

Chapter III

TEN TACTICAL AIR GROUP (10 TAG)

1. 10 TAG and conventional defence today

Some fundamentals

Equipment and roles. Helicopters play a crucial role in modern, conventional military operations on land or at sea. As the Falklands operation clearly demonstrated, they are vital for airlift of personnel and supplies within fields of operations, and for reconnaissance, observation, fire direction, liaison and similar missions on the battlefield.

In the Canadian armed forces, 10 TAG is responsible for these tactical air support operations. When Air Transport Group or other agencies have delivered reinforcements and materiel as close to forward units as terrain, weather and other conditions will allow, it is the responsibility of 10 TAG to carry out any remaining part of the air transport function, up to brigade or battalion supply points and then to the troops in the field. At the same time, 10 TAG will be carrying out its other major tasks, including the tactical airlift of troops and equipment within the battlefield, airmobile actions, air assault operations, and the location and designation of battlefield targets.

To carry out these various missions, 10 TAG is equipped with the following three types of helicopters:

CH-135 Twin Hueys. The Twin Huey is the main battlefield, tactical utility transport aircraft of the Canadian armed forces, with a capacity for carrying up to 11 troops in addition to the crew. It can attain speeds of 203 kilometers per hour and has a range of up to 400 kilometers.

CH-147 Chinooks. The Chinook is a medium transport helicopter dedicated to rear-area logistics operations and having a capacity, in addition to the crew, of 33 to 42 troops. Alternatively, it can carry externally 9,090 kg of freight. Maximum speed is close to 240 kilometers per hour and the Chinook has a range of about 480 kilometers.

CH-136 Kiowas. The Kiowa is a light observation helicopter with a range of about 370 kilometers and speeds of up to 185 kilometers per hour. There is room for pilot and co-pilot/observer, plus two passengers.

10 TAG and the army. The prime user of tactical military air support in war is the army. The overall requirement for transport or other helicopters thus