

hostilities....If these commitments in northern Norway were to be met fully and effectively, the deficiencies cited above would have to be rectified. This could only be done at great cost....The Government has concluded that consolidation in southern Germany is the best way to achieve a more credible, effective and sustainable contribution to the common defence of Europe.⁴

On 24 June 1988, the creation of a composite NATO force designed to replace Canada's CAST commitment to northern Norway was announced at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. Contributing to the force will be the United States, West Germany, Norway and Canada. According to Defence Minister Perrin Beatty, Canada's contribution will consist of the 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, based in London, Ontario - an infantry unit of about 1200 personnel.⁵ Previously slotted for the defence of either Norway or Denmark, in future it will be committed exclusively to northern Norway. In turn, Belgium has offered to replace Canada in the role it previously filled in defence of Denmark.

The two squadrons of Rapid Reinforcement fighters which Canada had assigned to the defence of northern Norway will also be shifted to southern Germany. These squadrons are presently being converted from CF-5 to CF-18 aircraft, and the first was scheduled to be earmarked for deployment on the central front in June 1988. The second squadron will be operational in 1989. Both are based in Canada, but intended to reinforce Canadian forces in Germany in time of crisis.⁶

As a result of these changes in Canada's land and air forces, this country

⁴ DND, Challenge and Commitment, 5 June 1987, p. 61.

⁵ DND, News Release 65/88, 24 June 1988.

⁶ DND, Defence Update: 1988-89, March 1988, p. 14.