

affects future plans for the surface fleet, but of greater concern at the moment is the transition now underway from an obsolete to a modernized fleet. Since the last of the 12 new frigates is not scheduled to enter service until 1996 and since most of the four Tribal class destroyers will be in port during modernization in the coming months, the destroyers built in the 1950s have been modified in recent years under the Destroyer Life Extension (DELEX) project to keep them operating pending the arrival of the new ships. The deployment of three ships to the Persian Gulf area may affect the timetable for the withdrawal from service of the remaining old destroyers.

Committee members gained a firsthand impression of the navy's current operations and capabilities by spending a day at sea off Canada's Atlantic Coast aboard two destroyers, HMCS *Skeena* and HMCS *Margaree*, which entered service in 1957 are by no means the navy's most modern ships, but they and their crews demonstrated to the Committee how naval operations are carried out and how assistance can be provided to non-military operations such as RCMP efforts to stop the illicit entry of drugs into Canada and Department of Fisheries patrols of Canadian fishing grounds. Naval officers stressed that military personnel could deal effectively with such non-military tasks because of the high degree of skills and training required to undertake complex anti-submarine operations. The Committee was indeed impressed by the extent to which Maritime Command was already involved in non-traditional roles and was again struck by the need for the Canadian Forces to make the public better aware of their contributions to search and rescue missions and the assistance they provide to the civil authorities in police and other types of operations.

The day at sea also allowed the Committee to see other elements of the fleet in action, notably HMCS *Preserver*, one of Canada's three replenishment ships which can refuel and resupply warships at sea. Canada was a pioneer in the development of all-purpose ship-to-ship replenishment vessels. Maritime Command also has a number of small vessels for diving support, naval research and patrols of harbours and coasts which, through their many varied activities, contribute to the assertion of sovereignty in Canadian waters. The Naval Reserves play a key role in these and other duties.

b. Naval Reserve

Indeed, in recent years, greater attention has been paid to the Naval Reserve in order to develop its capacity to undertake its two wartime roles, Naval Control of Shipping (NCS) and Maritime Coastal Defence (MCD), which includes mine-clearing duties. During its visit to Halifax, the Committee was briefed on the planning now underway to prepare the Naval Reserve for the control of shipping role in Canada's harbours and the type of exercises used to develop expertise. In times of war or national emergency, the Naval