

Canadian Forces
Northern Region

With headquarters at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and a headquarters detachment at Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, the Northern Region is the largest geographically of six military regions in Canada. It encompasses the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, including the islands in Hudson and James Bays and the islands of the Arctic Archipelago, and extends to the geographic North Pole. Its total area is in excess of one and a half million square miles, representing 40 per cent of Canada's mass. Commander Northern Region is responsible for regional military matters and for co-ordinating and supporting the activities of forces when they are employed in the North. The objectives of the Canadian Forces in the North are to support civil authorities in preserving control, to contribute to Northern development and to maintain the security of Canada.

Canadian Forces (Europe)

Canadian forces allocated to support NATO in Europe are under the jurisdiction of Canadian Forces Europe. These forces, located in the Black Forest region of Southern Germany at Lahr and Baden-Solingen, consist of a land force (4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group) and an air force (1 Canadian Air Group). The two forces come under the command and control of a single Commander of the Canadian Forces (Europe). The air group consists of three conventional attack squadrons of CF-104 aircraft.

Peacekeeping and
truce supervision

An important aspect of Canada's defence and foreign policy is the support of peacekeeping and truce-supervisory operations, particularly those conducted under the auspices of the United Nations.

Canada's largest peacekeeping commitment at present is in the Middle East, where approximately 1,100 Canadian Forces personnel are serving with the United Nations Emergency Force.

For six months in 1973, Canada contributed a contingent of about 250 military personnel to the International Commission for Control and Supervision in Viet-Nam. The Canadian contingent observed and reported on the implementation of a ceasefire agreement.

Since March 1964, a contingent of Canadian Forces personnel has been serving with the United Nations Force in Cyprus. It was dispatched to Cyprus as a result of intercommunal strife on the island.

Since the success of these operations may depend on the speed with which such missions can be established on the ground, the Canadian Forces keep a number of individuals on standby to ensure a capability to respond quickly.