

DEFENCE

THE CONTINENTAL PERSPECTIVE

Canada shares the North American continent with one of the world's two super-powers. Situated between the United States and the Soviet Union, Canada has been likened to the "ham in a sandwich". This is a major consideration in Canada's defence policy and therefore it is in the country's interest to co-ordinate its defence efforts very closely with the U.S.A. on land, sea, and in the air. At the same time Canada must ensure that its sovereignty is respected by friend and foe alike over a huge, thinly-populated area. Also, in the national interest, Canada contributes to the defence of its European allies through NATO and participates in a number of UN peacekeeping operations.

The danger of attack to this continent only began to be realized in the 1930s with the advent of submarine warfare, and later long-range bombers. Until then there had been no thought of the need for a military alliance between the United States and Canada for purposes of mutual defence.

In 1938, President Roosevelt stated "that the people of the United States will not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil is threatened by any other empire". Prime Minister Mackenzie King responded "...should the occasion ever arise, enemy forces should not be able to pursue their way either by land, sea or air, to the United States across Canadian territory". These speeches set the tone for the future development of the continental defence systems of the two countries. In effect, they laid the cornerstone of what is today - Fortress North America.

Security begins at home

After the outbreak of World War II, the two heads of government met at Ogdensburg, N.Y. in 1940 and formally agreed to the creation of the Permanent Joint Board of Defence, a consultative body still in operation today.

In 1949, in response to the pressures of the "Cold War", Canada and the United States joined with twelve (later fifteen) European nations to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), establishing an effective system of collective defence, both in Europe and in North America.

A bilateral agreement was signed by Canada and the U.S.A. in 1958, creating the integrated command, the North American Air Defence Command. NORAD consists of Units of the Canadian Armed Forces and the U.S. Air Defence Command. The agreement has been modified and renewed, most recently until 1980.

The most visible deterrent to a strategic attack on North America is the counterthreat of massive retaliation by a "triad" of intercontinental nuclear missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and manned

bombers, all controlled by the United States. Part of NORAD's task is to detect and track ballistic missiles and warn of their approach through the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System. NORAD also provides a deterrent to a manned-bomber threat by a combination of early warning and surveillance systems, together with a fighter-interceptor capability.

It is important to note there is no single "mutual security treaty" bringing together all aspects of the defence relationship - a tribute to the mutual trust between Canadian and U.S. defence planners.

United we stand...

Canadian Forces personnel man 24 radar stations across central Canada known as the Pinetree System. In conjunction with U.S. forces, they also operate Canadian stations on the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line which runs roughly along the 70th parallel from Alaska to Greenland. Fighter squadrons are based at Comox, B.C., Cold Lake, Alta., Bagotville, Que., and Chatham, N.B.

Under discussion is a proposal to redefine NORAD boundaries as indicated on the map. When the new regions are formed, in about 1982, two will be in Canada, five in the U.S.A., including one in Alaska. Regional Operations Control Centres for Canada will be North Bay and Edmonton, giving Canada complete control of its own airspace. North Bay will provide an alternative headquarters to Colorado Springs, as it does now.

At sea, joint maritime exercises are carried out by ships and aircraft of the two navies off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Canadian maritime forces provide surveillance in their own areas, monitoring potentially hostile marine operations, including nuclear submarines, primarily as part of their NATO commitments. On land, Mobile Command units exercise

