

[WHAT'S IT UP TO?]

at the time of the reorganization plunge.

"With the overall high calibre of our men, it is no longer acceptable to have them wear anything but top-grade material and design. . . . They are first-class and they should look first-class."

Officers are trained on civilian campuses or at the three military colleges. Most of those at the latter spend their last two years at the Royal Canadian Military College at Kingston, Ontario. The emphasis there and everywhere is on academic achievement; little time is spent during the school year on purely military matters. The military is focused on during the twelve-week summer encampments. Most graduates of RMC speak French and English with ease.

Still the CAF is most emphatically a military service. It has more rather than fewer traditions—air pilots have not become tank drivers nor seamen foot soldiers. Old and often splendid regimental dress is still permitted on ceremonial and social occasions, and primary loyalties continue to be to regiments, ships and squadrons, not to concepts such as the functional Command.

The Force continues to supply skilled units to NATO in West Germany and on the Atlantic. Some 2800 men serve in the land units, one mechanized battle group, and three fighter squadrons at Lahr and Baden-Soellingen, but they no longer handle nuclear weapons. The CAF sends men to the UN at Cyprus, Palestine, Korea, India and Pakistan.

Canada and the United States work together in the North American Air Defense Command.

It supplies military training assistance to developing Commonwealth nations and to some selected French speaking and Pacific rim nations.

It pursues technological research and the development of new weapons, continuing with verve (and with occasional cost overruns. The price of the Helicopter-Destroyer Project, DDH 280, went from \$192.7 million to \$251 millions, for example, an escalation of 25 per cent).

Soldiers also assisted the Provincial and Federal police during last fall's kidnapping crisis.

The reorganization was an attempt to make all this more efficient. It began after World War II, with an effort to combine nonmilitary jobs. The drastic phase began in 1964. The budget would not permit expansion in defence spending, but pay scales for military and civilian personnel

were irresistably going up. It was assumed unification would permit the trimming of manpower and the maintaining of research and capital expenditures. The assumption has proven correct.

A single Minister of Defence, now the Hon. Donald S. MacDonald, became the man in charge and below him a single Chief of Defence, a military man, replaced the former joint chiefs. The Army, Navy and Air Force ceased to be, the whole was divided instead into Commands, each involving two or all three of the former services.

The Mobile Command, the prime user of manpower, is headquartered in Montreal. It has three combat groups, the Canadian Airborne Regiment, the UN Force in Cyprus, two tactical fighter squadrons, a transport helicopter squadron and a combat training center.

The Maritime Command, in Halifax, is as its name suggests, concerned with the sea. It has submarines, destroyers, support ships and minesweepers, and it also has aircraft for patrols.

The Air Transport Command provides air transport for all components of the CAF.

The Training Command in Manitoba provides training for the pilots of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft and offers a variety of other technical training. It has nothing to do with the training of officers in the military or civilian schools. The CAF Headquarters is in charge of the National Defence College, staff college and school, as well as the three military colleges at Kingston, Royal Road, and Saint-Jean, Quebec.

The cadets do not decide on their particular preference, land, sea or air, until the end of their first year, and most attend RMC for the last two years. This has given officers in different pursuits a common background. The captain of a destroyer may have gone to classes with the colonel of an infantry regiment. There is no grounds for old school rivalry.

The unification has worked remarkably well. Though there were "proud and gallant men who received the news with a heavy heart" as was suggested during the debate on the unifying Act of Parliament, Canada has kept her armed forces in a modest but adequate condition. The Defence's budget is \$1.86 billion a year—about 14.1 per cent of the national budget for a force the size of the U.S. Army before World War II.