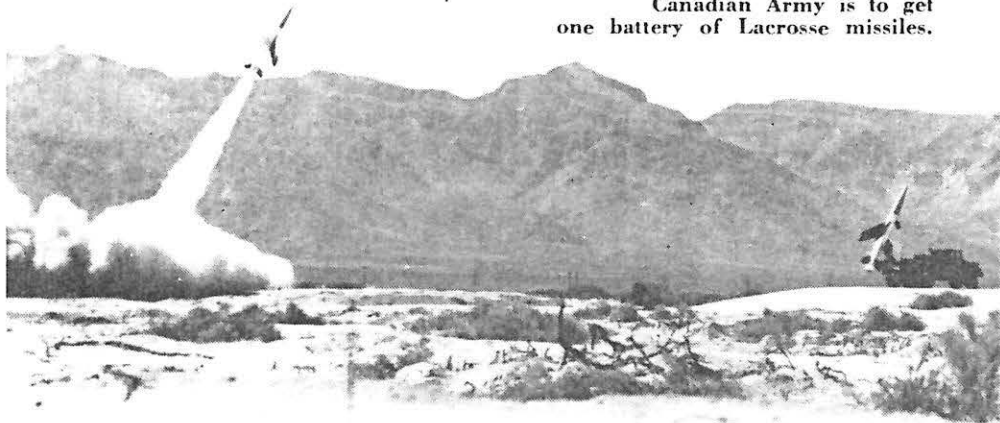


Martin Lacrosse ground/ground guided missile is fired from standard 2½ ton U.S. Army truck during training exercise. Canadian Army is to get one battery of Lacrosse missiles.



Pinetree Sites To NORAD

Last month the change-over was completed of U.S.-manned radar sites in Western Canada from the jurisdiction of the RCAF's 5 Air Division to the 25th NORAD Division at McChord Air Force Base. There were four sites involved, all of them a part of the Pinetree line of radar stations, and located in British Columbia.

Said the RCAF's official announcement: "These changes in existing communications have been made as part of the normal development of plans for integration of the Pinetree line of the North American Air Defense Command early warning and control system."

Is Better Than None?

Canada in effect will have only one Bomarc anti-aircraft missile squadron instead of two.

There will still be two Bomarc bases as originally announced last fall but the number of missiles allotted to each has been pared to about 30 from the normal squadron of 60. Defence Minister Pearkes still refers to the Bomarc units as "squadrons" but in the RCAF they are known as "half-squadrons."

Mr. Pearkes last Sept. 23 said the two bases — one near North Bay, Ont., and the other near Mont Laurier, Que. — would cost \$164,000,000. But early in March he said the cost would be \$110,800,000 and a few days after that he said Canada's share of the Bomarc program would be \$20,000,000. The U.S. is paying two-thirds of the Bomarc costs in Canada. This

would make total Bomarc cost \$60,000,000.

Consequently, even though the Government says there will be two squadrons, its own figures show that the number of missiles or, rather, launchers, has been drastically reduced in defence planning in the last several months. One possible reason: the Defence Department may think the Bomarc will be superseded before it comes into operation in Canada.

Aerobatic Team Formed

Millions of Canadians this summer will again get a chance to see the RCAF at its flying best.

The Air Force is forming a new team of aerobatic fliers which will be one of the main attractions at the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto, the Pacific National Exhibition at Vancouver, the Calgary Stampede and other big shows and fairs across the country.

The team has been formed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of powered flight in Canada and the 35th birthday of the RCAF. Air Force Day will be staggered this year so that the team will be able to appear at different RCAF stations across the country throughout the summer.

The team will be known as the Golden Hawks and will fly gold-painted Sabres. The pilots will wear gold-painted helmets and on the fuselage of the jets will be painted a red hawk's head. The leader of the team is Squadron Leader J. A. G. (Fern) Villeneuve.

The RCAF has been upset in recent

years by the fact that big shows like the CNE have had to import aerobatic teams of the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps because the RCAF did not have a team. RCAF planes have appeared in these shows but only in standard fly-pasts and without the manoeuvres which thrill big crowds.

RCN Safety Award

A year of accident-free flying has won for the RCN's experimental squadron VX 10, the 1958 award of the Navy's Safe Flying Trophy. It is the second year in succession this squadron has won the award which is presented annually to the naval squadron showing the best record of accident-free flying.

Commanded by Lt. Cdr. (P) J. C. Sloan, VX 10 is based at HMCS Shearwater, the naval air station at Dartmouth, N.S. The experimental squadron is responsible for the evaluation and development of air equipment.

Extending SAC's Reach

A contract for \$2,441,600 has been let to the McNamara Construction Co., and Henry J. Kaiser of Canada Ltd., for runway extension and airport construction at Churchill, Manitoba. Plans call for the 5,800-foot north-south runway to be doubled in length to permit big KC-97 Stratofreighters and KC-135 Stratotankers of the USAF to land and take-off.

To equip the base as a refuelling facility, barracks and other accommodations are being erected for some 200 USAF personnel. The fuel itself is stored in giant tanks which are filled from sea-going oil tankers during the summer season. Toward this end, more tanks are being installed.

With KC-135's and KC-97's operating out of Churchill, the effective operating ranges of almost all SAC aircraft in a northerly direction will be increased substantially.

RCAF Anniversary

This year the RCAF celebrates its 35th birthday. Although it was not formed until April 1, 1924, its traditions go back to the First World War when 22,000 Canadians flew as members of Britain's aerial forces.

For eight years after its official birth, the Air Force continued to grow. In those years, its role was essentially non-military in nature being largely made up of aerial photography of