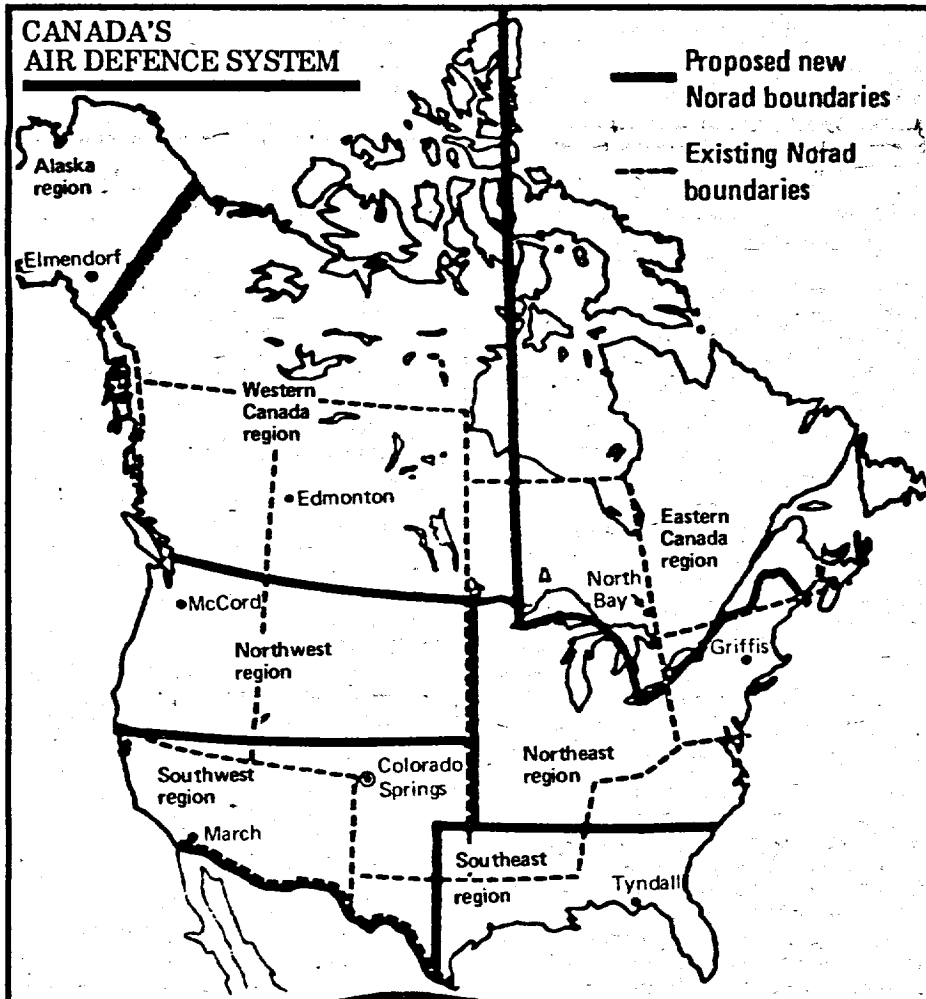
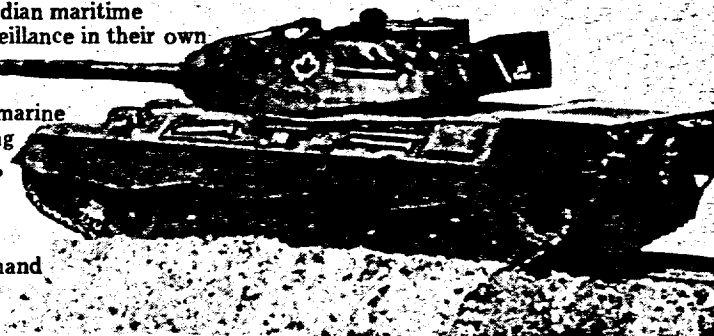
jointly with the U.S. Army.

Other activities involving the armed forces of both countries include search and rescue operations, weather forecasting, and civil emergency planning.

While each country has primary responsibility for control of its own territory, adjacent ocean areas and airspace, each is also prepared to co-operate with the other in the joint defence of the continent.

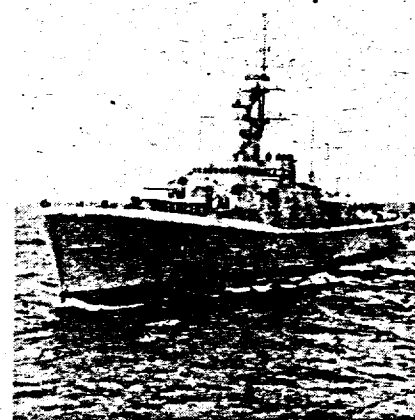
...divided we fall

The world has been described as "hyper-armed". Since World War II there has been a proliferation of armed states, armed forces, conventional and nuclear weaponry. Canada has been in the forefront of those nations seeking to curtail and reverse the arms race through arms control and, eventually, nuclear disarmament. To this end, Canada supports the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) between the Soviet Union and the United States,



an effort to achieve a quantitative and qualitative balance, and agreement to end nuclear weapon testing and chemical weapons.

Canada's defence and foreign policies are predicated on the peaceful settlement of disputes. As long as the threat of war is present however, Canada is committed to support its allies in all situations threatening collective security. The combined strength of the



NATO Alliance and the mutual defence arrangements between Canada and the United States can act as a powerful deterrent should any other country consider hostile action. In this condition of rough balance, the atmosphere may be conducive to a de-escalation of tension and perhaps an end to the arms race.

