Operations in 1963.—The RCAF contribution to the air defence of North America, consisting of three CF101B squadrons, two Bomarc squadrons and 29 radar sites, continued under the operational control of North American Air Defence Command (NORAD). No. 1 Air Division, Canada's NATO contribution in Europe, was equipped with eight squadrons of CF104 aircraft. Six of these squadrons were employed in the strike/attack role and two were employed in the photo reconnaissance and attack roles.

Air Defence Command completed the build-up of the Pinetree Line radar system with the takeover of the U.S.-financed and -manned radar sites and the addition of five new mid-western radar sites. New and highly effective radar equipment was installed at many sites, enabling the RCAF to close down the operations of four Pinetree sites and a portion of the Mid-Canada Line. In addition, the Ground Observer Corps was disbanded. The Distant Early Warning Line (DEW) continued to operate as an integral part of NORAD.

The RCAF Maritime Air Command during 1963 contributed four land-based maritime squadrons to the Maritime Defence of North America; three of these, based on the East Coast, were completely equipped with Argus aircraft, the largest and most modern antisubmarine aircraft in the world. A continuous program of aircraft modernization and reequipping with improved anti-submarine devices was conducted throughout the year. The East Coast squadrons and a Neptune aircraft squadron on the West Coast participated in a number of national, international and NATO anti-submarine exercises and maintained daily patrols and surveillance of ocean areas adjacent to the Canadian coastline.

Air Transport Command (ATC) continued to provide support to the Air Division and to the Army Brigade in Europe using the Yukon and Hercules (C130B) aircraft. Airlift support was also given to the United Nations Emergency Force Middle East and the United Nations Yemen Observer Mission using Yukon and North Star aircraft. In addition, flying units operating Caribou and Otter aircraft were maintained in Egypt and Yemen in support of UNEF and UNYOM. In Canada, ATC aircraft airlifted Department of National Defence personnel and cargo over air routes from coast to coast. C119 aircraft were used for paratroop training of the Canadian Army, and 408 Squadron carried out routine reconnaissance flights in the Arctic and photographic missions for the Department of National Defence. Search and rescue services were provided in Canadian areas of responsibility. Of the 54 major air searches conducted, 46 were for civil aircraft and eight were for military aircraft. In addition, there were five major marine searches and 490 mercy flights.

Training.—In the year ending Mar. 31, 1965, the RCAF will give basic training to approximately 5,000 officers and men to meet retirements, releases and the introduction of new equipment. English language training on initial enlistment will be given to about 900 French-speaking personnel—at Centralia, Ont., for officers and at St. Jean, Que., for airmen. Course length is variable, up to a maximum of 21 weeks. Advanced trades training is given within the service, training on specialized equipment is obtained also from industrial firms, and some officers attend postgraduate courses at Canadian and United States universities. Initial pilot selection on piston-engined aircraft is given at Primary Flying School, Centralia, and basic and advanced pilot training on jet aircraft is given at Gimli, Man., or Moose Jaw, Sask. In the 1964-65 fiscal year, 170 pilots will receive basic flying training and 160 advanced flying training; also, 100 students will receive radio navigator training at Winnipeg, Man. During the year, under bilateral agreements, 35 Danish and 25 Norwegian students began training as pilots and, under Commonwealth agreement, special pilot training was given to 16 Nigerians. In addition, the RCAF provided pilot training for 30 Canadian Army officers and 25 RCN personnel.

Technical and indoctrination training for newly commissioned non-flying list officers is given at Central Officers School at Centralia. Basic and advanced trades training for airmen is given at the RCAF technical trades schools at Camp Borden or Clinton in Ontario. Staff training at the junior and senior level is given at Air Force College, Toronto;