



# **CANADIAN HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION**

**WINDSOR, ONTARIO**

**Mission Statement: “To Honour Canadian Veterans by Preserving, Maintaining, Restoring, Displaying, and Demonstrating antique or vintage military and civilian aircraft considered important to Canadian aviation history”**

# British Commonwealth Air Training Plan



...“the aerodrome of democracy”.





## **First Stop - Manning Depot (4 to 5 weeks)**

- THERE WERE 7 MANNING DEPOTS LOCATED IN QUEBEC , MANITOBA, ALBERTA AND ONTARIO

- CANDIDATES RECEIVED 'BASIC TRAINING' AND IF NECESSARY, UPGRADING CLASSES TO BRING THEM UP TO THE RCAF ACADEMIC LEVEL AS WELL AS APTITUDE TESTS

- AFTER 4 OR 5 WEEKS, A COMMITTEE DECIDED WHO WOULD BE TRAINED FOR EITHER AIRCREW OR GROUND CREW

- IN THE AIR CREW CATEGORY, THE WIRELESS AIR GUNNER CANDIDATES WERE SENT DIRECTLY TO A WIRELESS SCHOOL WHEREAS AIR OBSERVER AND PILOT CANDIDATES WENT TO THE NEXT STEP, THE ***INITIAL TRAINING SCHOOL OR 'ITS'***



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Stop – Initial Training School (ITS)

(4 weeks)

- THERE WERE 7 ITS SCHOOLS LOCATED IN
- ONTARIO, SASKATCHEWAN, QUEBEC AND ALBERTA
  
- OVER A 4 WEEK PERIOD, THEY WERE GIVEN A BASIC GROUND SCHOOL COURSE – NAVIGATION, THEORY OF FLIGHT, METEOROLOGY, AIR ADMINISTRATION AND MATH
  
- THEY WERE ALSO SCREENED BY DOCTORS INCLUDING PSYCHIATRIST, TESTED IN A DECOMPRESSION CHAMBER AND SPENT TIME IN A LINC TRAINER
  
- THOSE WHO PASSED THE MUSTER WERE THEN POSTED TO AN ELEMENTARY FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL (EFTS) – THE OTHERS WERE RE-ASSIGNED TO EITHER THE WIRELESS AIRGUNNER SCHOOL OR GROUND CREW



LINK Flight Simulator



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Stop – Elementary Flying Training**

### **School (8 weeks)**

- THERE WERE 32 EFTS BY THE END OF THE WAR ACROSS CANADA (INCLUDING WINDSOR)
- THIS IS WHERE THE RECRUITS EARNED THEIR WINGS
- MOST OF THE SCHOOLS WERE RUN BY CIVILIAN FLYING CLUBS UNDER CONTRACT TO THE RCAF AND MOST OF THE INSTRUCTORS WERE CIVILIAN
- OVER THE NEXT 8 WEEKS THEY WERE EXPECTED TO LOG AT LEAST 50 HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME INCLUDING 8 HOURS SOLO USING BASIC AIRCRAFT SUCH AS THE DE HAVILLAND TIGER MOTH, FLEET FINCH AND FAIRCHILD CORNELL MANY OF WHICH WERE BUILT IN CANADA
- GRADUATES OF THE "LEARN-TO-FLY" PROGRAM WENT ON TO ONE OF THE 29 SERVICE FLYING TRAINING SCHOOLS (SFTS) FOR 16 WEEKS



