

maintaining necessary surveillance and control over its own vast territory, airspace and waters. Since 1958, this activity has been pursued mainly through NORAD, the North American Air Defence Command agreement and system, which has been renewed periodically by the consent of the two countries. In 1981, the mandate of this agreement was broadened and its title was changed to North American Aerospace Defence Command.

Some critical decisions were taken about aerospace surveillance and defence in the mid-1980s. Canada agreed to participate with the United States in strengthening the surveillance network by constructing a peripheral ground-based system around the continent; and also enhancing early-warning and identification capabilities in the North by such measures as upgrading forward operating locations (FOLs) and dispersed operating bases (DOBs) to accommodate interceptor and AWACs aircraft. These various measures were perceived as a transitional solution, pending an eventual movement to strong reliance on new, space-based surveillance systems.

Canada's current contribution to NORAD is provided mainly through Fighter Group, whose assets include about 50 active-duty *CF-18* interceptors, 28 training *CF-18s*, about 45 *CF-5* trainers, 25 *Silver Stars* and 6 *Challengers* partly for electronic warfare, plus two Region Operations Command and Control Centres (ROCCs) and ground-based radars.

Also, in recent years, Canada decided to cooperate with the United States in a research programme entitled the Air Defence Initiative (ADI). This was intended to explore ways of countering increasing Soviet or other bomber, air-launched cruise missile, or stand-off missile capabilities, at a time when the US was investing heavily in research into anti-ballistic missile technologies under its Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) programme. The Canadian government did not become directly involved in SDI itself, but it allowed Canadian firms to participate in this work and authorized continued efforts in some fields which might be useful for strategic defence as well as deterrence, such as the development of space-based surveillance radars.