

Some idea of the scope of the airlift required to carry out such tasks was provided, also by LCol. Scott, on 2 May 1985. "A strategic commitment of long standing is the deployment of Canada's contribution to the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force, or AMF," he stated.

It requires lifting approximately 1,200 troops and their vehicles and equipment to northern Norway, a distance of approximately 3,000 miles. Historically, this commitment has been regarded as the pacing factor in strategic airlift because of the requirement to generate on short notice the highest safe flying rate of which ATG is capable. This commitment requires the entire C-130 force for completion, and represents the generation of over 3,000 C-130 flying hours in approximately 10 days. There are factors which make it difficult to sustain this rate for extended periods of time. Of the factors involved, namely maintenance, manpower, aircrews and spare parts, spare parts is considered to be the most critical factor.¹³

While recognizing the unpredictability of crises, DND uses estimates such as those outlined by LCol. Scott to work out, under a normative programme study,¹⁴ total airlift requirements and the numbers of aircraft needed to meet them.¹⁵ Assessments are made of warning time, priorities, availability of civil aircraft, and similar factors, so that the most effective and economical responses can be developed, in case they are ever needed.

LGen. (Ret) K.E. Lewis, President, Aerospace Industries Association of Canada and a former Commander of Air Command and Air Transport Command, gave his views on the numbers of aircraft needed to meet current requirements when he appeared before the Committee on 20 June 1985. He indicated that ATG would not be able to carry out its commitments with present resources and argued for a substantial increase in long-range, medium-range and other capabilities. One of the options he advanced included recommendations for an increase in the number of Hercules from 28 to 44. Witnesses also recognized that ATG resources would need to be supplemented in crisis periods by civil airliners and aircrews, especially for some troop movements and evacuations.

Wartime. Until the mid-1970s, it was believed that a major East-West conflict would last less than 30 days and would be fought primarily by the forces-in-being at the time hostilities broke out. Many analysts estimated that a conventional war in Europe would in fact not last more than a few days. NATO forces would be pushed back to the Rhine in that time, they believed, and allied leaders would have to resort to nuclear weapons if Western Europe was not to be overrun. In such circumstances, Air Transport Group would have little impact once the battle started, since there would be no time to move up supplies or major reinforcements.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 2 May 1985, p. 2:9.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 9 May 1985, p. 8:18.

¹⁵ The normative programme study is a means of determining the organization and resources needed to meet current defence commitments and sustain the Canadian Forces in peacetime, crisis periods and wartime. The objective is to enable DND to determine how many troops, aircraft, ships, tanks, other equipment and other resources it needs to carry out its tasks under a variety of realistic conditions.