

NATIBO Annual Meeting

19-20 June 2007

Canada's Department of National Defence hosted the NATIBO annual meeting in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. Representatives from the Joint Services, as well as from the U.S. Department of Homeland Defense, the Defense Contracts Management Agency, the Defense Logistics Agency, and the Canadian Commercial Corporation participated in the meeting.

Discussion topics included ongoing Industrial Base and technology initiatives of the U.S. DoD and the Canada Department of National Defence (DND), as well as the work program of the NATIBO.

A portion of the meeting focused on status reports presented by members of working groups established under the NATIBO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

a. The Future Fire Control Systems Working Group has agreed to focus on two areas for collaborative cooperation. One area is the Virtual Trainer. A Project Description has been drafted to plan collaborative efforts using America's Army gaming technology. The other area is the Small Arms Smart Sight (SMASS). The U.S. prototyping of several SMASS) for field trials has utilized previously developed Defence R&D Canada (DRDC) Picatinny rail pivot for mounting SMASS. U.S. and Canada subject matter experts have been exchanging their views on Smart Sight development and potential areas of shared work. The DRDC is working with the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) to establish an agreement that will bring ARDEC into the Future Army Model Experiment.

b. The Defense Industrial Base/Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group (DIB/CIP WG) conducted an assessment to determine the availability of Defense Industrial Base capabilities and the products and services needed to accomplish DoD military missions. DCMA has established a three-phased approach to the Defense Critical Infrastructure Program partnership with the Canadian DND. Phase I, which identified DIB-related points of contact and shared CIP/DIB methodologies, was completed in June 2006. In Phase II, the WG established the criteria for the North American Common Asset List and began prioritizing items on the list. The vulnerability assessment framework was also established during Phase II. Phase III began in December 2006 and since then the WG has continued to refine the asset list and started conducting assessments at contractor facilities. The CIP/DIB WG is moving forward to establish a project arrangement under the NATIBO MOU to establish the development of a joint vulnerability assessment tool to ensure CIP of a selected DIB facility.

Representatives from the U.S. DoD and Canadian DND presented informative briefings on the current political environment in their respective countries and the potential effects on U.S. and Canadian defense policies/strategies in coming years.

The DND Director of Continental Materiel Cooperation provided insight on the recently signed U.S. Department of State/DND agreement which permits certain dual nationals in Canada to work on certain military projects that are subject to export control requirements under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations.

An update on the progress of the work plans identified in NATIBO's Business Plan was provided. The NATIBO 3 Year Business Plan is an advocacy document covering the 1 Jan 05 through 31 Dec 07 timeframe. Since the June 2006 Annual Meeting, the NATIBO Business Development Working Group developed and implemented the Collaborative Point Paper (CPP) concept as a proactive approach to quickly jump-start potential collaboration in targeted areas. The Active Protective Systems CPP was completed in October 2006 and the Border Surveillance Technology CPP was completed in early June 2007. Focus for the coming year will be to plan the strategy for beyond 2007.

The guest speaker from the U.S. Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Industrial Policy) provided an informative briefing on the DoD's industrial base policy.

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) representative presented a briefing on DLA's efforts to advance alternatives to natural gas for electric power generation.

In October 2006, the National Security Space Office (NSSO) initiated the "**Space Export Control Study**" to assess the impact of export controls and other factors on the health, capability and competitiveness of the space industrial base to support NSS requirements. The U.S. Air Force representative briefed the group on the results of this recently completed study.

Attendees toured the Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) Valcartier facility. DRDC Valcartier is one of the five laboratories of Defence R&D Canada and specializes in optronic systems, information systems, and combat systems.

The 2008 annual meeting will be hosted by the U.S. Air Force.