

America, even though the danger of any serious attack on this continent, or even temporary lodgements of any kind, is minimal. Three battalion groups of Regulars, totalling 6,000 personnel, and backed up by the Reserves, are fully adequate for this purpose. These battalion groups would also, of course, have other duties, such as the peacekeeping requirement mentioned above, as well as aid to the civil power and national development. The various units of Canada's land forces are not normally single-tasked.

- The Oka Crisis of 1990 demonstrated once again the need for a solid body of highly-trained and flexible land forces, including infantry and support elements.
- The Militia and other reserves should have important roles to play in the future of the land forces. However, they are a complement to the Regular Force, not a replacement for them. They can provide some reinforcements for NATO or similar duties in a crisis or wartime, but their training and various civilian responsibilities in Canada impose limitations on the numbers that could be sent rapidly overseas. Their tasks in Canada should also be carefully defined. They need modern equipment and a thorough, sustained programme of build-up and training. The numbers of the reserves should undergo moderate expansion in the next few years.

With all these provisos, the four main options for Canada's land forces for the second half of the 1990s appear to be roughly as indicated in Table I.

Other Defence Functions

In addition to the "line" functions of air defence, maritime defence and land defence, the Canadian armed forces and their civilian counterparts are responsible for a host of other functions. These include communications, training, logistics, maintenance of bases, operation of a range of headquarters, policy direction, emergency preparedness, fostering a mobilization base, promoting academic studies, search and rescue, cadet instruction, and foreign liaison.