

Minutes of the Sea King Retirement Steering Committee
Meeting on 25 Nov 16 held in the Hornets Nest, Arundel Castle

Attendees: Maj Dale Arndt
Hon Col Mike Sudul
Mr Jeff Morris
Mr John Latimer
Mr Phil Redgrave
Mr Peter Bey
Mr Ian Lightbody
Mr Paul Peacey
Mr Howie Ballantyne
Mr John McManus
Mr Wayne Krause
Absent: Mr Dan Burden

1. The meeting was opened by a self-introduction of all attendees and an explanation of the purpose of the committee. The proposed purpose of: "...provid[ing] advice and guidance to CO 443 Sqn and Comd 12 Wing to ensure that the various ceremonial aspects of retiring the CH124 Sea King in 2018 are respectful and inclusive" was accepted by the committee for the time being, with the understanding that it could be modified in the future, as required.
2. Maj Arndt detailed the initial planning guidance from Comd 12 Wing/CO 443 Sqn, namely that:
 - a. The retirement ceremony or parade shall mimic in degree of the solemnity the paying off ceremony that a ship shall undergo upon decommissioning. There should be some form of a flypast associated with the final parade. The parade will be a public/official event and is not the responsibility of the committee to organize;
 - b. There will be some form of a social gathering (or gatherings) to inclusively celebrate 55 years of Sea King Service to the RCN, RCAF and CF. The social events will occur within Arundel Castle, but are otherwise at the discretion of the Committee to structure and organize as non-publicly funded events. Ideas such as banquets, buffets, dances, TGIFs were briefly discussed. All committee members have been asked to consider ideas prior to the next meeting for discussion at that time;
 - c. The West Coast Sea King retirement ceremonies will be the main effort. The Shearwater Centennial celebrations will also be held in Aug 2018 and our efforts must be complementary and cannot conflict. It was also noted that the 75th anniversary of 443 Sqn will be in 2019 and may cause conflict. The comment was made that the summer 2018 celebrations in Shearwater may cause many who would otherwise have travelled to Victoria to choose to stay on the east coast for that event. To that end, it was thought important to reach out to either John Cody or John Orr to act as the East Coast Representative on the committee to ensure that the input of the many serving and retired Sea King personnel on that coast

was heard. Ian Lightbody agreed to find an east coast representative before the next meeting; and

- d. The primary dates of the retirement event are 30 Nov-01 Dec 18, with 7-8 Dec 18 as the alternate dates.
3. The financial aspects of this were briefly discussed, namely that it would be a non-publicly funded event; all banking services and sponsorship would have to run through either Esquimalt or Halifax PSP. Maj Arndt agreed to seek a meeting with the PSP prior to the next meeting and get their commitment as to which office would be providing the support to this event.
4. Merchandising was discussed at length. It was briefed to the Committee that Comd 12 Wing must approve all logo designs. Various ideas for marketing merchandise were discussed, but the most popular suggestion was to leverage the Shearwater Museum Gift shop as the point of sale for items. Maj Arndt will contact Christine Hines prior to the next meeting and report back on the feasibility of this. Various merchandise ideas included patches, coins, wine glasses, line drawings, a coffee table book, Rogers Chocolate Commemorative tin; Royal Canadian Mint coin or Canada Post Stamp. Committee members are asked to bring additional ideas forward for discussion at the next meeting.
5. Mr Pete Robichaud has been contacted by Ian Lightbody. Mr Robichaud has agreed to create a commemorative painting for the Sea King retirement. All Committee members are asked to bring concepts to the next meeting that can guide Mr Robichaud in developing a sketch that can be developed into the final work, once approved.
6. The idea of corporate sponsorship was discussed at length. Wayne Krause suggested that various corporations each be asked to sponsor a specific aspect of the retirement. A master list of potential sponsors will be developed, to then be passed on to PSP. Committee members are asked to forward suggestions for corporate sponsors (along with who within the company would be the best contact person, if applicable) to either Ian Lightbody or Dale Arndt.
7. A guest of honour or speaker will be required for the main social gathering. Committee members are asked to be prepared at the next meeting to create a short list (10-12 names) of potential speakers.
8. The creation of a monument or plaque through Heritage Canada to commemorate the Sea Kinga and all Sqns that flew her was suggested. Maj Arndt will investigate the process and report to the committee prior to the next meeting.
9. The subject of publicity was discussed, including the merits of mailing various contacts vice using social media or creating a web domain. At the next meeting, John McManus will brief the committee on the costs and basic process of registering our own domain name while Maj Arndt will speak to Christine Hines about having the activity hosted as a

page on the Shearwater Aviation Museum website so that the committee can make a decision. Maj Arndt will further investigate creating a survey to gauge interest in attending the 2018 event.

10. The suggestion was made that an aircraft should get a commemorative paint job in 2018. Maj Arndt will investigate the process with SAMEO and CO 443 Sqn.
11. It was noted that the committee was composed of aircrew and that the point of view of maintenance personnel might be missed in the planning process, if that was not addressed. All committee members are asked to consider the names of potential serving or retired Sea King Maintenance personnel to serve on the committee.
12. The meeting was adjourned with the agreement that the next meeting is scheduled for the Hornet's Nest at 1200hrs 27 Jan 17.