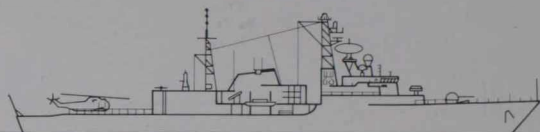


Patrol frigates

'Project Definition' will see more than \$1.5 billion spent to build up Canada's sea power. The programme is expected to deliver at least six new Canadian patrol frigates to the Maritime Command by the end of the decade. The new ships will be between 3,000 and 4,000 tons and will carry Sea King helicopters, but final plans and designs are still being perfected. As a holding operation Canada's existing naval force will be extensively refurbished and refitted.

Canada will be increasing its military budget by 3% in real terms this year. The government recognizes that international military balance is still a prerequisite to sustain peace, and is dedicated to the creation and maintenance of armed forces more than able to pull their own weight in any future combat.



An artist's conception of what the new Canadian Patrol Frigate might look like, based on the capability requirements for the ships.

Women in the forces

Women have been part of the Canadian Armed Forces for a long time, but recently they have been moving closer to the front line combat action. Women are to be employed (on a trial basis initially) with near combat land units and aboard one non-combatant ship. Selected servicewomen will be employed in a service battalion and field ambulance unit stationed in Germany. After completion of sea training, they will also be used in support trades onboard HMCS Cormorant, a fleet diving support ship.

All this points out the many significant changes that have occurred regarding the employment of women in the Forces. The number of servicewomen increased from 1,500 in the early 1970s, to 5,074 in 1979 and now represents approximately 6.5% of the Regular Forces. From limited employment only a decade ago in 23 trades and classifications, primarily in the administrative and



Officer Cadet Kim Breese on base training at CFB Chilliwack BC, about to go over obstacle course during speed competition. The number 10 indicates competition section and -1 indicates number in section. (Photo Capt Wendy Tighe Sentinel)



Corporal Mary E Colussi, an Electronic Technician at Canadian Forces Base Montreal, performs an electronic bench check on an aircraft component.

medical fields, by 1979 women were engaged in 85 out of the 131 Armed Forces trades and classifications, including jobs in engineering, medical, dental, legal, communications, logistics, security, and avionics fields.

All past inequities concerning women's conditions of service and benefits have been removed. Women are recruited, trained, employed, and paid the same as men. They