

commitments and undertakings anywhere in the world. These commitments range from reinforcing the European sector as a contribution to the deterrence of general war to United Nations peace-keeping operations. The prime ingredients in the force are quick reaction-time, the ability to go where required with despatch and to perform its tasks with maximum effectiveness. The decision to introduce into this command, which was formed officially October 19, 1965, tactical air squadrons equipped with the new CF-5 will increase to a marked extent both the capability and flexibility of the mobile force. Tactics and doctrines will be developed as the squadrons are formed and are able to exercise with the land elements they are required to support.

The acquisition of the Voyageur helicopter and the De Havilland Buffalo STOL (short take-off and landing) military transport will give the Mobile Command a greatly enhanced tactical capability.

Strategic transport for Mobile Command will be provided by Air Transport Command, and the sea element by Maritime Command.

The Special Service Force idea, announced in the White Paper to apply to one brigade, has now been expanded and current plans call for two brigades to be converted, on a planned basis, to this idea of air transportability, with an additional Airborne Battalion Group for added flexibility and quick response to domestic needs and overseas commitments as they arise.

Maritime Command

The primary mission of Maritime Command continues to be the anti-submarine role. Its secondary role, as stated in the White Paper, is the provision of sea-lift and other related naval capability to Mobile Command. Maritime Command was officially formed on January 19, 1966, and the integration of the naval and air elements under one commander will provide an even closer relation between the various units engaged in the same basic mission. Headquarters, Maritime Command, is at Halifax, while the Deputy Commander (Maritime Commander, Pacific) will have his headquarters at Esquimalt, B.C.

The fleet modernization programme announced last year is continuing. The post-Second World War destroyer escorts, refitted with modern equipment, have an anti-submarine surveillance and operational capability far greater than ever before. The introduction of helicopters as part of the weapons system has contributed markedly to this increased capability from the standpoint of range, speed, area of coverage, and general effectiveness. The introduction of ASROC, a long-range, rocket-assisted torpedo-delivery system will provide an additional substantial increase in target-destruction capability.

The most recent addition to Maritime Command has been HMCS Ojibwa, the first of three "O"-class submarines. These submarines have the dual capability of providing the rest of the anti-submarine forces with ASW training and, at the same time, being additional operational units. In April, the First Canadian Submarine Squadron will be formed to operate out of Halifax. The Argus, Neptune and Tracker aircraft, assigned to Maritime Command, are also receiving mid-life re-equipment, which will provide them with an improved capability.