

A Message from SACT - ACT

Written by General Jean-Paul Paloméros, SACT, French Air Force



No Transformation Without Innovation.

As I've just taken the handover from my old friend Stéphane Abrial, whom I have worked very closely with in France, this new issue of *The Transformer* is a good opportunity to reaffirm my pride and commitment to lead Allied Command Transformation as NATO's invaluable hub for transformation.

Almost ten years after its creation, ACT is firmly positioned as the leader of transformation in a renewed Alliance. Much has been done, but as the process of adapting the NATO forces to the security environment is a never-ending one, much more is still to be done. Using the sturdy foundation set by those before me and the energy and creativity of every ACT member, my aim is to ensure a decisive contribution to make NATO forces ready to face all security challenges they may encounter in the long- or near-term.

While the Chicago Summit highlighted the strength of the Transatlantic Link, it was first and foremost the recognition of the will of the NATO nations to adapt to the new security environment despite our global financial constraints. It is now our responsibility to prepare them for an unpredictable future, and for this purpose, there is no other way than to think "out of the

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box" as ACT is used to doing. This is the reason why I fully concur with the declaration of the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, who in Chicago said that "Innovation is the key for the future." This supports my belief that there is no real transformation without innovation.

A spirit of innovation is indeed key. An article in *The Economist* described the best innovators as "T-shaped": they have depth in one area, and breadth in many. I like to think that this "T-shape" is the T of Transformation.

This edition of The Transformer, which focuses on innovation, could not be more relevant at this crossroads; a change in command but a continued vision for the future of ACT and its greater mission in support of the Alliance.

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