

- other land, air and maritime forces stationed in Canada and designated to contribute to the Allied defence of North America, to assist in the Allied naval defence of the North Atlantic and other waters, and to provide reinforcements for Europe in time of crisis or war.

The Defence White Paper of June 1987 announced the Government's intention to relinquish its CAST commitment to northern Norway and assign the brigade to a role in West Germany instead. The CAST commitment to northern Norway officially ends on 30 November 1989. On 24 June 1988, the creation of a composite NATO force to replace it was announced at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. Contributing to the force are the United States, West Germany, Norway and Canada. Canada's contribution consists of the 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, based in London, Ontario--an infantry unit of about 1200 personnel.⁴ Previously slotted for the defence of either Norway or Denmark, it is now committed exclusively to northern Norway. In turn, Belgium has replaced Canada in the role the latter previously filled in defence of Denmark.

The two squadrons of Rapid Reinforcement fighters which Canada had assigned to the defence of northern Norway have recently been shifted to southern Germany. These squadrons are presently being converted from CF-5 to CF-18 aircraft. The first became earmarked for deployment on the central front on 1 June 1988, and the second on 1 June 1989. Both are based in Canada, but intended to reinforce Canadian forces in Germany in time of crisis.⁵

In 1986, the last of the new assignment of CF-18 fighters were deployed to the Canadian Air Group in West Germany, replacing aging CF-104 aircraft. Following through on a commitment made in 1985, Canada has increased its forces in Europe by about 2400. Currently, a total of about 7900 Canadian Armed Forces personnel are stationed there.

Training Facilities

Canada also provides training facilities for NATO forces on its territory. Shilo, Manitoba is used by West German troops for tank training, while the British Army employs facilities at Suffield and Wainwright, Alberta. German, British, Dutch and US Air Forces use facilities at Goose Bay, Labrador, for training in low-level flying.

Since 1984, Goose Bay has been under consideration as a possible site for NATO's new Tactical Fighting and Weapons Training Centre (NTFWTC). A site at Konya, Turkey, was recommended by NATO officials in September 1986, but Canadian officials were successful in convincing NATO to postpone a final decision until a more in-depth analysis could be carried out. The Canadian Government is currently spending \$93 million to expand the Goose Bay facility.⁶ A detached operating base, designed by Air Command and completed at a cost of \$9 million, became operational in fall 1988. Also last fall, the NATO Fighter Training Centre Team conducted a resurvey of the base to update and

⁴ Department of National Defence, *News Release 65/88*, 24 June 1988.

⁵ Department of National Defence, *Defence Update: 1988-89*, March 1988, p. 14.

⁶ *Commons Debates*, 1 March 1988, p. 13265.