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 aim of this International Week is:

- 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;
- To address some 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 is led by Colonel Jan Piotrowski (PL/A). In collaboration with Lieutenant General TOLUBKO, the Commandant of the UNDA, it has organised 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 by means of this written syllabus and relevant articles that we strongly recommend that you read and consider 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 for 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 to which you will move 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