

respective units and squadrons at a high state of operational readiness to conduct high intensity operations in the Central Region in a conventional or nuclear biological or chemical environment."<sup>2</sup>

In addition to these force commitments, Canada provides training facilities for NATO troops on Canadian territory. There is a West German facility for tank training in Shilo, Manitoba and the British Army uses facilities at Suffield and Wainwright, Alberta. Both the German and British forces use the Goose Bay, Newfoundland facilities for training in low-level flying.

The Canadian Air Group in West Germany is being refitted with CF-18 aircraft to replace older CF-104 aircraft. The deployment of these CF-18s was completed in 1986. The increased manpower commitment of an additional 1,220 personnel, made in 1985 was met in 1986. A total of 7,160 Canadian Armed Forces personnel are now stationed in Europe.

Canada's air base at Goose Bay is under consideration as a possible site for NATO's new Tactical Fighting and Weapons Training Centre (NTFWTC). A site at Konya, Turkey is the other choice. In September 1986 NATO officials recommended the site in Turkey.

### Current Canadian Position

In an address to the Empire Club in Toronto, the Minister for National Defence, Perrin Beatty, outlined the rationale for Canadian membership in NATO. He stated:

We are not in NATO and in Europe today simply out of a spirit of altruism. We are there because our interests as a nation require us to be there and because the loss of a free Europe would be a grave

<sup>2</sup> DND, 1987-88 Estimates, Part III, p. 46.