

The militia is one of the oldest institutions in Canada, dating back to the late 17th century. Command of the militia is exercised by the commander, mobile command. Its role is to augment the regular forces in peace and war. The militia is organized under five area headquarters and 22 militia districts. There are a total of 117 major units and 14 minor units.

Air command. The role of air command 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 (headquarters, Winnipeg, Man.) consists of the following functional groups: fighter group, air transport group, maritime air group, 10 tactical air group, 14 training group, and air reserve group.

Fighter group (headquarters, North Bay, Ont.) provides the air defence forces required to enforce Canadian sovereignty in national airspace and to meet Canada's commitment to continental defence under the NORAD agreement; to provide squadrons to meet the NATO North Flank commitment; to provide tactical fighter support to maritime command and mobile command; and to provide all operational fighter training.

Air transport group (headquarters, Trenton, Ont.) provides the Canadian forces with air transport which includes strategic airlift operations on a worldwide basis, tactical airlift in any area in the world and the operation of an air transport service. In addition, air transport group commands all primary air search and rescue forces for all regions of Canada.

Maritime air group (MAG), (headquarters, Halifax, NS) is a component of air command. The group is responsible for management of all air resources engaged in northern patrol, maritime patrol, maritime surveillance, anti-submarine warfare and fisheries patrols.

The commander of maritime air group, responsible to the commander of air command, is under the operational control of the commander of maritime command while carrying out surveillance patrol and anti-submarine 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.

10 Tactical air group with headquarters co-located with mobile command at St-Hubert, Que., operates all air resources engaged in the close support of the army. This involves helicopter fire support, reconnaissance and tactical transport over the battle area.

14 Training group (14 TGP) in Winnipeg, is responsible for aircrew selection, aircrew training to wings standard, junior leadership, survival and meteorological training. 14 TGP develops training policy for air command and is responsible for monitoring and evaluating all air command training.

Air reserve group comprises two wings, each with two tactical helicopter squadrons, in Montreal and Toronto and three other squadrons twinned with regular force units in Winnipeg, Edmonton and Summerside, PEI. Air reserve augmentation flights at 20 different bases in Canada and Europe will provide a cadre of trained personnel available for war establishment augmentation and for base expansion.

Search and rescue (SAR). Search and rescue activities are co-ordinated from Victoria, Edmonton, Trenton and Halifax. Rescue co-ordination centres (RCCs) are manned by Canadian forces personnel with Canadian Coast Guard officers attached on liaison duties in all centres except Edmonton. Besides the aircraft that are specially equipped and manned for SAR duties, other aircraft across Canada are assigned periodically to augment these primary SAR resources.

The Canadian forces training system. The functions of the Canadian forces training system include the planning and conduct of all recruit, trades, specialist and officer classification training common to more than one command. This group also assumes the regional commitments for the central region (Ontario).

Communication command. This command maintains strategic communications for the forces and, in emergencies, for the federal and provincial governments. The command also provides points for interconnecting strategic and tactical networks. It also operates the major defence department automatic data processing centres.

A communication reserve assigned to Canadian forces communication command is composed of six communication regiments, 12 communication squadrons and three independent communication troops. They are located across Canada and often co-located with regular force communication units. The role of the communication reserve is to augment and support