

Northern European Flank. These forces face significant deficiencies. 4CMBG is seriously undermanned, and lacks appropriate air defence, chemical warfare and night fighting capabilities. The survivability of this formation for even a few days of active operations is very doubtful. 1CAG is not properly protected against enemy air attacks. It is lacking in hardened shelters, advanced low-level air defence systems and capabilities for maintaining and repairing runways.<sup>10</sup> All of these problems demand corrective action. The new federal government has acted with dispatch to provide additional troop strength to our NATO force structure. However, over time it is evident that more must be done to close the gap between Canada's capabilities and the defence obligations we have undertaken through NATO. Other elements of our Armed Forces, for example our Maritime Forces, face even more serious deficiencies than our European-based and -tasked forces, and will also need to be strengthened significantly over the next decade or so. Unless action is taken to upgrade Canada's military capabilities, our ability to meet our NATO obligations will continue to be doubtful.

In addition, it is also necessary to consider Canada's ability to protect and safeguard its own territorial sovereignty. The sad fact of the matter is that we have virtually no military presence in our vast northern regions, and only a very limited capacity to conduct adequate surveillance or military operations in this huge area. Moreover, in light of Canada's extensive maritime interests as the nation with the longest coastline in the world and which borders three oceans, our current naval forces are far from capable of effectively enforcing Canadian maritime claims, particularly since the advent of 200-mile coastal state jurisdiction. This inability to properly enforce jurisdiction and undertake effective surveillance activities is most glaring in the case of the Arctic waters, over which Canada's claims of jurisdiction are not universally accepted, and where present Canadian military capabilities are almost non-existent.