

The Defence Research Board is an integral and permanent part of the defences of the country. The Chairman is a member of the Defence Council. The Board's fundamental purpose is to correlate the special scientific requirements of the Armed Forces with the general research activities of the scientific community at large. Its efforts are concentrated upon defence problems of particular importance to Canada or for which Canada has unique resources or facilities. Existing research facilities such as those of the National Research Council are used whenever possible to meet the needs of the Armed Forces. The Board has built up new facilities only in those fields that have little or no civilian interest. Close collaboration is maintained with Canada's larger partners; specialization is made possible only through the willingness of Britain and the United States to exchange the results of their broader programs for the less numerous but nevertheless valuable benefits of Canadian research.

The Board operates seven specialized research and development laboratories which are concerned primarily with maritime warfare, guns, rockets and missiles as armaments, defence against missiles, research on the upper atmosphere using ground-based equipment as well as balloons, rockets and satellites, propulsion and propellants, telecommunications, geophysical studies of the Arctic, defence against atomic, chemical and biological weapons, studies of shock and blast, biosciences research and operational research. The Board also supports and organizes an extramural program of research in the universities and industry. Some 200 grants are awarded annually to Canadian university staff members for research on problems of defence interest and a special fund is used to place contracts with industry for research in selected fields.

Research on maritime warfare problems, particularly those relating to submarine detection and tracking, is carried out at the Naval Research Establishment, Dartmouth, N.S., and at the Pacific Naval Laboratory, Esquimalt, B.C. Research and development of weapons and defence against various weapons is undertaken in co-operation with the Armed Services at several establishments, the largest of which is the Canadian Armament Research and Development Establishment near Valcartier, Que. Its principal activities include studies of defence against missiles, studies of the properties and application of infrared and other detection devices, exploration of the upper atmosphere with balloons and rockets, and the development of rocket propellants.

The Defence Research Telecommunications Establishment in Ottawa is concerned mainly with problems of communications which involve exploration of the ionosphere with ground-based equipment, with rockets and with satellites, and the applications of the science of electronics to military problems. Research on the defensive aspects of chemical, biological and atomic weapons is carried out at two Defence Research Board establishments—the Defence Chemical, Biological and Radiation Laboratories at Ottawa, Ont., and the Suffield Experimental Station at Ralston, Alta.

The Defence Research Medical Laboratories near Toronto are concerned with biosciences research, chiefly with raising the operating efficiency of man working in the military environment, and includes such subjects as human physiology, experimental psychology and research on clothing.

Operational research is carried on by an integrated headquarters group which conducts long-range scientific analysis of future defence problems. The staff consists of operational research scientists provided by the Board and service officers. The Board also provides operational research scientists as members of teams in the various Service Commands.

Thus, the Board continues to support the fields of research that are of foremost interest to the Canadian Armed Services and the program is under continuing review to ensure that cognizance is taken of all changes in emphasis in defence requirements. Close liaison is maintained between the Defence Research Board and the Department of Defence Production to ensure that research and development activities are closely integrated with production.