

Vehicle Wheeled (HLVW) and the Militia Light Armoured Vehicle (MILLAV) are now being acquired; and others still need to be ordered.

A decision not to replace the main battle tank will mean that the Canadian land forces will no longer be designed for operations in high-intensity, highly mobile, high-tech battlefield conditions. Their normal mode of operations will be as specialized forces for rugged mountainous or northern conditions, or else for urban environments where defensive or house-to-house actions may predominate. Alternatively, they may be employed in frontier regions where air transport and ground mobility for small numbers of highly-trained troops are critical, or in riot-control and similar functions. Consequently, they will not need the same numbers of heavy-armoured personnel carriers and other mobile battlefield vehicles that were anticipated in the last Defence White Paper. The reduction in the number of infantry battalions from ten to six would also reduce requirements of this kind.

The great rationale for the New Model Canadian land forces will be a capacity to provide highly-trained troops and supporting units who can operate effectively in rugged terrain or difficult physical or human conditions. They should be elite infantry or paratroops, with supporting elements, in the best of some of Canada's own military traditions. The government should avoid attempts to emulate such specialized, equipment-intensive forces as marine corps, air cavalry or long-range intervention brigades. The New Model force should also include a strengthened Militia and other reserve forces.

Maritime Command

Present equipment programmes for Maritime Command should continue, aiming at a reasonably balanced fleet by the late 1990s (including sixteen patrol frigates and destroyers). A number of new submarines should be acquired in the second half of the decade, and these might be either conventionally-powered or hybrids. New fast patrol boats should be purchased. Manpower numbers should remain at roughly constant levels.