

responsible for the effective conduct of military operations and the readiness of the forces to meet the commitments assigned to the department.

21.8.2 NATO and North America

Canada was one of the 12 original signatories of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949. Successive Canadian governments have reaffirmed the view that Canada's security remains linked to that of Europe and the United States. Canada is committed to the principle of collective defence and remains convinced of the importance of NATO's role in reducing, and eventually removing, the underlying causes of potential East-West conflict through negotiation, reconciliation and settlement. In addition to its role as an alliance for defence through deterrence, NATO is a major forum for political consultation among its members.

Canada's membership in NATO continues to be a factor in the development of its political, economic and scientific-technological relations with Europe, by which Canada seeks to balance its relations with the United States. The alliance obliges both Canada and the United States to maintain a deep interest in European affairs and exemplifies the interdependence of Europe and North America.

NATO security also extends to North America where, through a series of bilateral arrangements between Canada and the US, Canada contributes to the protection of the North American area of NATO through the auspices of the Canada-United States Regional Planning Group, one of the original four planning groups established by the Defence Committee in 1949.

North American defence. The foundations for the mutual defence of North America are rooted in the Ogdensburg Declaration of 1940 and the formation of the Permanent Joint Board of Defence in that same year which established the framework for Canada/United States defence co-operation. Through a series of bilateral agreements signed over the past 46 years, Canada participates with the United States in the protection of the North American landmass, offshore waters and aerospace approaches. The best known of these agreements is the North American Air Defence (NORAD) agreement in effect since 1959. Under this agreement, the Commander-in-Chief NORAD is responsible to the United States' joint chiefs of staff and the Canadian chief of the defence staff. Through the agreement, Canada participates in aerospace surveillance and warning, active air defence, command and control, and measures designed to protect the deterrent capacity of the United States.

21.8.3 The Canadian forces

The Canadian forces are organized 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.

Maritime command. All Canadian maritime forces are under the commander, maritime command (headquarters, Halifax, NS). The commander, maritime forces Pacific (headquarters, Esquimalt, BC) exercises operational control over assigned maritime forces in the Pacific. The role of maritime command is the surveillance and control of the sea approaches of the three oceans bordering Canada, and the provision of combat-ready ships in support of Canada's commitment to NATO 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 in the Halifax and Victoria search and rescue regions (the Atlantic provinces, British Columbia and the surrounding ocean areas); and to carry out regional commitments in these areas.

Increased surface and air resources have been devoted to the surveillance and control of waters of Canadian economic interest, particularly in support of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. A multitude of ships are identified each year and many are boarded by officers of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, assisted by Canadian military personnel.

The naval reserve is organized in 24 divisions across Canada and provides support for maritime command at sea and ashore.

Mobile command. The role of mobile command is to provide land forces 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 (headquarters, Calgary, Alta.) a brigade group in the East (headquarters, Valcartier, Que.) and the special service force consisting of air-portable elements (headquarters, Petawawa, Ont.). The command also provides troops to the United Nations force in Cyprus.