

role is to provide and maintain naval control of shipping in time of emergency or war to meet national and NATO requirements. There are 16 naval reserve units in major Canadian cities.

3.7.2.3 Air command

With the formation of an air command on September 2, 1975 overall responsibility for Canada's military air forces was again vested in one senior commander to provide greater flexibility in the employment of air power as well as to increase operational effectiveness, safety and economy.

The command's principal function is to provide operationally-ready regular and reserve air forces to meet Canada's national, continental and international commitments, and to carry out regional commitments within the Prairie region — Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba.

Air command, with headquarters at Winnipeg, consists of four operational groups: air defence group, air transport group, maritime air group and 10 tactical air group. Air command also exercises control over the air training schools and the reserve.

Air defence group, with headquarters at North Bay, Ont., is responsible for maintaining sovereignty of Canada's airspace. In addition, the group provides Canada's contribution to NORAD, the joint Canada-US North American Air Defence Command. It has command of three all-weather fighter squadrons, a training squadron, two transcontinental radar lines, a satellite tracking unit and an electronic warfare squadron.

Air transport group provides airlift resources to enable the Canadian forces to meet their commitments. It also undertakes national and international tasks as directed by the government. The group provides search and rescue service for downed aircraft and co-ordinates marine search and rescue operations. Heavy transport resources consist of 24 C-130 Hercules aircraft and five Boeing 707 aircraft. A squadron at Ottawa provides medium-range passenger transport with seven Cosmopolitan and seven Falcon aircraft.

Transport and rescue squadrons at Comox, BC, Edmonton, Alta., Trenton, Ont., and Summerside, PEI, are equipped with Buffalo and Twin Otter fixed-wing aircraft, and some with Labrador and Voyageur helicopters. Rescue co-ordination centres at Trenton and Edmonton co-ordinate search and rescue activities. They work closely with maritime command in Victoria and Halifax.

Air movements units at Ottawa, Trenton, Edmonton and Lahr, Federal Republic of Germany, with detachments at Comox and Vancouver, BC, Winnipeg, Man., and Greenwood and Shearwater, NS, provide passenger and cargo-processing services.

In 1977 strategic and tactical airlift by 10 tactical air group aircraft enabled other elements of the forces to participate in a wide range of activities embracing national sovereignty, North American defence, NATO, humanitarian missions and contributions to hemispheric security.

About half of the group's flying is devoted to joint exercises with mobile command and other Canadian forces commands, often in conjunction with NATO allies. The remainder is used to support Canadian forces in Europe, isolated bases in the North, Canadian military and civil missions abroad, and department and other government agencies in Canada.

Maritime air group (MAG) is responsible for management of all air resources engaged in maritime patrol, maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare.

The commander of maritime air group, while responsible to the commander of air command, is under the operational control of the commander of maritime command while carrying out surveillance roles. A close working relationship between maritime command and maritime air group enables them to use a common operations centre.

The group conducts surveillance flights over Canada's coastal waters and the Arctic Archipelago. It also provides anti-submarine air forces as part of Canada's contribution to NATO.

Air reserves. The air reserve is organized into four air reserve wing headquarters at Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Edmonton and six flying squadrons of six DHC Otter