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## French Air Force

### Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT)

**O**N THE OCCASION OF JWC's tenth anniversary, I would like to do like I did for ACT and examine JWC's successful past to pull out the evidence of what a bright future lies ahead for all JWC staff.

Twenty years ago, our forces were predominantly Cold War oriented. NATO was preparing for a total war in continental Europe. Then, a fundamental shift occurred with the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Alliance started to put a stronger emphasis on its ability to project forces — on an *expeditionary capability*.

Since 2003, or during the last ten years, ACT has played a key role in this Transformation, with the indispensable contribution of the JWC. Amongst many achievements, I would underline JWC's invaluable contribution in preparing deploying units for their missions in Afghanistan as well as in training NATO's Joint Force Commands to assume their high-readiness capability. In this regard, the JWC has played its full part in making the NATO Response Force (NRF) an essential driver of a new NATO.

We know how instrumental ACT has been in helping the Allies' militaries adapt to the changing circumstances. Just after its creation on 19 June 2003 and, as a result of the decisions made at the Prague Summit, ACT (including the JALLC, JWC and JFTC) swiftly began its key function of transforming NATO.

The role and importance of the JWC are now well recognised across the Alliance. This Centre has become an essential driving force for training and exercises throughout NATO. Today, the JWC remains at the very heart of our efforts to improve NATO Forces' operational level combat effectiveness. It facilitates joint and combined training and exercises, uses modelling and simulation technology to give military leaders realistic training environments, and conducts military experimentation and doctrine development.

Since 2003, almost 40,000 service members and civilians were trained for the full spectrum of joint operational level warfare at the JWC. We understand how crucial the JWC's work is in our collective



effort to maintain the Alliance's military effectiveness. This is due in no small part to the talented men and women of the JWC who adapt daily to new developments and work effectively in close collaboration with the wider NATO Community.

I know that the future is already a reality for the JWC. The high visibility exercises in 2014 and 2015 are now on almost everyone's radar screen: they will be built around NRF 16 with additional forces and headquarters coming from our Nations. The Military Training and Exercise Programme (MTEP), which is evolving towards a multi-year, multi-level, joint programme of exercises, involving more of the NATO Response Force, has always been a key framework for JWC's day-to-day work. Overall, the combined JWC and JFTC capacity should be able to support

many major exercises in the next years. Thanks to the contributions of our training centres, we are now in a situation where coherent planning and coordinated execution can be conducted by ACT with great prospects for the overall efficiency of our work.

One aim of NATO's Connected Forces Initiative (CFI) and Smart Defence is to promote high quality, full-spectrum and credible exercises that include the integration of new information technologies whenever possible. JWC's involvement in training activities like CWIX (Coalition Warrior Interoperability eXploration, eXperimentation and eXamination eXercise) and SEESIM (South-Eastern Europe Simulation Network Exercise) are extremely important and powerful tools for Transformation. All of these activities provide new and extensive opportunities and perspectives for training, and we must continue to push forward these innovative practices with an emphasis on constantly adapting to the real needs of our Nations' forces.

NATO's complex challenges will continue to call for a wide spectrum of training, since threats are becoming more complex, networked and hybrid. I have full confidence in Joint Warfare Centre's proven ability to provide this Alliance with effective and efficient training solutions to face these emerging challenges in the years to come.

I would like to finish by wishing the Joint Warfare Centre *a very happy birthday*.