de Havilland DH-82 Tiger Moth



Fleet Finch Mod 16





Fairchild PT-28B Cornell



## 4<sup>th</sup> Stop – Service Flight Training School (SFTS) (16 weeks)

- THIS IS WHERE THE RECRUITS WERE SEPARATED INTO TWO STREAMS, EITHER FIGHTER STREAM (SINGLE ENGINE), WHERE THEY TRAINED ON THE NORTH AMERICAN HARVARD OR YALE; AND THE BOMBER, COASTAL COMMAND OR TRANSPORT PILOT STREAM (MULTI ENGINE) WHERE THEY FLEW THE AVRO ANSON, CESSNA CRANE AND AIRSPEED OXFORD
- THE SFTS WERE RUN DIRECTLY BY THE RCAF OR RAF
- DURING THE FIRST 8 WEEKS THE STUDENT WAS PART OF AN INTERMEDIATE TRAINING SQUADRON THEN FOR THE NEXT 6 WEEKS AN ADVANCED TRAINING SQUADRON - THE FINAL 2 WEEKS TRAINING WAS COMPLETED AT A BOMBING & GUNNERY SCHOOL
- THEY WERE REQUIRED TO FLY A MINIMUM OF 100 HOURS WITH AT LEAST HALF SOLO



North American AT-6/ Harvard



Avro Anson



Cessna Crane



Airspeed Oxford (ox-box)



## **Last Stop – Operational Training Unit (OTU)**

(8 to 14 weeks)

- THE LAST STOP FOR SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

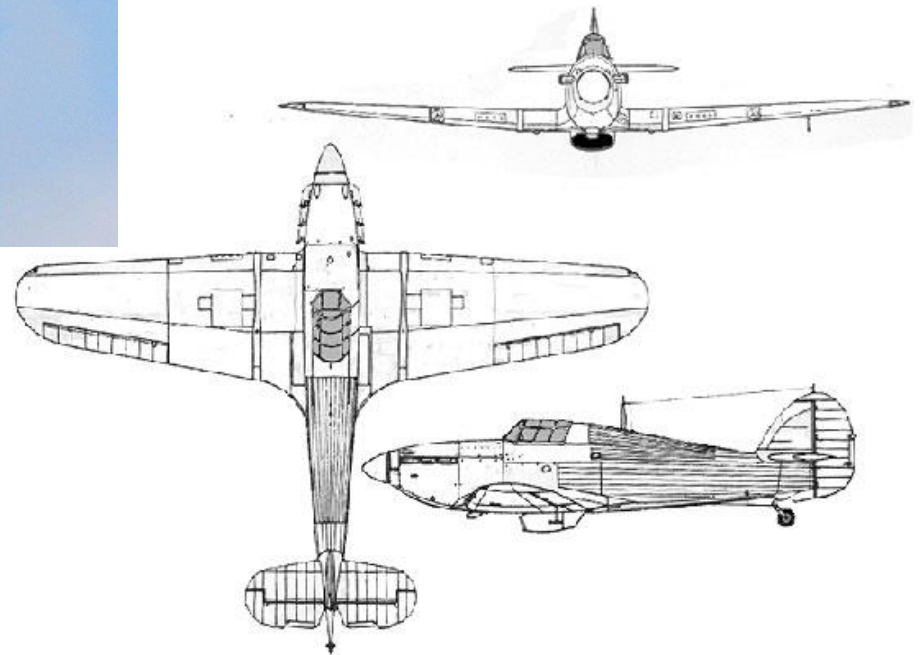
- THEY SPENT THE NEXT 8 TO 14 WEEKS LEARNING TO FLY  
OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT

- MOST OF THE INSTRUCTORS WERE VETERANS AS THIS WAS THE  
LAST TRAINING BEFORE THE TRAINEES WERE POSTED TO THEIR  
OPERATIONAL UNITS

- THERE WERE 7 OTU BASES, MOST ADMINISTERED BY THE RAF

- FOR AIR OBSERVERS (OR NAVIGATORS), THE TRAINING AFTER ITS  
WAS 8 WEEKS AT ONE OF THE 10 AIR OBSERVER SCHOOLS, 4 WEEKS  
AT ONE OF 11 BOMBING AND GUNNERS SCHOOLS AND 4 WEEKS AT  
ONE OF 6 NAVIGATION SCHOOLS

