New Construction and Modernization.—At the end of 1956, 16 fighting ships and 14 auxiliary craft were under construction; the aircraft carrier Bonaventure had been completed during the year and was commissioned at Belfast, Northern Ireland, on Jan. 17, 1957. Of the 14-ship destroyer-escort program, four were in service at the end of 1956 and four more were scheduled to be commissioned during 1957.

One coastal minesweeper was completed in 1956 and five others were under construction for commission in 1957. These vessels will replace six ships of their class transferred to the French navy under Mutual Aid in 1954. Three inner patrol craft, two storesammunition lighters and one ocean-going tug were also completed in 1956. Five escort rigates were being modernized, four of them to be completed in 1957, and a coastal escort was being converted as an oceanographic survey vessel for purposes of research.

In naval aviation, a contract was placed in February 1954 for the production of 100 CS2F-1 Tracker twin-engined anti-submarine aircraft, for delivery at the rate of two per month. These aircraft, of which the first five were delivered in 1956, are replacing the single-engined anti-submarine Avengers. The CS2F-1 represents a considerable advance in this aspect of naval aviation. A parallel contract for Wright engines for these aircraft was also placed; 57 were completed by Dec. 13, 1956.

Twenty-six out of 38 F2 H3 Banshee twin-jet fighters, supplied by arrangement with the United States Navy, had been received by the end of 1956.

Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve).—Naval Divisions are established in the following centres:—

St. John's, Nfld., HMCS Cabot
Corner Brook, Nfld., HMCS Caribou
Charlottetown, P.E.I., HMCS Queen Charlotte
Halifax, N.S., HMCS Scotian
Saint John, N.B., HMCS Brunswicker
Quebec, Que., HMCS Montcalm
Montreal, Que., HMCS Montcalm
Toronto, Ont., HMCS York
Ottawa, Ont., HMCS Carleton
Kingston, Ont., HMCS Cataraqui
Hamilton, Ont., HMCS Star

Windsor, Ont., HMCS Hunter
London, Ont., HMCS Prevost
Port Arthur, Ont., HMCS Griffin
Winnipeg, Man., HMCS Chippawa
Regina, Sask., HMCS Oueen
Saskatoon, Sask., HMCS Unicorn
Calgary, Alta., HMCS Tecumseh
Edmonton, Alta., HMCS Discovery
Victoria, B.C., HMCS Malahat
Prince Rupert, B.C., HMCS Chatham

Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) Naval Divisions, commanded by reserve officers, are responsible for specialized training in one or other of the various phases of naval activity, such as Gunnery, Torpedo and Anti-Submarine and Seaward Defence, in addition to training in engineering, supply, electronics, etc. Assistance in instruction is provided by RCN officers and men. During 1956, the Great Lakes Training Centre at Hamilton undertook new-entry reserve training afloat in three coastal escort ships. A continuous aviation training program was implemented during the year in the five RCN(R) Squadrons: VC 920 (HMCS York, Toronto); VC 921 (HMCS Cataraqui, Kingston); VC 922 (HMCS Malahat, Victoria); VC 923 (HMCS Montcalm, Quebec); and VC 924 (HMCS Tecumseh, Calgary).

University Naval Training Divisions.—The University Naval Training Division program is designed to give instruction to students attending universities across Canada with the object of providing well-trained junior officers for the RCN and the RCN(R). The total training period is three years and cadets are required to complete three winter training periods, two summer periods and certain specified courses, after which suitable candidates receive promotion to Acting Sub-Lieutenant or Sub-Lieutenant, depending on academic status. During the year, UNTD cadets were in attendance at 31 universities and colleges across Canada.

The Royal Canadian Sea Cadets.—Royal Canadian Sea Cadets sponsored by the Navy League of Canada and supervised by the Royal Canadian Navy comprised 148 authorized corps in 1956. These were divided into seven Sea Cadet areas, supervised 91593—76±