

ation in July 1976. The program is on schedule, and the first *Aurora* should arrive at Canadian Forces Base Greenwood, Nova Scotia, in May 1980. All deliveries are to be completed by March 1981. Projected Canadian industrial benefits will be considerable. As of September 30, the industrial benefits in this country were \$81.8 million.

The first of 128 new German-built *Leopard C-1* battle tanks will be delivered to the Canadian Forces in July 1978, replacing outmoded *Centurions* in service for 25 years. The Royal Canadian Dragoons, the armoured regiment of 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group on NATO duty in West Germany, will get 85 and the balance will be used for training at CFBs Gagetown, New Brunswick and Borden, Ontario.

The *Leopards* are being manufactured by Krauss-Maffei in Munich, and delivery should be completed by August 1979. In the interim, 35 of these tanks are on loan to the brigade in Germany. More than 4,000 *Leopards* are in service in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway, and they are also being manufactured for the Australian army.

Armoured vehicles

Also ordered in 1977 were 350 general purpose armoured vehicles for regular and reserve units. They are being manufactured by General Motors Diesel Division



Male and female members of the Army Reserve practise beach assaults during the Student Summer Employment Assistance Program at CFB Petawawa, Ontario. Over 300 Canadian militia members trained with Regular Force units in West Germany in 1977.

in London, Ontario, for delivery beginning in October 1978.

The new Swiss-designed, six-wheel air-transportable vehicles are being made in three models. There will be 152 *Cougar* fire-support vehicles with a 76-mm gun on a British *Scorpion* turret; 179 *Grizzly* armoured personnel carriers and 19 *Husky* maintenance and recovery vehicles.

Delivery of 489 new five-ton and 2,848 smaller trucks was completed in 1977.

New radar and dockyard

In February, new air-traffic-control radar was installed at CFB Bagotville, Quebec, starting a four-year program which will equip military air bases with modern radar, replacing 25-year-old equipment.

Full terminal radar and control systems will be installed at major bases, and smaller bases will get modern solid-state precision approach radar, or Quad-radar, which fulfills the functions of primary surveillance and precision radar. Two mobile air-transportable Quadradars also will be updated.

Early in December the Government approved construction of new facilities for the Ship Repair Unit at Halifax. The program, beginning in 1979, will be implemented over six years.

Search and rescue

The year was another busy one for the Canadian Forces Search and Rescue

(SAR) squadrons and Rescue Co-ordination Centres. Military aircraft flew 7,326 hours on SAR missions up to November 1, 1977 compared to a total of 8,827 hours during 1976. The co-ordination centres handled 7,062 incidents in the first ten months of the year, 112 more than for all of 1976.

Federal marine SAR services were added to the Forces' commitments, and a program to improve and add more facilities began early in the year. No. 103 Rescue Unit was established at Gander, Newfoundland, and four *Voyageur* helicopters are being taken out of storage. Two will be added to each of the SAR squadrons on the east and west coasts.

Military highlights

While the acquisition of major new equipment and facilities were all part of 1977 for the Canadian Armed Forces, other events also shared the military limelight. Among them were Cabinet's authorization of an increase in the Forces' strength, a new Chief of the Defence Staff, new airstrips in the Far North and major training exercises.

In July, Defence Minister Barney Danson announced that Cabinet had approved an increase of 4,700 in the strength of the Forces — from 78,000 to some 83,000. The increase, beginning in 1978 and phased over the next few years, will reduce prevailing problems of over-tasking. No new units are planned, and the additional troops will be absorbed at



The first of 128 new German-built Leopard battle tanks (top), will be delivered to the Canadian Forces in July 1978, replacing the outmoded Centurions in service for 25 years.