

# THE CANADA-U.S. DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP IN A CHANGING WORLD

## NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENCE COMMAND

NORAD is a bi-national military organization established in 1958 by Canada and the United States to monitor and defend North American aerospace. Its headquarters are located in Colorado Springs. The Commander of NORAD is appointed by, and responsible to, both the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States. By tradition, the Commander is an American and the Deputy Commander a Canadian. NORAD operates a network of ground-based radars, sensors and fighter jets to detect, intercept and, if necessary, engage aerospace threats to the continent. On September 11, NORAD played a vital part in helping ground civilian air traffic in North America and has since increased its role in protecting North American cities and critical infrastructure. Over 700 Canadian Forces personnel are assigned to NORAD, including in North Bay, Ontario.

As part of this new approach to continental defence, Canada will also examine greater cooperation with Mexico on security issues.

## The Permanent Joint Board on Defence

The Permanent Joint Board on Defence was created in 1940 and constitutes the senior bilateral advisory body on continental security. The board meets semi-annually and is composed of national sections made up of diplomatic and military representatives. It has served both Canada and the United States well for over 60 years and continues to be relevant. The board's ability to provide useful policy advice to governments has been strengthened by reducing the size of its permanent membership, adding participants from key security partner agencies and focusing agendas on specific policy issues that can be discussed in depth. Canada will encourage the board to consider North American defence in the context of the new security environment, particularly the relationship between homeland defence, continental defence and international security, and to explore further ways of improving the body's effectiveness.

## FUTURE TASKS OF THE CANADIAN FORCES

The Canadian Forces will enhance their role in defending the North American continent by:

- strengthening their ability to counter threats in Canada, especially in terms of monitoring and controlling activity in the air and maritime approaches to our territory;
- continuing to contribute Canadian aircraft and other assets to the NORAD mission;
- ensuring that maritime forces, both regular and reserve, cooperate even more closely with the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard;
- improving their ability to operate alongside American forces, including through more frequent combined training and exercises;
- exploring with the United States ways to enhance our bi-national defence cooperation, especially in the areas of maritime security and military support to civilian authorities; and
- continuing to participate in international operations overseas to address threats at their source.

