

involved in land operations on high-tech battlefields such as encountered in the Persian Gulf Crisis, but not all future UN operations -- if they recur -- will necessarily take place on terrain suited to armoured warfare. Some future operations might be in mountainous country, jungle, or similar rough terrain, where well-trained light forces, including infantry and paratroops, could make very worthwhile contributions.

As the Regular force element of the land forces is reduced, the Reserves should be built up in order to provide assured coverage of defence tasks in Canada, to supply reinforcements for Europe in wartime, and to maintain a base for reconstitution of larger forces in the event of any more prolonged conflict. However, with the demise of the old Cold War, there no longer seems to be much point in couching such an increase in terms of the 90,000 reserves (all services) set as an objective in the 1987 White Paper. A total of 30,000 Militia and 2,000 Rangers will probably be adequate on the land side, out of total reserves for all services of, say, 70,000. It is more important to provide the Reserves with clearly-defined tasks, good equipment, and a sense of purpose, than a sheer addition to numbers.

The four infantry battalions and some of the other units stood down from the Regular forces should be transferred to the Militia list. Many of their officers and senior NCOs could be transferred to Militia duties on loan from the Regular force, and the remainder would be reduced in numbers mainly through attrition as well as normal, annual turnover. Infantry battalions especially have a high rate of annual turnover, among the ranks particularly, since many of the troops serving with these units enter the armed forces under relatively short term engagements or move on to do technical or other training after an initial period in the front-line formations.

The equipment needs of the land forces are another major consideration. The objective now should be to provide them with small arms, artillery support, anti-armour systems, transport vehicles, light armoured personnel carriers, and light support vehicles. Some of these items are already in the inventory; others such as the Heavy Logistic