

NATO military matters and acts as a military adviser to the government and to Canadian delegations to NATO. For purposes of liaison and international co-operation in defence, Canada also maintains: the Canadian defence liaison staffs in London and Washington, two logistic liaison units in the United States, a Canadian member of a NATO military committee in permanent session in Brussels, 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 a permanent joint board on defence, which provides advice on such matters to the respective governments.

The command structure of the Canadian forces

3.7.2

The Canadian forces are organized on a functional basis to reflect the major commitments assigned by the government. All forces devoted to a primary mission are grouped under a single commander. Specifically, the Canadian forces are formed into National Defence Headquarters and five major commands reporting to the chief of the defence staff.

Mobile command

3.7.2.1

The role of mobile command is to provide military units 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 special service force, the Canadian contingent of the United Nations force in Cyprus, the Canadian contingent of the United Nations Middle East, and one combat training centre.

The militia is assigned its traditional role as a component in support of the regular force. Under the present organization, militia units have been placed under either the commander of mobile command or Canadian forces communication command.

Mobile command exercises command and control of 99 militia combat units plus administrative and service units through five militia area headquarters and 21 militia districts across the country. Mobile command militia is charged with providing trained individuals for augmentation and reinforcement of the regular force, providing trained 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 for service in an emergency.

Maritime command

3.7.2.2

All Canadian maritime forces are under the commander, maritime command, whose headquarters is in Halifax. The deputy commander is the commander, maritime forces Pacific, with headquarters in Esquimalt. The role of maritime command is to defend Canadian interests from assault by sea, to support measures to protect Canadian sovereignty, to support Canadian military operations as required and to conduct search and rescue operations within the Atlantic and Pacific search and rescue areas (roughly the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia) and to contribute to NATO defence.

As at December 1977, the following vessels were in service in maritime command: 19 frigates (eight helicopter equipped) and four Iroquois class helicopter destroyers, three operational support ships, three Oberon class submarines, six Bay class coastal patrol vessels (employed as training vessels), and two escort repair vessels (retained in service as alongside workshops and temporary accommodation vessels). Three of the 19 frigates are held in reserve.

The naval reserve is an essential component of maritime command. Its primary function is to provide trained personnel to augment the fleet in emergencies. Another essential