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Today's Royal Canadian Air Force has a maximum authorized establishment of 16,100, but for the present (1948) will be mobilized only to 75 per cent of this strength. Operational elements, which have been, are being, or will be set up in the near future, consist of 1 Coastal Reconnaissance Squadron (Lancaster), 2 Transport Squadrons (North Star and Dakota), 1 Mobile Tactical Wing (Mitchell, Mustang, Dakota, Auster), 1 Interceptor Fighter Wing (Vampire), and 2 Photo Survey Squadrons (Lancaster, Mitchell and Dakota). One of the two photo squadrons is provided as an extraneous commitment, to enable the RCAF to carry on work over and above its normal photographic duties.

For control and administration of these units, together with necessary training and other establishments required to back them up, Canada has been divided into two Commands.

Central Air Command, with headquarters at Trenton, Ont., is responsible for the eastern section, and North West Air Command, headquarters at Edmonton, Alta., for the western section, the dividing line in southern Canada between the two Commands being 85 degrees west. Central Air Command has an operational group headquarters at Halifax (10 Group). North West Air Command has group headquarters at Winnipeg (11 Group) and Vancouver (12 Group). These group headquarters have a limited establishment and are designed to exercise operational control only. All units remain directly under Command Headquarters for administrative services.

In addition to the two geographical commands, there are two functional organizations. Maintenance Command (H.Q. Ottawa) is responsible for supply, storage, distribution, repair and construction services to all units and formations. Air Transport Command (H.Q. Rockcliffe, Ont.) is responsible for direction, co-ordination, and control of transport operations. Overall command, supervision and control of the organizations outlined above is exercised by Air Force Headquarters, (Ottawa).

Standing behind the RCAF (Regular) is the Auxiliary Squadron Organization. These squadrons in the event of national emergency constitute the first-line reinforcements to the Regular Force, and, as such, occupy an important position in Canada's defence plans. Members of the RCAF (Auxiliary) include both aircrew and groundcrew, and training is carried out on a part-time basis throughout the year, including summer camp periods. Fifteen squadrons (4,500 personnel) have been authorized but only 10 (about 3,000 personnel) will be activated by the end of 1948. As the RCAF is primarily designed for the defence of Canada, the Auxiliary Squadrons are predominantly fighter squadrons. They are being equipped with DeHavilland jet Vampires.

The ten squadrons which have, or will have formed, by the end of this year (1948) are situated at Montreal (2), Toronto (2), Hamilton, London, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, and Vancouver.