

The North Atlantic Council, the Defence Planning Committee and the Nuclear Planning Group are all chaired by the Secretary-General of NATO. All NATO bodies reach decision by consensus rather than majority vote. The Secretary-General is also the head of the NATO International Staff, which provides the administrative support for a large part of the Alliance's activities.

The senior military authority of NATO is the Military Committee, which provides advice to both the Council and the DPC. It meets periodically at the level of chiefs of defence staff, as well as at the level of national military representatives, who are the personal representatives of their chiefs of staff. The Military Committee is served by an International Military Staff, which acts as its executive agency and functions like the civilian secretariat. The Chairman of the Military Committee is selected by the chiefs of staff for two or three years, and attends all meetings of the Council and the DPC. NATO's integrated military forces are divided into three major commands (Europe, the Atlantic and the Channel). Each command is headed by a senior allied officer (Saceur, Saclant and Cicchan), who is responsible for planning the defence of his own area and for the conduct of NATO's land, sea and air exercises.

### **Canadian military participation in NATO**

Recognizing that its security is closely linked with that of the other Alliance members, Canada has been prepared to contribute armed forces to NATO's collective-defence effort. These forces, particularly those stationed in Europe, constitute tangible evidence of Canada's continuing commitment to the Alliance, besides reinforcing its participation in the Alliance's consultation process.

Canadian forces in Europe numbering approximately 5,000 men are stationed in the Black Forest region of Southern Germany at Lahr and Baden-Sölingen. They consist of a Mechanized Battle Group and an Air Group of three squadrons of CF 104 aircraft for use in conventional hostilities. Although relatively small, these forces have gained a deservedly high reputation in Europe for their professional proficiency. Canada has also agreed to make available a battalion group and two squadrons of CF 5 aircraft stationed in Canada for use in the defence of the Alliance's northern flank.