# Hawker Hurricane

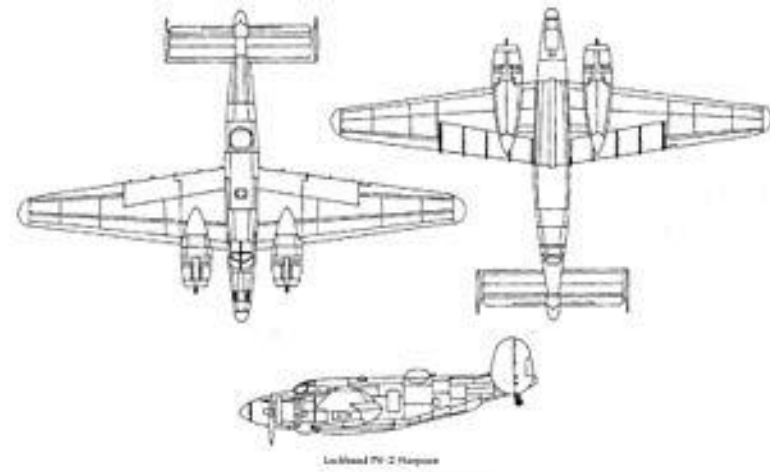






de Havilland Mosquito

Ventura GR V JT894 of No 521 Sqn, Docking, 1943-44



## Lockheed Ventura



Fairey Swordfish



Consolidated Canso (Catalina)



Consolidated B-24



North American B-25 Mitchell



BRISTOL BEAUFORT



