

4 CMBG [Fourth Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group]

Let us now turn to our NATO Brigade. A fighting brigade equipped and manned for war must be organized at the fighting echelon as follows: three infantry battalions of four companies each; an armoured regiment with three tank squadrons; an artillery regiment with three batteries of eight guns each; and a squadron of combat engineers with three field troops.

4 CMBG does not have all of the elements I have just listed. Rather, the fighting echelon of 4 CMBG looks like this: two infantry battalions of three companies each; an armoured regiment of two tank squadrons; an artillery regiment with three batteries of six guns each; a squadron of combat engineers with two field troops.

One must not surmise that 4 CMBG is not a credible force, which could not be "fielded" into battle. Quite the contrary. Man for man, we are second to none. However, history and our experiences on past conventional battlefields have demonstrated that, if one is to fight and expect to survive, one must be organized to fight with a credible war establishment. 4 CMBG in its present configuration will require augmentation if it appears that it is about to be committed to action. The Government recognizes this fact, and has taken the necessary steps to resolve it. To begin, sufficient tanks, guns, vehicles and weapons will be pre-positioned with the Brigade to bring its equipment establishment up to the following strength: an additional company for each of the two infantry battalions; an additional squadron for the armoured regiment; an additional six guns for the artillery regiment; an additional field troop for the engineer squadron.

I plan to deploy for exercises, on a regular basis, trained troops earmarked in Canada to man this equipment. In addition, I shall have a mechanized infantry battalion in Canada trained and earmarked to form the third battalion in 4 CMBG. If the situation dictates, the Government will have the option to deploy this unit by air. With these plans, I am sure you will agree that the Brigade will have the resources it will require to fulfil whatever task it may be given.

Base Europe

Base Europe is organized in peace to provide housekeeping and administrative services to 1 CAG and 4 CMBG. In war, the base will have a very important role. It will be primarily responsible to receive and distribute national third-line supplies and equipment that are not available to the Brigade and the CAG through NATO sources.