

Cosmopolitans, Dash 7s, Falcons, Labradors and *Twin* and *Single Hueys* flying at the time the report was written would be phased out.

The aim of this proposal was to give Canada a modern military air transport fleet that would be easier to manage and better suited to this country's military and related commitments in Europe and across Canada. The "pacing factor" was the ACE Mobile commitment to northern Norway: it was estimated that forty-five *Hercules* would permit the CAF to fulfil this requirement effectively while also performing other essential duties. The acquisition of up to twenty *Dash 8s* was also recommended, for utility transport duties in Canada and elsewhere, training, and search and rescue. There was no intention of recommending that Canada develop a global military air transport capability such as a capacity to airlift a brigade to the Middle East or Central Africa, for example. The cost of the Committee's proposals was estimated at about \$2 billion over a fifteen-year period.

The government has acquired some additional *Hercules* for air-to-air refuelling tasks, so that the *C-130* fleet now stands at thirty-two. Replacements for retirements or attrition are also likely in the coming years, but the government appears to have no plans at present to acquire the other thirteen *Hercules* that were recommended by the Senate Defence Committee, or to purchase up to twenty *Dash 8s* or to replace the *Labrador*. The acquisition of some additional aircraft of these types still seems necessary if Canada wishes to provide adequate air transport for the ACE Mobile battalion group, as well as peacekeeping missions, other international tasks and internal movements including those connected with training exercises.

Maritime Air Group is an integral component of Canada's naval operations, and includes, in addition to training and utility squadrons, three operational aircraft squadrons and two operational helicopter anti-submarine squadrons (that operate from frigates, destroyers and supply ships as well as shore stations). Its main equipment consists of 18 *Aurora* long-range patrol aircraft, 3 *Arcturus* coastal patrol aircraft, 10 *Silver Stars*, and 34 *Sea King ASW* helicopters.