**Record of Discussion**

**NCR Chapter Canadian Forces Logistics Association**

**General Meeting**

**19th 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. However, this time we were doubly blessed in that the CO, LCol Sheila Chapman, attended and also joined the Chapter.
2. **In attendance:**
	1. There were over 60 members of the Logistics family in attendance
	2. In the house were the Log Branch Advisor, Col Banville, the Branch CWO, CWO Ross, MGen (ret) Hearn, BGen Neville Russell (who also joined), BGen (Ret) Larry Lashkevitch, Mr. Andrew Gregory (Curator of the Logistics Museum in Montréal) as well as the National President of the CFLA, Bernie Grover.
3. **Introduction**
	1. The president asked all to recognize the recent passing of our Col. Commandant, LGen Bill Leach, an outstanding supporter of all things related to the Logistics Branch and indeed the Logistics Association, especially. He will be sorely missed by all, but we must carry on in the spirit that he would have applied.
	2. A long-overdue plaque was presented to LCdr (Ret) Hal Pottle recognizing 20 years continuous outstanding contribution to the Canadian Forces Logistics Association at both the national and chapter levels. He continues to serve on the executive committees. He was surprised, and some people were heard to say they had never seen Hal loss for words before☺.
4. **J4 CJOC Update:** LCol Adam McCabe (Operational Support Coordinator, CJOC) ably carried on his organizations excellent track record in keeping we chair bound logisticians focused on the fact that while we discuss he serial organizational matters logisticians are out there in the real world, providing first-class support to Canadian Forces around the world. He provided a very quick update on some resupply analysis that was going on for Op Impact, but his main emphasis for the evening was a very comprehensive, and quite detailed, explanation of Op Renaissance. This of course is the Canadian deployment of the DART team to assist in the recovery from the humanitarian disaster in Nepal. The men and women that we sent their have had to undergo some very different hardships and risks to perform their missions. They have done this superbly and brought great credit to the CF and the government of Canada. His presentation and slides will be posted to the website, ottawaloggies.com along with this ROD. LCol. McCabe comes from a military family and some readers will remember his uncle, formerly of the infantry, briefing us last year on the Armed Forces Pensioners Association. Perhaps more important, from a parochial logistics point of view, his father Malcolm McCabe was one of the officers chosen to attend the pilot Basic Logistics Officers Course (BLOC) in 1969 and subsequently enjoyed a long career as a logistician.
5. **Logistics Challenges in the Army**: As part of the continuation of our ongoing theme to seek briefings from the 3 environments, the next presenter was the G4 of the Army, Col. Brian Hervé. He provided an enthusiastic, very frank, no holds barred briefing which left no doubt in anybody’s mind’s that sustaining today’s Army as it continually prepares for both international and domestic tasks, has never been more challenging. He interestingly made it very clear that today’s logisticians cannot be servants to support systems, nor merely perpetuate the status quo. Rather, they must have a clear and constantly updated understanding of what the Army’s, writ large, mission and limitations are. Only in this way can we in the support services understand where the large customer is going and then figure out how to support it in both the short and the long term. He also emphasized that flexibility, although long accepted as a principle of war, is more important than ever, as we must be able to change focus quickly within the demands of the mission and the limitations of the corporate procurement systems. He also talked about the ongoing reinventing of roles and reorganization of both regular and reserve Service Battalions. When he mentioned the challenge of “double hatting ” a number of the older members of the audience appeared to be taken back to their own worst nightmares as this problem of balancing Garrison and Field tasks has been around since unification started. His time and effort on behalf of the members of the Association was very much appreciated. Col. Hervé’s presentation will also be posted to our website along with his slides. In this year’s activity cycle, we managed to get reports from the Navy and the Army and hopefully we will be able to fill in with the Air Force next year.
6. **Strat J4/Log Branch – Log Association:**  We were extremely pleased to have another 1st timer presenting on 2 different vital subjects. BGen Neville Russell, StratJ4/DGS talk to us about the new organization (Strat J4) that has been stood up under his command over the last year. He explained the role as well as the authorities and responsibilities. This new group fills the gap left after the latest iteration of Transformation which saw the demise of CANOSCOM. It has knitted together a broad range of logistics functions brought in from various NDHQ organizations in order to give a more singular focus to the provision of support to DND and the CF. While this was introductory in nature, the bulk of his presentation was on the vital subject of determining, and then confirming, a formal and lasting relationship between the Logistics Branch and the Logistics Association. He has been heading a breakout group of several senior logisticians, specifically looking at this challenge. Readers will recall that the LBA introduced this process at our last meeting, whereby a number of critical areas have been identified by the senior leadership as requiring study and recommendation in order to improve esprit de corps, morale, and identity within the Branch. Two of the key areas that he suggested where the creation of a high profile, integrated national executive for the CFLA (which would then facilitate the creation of chapters across the country) and the possible role of the Association in contributing to the upcoming 50th anniversary of the branch. While all this is still a work in progress at least a discussion is taking place at the decision-making level. There will be a way ahead for all of us and the Association to embrace and help make a reality. BGen Russell also joined the chapter that night. Much more to follow, and in the meantime, his presentation will be posted on our website.
7. **Chapter Update** er of the Chapter and his biography is attached. in Afghanistan and the successes that ADM(Mat) achieved. s.
	1. Past Pres. Cal Hegge provided an update on the logistics branch NCR golf tournament to be held 29 May 2015. Cal is head of the organizing subcommittee for the event as the Association is conducting the administration of the tournament on behalf of the Log Branch Advisor. He advised that we were already at the maximum number of 144 golfers. That makes it already much larger than last year’s event and there are prizes from the branch Kit shop, prizes procured by Capt. (N) Biron (last year’s champion!), from a variety of sources, plus donations from both the Logistics Association. Looks like it will be a great day.
	2. The chapter has set up a new subcommittee titled Lest We Forget. It involves posting Memorial notices on our website for logisticians who have passed on. It is being headed by long time Association member Cdr (Ret) Dick Duffield. He is also working with LCol (Ret) John Stuart on the creation of an online Logistics Branch Honour Roll to recognize Loggies that died on active service. Long-overdue. Thank you Dick.
	3. The president advised that the chapter had submitted 2 articles for publication in the Branch electronic newsletter. They had been accepted for publication. We are also working on a submission for the next future edition which will outline chapter accomplishments in areas of engagement so readers can get a taste of what goes on that they may be interested in.
	4. The last item on the agenda was the election of a new committee for the new cycle (June 2015 to May 2016). As noted at the last meeting, a call went out for both nominations and volunteers. The only nomination was from one individual suggesting that the current incumbent committee carry on for another year. There were, however, several volunteers. Given those results, there was no need to conduct an election. Because of the positive dialogue within the branch about the future of the Association, the entire committee agreed to stay on for another year. However, because all our pro bono volunteers and because workload is increasing rapidly, it was proposed that all volunteers be accepted onto the committee, providing they become paid members of the Association beforehand. This would serve to expand the committee, providing more resources and capability. It also would achieve the goal of having some regular force members on the committee (vice just retired people) and opening up a new focus on reserves, which is long overdue. The president did reiterate and emphasize, however, that we were disappointed that no senior logisticians had come forward to participate on the executive. Nonetheless, we are moving ahead in a show of hands at the meeting affirmed this approach. This new structure will be solidified over the summer months and reported to the membership, and posted on her website, as we go along. Standby.
8. **Adjournment**
	1. the next meeting will be held in September 2015. Meeting notices will be issued well in advance.
	2. The meeting adjourned at 2145 hrs.

Ian Nicholls

President NCR Chapter CFLA