

B. The Composition of Canadian Maritime Forces

1. Maritime Command (MARCOM)

a. Surface Fleet

Because of the time required to develop and produce new equipment in response to recent technological and strategic developments, Canada's Maritime Command finds itself in the middle of a modernization process which will take many years to complete. The process basically consists of replacing the 15 remaining *St. Laurent*, *Restigouche*, *MacKenzie* and *Annapolis* class destroyers built in the 1950s with 12 new Canadian Patrol Frigates (CPFs) now being built, as well as modernizing the four DDH 280 Tribal class destroyers built in the early 1970s as part of the Tribal class Update and Modernization Project (TRUMP)⁽²⁷⁾. The first new frigate, the *Halifax*, has undergone sea trials and will enter service 20 months later than planned.

The new frigates, together with the modernized Tribal class destroyers, will provide Maritime Command's naval squadrons with much more suitable ships for the modern naval combat environment they have to operate in during NATO and other operations. In addition to the latest anti-submarine equipment, including towed-arrays, the new frigates will be armed with Harpoon anti-ship missiles, Sea Sparrow surface-to-air missiles and a Phalanx 20 mm anti-missile gun, in addition to a Bofors 57 mm gun. However, the technological requirements of modern naval warfare are such that these heavily armed ships (compared to those of the 1950s), need additional help to defend themselves. The modernized Tribal class destroyers, equipped with improved weapons and command and control systems, will provide area air defence capabilities to accompanying frigates while coordinating their efforts to detect submarines. During its visit to CFB Esquimalt on Vancouver Island, the Committee toured HMCS *Huron*, which awaits its turn in the shipyard currently modernizing the *Algonquin* and the *Iroquois*. The Committee was given a briefing on the new equipment which will be added to the ships and on the current status of the work already underway as part of the estimated \$1.8 billion project.

The new frigates and the modernized Tribal class destroyers were slated to be supplemented at the turn of the century by four new NATO frigates as part of a multinational project created by a number of NATO countries known as NFR 90. The new NATO frigates would have featured advanced air defence capabilities, but for a number of reasons, including the changes in Eastern Europe, the multinational project was abandoned in early 1990. Maritime Command is still examining how this development

⁽²⁷⁾ For details on maritime assets, see Appendix.