

CHAPTER II

CANADA'S MARITIME ASSETS AND CAPABILITIES

INTRODUCTION

Six departments execute the majority of federal responsibilities involved in the management of Canada's maritime affairs. They are the Departments of National Defence, Fisheries and Oceans, Transport (particularly the Canadian Coast Guard), Environment, Solicitor General (particularly the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) and External Affairs. Inevitably, the responsibilities and capabilities of these departments overlap, and a network of interdepartmental agreements such as Memoranda of Understanding and Letters of Agreement or Arrangement (see Appendix) exists in an effort to coordinate departmental activities and minimize wasteful duplication. Within this network, departments essentially perform three types of functions: (1) functions within their departmental mandate for which they have the resources alone or in conjunction with other departments as the lead agency; (2) functions on behalf of other departments on a regular basis; or (3) functions on behalf of other departments on an incidental basis. This chapter examines the assets and capabilities of the Department of National Defence and other departments and illustrates how the assets of one department are often used to help another deal with maritime situations.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

A. Factors Influencing the Composition of Canadian Maritime Forces

1. The Strategic Situation

The capabilities and the kind of equipment Canada's maritime forces now possess are the result of a number of strategic and historical factors. At the end of the Second World War, Canada's large maritime forces were substantially reduced, but the small peacetime force which resulted maintained the anti-submarine warfare (ASW) expertise gained in battle. Indeed, Canada's commitment to the defence of North America in cooperation with United States forces, and to the protection of NATO's sea lines of communication (SLOCs) in cooperation with allied forces, as well as the need to ensure the surveillance and control of Canadian territorial waters, adjacent ocean areas and the Arctic archipelago, called for combat-ready general purpose maritime forces with anti-submarine capabilities. Over the years, the priority accorded by Canadian defence planners to anti-submarine capabilities has varied a great deal. In the 1960s, when land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) became the main strategic weapon and when war between the superpowers was