists. CFLA national also agreed to increase their contribution to this wonderful program.
   8. The group was informed of the LBA led search for any surviving former Logistician who had participated in the Liberation of the Netherlands so that they may be able to attend the 70th Anniversary event in May 2015. If you know of anyone, please inform the LBAs office ASAP.
   9. Lastly the President advised that the last general meeting of the 2014-15 cycle will be held on 19 May 2015. The current committee (with possible exception of the President) has indicated that it would be prepared to serve for another year due to the progress being made in growing the value added of the Chapter. So, at the meeting, members will be asked to either affirm the committee or provide alternate nominations or volunteers for any of the positions. We are also adamant that there absolutely needs to be reg force members on all Assn committees at all levels. These could be leadership or technical. Please, everyone think about this in the interim.

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Ian Nicholls

President NCR Chapter CFLA