

3. Outline

The Committee set out to examine the strategic and tactical airlift capabilities of the Canadian armed forces. It conducted hearings during most of 1985 and began drafting the present report towards the end of the year.

Chapter II of this study concentrates on Air Transport Group (ATG), the division of Air Command with primary responsibility for all air transport operations other than close battlefield support. Air Transport Group operates several squadrons of transports which supply Canadian forces across this country and in such overseas locations as Germany and Cyprus. It also carries out other missions, such as search and rescue (SAR) and training, and would provide the backbone of the country's military airlift capability in crisis periods and wartime.

The first section of Chapter II considers the role of Air Transport Group in conventional defence today, together with current structures, inventory, and equipment plans. The second discusses the future of ATG and what is needed to maintain and develop its capabilities. The third examines means of drawing on civil air resources, including aircraft, and aircrew and other personnel. Particular attention is given to new legislation and arrangements required for emergency operations.

Chapter III examines Ten Tactical Air Group (10 TAG), the part of Air Command responsible for close tactical air support of the army. 10 TAG's structure, equipment holdings and establishments are reviewed, and then its transport and other capabilities are considered, as are personnel requirements. The future development of the Group is also discussed.

Chapter IV sets out the main conclusions of the study, as they apply to both Air Transport Group and Ten Tactical Air Group.