

## 20. CANADA-US - NORAD

### Background

The North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) was formed on an interim basis by Canada and the United States on 7 August 1957, and was formally established on 12 May 1958. The initial NORAD Agreement was of ten years duration. It established an integrated command framework to control the active and passive defence systems required to protect North American airspace. These included a joint fighter-interceptor force and a number of radar sites across the continent. By 1957 the Soviet Union had developed both an atomic weapon capability and a large long range bomber force. NORAD was a response to both these developments and to the resulting concern among American and Canadian strategic planners who feared a surprise Soviet bomber attack against US military bases and population centres.

Canada had previously undertaken three joint efforts with the United States in radar surveillance. The Pinetree Line which stretched across 50° North latitude began as a United States project. In 1951 Canada and the United States agreed to share the costs of its extension to cover areas of Canada. The Distant Early Warning (DEW) line was completed in 1957. The DEW Line consists of a series of short-range radars extending across the Canadian north (the 70th parallel). This system will be phased out as the new North Warning System (NWS) begins operations. The Mid-Canada line, which began operations in 1954, consisted of a string of 98 detection sites across the 55th Parallel and was completely designed, built and financed by Canada. This system was completely deactivated by 1965.

The NORAD Agreement was renewed in 1968 for a period of five years. At that time, a clause stating that the NORAD Agreement would "not involve in any way a Canadian commitment to participate in an active ballistic missile defence" was inserted as part of the Agreement. In 1973 the Agreement was