

3. A path forward

The short term

The first requirement of 10 TAG is for immediate replacement of a Chinook lost earlier in an accident. Two additional Chinooks should also be acquired, to bring the total to ten.

Although no formal testimony has been received on this point, the Committee has learned that the Canadian government retains an option, expiring at the end of March 1986, to acquire three Chinooks from Boeing-Vertol at a programme cost of about \$75 million. In keeping with its other recommendations the Committee strongly urges the government to take up this option immediately, since the three Chinooks now available for purchase are the only ones left of the type now in service with 10 TAG. If this opportunity is not seized, DND will have to turn to other models of the Chinook, at costs that will undoubtedly be significantly greater.

10 TAG's personnel should be brought up to peacetime manning requirements. This will entail adding about 100 additional pilots, avionics technicians and others over the next ten years, at a cost of about \$5 million per annum.

The medium term

In the mid-1990s, 10 TAG will need to acquire *at least* 60 light observation and reconnaissance helicopters at a programme cost per aircraft of about \$15 million and a total cost of about \$900 million.

Immediately afterwards, acquisition of about 35 new utility transport helicopters, *at least*, will have to begin, to replace the Twin Hueys. The programme cost for these new helicopters is likely to be about \$20 million each, and the total cost about \$700 million.

A schedule of expenditures

A schedule of short-term and medium-term expenditures on new helicopters and additional personnel for 10 TAG could be as follows:

4. Support from the civilian sector

Canada has a large number of civilian helicopters, and the armed forces are now in the early stages of studying the support that this resource could provide to 10 TAG. They might for example be used for logistics support operations in Canada or in rear areas in Europe.

So far, however, DND has not reached the point of approaching the civilian sector about support possibilities. As Mr. Lindsay remarked during the hearings:

- There has never been any interest expressed by the military as far as assistance of that sort, other than, from time to time, and as need dictates, a straight commercial