

will be in southern Germany on our present air division bases at Lahr and Baden Solingen, and will be interim forces for the next three years. They will use present equipment and will have a combined total strength of approximately 5,000 personnel. The Supreme Allied Commander Europe has assured me that this provides a structure that will allow Canadian forces to continue to fulfill in Europe a meaningful though reduced role.

The land force will be a mechanized battle group of approximately 2,800 personnel with an operational role in the Central Army Group area. The air element will be a group of three squadrons of *CF-104s*, one in the reconnaissance and two in the strike role. The air group will remain under operational command of the 4th Allied Tactical Air Force. The brigade in Germany will drop the *Honest John* nuclear role when it is reconfigured next year and the nuclear strike role for the air element will continue only until January 1972.

As I said, these are interim forces. For the post-1972 period we plan to equip a land element in Europe, of approximately the same size as the interim group, as a light "airmobile" force and to convert the air element to a conventionally-armed ground support or reconnaissance role.

We shall continue to retain the commitment to provide from the forces in Canada an air-sea transportable brigade group to reinforce the NATO northern flank in an emergency. This brigade group will contain the battalion group which is on standby in Canada as an "airportable" force for the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land). Our similar commitment of a battalion group to NATO's southern flank will be discontinued in 1970.

#### MARITIME COMMAND

Turning now to our NATO maritime commitment, we shall continue to earmark virtually all of our Atlantic operational maritime forces for assignment to the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT) in the event of an emergency.

We shall take out of commission the carrier *Bonaventure* and the escort maintenance ship *Cape Scott* in 1970. We shall retain most of the *Tracker* aircraft from the carrier for land-based operations until 1973. We shall retain the *Cape Scott* as an alongside workshop and accommodation facility in the dockyard in Halifax for the foreseeable future and we shall dispose of the *Bonaventure* as surplus.

Plans are continuing for bringing into service our second new operational-support ship and the four helicopter-destroyers now being built. The manning of three existing destroyer escorts will be reduced to training levels over the next two years.

We shall retain our *Argus* long-range patrol aircraft and increase their role in the Arctic, while continuing their mid-ocean surveillance duties. We shall employ our *Tracker* aircraft from shore bases on a coastal surveillance role until they are disposed of in 1973. We plan to replace the *Argus* after 1973.

#### MOBILE COMMAND

Mobile Command forces in Canada will remain at approximately their present level, but will be restructured in 1970 from four combat groups to three (with headquarters in Calgary, Petawawa and Valcartier) and we shall form a task force headquarters, initially at Gagetown (present location of the fourth combat group headquarters), for subsequent location in the Far North.

The airborne regiment is being retained and will have three commandos instead of the present two. The third commando is being formed in the battle group in Europe where it will share infantry duties with the 1st Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment.

Infantry battalions in the combat groups will again have their normal four companies rather than the present three. We are re-equipping our artillery and armoured regiments in the combat groups with air-portable artillery and air-portable armoured vehicles. Some heavy mechanized equipment is being retained at Gagetown as training support for our interim land force in Europe.

We will move the Combat Arms School from Borden to Gagetown and we will move the Artillery School from Shilo to Gagetown, where it will become part of the Combat Arms School.

As part of the reconfiguration in Europe in 1970, we shall return the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, to Canada and station them at Shilo and return the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment, and station them at Gagetown.

We are budgeting over the next few years for some 2,500 new 1¼-ton trucks to modernize our land-force vehicle fleet and have recently signed a contract for 50 Bell Utility Tactical Transport Helicopters (UTTH) to be used primarily in Mobile Command. These twin-engine helicopters will be powered by Canadian-built engines from United Aircraft of Canada. Delivery will begin in 1971.

#### FAMOUS UNITS DISBANDED

A decision to revert to a nine-battalion, three-regiment infantry structure was based on military advice following the experience of recent years which convinced infantry corps officers that regiments of one, or even two, battalions posed serious career, manning and morale problems related to the necessity for frequent cross-postings. Consequently, it was decided to retain the three infantry regiments with the longest history of regular force service: The Royal Canadian Regiment, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Royal 22nd Regiment.

As a consequence, and regrettably, the following well-known Canadian infantry regiments will no longer form part of the regular force: The Canadian Guards, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada.

The 2nd Battalion, The Canadian Guards, will be redesignated as the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, will be redesignated