

The Airborne Services



LIKE TWO CYRANO DE BERGERACS comparing noses, a Canadair-built CF-104 and the prototype Canadair CL-41R systems trainer fly side by side. The CL-41R carries the full range of NASARR systems for CF-104 and F-104G aircraft and is based on CL-41A pilot trainer, which RCAF has ordered.

Yukon Sets Record

A Canadair CC-106 Yukon on operational suitability trials out of Ottawa, recently, was flown to an airborne endurance record for turboprop aircraft by its RCAF crew. The aircraft landed at RCAF Station North Bay 23 hours and 51 minutes after leaving the nation's capital on the routine training mission. The flight bettered the previous world record, set last January by a USAF C-130 Hercules, by more than three hours.

The program for the day's flight was to test a different type of fuel in the Rolls Royce Tyne engines and to carry out a navigational exercise in the Canadian north. About 600 miles from the Pole, according to Squadron Leader Maurice Hlady, captain of the 12-man crew, "We realized the aircraft was going to stay up for a while yet". That led to a decision to see the Pole, and in the process establish the new record. After refueling at North Bay, the aircraft returned to No. 437 Husky Squadron's base at Trenton, Ont., in time to be cheered on landing by some 30,000 spectators at the station's annual Air Force Day show.

Thanks, George

RCAF search & rescue officials recently flew from Vancouver to Ucluelet on the west coast of Vancouver Island to see fisherman George Hillier.

"Thanks, George," they said, "your boat, your health and your life as a voluntary, civilian watchdog

for SAR." His retirement at 58, ordered by his doctor, was an occasion for the service to tip its hat to dozens of other volunteers.

Rescue co-ordination centre controller Flt. Lt. H. J. Laughlin and marine adviser to SAR, Capt. H. W. Dale-Johnson said there are dozens more like George — spotted all over B.C.

One report from a trained man when there's a ship sinking or a plane down can save hours of futile search, save lives and thousands of taxpayer dollars, officials said.

Often these volunteers can effect rescue without calling for an SAR scramble. Fish and game clubs and similar groups as well as individuals like George Hillier provide the service all over the province.

Bomarc Production Ends

A decade after its first flight and some 700 units later the Boeing Bomarc ground-to-air defence missile has come to the end of its production run. Bomarcs joined active air defence forces in 1959 when the 46th Air Defence Missile Squadron at McGuire AFB, New Jersey, became the first operational unit. Among the last units to go into service with the weapon are the two RCAF bases in Northern Ontario and Northwestern Quebec. All told there are 10 Bomarc sites in North America.

Gimli Commander

New commander of RCAF Station Gimli, Man., is Group Capt. George Sutherland. He replaces Group Capt.

Hubert R. Studer, station commander since October 1958, who has been assigned to NORAD Headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colo. G/C Sutherland had been senior personnel staff officer at No. 1 Air Division, Metz, France, since August 1960.

Commands NORAD Region

Command of NORAD's Northern Region has been taken over by Air Vice Marshal James B. Harvey. He replaces Air Vice Marshal W. R. MacBrien. Headquarters for the Region, now at St. Hubert, Que., will move to RCAF Station North Bay, Ont., when the SAGE weapons control centre there is completed sometime in 1963.

Air Vice Marshal MacBrien, who also commands RCAF Air Defence Command, will become Assistant Chief of Staff at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe with the rank of Air Marshal. He will be succeeded in his ADC position by Air Vice Marshal M. M. Hendrick. Acting Air Commodore A. C. Hull replaced Air Vice Marshal Harvey as Chief Staff Officer of ADC.

RCN Marks Anniversary

Anti-submarine Squadron VS-880 of the Royal Canadian Navy has occasion to look back with pride on its third anniversary. Formed by the amalgamation of two RCN squadrons, VS-880's operational record over the three-year period includes: 10,000 successful arrested landings on the aircraft carrier HMCS Bonaventure, 2,280 of them at night; 37,694 hours of air time, a total of 5,450,000 miles by its de Havilland Canada-built Grumman Trackers. The squadron is commanded by Commander D. M. MacLeod.

Supply Chief Retires

Air Commodore Morris B. MacKinnon of Ottawa and Charlottetown, one of the most respected senior RCAF officers, has retired after 22 years of specialized service in the air force logistics field. The occasion was marked by a dinner in his honor tendered by the Chief of the Air Staff and members of Air Council. A/C MacKinnon joined the RCAF in 1940 as a supply officer.

RNZAF Remembrance

Royal New Zealand Air Force Association members who trained as aircrew on Vancouver Island during World War II have sent a gift tree to be planted in the grounds of Government House, Victoria. The pohutukawa tree, native to New Zealand, was planted by Captain O. C. Ross, commander of the visiting cruiser HMNZS Royalist, and J. S. Reid, New Zealand's high commissioner to Canada.