

Canada and the USA participate in a single alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and a joint command, the North American Aerospace Defence (NORAD) Command.

NATO

The common membership of Canada and the United States in NATO reflects the basic recognition that North American security ultimately depends on the security of Western Europe and vice versa. Militarily, Canada has maintained troops and aircraft in Europe since 1951 and our principal NATO allies have long availed themselves of Canadian training facilities.

In the past two years Canada has increased its forces in Europe by 15 per cent. Current plans call for a consolidation of our land and air commitments in southern Germany. In addition to the existing 4th Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and the 1st Canadian Air Group stationed in southern Germany, an additional brigade group and two rapid reinforcement fighter squadrons would be deployed in time of crisis. This would permit Canada to field both a land and an air division. Combat and support facilities to ensure the survivability and sustainability of these in-theatre forces are also being upgraded. Canada will maintain its commitment to provide a battalion group to the Allied Command Europe Mobile Land Force for deployment to NATO's Northern Region.

NATO councils also provide a vital consultative mechanism for developing Alliance policy on security and arms control issues. The NATO process, supplemented by bilateral channels, enables Canada to put forward its views and suggestions on the arms control and disarmament course the West should pursue.

NORAD

Since 1958, NORAD has given both Canada and the United States an integrated command structure providing for: early warning of air attack, air defence, surveillance of space and early warning of ballistic missile attack. The NORAD Agreement embodying this unique cooperative arrangement was renewed for a further five years at the March 1986 Washington Summit.

Canada and the USA are currently involved in a major enterprise to modernize North American air defence. The modernization program encompasses the establishment of the North Warning System (an upgraded DEW Line) comprising 13 long-range and 39 short-range radars. In November 1987, the first five long-range radars of this line became operational in the Western Arctic.