

A decision to revert to a nine-battalion, three-regiment infantry structure was based on military advice following the experience of recent years which convinced infantry corps officers that regiments of one, or even two, battalions posed serious career, manning and morale problems related to the necessity for frequent cross-postings. Consequently, it was decided to retain the three infantry regiments with the longest history of regular force service: The Royal Canadian Regiment, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Royal 22nd Regiment.

As a consequence, and regrettably, the following well-known Canadian infantry regiments will no longer form part of the regular force: The Canadian Guards, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada.

The 2nd Battalion, The Canadian Guards, will be redesignated as the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, will be redesignated as the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

In our force re-structuring, it was also found necessary to remove one artillery and one armored regiment from the regular force. Using the seniority principle, but retaining two recently organized francophone regiments, we have decided that the Fort Garry Horse and the 4th Regiment, The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, will no longer appear in the regular force order of battle.

Members of the Fort Garry Horse, the Black Watch and 4 RCHA will be transferred to other units as individuals frequently remaining on the same base. For example, members of the Black Watch will be absorbed into the 2nd Bn, RCR, when the unit moves to Gaagetown.

Air Defence Command

We are continuing close consultations with our U.S. allies on the question of the immediate and future structure of North American air defence forces. The Canadian air defence forces will remain much as they are for the present.

Air Transport Command

Air Transport Command's long-range Yukon fleet will be reduced from 12 to four by 1973. The nine Cosmopolitans now in that command will be transferred to Training Command in 1972 for a new role. We shall retain our 23 Hercules troop and cargo aircraft but shall reduce Transport Command's Dakota fleet by approximately 15 during 1970. We are continuing our studies for the requirement for a long-range jet transport to replace the Yukons.

Search and Rescue

Search and rescue continues to be an important part of our activities. We shall maintain our present number of rescue-co-ordination centers and, over the next two or three years, improve our aviation capability in this field, although slightly reducing the numbers of aircraft. This will be done by converting six of our Buffalo aircraft to this role and purchasing six new STOL aircraft capable of operating off land, water or snow. We shall retire