

and continental defence. The commander, maritime command is also the commander of the Canadian Atlantic sub-area of the western Atlantic command, under the supreme commander, allied command Atlantic. Additional roles are to support Canadian military operations as required; to conduct search and rescue operations within the Halifax and Victoria search and rescue regions (roughly, the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia); and to carry out regional commitments within these areas.

Since Canada declared the 200-mile zone effective January 1, 1977, increased maritime surface and air resources have been devoted to the surveillance and control of Canadian waters, in support of the fisheries and oceans department. A multitude of ships are identified each year and many are boarded by fisheries officers of the department, assisted by Canadian military personnel.

**The naval reserve** is organized in 18 divisions across Canada and provides support for maritime command at sea and ashore.

### 20.5.3.2 Mobile command

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 a brigade group in the West, with headquarters in Calgary, a brigade group in the East, with headquarters at Valcartier, Que., and an air-droppable and air-portable regimental combat group, which includes the special service force with headquarters at Petawawa, Ont., the Canadian contingent of the United Nations force in Cyprus; the Canadian contingent United Nations Middle East; and one combat training centre at Gagetown, NB. Mobile command is responsible for the regional commitments for Quebec.

**The militia** is assigned its traditional role as a sub-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.

### 20.5.3.3 Air command

With the formation of an air command on September 2, 1975 overall responsibility for Canada's military air forces was 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 as well as the northwest part of Ontario.

Air command, with headquarters at Winnipeg, consists of four functional elements: air defence, air transport and maritime air groups and 10 tactical air group.

**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.

**Air transport group**, with headquarters at Trenton, Ont., provides airlift resources to enable the Canadian forces to meet their commitments. It also undertakes national and international tasks as directed by the government.

**Maritime air group (MAG)**, with headquarters at Halifax, NS, is a component of air command. The group 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