

The Minister of National Defence is responsible for administering the following laws which relate to the Department of National Defence: National Defence Act (RSC 1970, c.N-4), Defence Services Pension Continuation Act (RSC 1970, c.D-3), Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (RSC 1970, c.C-9) and Visiting Forces Act (RSC 1970, c.V-6).

Liaison in other countries. The Chief of the Defence Staff, who is the Canadian Military Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is responsible for advice on all NATO military matters and acts as a military adviser to the government and to Canadian delegations to NATO. For purposes of liaison and the furtherance of international co-operation in defence, Canada also maintains: the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff London, representing the Canadian Armed Forces and the Defence Research Board in Britain, the Commander of which is the principal military adviser to the Canadian High Commission in London; the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff Washington, representing the Canadian Armed Forces and the Defence Research Board in the United States, the Commander of which is the principal military adviser to the Canadian Ambassador in Washington, and is the Canadian National Liaison Representative to the Supreme Commander, Allied Command Atlantic (SACLANT) Headquarters; two logistic liaison units also located in the United States; in Brussels, a Canadian member of the NATO Military Committee in Permanent Session, a Military Adviser to the Canadian Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council and also a Canadian National Military Representative to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE); and Canadian Forces Attachés in various countries throughout the world. In addition, a number of defence matters of concern to both Canada and the United States are considered by the Permanent Joint Board on Defence, which provides advice on such matters to the respective governments.

4.7.2 The command structure of the Canadian Forces

The Canadian Forces are organized on a functional basis to reflect the major commitments assigned by the government. Under this concept, all forces devoted to a primary mission are grouped under a single commander who is assigned sufficient resources to discharge his responsibilities. Specifically, the Canadian Forces are formed into National Defence Headquarters and seven major Commands reporting to the Chief of the Defence Staff.

Mobile Command. The role of Mobile Command is: to provide military units, including tactical air support, suitably trained and equipped, for the protection of Canadian territory; to maintain operational readiness of combat formations in Canada required for overseas commitments; and to support United Nations or other peacekeeping operations.

The forces assigned include: three airportable combat groups in Canada; the Canadian Airborne Regiment; the Canadian Contingent of the United Nations Force in Cyprus; two tactical fighter squadrons; four tactical helicopter squadrons and one helicopter operational training squadron; one transport helicopter squadron; and one combat training centre.

The Militia and Air Reserve components are also controlled and administered by Mobile Command.

The Militia. The Militia is assigned its traditional role as a sub-component in support of the Regular Force. Under the present organization, units of the Militia have been placed under either the Commander, Mobile Command or Canadian Forces Communication Command.

Mobile Command exercises command and control of 121 Militia combat and service units through five Militia Area Headquarters and 21 Militia Districts in the following centres: Esquimalt, Vancouver and Victoria; Edmonton, Southern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Winnipeg; Hamilton, London, North Bay, Ottawa, Toronto and Windsor; Montreal and Quebec; and West Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, West New Brunswick, East New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. Mobile Command Militia is charged with: providing trained individuals for augmentation and reinforcement of the Regular Force; providing trained sub-units to support the field force for the defence of Canada and the maintenance of internal security; providing trained personnel for the augmentation of the civil emergency operations organization; and forming the base on which the Regular Force could be expanded in the event of an emergency.

The 12 Canadian Forces Communication Command Militia Units are commanded and controlled through the five Regular Force Communication Groups and are centred in: