Dear Participant,

My congratulations on your selection to attend the International Week, sponsored by the NATO Defense College (NDC) in support of the Ukrainian National Defence Academy (UNDA).

The aims of this International Week are:

- To improve your knowledge of NATO, its organisation and working methods;
- To discuss the challenges facing the Atlantic Alliance and its partners in today’s security environment particularly in the light of decisions taken at the Prague Summit;
- To address certain key, current issues in the field of International Security; and
- To demonstrate the importance of a strong partnership between Ukraine and NATO.

The NATO Defense College team, in collaboration with Colonel General TOLUBKO, the Commandant of the UNDA, and his staff have organised for you a series of lectures, which consider some of the most important challenges that face both NATO and Ukraine. The presentations will be delivered by a variety of prominent specialists who come regularly to the NDC in Rome to address our strategic level courses. The topics will be introduced to you by means of a written syllabus and relevant articles that we strongly recommend you read and contemplate before the lectures. I hope, however, that the most rewarding part of the programme will be the post-lecture discussions that you will have with both the lecturers and fellow Course Members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NATO Liaison Office and the NATO Documentation Centre in Kiev for the outstanding support they have provided in order to make this Course possible for you and future students. I am confident that the experience you will gain during the International Week will help to better prepare you for the high level appointments which you will undertake in your Defence Ministry and Armed Forces, and especially for future work within multinational environments.

Welcome to the International Week. I wish you a professionally rewarding and academically stimulating Course.

Jean-Paul Raffenne

Jean-Paul RAFFENNE
Lieutenant General, French Army
Commandant