

### Military research priorities updated

Defence Minister Barney Danson is studying the general implications of military research and development in order to decide what programs can best serve the Department of National Defence. Future research programs must be rationalized with new requirements — those of Canada's NATO allies and of the joint industrial effort — so there will be greater benefit to Canadian industry and NATO standardization, Mr. Danson says.

As a result, the Defence Minister has deferred plans affecting research establishments in Suffield, Alberta, and in Ottawa, as well as the construction of a third establishment in Winnipeg. The deferment means that the Defence Research Establishment at Suffield (DRES), which was to be phased out this year, will now continue normal operation.

Construction has been deferred on a

new laboratory in Winnipeg. Researchers who would have been moved to the new laboratory will now remain, for the time being at least, at the Defence Research Establishment in Ottawa.

Plans to build a defence research establishment in Manitoba, to be known as DREM, were announced in 1974, but problems in acquiring a site in Winnipeg delayed construction. While his review is under way, however, Mr. Danson has issued instructions to his department to proceed with negotiations to obtain ownership of more than 100 acres involved in the Winnipeg construction-site. This will ensure that the option to proceed with construction on completion of the review remains open.

A total of 70 scientists and a support staff of about 130 were to have carried out electrical and electronic experimentation at DREM, as well as research on northern operations, ad-

vanced search and rescue methods and improved training techniques.

For the present Mr. Danson adds, all the experimentation proposed for the Winnipeg laboratory either was being carried out or could be carried out at other defence research establishments, at no increased cost for personnel or facilities.

A total of 175 people will continue to work at Suffield, where shock-and-blast testing is carried out. DRES researchers are also involved in improving methods to protect military personnel from nuclear, chemical and biological attack.

A substantial reduction in explosives testing at Suffield was one of the reasons that plans were made in 1974 to phase out the establishment. Since then, however, new research requirements for military-engineering, ammunition and explosive-effects projects have necessitated the continued use of Suffield's ranges and test areas.



*The centennial activities at the Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Ontario, ended in January where they began 12 months earlier with the New Year's Ball in the Senior Staff Mess. The New Year's levee, which was held on January 1, 1976, launched the College on the most eventful year in its 100-year history. Highlights included: a centennial convocation during which Governor-General Jules Léger received*

*an honorary degree; the freedom of Kingston and Pittsburgh Townships; the presentation of a new Queen's Colour by the Governor General on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, in the spring; and the laying-up of the old Queen's Colour in the autumn. The Royal Military College of Canada has now embarked on its second century of dedication to the Canadian Forces and service to the nation.*

### Decorations awarded for heroism

Three persons have been awarded the Star of Courage, Canada's second-highest decoration for bravery. Two of the awards are posthumous.

Mrs. Kathryn Panton, of Oakville, Ontario, was awarded the Star of Courage posthumously for her successful rescue of a six-year-old girl from Salt River, near Mesa, Arizona, in 1973. The child was swept into open water by the current. Mrs. Panton, disregarding her own safety, raced to the child's aid and managed to hand her over to others. Unfortunately, Mrs. Panton could not be pulled from the water and drowned.

The Star of Courage was also awarded to Robert Lorne Bell and posthumously to Terrance Henry Creelman for their attempt to rescue 12 year-old Glenn Watts from the Grand River after he fell in while fishing from a dam.

These three people are among a group of ten who have been awarded decorations for heroism. The other seven will receive the Medal of Bravery.

Three Canadian decorations for bravery were created in 1972: the Cross of Valour, the highest decoration; the Star of Courage; and the Medal of Bravery.