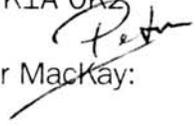


June 20, 2008

Honourable Peter MacKay  
Minister of National Defence  
National Defence Headquarters  
MGen. G. R. Pearkes Building  
101 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K2

  
Dear Minister MacKay:

It has been reported in the media that the Department of National Defence is considering a new permanent location for the Canadian Forces Joint Task Force 2 (JTF2). Media reports suggest that a primary factor for the move is that JTF2 has outgrown its current location.

I would like to take this opportunity to state that 5 Wing Goose Bay possesses ample space and infrastructure, and is strategically positioned for the overseas and northern deployments of units such as JTF2. I, therefore, strongly urge you to consider this base as a permanent home for this unit.

5 Wing offers a range of attributes that are congruent with the needs of JTF2, therefore making it an ideal location:

1. Significant infrastructure that would meet JTF2 training requirements and is currently available at a minimal cost to the Government of Canada;
2. Remote location which provides an ability to train with limited impact on the local community;
3. Interoperability exercises which could be conducted on two levels: (i) between ground and air forces; and (ii) with foreign militaries training at 5 Wing;
4. The space, structure and security of a Canadian Forces Base, thereby enhancing the ability to conduct the required training activities; and
5. Location and proximity to Europe which would provide a faster response time and additional cost savings, since the majority of recent deployments of JTF2 have been overseas.

A decision by the Government of Canada to station JTF2 at 5 Wing would be a clear demonstration of your government's commitments to the future viability of this base. As you know, your government has committed to stationing a 650-personnel Rapid Reaction Battalion and 100-personnel Unstaffed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Squadron at 5 Wing. In light of the increasing role of UAVs in military missions and northern surveillance, co-locating JTF2 with these units at 5 Wing could produce complementary benefits. In addition, increasing activity in the Arctic underscores the importance of asserting Canada's sovereignty in the region, and 5 Wing's strategic location would be well suited to conducting JTF2 activities in Canada's North.

I would like to further discuss this and other matters relating to 5 Wing Goose Bay with you in person. Accordingly, my officials will continue to seek a mutually convenient time for us to meet. In the interim, any additional information on the federal government's plans for JTF2 and the potential role for 5 Wing would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom', is written over a thin, curved line that serves as a separator or underline.

**TOM HEDDERSON, M.H.A.**

Harbour Main  
Minister

cc Honourable Loyola Hearn  
Honourable John Hickey