

Chapter VIII

THE NAVAL RESERVES

Overview

The recently published *Minister's Statement — Defence Estimates 1983/84* makes a compelling case for strong, numerous, well trained and well equipped reserve forces:

... the idea that only 'forces-in-being' ... were useful as a deterrent to aggression or to provide the necessary defence in the event of a war between NATO and the Warsaw Pact is no longer appropriate or adequate in the strategic circumstances of the 1980s ... The nuclear threshold needs to be raised and the conventional leg of the deterrent triad improved and strengthened.

In these circumstances our forces must be improved in terms of sustainability ... This will over time have a considerable effect on force structure, leading to a new emphasis on a 'total force' concept ... that includes the Regular Force and all sub-components of the Reserve Force ...¹

Yet, from everything that the sub-committee has seen and heard, it appears the "new emphasis" will lack impact because of the government's unwillingness to commit the necessary funds. As the House Sub-committee on Armed Forces Reserves² and this sub-committee itself³ concluded in two studies published fully eighteen months ago, despite the admirable dedication of the officers and the remarkable commitment of the other ranks, the Naval Reserve remains in urgent need of attention.

The tasks of the Naval Reserve

The Naval Reserve is divided into eighteen units (known as divisions), located in major centres across the country. As an integral part of MARCOM, the Naval Reserve's main tasks in an emergency are: to provide personnel for the augmentation of the Regular Force in all types of operational units ashore and afloat; to provide a base for further mobilization; to provide *all* the personnel for the Naval Control of Shipping organization (NCS); to crew or augment the crews of the vessels of other departments; to provide liaison teams for fast sea-lift container

¹ *Minister's statement — Defence Estimates 1983/84, op. cit.*, p. 20.

² Issue no. 49 of the *Minutes of proceedings and evidence of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence*, Seventh Report to the House of Commons, also published under the title *Action for Reserves*, December 1981.

³ *Manpower in Canada's Armed Forces, op. cit.*