

Force. Ground Defense became a separate directorate in 1953.

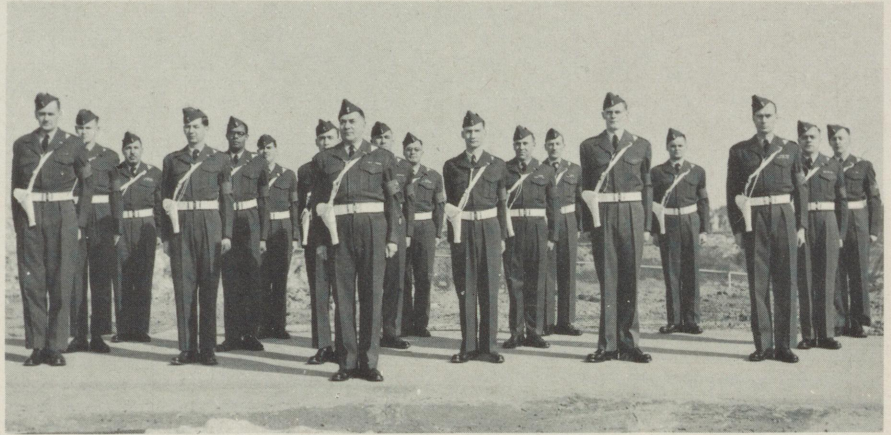
FUNCTIONS

Today the mission of the Air Force Police is:

- the protection of classified information,
- the protection of R.C.A.F. material against sabotage,
- the protection of R.C.A.F. civilian and Service personnel against subversion, and
- the prevention, detection, and investigation of crime.

The primary purpose of the Air Force is, of course, to carry out air operations. When, therefore, we consider the disastrous effects that espionage, sabotage, and subversion can have on air operations, the importance of protection from these forms of covert attack can be readily understood. Espionage can rob us of our advances in military science, disclose our weaknesses and strengths, and give away our methods of defence to a potential enemy. Sabotage can destroy our aircraft and installations for defence before they can be used. Subversion can undermine confidence and morale, and reduce efficiency and the will to resist. Thus, the Air Force Police must necessarily give first priority to that part of its mission which aims at countering these threats.

(Let us remind the reader here that no security measures and no efforts of the Air Force Police will provide effective security unless they receive the complete support and co-operation of everyone concerned with their success. Security against covert attack is not just the responsibility of commanders and police personnel; it is the individual responsibility of all Air Force personnel, both Service and civilian. Intelligent co-operation with the Air Force Police — a co-operation which stems from an awareness of the danger to be combatted — is essential in ensuring that the air operations of the R.C.A.F. are not



A flight of Air Force policemen on parade in Ottawa.

hampered or their effectiveness nullified at a critical time.)

Although priority must be given to the prevention of espionage, sabotage, and subversion, the importance of the prevention of crime in the Service must not be forgotten. Crime, too, can impair the efficiency of the force. The loss to the Air Force, resulting from crime, can be serious far beyond the gravity of the individual offences. A carelessly dropped cigarette can cause the destruction of a costly and important installation, the theft of equipment can hinder an air operation or endanger life. Crime is contagious; it grows if not suppressed in time. It is the duty of the Air Force Police to see that it is stamped out wherever it appears.

ORGANIZATION

To accomplish the vital security mission assigned to it, the Air Force Police is organized as follows:

A.F.H.Q.

Responsible to the Director of Air Force Security are the Security Branch (for security of information, personnel, and materiel) and the Police Branch (for prevention,

investigation, and detection of crime).

Commands, Groups, and Divisions.

The Staff Officer Security is responsible to the A.O.C. for security and police functions within the Command.

Units.

The unit Air Force Police are responsible to the C.O. for the security and policing of the unit.

Special Investigation Bureau.

Responsible to A.F.H.Q., the Special Investigation Bureau is established on a regional basis in Europe and in all provinces of Canada except Newfoundland.

RECRUITING

Men and women apply to join the Air Force Police for many different reasons; but, whatever their reasons, Air Force policemen and policewomen need intelligence, patience, strength of character, and sometimes bravery. They must also have a calm and judicious approach to their calling.