HANDLEY PAGE HAMPDEN





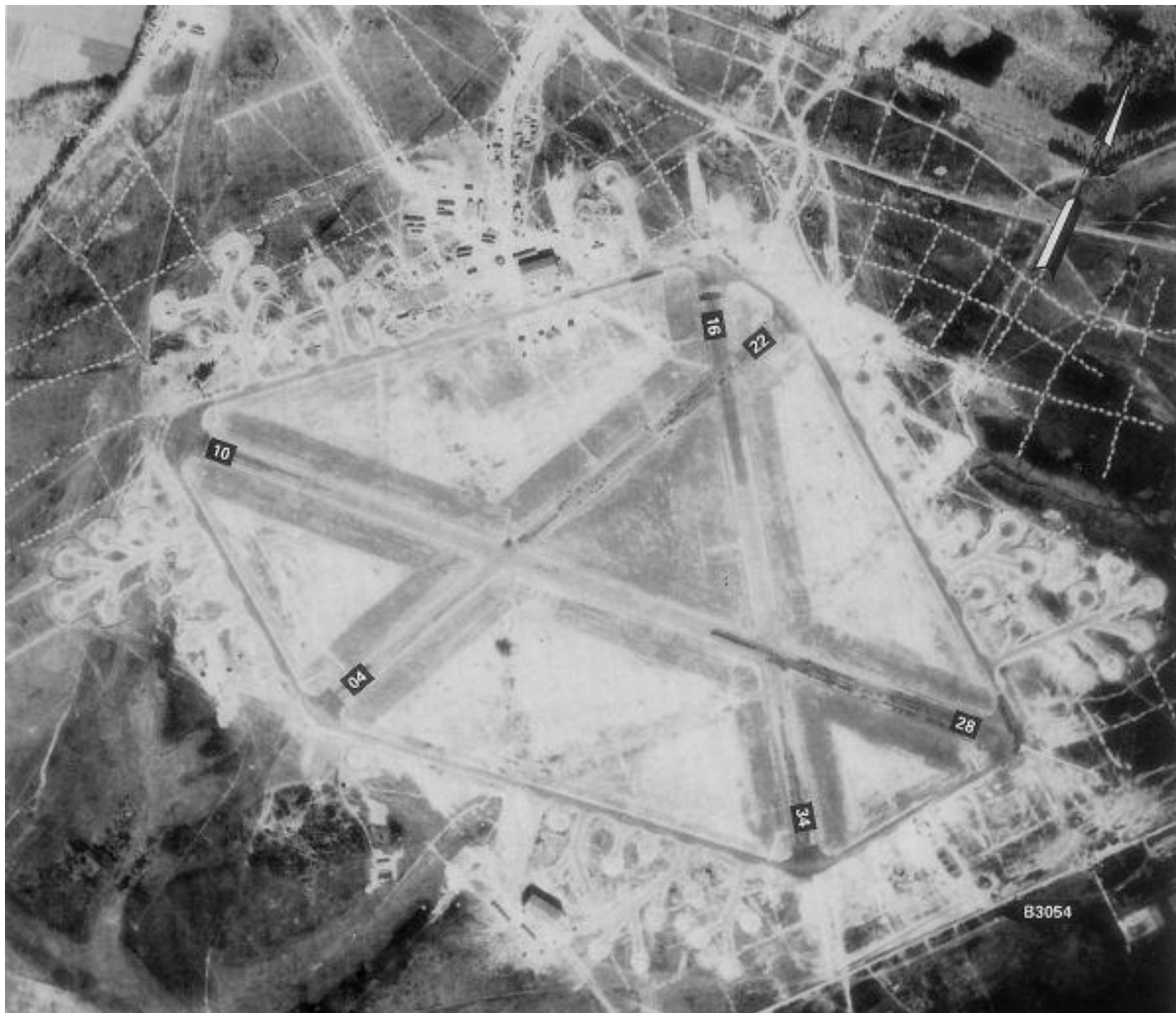
- AS WELL, THERE WERE 4 WIRELESS AIR GUNNER SCHOOLS WHERE STUDENTS SPENT 24 WEEKS LEARNING THE APPLICATION OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS AS WELL AS SIGNALLING WITH LIGHTS AND FLAGS

