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Spring 2004

## President's Update

By John Davidson

It has been quite a while since I last put pen to paper. I have been very busy trying to understand the new requirements surrounding the Grants and Contributions Policy that Treasury Board (TB) has implemented since our last Contribution Funding Agreement 5 years ago. We initially were successful in negotiating a 5 year Contribution Agreement (CA) with DND giving CASARA a 3% increase in each of the next 5 years. However, when it went to TB, they questioned whether a CA is the proper funding mechanism or whether there is there a better process available within government to fund CASARA. TB also required a review of the previous CA, which couldn't be completed prior to the expiry date. Consequently TB has approved only a one year CA with the requirement for the review to be completed ASAP and an investigation of funding mechanisms to determine the best fit for CASARA. I will be pushing DND to undertake these reviews earlier rather than waiting to the end of the CA. This is the first time that our CA has been approved and signed prior to the expiry of the existing one. This means that there will be no interruption in our training schedules during the month of April and we should have our first quarter funding in a week or two.



*National Administrator John Kelly and National President John Davidson*

Another development that has been taking a lot of my time is our new CASARA Management System (CMS). It is at the stage where a working demonstration is now up on the website and is being abused by the testing/review committee. We had our first teleconference last night where we reviewed the operation of the program after having had access to it for the last month. By and large it works very well, is

safe, but most of all, it is secure. Only those who will be tasked with updating information will have access to it and no one else will be able to modify the information. The person modifying the information is also recorded for future references should there be any concerns raised. Currently the CMS has the first two phases complete to hold the National, Provincial and Zone Information and secondly to hold the members' information including training records and courses taken. We had hoped to roll this program out in June, but it now looks like it will be closer to July before we will be able to go live. I am impressed with the ease of the program to retrieve information but will wait until we have a more complete database in place before passing full judgment. It will make our lives a lot easier when it comes to crewing our aircraft and updating our training information.

Just a quick update on what is happening beyond our province.

## Coming Events

If your zone has an event that you would like to have listed here, please send the information to the editor before the publication deadline.

### Winnipeg Zone

Wednesday 28 April – **Zone AGM**

Saturday 8 May – **Level 1**

Friday 14 May 2004 – **Annual Wings Banquet**

Saturday 5 June – **Joint Exercise with CASARA Thunder Bay and Lake of the Woods SAR group**

### **Provincial Zone**

30 June - **Searcher Deadline**

29 May 2004 – **Provincial AGM in St Andrews**

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*Here are a few great photos from a Winnipeg Zone intercept exercise with 435 Squadron on 14 March . . .*



*All photos by Winnipeg Zone Chief Spotter Darlene Searcy*