

major military bases. In the Lahr and Baden-Soellingen areas of Germany, especially, they are an important and very visible Canadian presence abroad.

The Armed Forces are playing an active role in promoting the position of women in society, and in advancing bilingualism. Further advances still need to be made in both areas, but the trends in both appear to be positive.

Other contributions to national life include mapping, engineering, disaster relief, navigation assistance and varied help, on request, to civil government. The tasks have ranged, at one time or another, from fire fighting and flood control to the development of new roads in the Arctic.

Finally, the armed Forces are an important bearer of the national heritage. They represent commitment and the capacity that so many Canadians have demonstrated over time to make a contribution to the greater good both in war and in peace.

### **PART III COMMITMENTS AND RESOURCES**

Canada's capacity to meet its various defence commitments depends upon the resources available in the national economy and upon the degree of priority that is given to defence expenditure among the other demands and outlays pressing on the federal government. Financial requirements will also change over time as commitments alter and equipment and other needs evolve.

Canada has one of the world's largest economies. Compared with many other nations, this country spends only a relatively small proportion of its resources on defence. In recent decades, the level has continually run at around two percent of the Gross National Product, which puts Canada behind such allies as the United States, France, or Norway, for example, but roughly on a par with Denmark or Italy. Canada invests a larger