- THEY COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING WITH 4 WEEKS AT A BOMBING AND GUNNER SCHOOL
- FLIGHT ENGINEERS, EXCLUSIVELY FOR HEAVY BOMBERS, TRAINED AT AYLMER – ALTHOUGH WITH BRITISH HEAVY BOMBERS, THERE WAS NO DESIGNATED CO-PILOT, UNLIKE THE US ARMY AIR FORCE, THE FLIGHT ENGINEER DID RECEIVE SOME FLIGHT TRAINING AND WERE EXPECTED TO TAKE OVER IN CASE THE PILOT WAS INCAPACITATED
- LAST BUT NOT LEAST WERE TWO GENERAL RECONNAISSANCE SCHOOLS, BOTH IN PEI – PILOTS AND AIR OBSERVERS SPENT 9 WEEKS TRAINING IN THE TECHNIQUES FOR OCEAN PATROL

## Nationality of BCATP Graduates (1940-1945)

Nationality	No. of Graduates
Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF)	72,835
Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)	9,606
Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF)	7,002
Royal Air Force (RAF) which included - Poles (448) - Norwegians (677) - Belgian and Dutch (800) - Czechs (900) - Free French (2,600)	42,110
Naval Fleet Air Arm also trained at BCATP schools	5,296

**TOTAL OF 136,849**



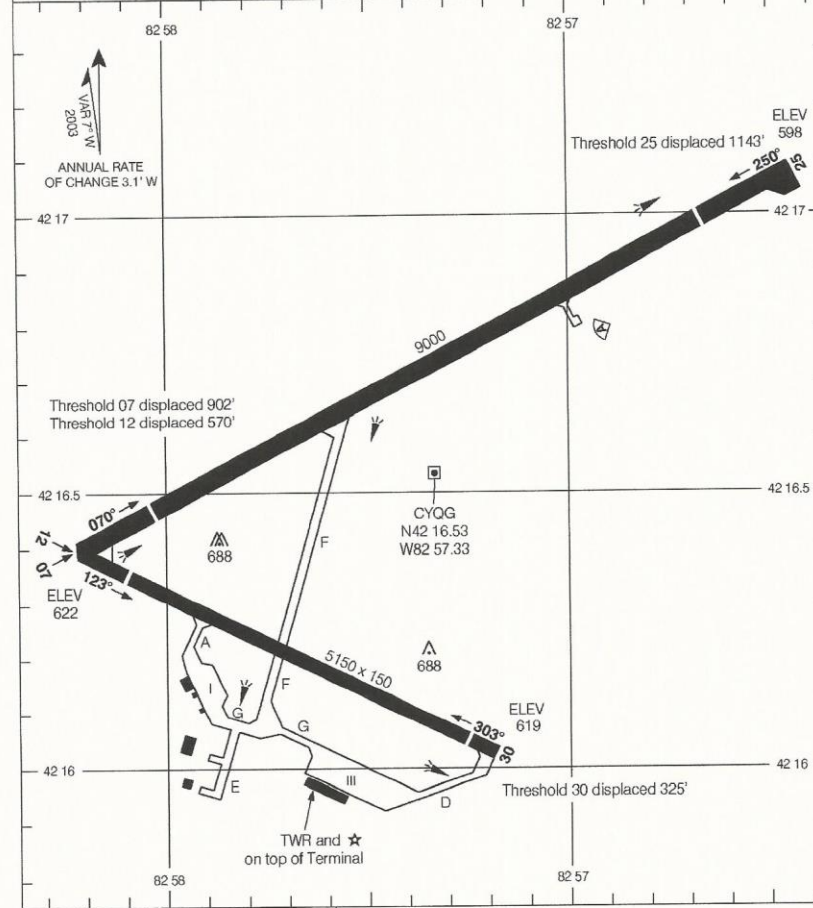
TYPICAL BCATP AIRFIELD

# AERODROME CHART

WINDSOR  
WINDSOR ON

VOT 111.8	ATIS 134.5	GND 121.7	RADIO LONDON (RCO) 123.375 (FISE)	TWR 124.7 236.6 O/T TFC 124.7 (MF 6 NM)	DEP DETROIT APCH CTL 126.85 127.5 134.3 363.2 348.3
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DECLARED DISTANCES	07	25	12	30
TORA	9000	9000	5150	5150
TODA	10,000	9000	5350	5150
ASDA	9000	9000	5150	5150
LDA	8098	7857	4580	4825



