



A NEW POWERFUL WEAPON FOR USE WITH CF-100'S, RADAR-AIMED ROCKETS, WILL SOON BE STANDARD ARMAMENT ON MK. 4 MODELS

personnel in the past year, bringing the total to over 41,500 officers and other ranks, or very close to the authorized manpower ceiling of 42,000 (this figure is not laid down as a limit, but rather to provide a basis on which to plan establishment and rank structures). The auxiliary units' strength was up slightly at approximately 5,800. These figures include airwomen, who in the regular force have now reached 3,500 in number, including some 250 officers. Over 600 women are currently serving in auxiliary formations.

The most important top-level shift to take place during the year involved the retirement of Air Marshal W. A. Curtis, CB, CBE, DSC, ED, from the post of Chief of the Air Staff, which was taken over by Air Marshal C. R. Slemon, CB, CBE, CD. The change-over became effective on January 31, 1953, by which time Air Marshal Curtis had been in command of the RCAF longer than any of his predecessors. He was named Chief of the Air Staff in September, 1947. Air Marshal Slemon was AOC, Training Command, Trenton, Ont., just prior to succeeding A/M Curtis.

here and there

THE GENERAL organization has not recently shown much change, its basic structure having been largely completed for some time. Major additions have been Nos. 3 and 4 Fighter Wings: No. 3 began to form late in 1952 and was moved overseas during March of this year; No. 4 started organizing early in the spring of this year, and completed its move to Europe during September.

Only other important addition to the Air Force structure was No. 3

Advanced Flying School, which commenced operations at Gimli, Manitoba, during August. The establishment of No. 3 AFS completes for the present time the RCAF's training facilities.

During the year also, Tactical Air Group and Maritime Group were elevated to command status. In the case of Tactical Air, this was no indication of increased activity or responsibility in the immediate future, the change being made mainly to standardize on the nomenclature of major formations reporting directly to AFHQ. Normally a Group is the satellite of, and responsible to, a Command HQ, while Commands are in turn responsible to AFHQ. Since both Tactical Air and Maritime were responsible directly to AFHQ, their official designation was changed to "Command".

An additional reason for the change in respect to Maritime Command was this formation's increasing activity and stature.

Change of Address: As the building program has advanced sufficiently

to permit the occupation of new or refurbished bases, there has been a reshuffling of quarters for a number of important units. In some cases, movement of these units has already been completed, while others are still pending. As already mentioned, No. 3 Fighter Wing and No. 4 Fighter Wing took over bases in Germany, in March and September respectively.

In Canada, No. 2 Flying Training School moved from Gimli to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, in June, and the base at Gimli was taken over by No. 3 AFS. No. 4 Flying Training School finally made its long-heralded move from Calgary to Penhold, Alberta, in July. No. 4 Transport OTU, which had been formed on an interim basis at Dorval last year, was moved to permanent quarters at Trenton during September.

To take place this month is the shift of No. 1 Air Navigation School from Summerside, Prince Edward Island, to Winnipeg, where it will be amalgamated with No. 2 ANS and the resultant single, enlarged navigation school will be known as No. 1 ANS. This move is part of an overall plan to provide more elbow room at the two major maritime RCAF bases, both of which have been faced with an aggravating overcrowding problem.

Other Movements: Following the move of No. 1 ANS to Winnipeg, No. 2 Maritime OTU will be transferred from Greenwood, N.S., to Summerside, as will No. 103 Search & Rescue Unit. Central Navigation School, where the Air Force's top navigators take postgraduate courses, is to remain at Summerside for the time be-



THE NEW MAN TAKES OVER

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