

3.7 Defence

3.7.1 The Department of National Defence

The Department of National Defence was created by the National Defence Act, 1922, which established one civil department of government in place of the previous Departments of Militia and Defence, Naval Service and the Air Board. The Department now operates under authority of RSC 1970, c.N-4.

The Minister of National Defence has the control and management of the Canadian Forces, the Defence Research Board and all matters relating to national defence establishments. He is responsible for presenting to Cabinet matters of major defence policy for which Cabinet direction is required. He is also responsible for the National Emergency Planning Establishment which replaced the Emergency Measures Organization on April 1, 1974. The Minister continues to be responsible for certain civil emergency powers, duties and functions as outlined in Order in Council PC 1965-1041 dated June 8, 1965, as amended.

The Deputy Minister is the senior public servant in the Department and the principal civilian adviser to the Minister on all Departmental affairs. He is responsible for ensuring that all policy direction from the government is reflected in the administration of the Department and in military plans and operations.

The Chief of the Defence Staff is the senior military adviser to the Minister and is charged with the control and administration of the Canadian Forces. He is responsible for the effective conduct of military operations and the readiness of the Canadian Forces to meet the commitments assigned to the Department by the government.

The Defence Research Board is responsible for advising the Minister of National Defence on scientific matters relating to defence and for evaluating the contribution of science and technology to defence.

Within National Defence Headquarters, the Deputy Minister and the Chief of the Defence Staff have reporting to them the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, four assistant deputy ministers and the Judge Advocate General, Director General Information and Director General Departmental Administrative Services.

The Vice Chief of the Defence Staff is the principal assistant and adviser to the Deputy Minister and the Chief of the Defence Staff. He acts for the Chief of the Defence Staff in his absence. The Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff is responsible to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff for the effective and efficient performance of the operations of the Canadian Forces.

The Defence Council meets as required to provide a channel of communication between the Minister and the senior officials of the Department through briefings, the exchange of views on policy matters, and discussions of specific matters requiring the approval, decision and/or direction of the Minister.

The Defence Management Committee considers all major and significant matters of policy, plans, programs and administration requiring the decision and direction of the Deputy Minister and/or the Chief of the Defence Staff prior to their submission to the Minister as required.

The Minister of National Defence is responsible for administering the following laws which relate to the Department of National Defence: National Defence Act (RSC 1970, c.N-4), Defence Services Pension Continuation Act (RSC 1970, c.D-3), Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (RSC 1970, c.C-9) and Visiting Forces Act (RSC 1970, c.V-6).

Liaison in other countries. The Chief of the Defence Staff, who is the Canadian Military Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is responsible for advice on all 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 Staff London, representing the Canadian Armed Forces and the Defence Research Board in Britain, the Commander of which is the principal military adviser to the Canadian High Commission in London; the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff Washington, representing the Canadian Armed Forces and the Defence Research Board in the United States, the Commander of which is the principal military adviser to the Canadian Ambassador in Washington, and is the Canadian National Liaison Representative to the Supreme Commander, Allied Command Atlantic (SACLANT) Headquarters; two logistic liaison units also located in the United States; in Brussels, a Canadian member of the