TAKE-OFF MINIMA	SCALE IN FEET
All Rwys: 1/2	1000 0 1000 2000

AERODROME CHART  
EFF 15 MAR 07

CHANGE: Comm box

WINDSOR ON  
WINDSOR  
NAD83

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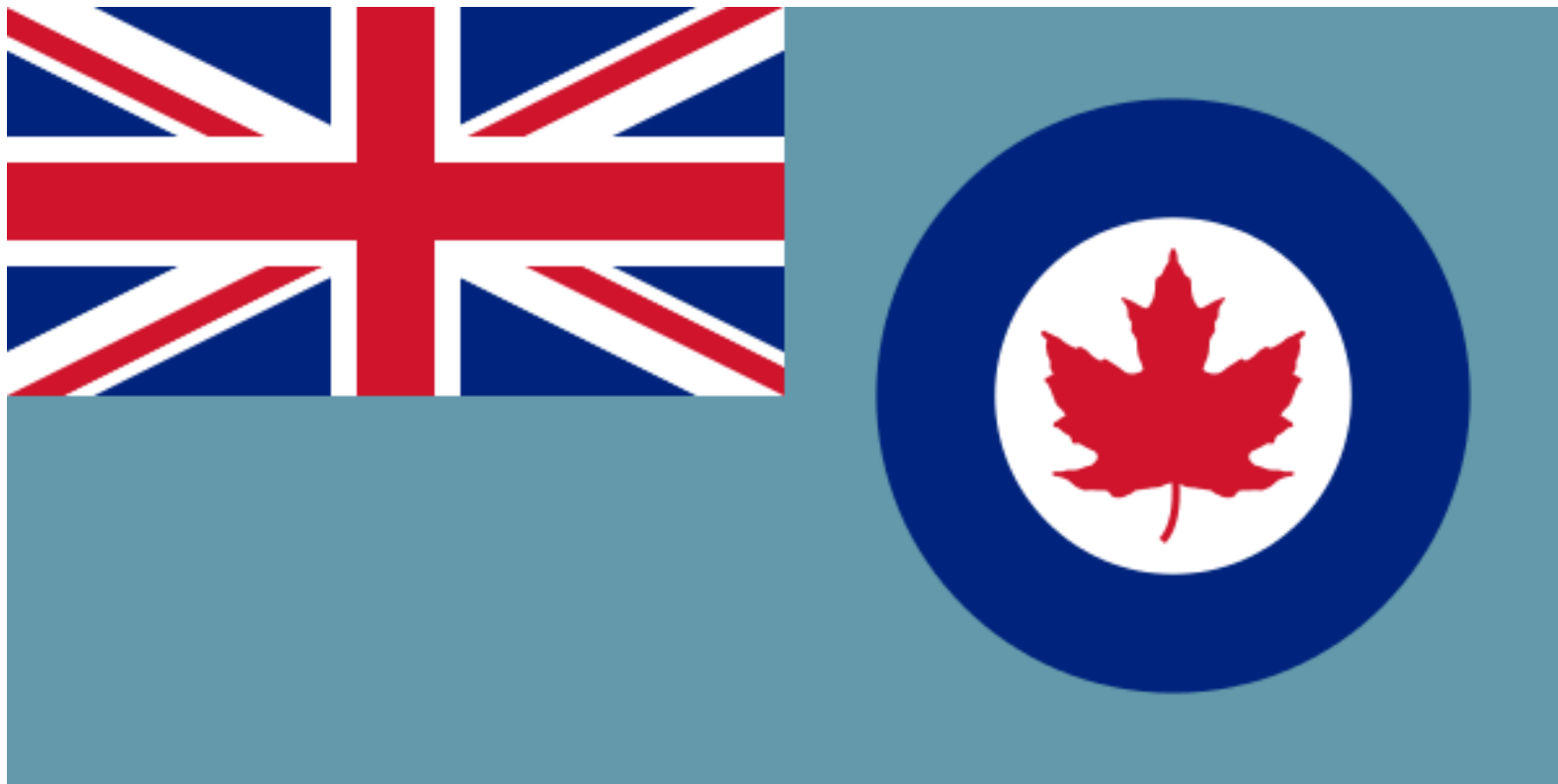


- THE PROGRAM WAS A HUGE SUCCESS FOR CANADA AND LEAVES A LEGACY TO THIS DAY
- A STRONG POST WAR AVIATION SECTOR
- IMPROVED AIRPORTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, MOST OF WHICH ARE STILL IN USE TODAY

- 8,300 BUILDINGS INCLUDING 700 HANGARS LIKE WINDSOR'S – POWER GENERATION, ROAD BUILDING, SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE, PUMPING STATIONS WERE JUST A FEW OF THE BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

- THE ECONOMIC BOOST WAS PARTICULARLY FELT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES WHO SUFFERED THE MOST FROM THE DEPRESSION

- AS A RESULT OF BCATP SUCCESS, CANADA CONTINUED TO TRAIN PERSONNEL FROM THE NATO POWERS INCLUDING THE NATO AIR TRAINING PLAN (1950 – 1957) WHERE 4,600 PILOTS AND NAVIGATORS FROM 10 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED – THIS RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL NATO MEMBERS WHICH ARE STILL IN EFFECT TODAY





Have a Nice Day!