

its Regular Force units. The reorganization will result in considerable savings in personnel without any loss in operational effectiveness and make possible the release of personnel to other commands and organizations whose commitments are expanding.

Late in the year the Command's C-5 aircraft carried Prime Minister Diefenbaker and his party to 19 countries during his 48-day world tour, covering a distance of approximately 46,000 miles.

Air Transport Command, which was put to a real test in 1956 when it was called upon to support the UNEF operations in the Middle East, was tested again this fall during Exercise Globe-Trotter, a combined Army-RCAF peacetime manoeuvre simulating the overseas airlift of the Battalion Group. For exercise purposes, men and equipment of the 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment were presumed to be making a 1400-mile flight from "somewhere" in Europe to a non-designated "trouble zone", while in fact they were making the 200-mile flight from London, Ont., to Mountainview, Ont. During the exercise, C-199 Flying Boxcars of Air Transport Command airlifted more than 1,000 soldiers, supplies and equipment from London to Mountainview.

NEW PLANES

Maritime Air Command continued to keep in top operational form during the year by co-operating in exercises with forces of the Royal Canadian Navy and Canada's NATO partners, together with its own regular ocean and coastal patrols.

In May, the Argus anti-submarine aircraft was officially handed over to the Command. Built by Canadair Ltd., the giant sub-killer is the largest aircraft ever produced in Canada and acquired by the RCAF, and is the best fitted aircraft in the world with respect to modern electronic and other equipment. In September, an Argus was flown to the NATO headquarters of the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, at Norfolk, Virginia, where a demonstration of its capabilities drew high praise from SACLANT and his American staff officers.

Also during 1958, Neptunes began replacing the veteran Lancasters of Maritime Air Commands' 407 Squadron at Comox, B.C. Once the replacement programme has been completed, Argus and Neptune aircraft will operate from the Command's bases on the east coast of Canada, and Neptunes will operate on the west coast.

At the two east coast stations at Summerside, P.E.I., and Greenwood, N.S., both of which were previously selected as major centres for maritime operations, work was started on the two \$7,000,000 programmes to provide additional operational facilities, including hangars, fuel and armament storage, service facilities, and aprons, taxiways and connecting roads.

AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

Air Materiel Command was busy throughout the year with its vital and complex task of providing logistic support for the RCAF. This responsibility included maintenance, servicing, supply, inspection, storage and salvage, in addition to testing and acceptance of aircraft and associated equipment.

In October, the Central Experimental and Proving Establishment's Air Armament Evaluation Detachment at Cold Lake, Alta., carried out its first aerial tests on the Ryan Firebee. The Firebee, a high-speed high-altitude, pilotless, jet target plane, simulates attacking jet fighters and bombers and serves as a realistic target for testing and evaluating present and future weapons systems.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The RCAF's search and rescue organization also was kept busy during the year, as its aircraft flew approximately 5,500 hours on operations ranging from short mercy flights to full-scale search and rescue missions. More than 50 searches were conducted by the organization in 1958, of which 20 involved the saving of lives. In addition it made more than 130 mercy flights, airlifting sick and injured people from isolated areas to centres where hospital treatment could be given.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Wing Commander John G. Showler, AFC, CD, of Winnipeg, was selected winner of the McKee Trans-Canada Trophy for 1957. The award, announced in June, was in recognition of his general contribution to the successful and accurate mapping of the Canadian Arctic when he was commanding 408 Photo Squadron based at Rockcliffe. His personal drive, enthusiasm and ability to accurately assess the capabilities of his men and equipment, were largely instrumental in the successful completion of the 1957 Arctic SHORAN (Short Range Aid to Navigation) programme and the Geodetic Survey of the whole of Canada.

During the year Her Majesty the Queen approved gallantry awards to Squadron Leader Andrew G. Carswell, of Toronto, and Sergeant Ian J. McPherson, of Vancouver, for their part in the rescue of a pair of fishermen from a sinking vessel off the west coast of Canada. S/L Carswell, captain of the Canso amphibian rescue aircraft, was awarded the Air Force Cross, while Sgt. McPherson, the crewman, was awarded the British Empire Medal. Both men were serving with the RCAF's 123 Search and Rescue Unit, Sea Island, B.C., at the time.

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AMBASSADOR TO IRAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has announced the appointment of Mr. George Bernard Summers, Q.C. as Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to

(Continued on P. 6)