



**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER  
TRANSFORMATION**

SACT's welcome remarks to the MC Visit to ACT

**Lisbon , 26 February 2018, 0950 - 1000**

**Général d'armée aérienne Denis MERCIER**

Generals, Admirals,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to OEIRAS, in the beautiful installations of the JALCC.

Thank you General (Petr) PAVEL and all the members of the MC for attending this two days visit to ACT.

I would also like to thank COM JALCC, General Mario BARRETO for hosting us and for the excellent support and coordination for the organization of this annual visit.

This visit comes at a crucial moment in time, as we are preparing for important steps in the adaptation of the Alliance.

In this process it is very important to grasp every occasion allowing us to deepen our mutual understanding on the current and various strands of work, as well as those that lie ahead of us.

It is of particular importance to me and my staff, to offer you a deep dive into ACT's programme of work through the chosen topics, and to promote how we support NATO to operate and adapt at the same time.

These topics not only cover the most important parts of our work, they also offer enough depth for open and interactive, and free flowing discussions aiming to reinforce the MC/ACT relationship.

As we are in the installations of the JALCC, it is logically appropriate to kick off our meetings with a first topic on the strategic imperative to operationalize NATO's lessons learned, including the potential to use new technologies to improve this process.

Before handing the floor to COS JALCC, I would like to emphasize that another occasion to have this kind of direct discussions among us in a similar open environment, will not represent itself before the Summit.

Let us make the best of it, and I'm looking forward to good and fruitful outcomes of your visit.

Thank you.