

to neutralize any advantage a potential enemy might have through greater manpower. The NATO land force in Central Europe of approximately 28 divisions has a considerable capacity, although there are a number of critical deficiencies from the standpoint of reaching desired goals. This force is backed up by the striking power of the West's strategic forces, mainly the United States Strategic Air Command.

The United States Strategic Air Command is probably the most powerful and best organized military force in the history of the world. Supplemented now by the "Polaris" missile-firing submarines, it has adequate capacity to deliver nuclear weapons to strategic targets. Canada has assisted the operational effectiveness of this Command by providing refuelling bases, communications links and "overflight" privileges. We will continue to provide these facilities to the extent required.

At the same time that the free world has an adequate or better capacity in strategic forces, there remain demonstrable deficiencies in its conventional and tactical capacity in Europe. The doctrine of "measured response" requires a strengthening of conventional capacity in order to reduce the necessity for immediate or early use of nuclear force and to allow the time necessary for political consultation and decision. At the same time, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe has been given responsibility for military targets in his sector. This includes, of course, Soviet missile launchers posed against Western Europe. To meet this responsibility he has a requirement for additional tactical nuclear capacity.

Force goals for the alliance are set by negotiation and agreement between members of the alliance. In consultation with the Supreme Commander, individual countries decide the nature and extent of their contribution...

Canada has had a good record for fulfilling its defence commitments in NATO. Our contribution to the defensive strength of the alliance includes ships and maritime patrol aircraft earmarked for the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, an air division of eight, formerly 12, squadrons and an army division, of which one brigade group is stationed in Europe. These forces do not operate in isolation, but as part of larger integrated forces united for a common purpose.

Maritime Forces

From the beginning of NATO, there was an apparent and pressing need for strong naval and maritime forces in the Atlantic. The Atlantic Council agreed that a separate command must be formed to preserve the integrity of the Atlantic Ocean and, in December 1950, the Council decided to appoint a Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic as soon as circumstances would permit. After much planning, the first international ocean command in peacetime was formed in January 1952, with headquarters at Norfolk, Virginia.