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3. The Naval Reserve

The stated pre-White Paper roles of the Naval Reserve were maritime coastal defence through the manning of coastal and harbour patrol vessels; the manning of naval control of shipping organizations and convoy commodore organizations; provision of augmentation personnel for major fleet units, diving unit schools and other shore facilities; and, in general, serving as a base for expansion of the navy in wartime.

The line of command for the Naval Reserve extends from the Chief of the Defence Staff to the Commander Maritime Command, who delegates some administrative, training and force development planning authority to the Commander Naval Reserve Divisions in Quebec City. That Commander is a Regular Forces naval captain. The commanding officers of the 21 naval reserve divisions spread across the country are Reserve Force commanders and captains. In 1987, the Regular Force Support Staff dedicated to naval Reserve units to handle administration and training was set at 174. However, only 129 positions were filled by Regulars. Some of the shortfall was made up by hiring Reservists on a full-time basis.

About 34.3 per cent of Naval Reservists are women and all trades are open to females.

Under the current system, most unit commanders, like many other Reservists, are generally tied to geographical areas by their family lives and careers. Therefore, promotions are usually from within those units. Only in exceptional cases are new arrivals fresh out of the Regular Forces or some other area available to be slotted into leadership roles.

With 21 divisions and a total paid ceiling on March 31, 1988, of 3,450, the Naval Reserve is not large enough to fulfil all its assigned tasks. Training equipment, such as minor war vessels, are old and in need of replacement. Another problem is the shortage of Regular Force support personnel.

4. The Air Reserve

The Air Reserve had an authorized personnel ceiling of 950 on March 31, 1988, with a headquarters in Winnipeg and two Reserve wings at Montreal and Toronto, made up of two squadrons each. Three other