

The steady expansion of German armed forces training programs in Canada parallels the growing Canadian defence commitment to the FRG . Under the terms of a Canada-FRG bilateral agreement, the German Air Force can currently use the low-level flight training facilities at Goose Bay, Labrador for up to 25 tactical aircraft supported by approximately 400 air force personnel. Subject to rigorous environmental monitoring, the low-level training program at Goose Bay (also used by the air forces of Britain, the Netherlands and the USA) has been welcomed as an important stimulus to the region's economy. To the German Air Force it is a source of invaluable training unavailable on this scale anywhere within Western Europe. Such training in turn improves the deterrent capacity of the FRG's defences and thereby enhances the prospects for continued peace.

On an even larger scale, the Federal Republic of Germany conducts an army training program at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Shilo, Manitoba. Training is conducted annually from May until October on mechanized infantry combat vehicles and Leopard A2 tanks, with up to 700 troops being trained at any one time, or a total of approximately 6,000 annually. Since the inauguration of this program in 1974, over 70,000 German soldiers have received training at CFB Shilo, thereby adding a significant human and cross-cultural dimension to our bilateral defence cooperation.

Canada-FRG defence relations are also enhanced by growing contacts in the associated field of defence trade. The FRG sent a combined government and private sector mission to Canada for the purpose of identifying new bilateral defence trade and investment opportunities in 1986. This is due to be followed up by a corresponding Canadian mission to Germany in July 1988. Recent successes of bilateral defence industrial cooperation include the co-development of the CL-89 and CL-289 surveillance drones, licensing of the Volkswagen Iltis jeep for production by Bombardier, and the MBB/Fleet Industries joint venture for the production of helicopters. It should also be noted that the presence of Canadian Forces in Germany and the training programs of the German army and air force in Canada have benefited the defence industries of both countries. For example, the Canadian Forces have purchased significant supplies within the Federal Republic in addition to purchases of Leopard tanks, trucks, armoured recovery vehicles and bridge-laying equipment.

The various dimensions of Canada-FRG defence ties provide tangible evidence of a warm and enduring bilateral friendship as well as an abiding commitment to common defence within the framework of the Atlantic Alliance. Such fruitful cooperation in the area of defence contributes immeasurably to Western security and may therefore be described as a partnership for peace.