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THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

(Prepared in the Directorate General of Information, National Defence Department, Ottawa.)

The Department of National Defence was created by the National Defence Act, 1922.

The control and management of all matters relating to Canada's defence, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Defence Research Board and Defence Construction (1951) Limited are the responsibility of the Minister of National Defence. Certain civil emergency powers and the Canada Emergency Measures Organization are also within his jurisdiction. Matters of major defence policy for which Cabinet direction is required are presented before the Cabinet by the Minister.

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Canadian Armed Forces

The Chief of the Defence Staff controls and manages the Canadian Armed Forces and is responsible for maintaining an effective military force to meet defence objectives. As the Canadian military representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, he is also responsible for advice on all NATO military matters and acts as a military adviser to the Government and to Canadian delegations to NATO.

The present organization of the Canadian Forces evolved from the integration and subsequent unification of the three armed services. Before 1964, the Canadian defence forces conformed to the traditional pattern of three services reflecting the distinction between sea, land and air forces. In 1965-66, an integrated command structure for the field forces was established in which the four army regional commands, the two naval regional commands, and the five air-force commands were replaced by five major functional commands. All forces devoted to a primary mission are, in the new structure, grouped under a single commander, who is assigned sufficient resources to discharge his responsibilities.

The Canadian Forces are at present formed into National Defence Headquarters and six major functional commands reporting to the Chief of the Defence Staff.

Mobile Command This command's roles are: to provide military units, including tactical air support, for the protection of Canadian territory; to maintain the operational readiness of combat formations in Canada required for overseas commitments; and to support United Nations or other peacekeeping operations.

The Militia, a reserve land-component of the regular force, and the Air Reserve, which provides light tactical air-transport support to the regular force, are controlled and administered by this command, which has its headquarters at St. Hubert, Quebec.

Maritime Command All sea and maritime air units are under the command of the Commander, Maritime Command, whose headquarters are in Halifax. The Deputy is Commander, Maritime Force Pacific, with headquarters in Esquimalt, British Columbia. Maritime Command's role is to defend Canadian interests from assault by sea and to support measures to protect Canadian sovereignty.

The Naval Reserve is designated as a ready reserve force to augment the fleet in time of emergency.

Air Defence Command This command, with headquarters in North Bay, Ontario, is the Canadian component of the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD), participating with the United States in the air-defence of North America. It also maintains sovereignty over Canadian air-space. ADC comprises three interceptor squadrons, one semi-automatic ground environment (SAGE) underground control centre, two back-up interceptor control (BUIC) centres and two transcontinental radar-lines.

Air Transport Command The main role of this command is to maintain an operationally effective air-transport force to meet Canada's defence commitments. In addition, it provides search-and-rescue services for aircraft and co-ordinate marine search-and-rescue operations within Canada's areas of responsibility. Its headquarters are in Trenton, Ontario.

Training Command This command plans and conducts all armed forces recruit training and all individual trades and specialist training common to more than one command. Its headquarters are in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and a branch of the headquarters, the French-language Instruction Division in Quebec City, assists in French-language training.

Communication Command All fixed communications installations within Canada that provide communications for the command and control of the Canadian Forces come under this command. It also provides a communications network for use by the federal and provincial governments in the event of a national emergency. Its headquarters are in Ottawa.

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.

Military assistance programs Canada assists many Commonwealth and non-NATO countries by sending them military-training teams or by providing training in Canada for a small number of personnel from the military forces in those countries. Training teams are sent to countries such as Ghana and Tanzania. Training in Canada is offered to developing countries such as Barbados, Cameroon, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore and Zambia.

Canada provides training facilities to some NATO countries on a cost-recoverable basis according to the provisions of the Visiting Forces Act and the NATO Status of Forces Agreement.

Under the terms of a ten-year agreement signed in 1971, British military forces train in Canada. Their training areas remain under Canadian command and control, but all costs are paid by Britain.

Mechanized troops of the Federal Republic of Germany, according to a similar ten-year agreement signed in 1973, will begin training in Canada in May 1974.

Pilots from NATO countries have been trained at Canadian defence establishments for many years, and in recent years pilots from Denmark, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands have come to Canada under this program. Canada continues to train NATO pilots; the Netherlands is currently participating in a four-year bilateral agreement with Canada.

RP/A