

defence practices especially instructive, considering Canada's particular circumstances and needs. A related question is the link between defence and arms control efforts, and their respective contributions to our security.

Security Priorities

Nothing is more fundamental to statehood than the ability to exert control over sovereign territory. And nothing is more fundamental to a state's security than the ability to mount a defence against a potential aggressor. In earlier centuries, both these requirements could often be satisfied by national forces on their own. Today, however, no state, not even a superpower, can alone guarantee its security. As a consequence, alliances are necessary and national efforts need to be adapted to take account of alliance requirements.

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Control over our national territory, airspace and coastal waters is essential, both for the assertion of our sovereignty and for the preservation of our security. To be effective, control requires a surveillance and detection system able to provide a continuing picture of activities on land, in the air and at sea. Control also requires a capability to intercept aircraft and ships engaged in unauthorized or illegal activity — whether civilian intruders running narcotics or military intruders probing Canada's defences. Most countries exert such control as a matter of routine. In our case, it is a daunting task, considering the length of our coastlines, the vastness of our territory, the hostility of our climate and the disproportionately small size of our population.

A large part of the explanation for the decline in resources devoted to the air defence of North America was the shift in Soviet strategy in the 1960s and 1970s to ballistic missiles, against which there was no defence except deterrence through the threat of retaliation. But with the advent of new generations of Soviet bombers and of cruise missiles capable of being launched from bombers or submarines (threatening not only Canadian and American cities but also the nuclear forces of the United States on which strategic deterrence depends), a major upgrading of joint Canadian/American air defence warning facilities has become necessary. Accordingly, agreement has been reached with the United States to share the costs of replacing the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line radar system with a modernized North Warning System deployed across Northern Alaska, Northern Canada, and down the Labrador coast.

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Europe remains the most critical military region in the world. It is where the line is drawn most graphically between East and West, it is where the task of deterring aggression must start, and it is where we have stationed forces for 35 years as one component of our contribution to NATO and collective defence. Maintaining deterrence in Europe, without undue reliance on nuclear weapons, requires that the conventional military imbalance in favour of the Warsaw Pact be rectified. In the absence of a balanced force reduction, there is a case for increasing the effectiveness of the Canadian contribution to collective defence in Europe and the Government is taking steps in this direction. An additional 1,200 military personnel are to be stationed in Europe in the next year. An infantry battalion group in Canada is to be dedicated to the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force, a multinational NATO deterrent force intended to reinforce Europe in time of crisis.